

## POETRY.

## WOODS IN WINTER.

When winter winds are piercing chill,  
And through the whitethorn blows the gale,  
With solemn feet I tread the hill,  
That over-brows the lonely vale.

O'er the bare upland, and away  
Through the long reach of desert woods,  
The embrace of sublimity chastely play,  
And gladden these deep solitudes.

O'er the gray maple's crusted bark  
Its tender shoots the hoar-frost nips,  
Whilst in the frozen fountain—hark!—  
His piercing beak the bittern dips.

Where twisted round the barren oak,  
The slender vine in beauty clung,  
A rattle and rattle the stiffness broke,  
The crystal icicles hung.

Woe from the frozen urns, mute springs  
Pour out the river's gradual tide,  
So still the skater's iron rings,  
And voices fill the woodland side.

Alas! now changed from that fair scene,  
When birds sung out their mellow lay;  
And winds were soft, and woods were green,  
And the song ceased not with the day!

But still wild music is abroad,  
Pale, desert woods, within your crowd;  
And gathered winds, in harse accord,  
Amid the vocal reeds pipe loud.

Chill airs, and wintry winds, my ear  
Has grown familiar with your song;  
I hear it in the opening year—  
I listen, and it cheers me long.

## MISCELLANY.

## ANECDOTE OF THE ELEPHANT.

When I was in India, I was very partial to these animals; there was a most splendid elephant, which had been captured by the expedition sent to Martaban; he stood four or five feet higher than elephants usually do, and there was great difficulty in getting him on board of the transport. A raft was made, and he was very unwillingly persuaded to trust his huge carcass upon it; he was then towed off with about thirty of the natives on the raft, attending him; the largest purchases and blocks were procured to hoist him in, the main yards doubly secured, and the fall brought to the capstern. The elephant had been properly slung, the capstern was manned, and his huge bulk was lifted in the air, but he had not risen a foot before the ropes gave way, and down he came again on the raft with a heavy surge, a novelty which he did not appear to approve of. A new fall was rove, and they again manned the capstern; this time the tackle held, and up went the gentleman in the air; but he had not forgotten the previous accident, and upon what ground it is impossible to say, he asserted his treatment to the natives who were assisting him on the raft. As he slowly mounted in the air, he looked about him very wrath, his eyes and his trunk being the only proportions of his frame at liberty. These he turned about in every direction as he ascended—at last, as he passed the main channels, he perceived the half of a maintop-sail yard, which had been carried away in the shigs lying in the goose-neck; it was a weapon that suited him admirably; he seized hold of it, and whirling it round with his trunk, directed the piece of wood with such good aim, that he swept about twenty of the natives off the raft, to their chance with a strong tide and plenty of abigators. It was the self-possession of the

animal which I admired so much, swinging in the air with so unusual a position for an elephant, he was so collected as if he had been floating in his own wild forests. He arrived and was disembarked at Rangoon, and it was an amusement to me, whenever I could find time, to watch this animal and two others, much smaller in size, who were with him; but he was my particular pet. Perhaps the reader will like to have the diary of an elephant when not on active service. At what time am I get up who never lie down without being ordered, is not very easy to say. The elephants are stabled at the foot of some large tree, which shelters them during the day from the extremity of the sun; they stand under the tree, to which they are chained by their hind leg.

Early in the morning the keeper makes his appearance from his hovel, and throws the respective keys down to the elephants, who immediately unlock the padlocks of the chains, cast themselves loose, and in the politest manner, return the keys to the keeper; they then march off with him to the nearest forest, and on their arrival commence breaking down the branches of the trees, selecting those which are most agreeable to their palates, and arranging them in two enormous taggots, and then twist another to connect the two, so as to hang them over their backs down on each side, and having thus made their provision, they return home; the keeper may or may not be present during the performance. All depends upon whether the elephants are well trained or have been long in servitude.

Upon their return, the elephants pass again the chains around their legs, lock the padlock, and present the key as before; they then amuse themselves with their repast, by eating all the leaves and tender shoots, and rejecting the others. Now when an elephant has had enough to eat, he generally selects a long bough, and pulling off all the lateral branches, leaves a bush at the end, forming a sort of wick to keep off the flies and mosquitoes; for although the hide of an elephant is very thick, still it is broken in crannies and cracks, into which the vermin insert themselves. Sometimes they have the following ingenious method of defending themselves against these tormenters; they put the end of their trunk down into the dust, draw up as large a quantity as they can, and turning their trunks over their heads, pour it over their skin, powdering and filling up the interstices, after which they take the long branch I have before mentioned, and amuse themselves by flapping it right and left, and in all directions about their bodies, wherever the insects may settle.

And now for an instance of self-denial, which I have often witnessed on the part of my friend the large elephant. I have observed him very busy, flapping right and flapping left, evidently much annoyed by the persecution of the mosquitoes; by the by, no one can have an idea how hard the tiger-mosquito can bite. I will however give an instance of it, for the truth of which I cannot positively vouch; but I remember that once, when it rained torrents, and we were on a boating expedition, a marine, who to keep his charge dry, had his fore-finger inserted in the barrel of his musket, pulled it out in a great hurry, exclaiming to his comrade, "may I be shot; Bill, if one of them beggars had bit me right through the barrel of my musket." This *paraphrase*, and now to proceed. As I said before, the elephant showed, by constant flagellation of his person, that he was much annoyed by his persecutors, and just at that time the keeper brought a little naked black thing, as round as a ball, which in India I believe they call a child, laid it down before the animal with two words in Hindostanee—"Walk it," and then walked away into the town. The

elephant immediately broke off a large part of the bough, so as to make a smaller and more convenient whisk, and directed his whole attention to the child, gently fanning the little lump of Indian ink, and driving away every mosquito that came near to it; this continued for upwards of two hours, regardless of himself, until the keeper returned. It was really a beautiful sight, and causing much reflection. Here was a monster, whose bulk exceeded that of the infant by at least ten thousand times, acknowledging that the image of his maker, even in its lowest state of perfection, is divine; silently proving the truth of the divine announcement that "God had given to man dominion over the beasts of the field." And here too was a brute animal setting an example of devotion and self-denial, which but few christians, none indeed, but a mother, could have practised. Would Fowell Buxton, surrounded by a host of mosquitoes, have done so much for a fellow traveller, white or black? not he; he would have flapped his own thighs his own ears, his own face, and his own every thing, and have left his neighbors to take care of themselves; nor should we blame him.

WRONG TO BE SICK.—"I take the ground that a person has no right to be sick," said an eminent physician of this city the other day.

"But you have a cold yourself," we observed.

"Yes," said he, "but I ought not to have one. I caught it foolishly. While in a perspiration, last evening, I took off my coat, and though I at length began to feel chilly, I neglected for some time to put it on. Now common sense ought to have taught me, or any other person, that I should not be likely to get rid of my chill by remaining with my coat off. But I neglected to attend to myself, and now am suffering the just consequences. And thus it is with most of our diseases. We bring them upon ourselves, by breaking the organic laws in one way or other, and then we must suffer the penalty."

How just are these sentiments; and yet we fear another century will pass, and a thousand millions of human beings live only half their days, before such sentiments will be generally received and acted upon.

KEEP YOUR TONGUE FROM EVIL SPEAKING.—A merchant of Petersburg, Virginia, has been mulcted in the sum of five thousand dollars, for slanderous words spoken by his wife, of and concerning another lady, the daughter of the plaintiff. The trial occupied the court eight days. Forty witnesses were examined, and five eminent lawyers were employed as counsel. The costs and counsel's fees will no doubt amount to at least \$2000 more, making \$7000 to be paid by Mr M. for his lady's too much latitude of speech.

MARCH OF EDUCATION.—In the learned city of St Andrews the other week, a lady was rebuking her servant for some fault or neglect of duty. All at once the lecture was interrupted by the port damsel exclaiming—"Stop Mrs S—, that is shocking to educated ears. If you are to scold me at all, I beg you will do it grammatically."

The wife of a British Admiral was recently fined 5 shillings, for getting drunk.

## AGENTS

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