

ORIGINAL ESSAY, ON PEACE.

(By another of the Competitors for the Prize of Ten Guineas.)

WHEN the Almighty fiat called the fair Creation into existence, he arranged all things in the most harmonious order. Peace reigned through the stupendous whole, from the radiant throne of Deity Himself, through all the bright celestial orbs, down to our own terrestrial sphere. In the sublime language of Divine inspiration—"The morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted" for joy." Not one discordant note was sounded, not one jarring sound was heard, among the united strains which burst forth from all created intelligences in praise to Him who launched the rolling spheres from his Almighty hand. Peace,—Heaven-born peace pervaded Creation. But we must clip the wings of our high-soaring imagination, and quitting the Celestial spheres, take our stand upon earth. When the moment predestinated from all eternity had come, the Creating fiat was put forth and this terrestrial ball took its destined place in the scale of Creation; the countless and varied myriads of animated creatures of the inferior orders were next spoken into existence by the same creating word; and last of all, MAN was created, lord of the lower world: and as such, in order to enable him to exercise authority over all below him in the scale of being, in addition to his animal propensities he was endowed with intellectual faculties, at the head of which enthroned in sublime majesty sat REASON subjecting his passions to her benign and peaceful sway, consequently each and all his passions were restrained within their proper limits, producing harmony and peace throughout his moral and physical constitution, nor of this dire change had not the great Omnipotent, whose Almighty arm alone could stay the progress of those fearful consequences, interposed, saying to those conflicting subjects, thus far shall thy rage and conflict extend, but no farther! Peace shall be restored to the world! Accordingly when the fullness of time was come, the mighty Prince of peace visits our earth. An angel flits his way from the fair fields of Eternal light to announce His birth! "A multitude of the heavenly host" proclaims, "On earth PEACE! good will towards men!" What though man's malignant passions are opposed to the teachings of this Prince of peace—and consequently the truth of his words—"That he came to send a sword," is demonstrated, yet eventually all shall be subjected to the reign of this high and mighty Prince of peace. Cheering thought!

The sway of the demon of War which for almost six thousand years has scourged our earth, and drank the blood of millions of our race will be broken forever. War has been productive of more evil in this world of ours than all other causes combined,

"What pains and griefs from this source arise,
What floods of tears into mournful eyes."

Could our eyes take in at one glance all

the scenes of suffering and misery, which have sprung from this source; could they behold all the writhings and contortions of the agonized throng of sufferers who have fallen on the embattled plains; could our ears take in at once all the groans and shrieks of agony which have burst from their agonized hearts; could we at once witness the heart rending griefs of the widows and orphans which this scourge of nations has made, the vast assemblage of horrid sights and sounds which would greet our ears and burst upon our gaze, would shatter and shiver our nerves to pieces as if struck with a stream of Heaven's own lightning. Great God! How vastly different would the Universal state of society be at this day, had War never been! A renowned patriot thus writes, "Give the money which has been spent in War, and I will erect a School house in every valley—a Church on every hill, and place in the one a competent teacher of Arts and Sciences, and in the other an able minister of Righteousness, until the pure streams of Education shall abundantly flow through the world, and till peal shall answer peal of the Church going bell around the circumference of the Globe. What wonder then that the heart of every christian and philanthropist anticipates with emotion and joy, the time when "men shall beat their swords to ploughshares, and their spears to pruning hooks, and they shall learn War no more."

Was this the boundary of the dominion of Peace. Under man it extended downwards through all the varied inferior Animal Creation to the minutest insect which had an existence. Thus did gentle peace shed her balmy influence around. All, all was under the blest dominion of Peace. But alas! a change—a sad change has come over the proud lord of this lower sphere, and by him over all, under him in the scale of being, nay, even over the face of Nature herself. Behold the sceptre of Peace wrested from the hand of Reason! Behold Reason herself hurled headlong from her seat, and the throne usurped by Passion! Behold each of the conflicting passions striving to acquire controul over the whole man. Behold each in turn dethroning the other and assuming the government of this once happy but now wretched being.—Behold the inferior animals breaking over their prescribed bounds, the reign of peace broken up among them also, and the strong preying upon the weak; because wretched man is now unable to govern them, nay, he is unable to govern himself. All, all is horrible discord. We shall not now pause to enquire by what means this direful change has been effected, suffice it to say that such is the case—War now prevails where once all was peace. Dreadful beyond conception would be the result of its recurrence.