

HOPE,

BY COUNTESS BLESSINGTON.

Whither, Siren, roamest thou,
With bright eye, and open brow,
Leading Infancy along
With thy sweet, entrancing song ?

Fair deceiver ! dost thou go
To the mourner, murmuring low,
By his bed of care and pain,
'Sleep ! the spring shall come again !'

Send'st thou o'er the angry sea,
Dreams of hamlet, field, and tree,
Say'st thou, 'Droop not, home is near !'
To the storm-worn voyager ?

Tell'st thou Love of sunny hours
By calm lakes, in garden bowers,
(Far away Contempt and Pride),
With the peerless at his side ?

Or, in clarion-music loud,
Dost thou call to warrior proud,
'Lo ! thy fame !'—or miser cold
Startlest with the chink of gold ?

Or for him, who all his nights
Keeps a vigil shared by sprites—
The pale poet—through the gloom
Build'st thou up a laurelled tomb ?

Dreams—all dreams—yet who could say,
Flatterer, thy false music stay ?
Who could break thy wand ? not I—
Gheat me, dear one, till I die !'

GEMS OF BEAUTY.

ADVENTURES OF A HUNTER.

One of the anecdotes related to me, gave a picture of the accidents and hard shifts to which our frontier rovers are inured. A hunter, while in pursuit of a deer, fell into one of those deep funnell-shaped pits, formed on the prairies by the settling of the waters after heavy rains, and known by the name of sink-holes. To his great horror he came in contact, at the bottom, with a huge grisly bear. The monster grappled him : a deadly contest ensued, in which the poor hunter was severely torn and bitten, and had a leg and an arm broken, but succeeded in killing his rugged foe. For several days he remained at the bottom of the pit, too much crippled to move, and subsisting on the raw flesh of the bear ; during which time he kept his wounds open, that they might heal gradually and effectually. He was at length enabled to scramble to the top of the pit, and so out upon the open prairie. With great difficulty he crawled to a ravine formed by a stream, then nearly dry ; here he took a delicious draught of water, which infused new life into him, then dragging himself along from pool to pool, he supported himself by small fish and frogs.

One day he saw a wolf hunt down and kill a deer in the neighbouring prairie ; he immediately crawled forth from the ravine, drove off the wolf, and lying down beside the carcass of the deer, remained there until he had made several hearty meals, by which his strength was much recruited.

Returning to the ravine, he pursued the course of the brook until it grew to be a considerable stream ; down this he floated until he came to where it emptied into the Mississippi. Just at the mouth of the stream he found a forked tree, which he launched with some difficulty, and, getting astride of it, committed himself to the current of the mighty river. In this way he floated along until he arrived opposite the fort at Council Bluffs. Fortunately he arrived there in the day-time, otherwise he might have floated unnoticed past this solitary spot, and have perished in the wide waste of waters. Being descried from the fort, a canoe was sent to his relief, and he was brought to shore more dead than alive, where he soon recovered from his wounds, but remained maimed for life.—*Washington Irving's Tour on the Prairies.*

THE QUEEN OF KING CHARLES II. OF SPAIN.

The amusement in which she was most frequently indulged was the privilege of accompanying the King to the chase. His majesty had presented her with a spirited steed from Andalusia, and a circumstance which occurred one day when she had mounted it in the court of the palace, displays, in a striking point of view, the ridiculous forms established at the palace of Madrid. The animal having begun to rear, the Queen fell from her seat, and her foot having been entangled in the stirrup, the horse dragged her along. Charles, who saw this accident from the balcony of one of the palace windows, became motionless from terror.

The court at the moment was filled with guards and grandees but no one dared to run the hazard of assisting her majesty in this peril, as it was a species of treason for any one to touch the person of the Consort of Spain ; and, which one would hardly expect, it is a more heinous offence to touch her foot than any other part of her body. At length two Spanish cavaliers, Don Louis de las Torres and Don Jayme de Soto-mayor, resolved at all risks to save their Queen. The former seized the bridle of the palfrey, while his companion extricated her majesty's foot from the stirrup. Having rendered her this service, they went home

with all possible expedition, and ordered their steeds to be saddled, that they might fly from the resentment of the King.

The young Count of Penarande, who was the friend of both, approached the Queen, and respectfully informed her of the danger in which her preservers might be placed, unless she interceded in their favor. His majesty, who had now come to the spot, listened to the entreaties which she offered to him, and a messenger who was immediately despatched with a pardon to the cavaliers, reached them just in time to prevent their flight into a foreign land.

PROCRASTINATION.—Sir Walter Scott, writing to a friend who had obtained a situation, gave him this excellent advice. "You must be aware of stumbling over a propensity, which easily besets you from the habit of not having your time fully employed ;—I mean what the women very expressively call dawdling. Your motto must be *Hoc age*. Do instantly whatever is to be done, and take the hours of recreation after business, and never before it. When a regiment is under march, the rear is often thrown into confusion because the front do not move steadily and without interruption. It is the same thing with business. If that which is first in hand is not instantly, steadily, and regularly dispatched, other things accumulate behind, till affairs begin to press all at once, and no human brain can stand the confusion. Pray mind this : this is a habit of mind which is very apt to beset men of intellect and talent, especially when their time is not regularly filled up, and left at their own arrangement. But it is like the ivy round the oak, and ends by limiting, if it does not destroy, the power of manly and necessary exertion. I must love a man so well, to whom I offer such a word of advice, that I will not apologize for it, but expect to hear you are become as regular as a Dutch clock,—hours, quarters, minutes, all marked and appropriated. This is a great cast in life, and must be played with all skill and caution."—*Lockhart's Life of Scott*

LORD MANSFIELD AND HIS COACHMAN.—The following is an anecdote of the late Lord Mansfield, which his Lordship himself told from the Bench :

He had turned off his coachman for certain acts of peculation, not uncommon in this class of persons. The fellow begged his Lordship to give him a character.

'What kind of a character can I give you?' says his Lordship. 'Oh, my Lord, any character your Lordship pleases to give me I shall most thankfully receive.'

His Lordship accordingly sat down and wrote as follows :

'The bearer, John——, has served me in the capacity of coachman. He is an able driver and a very sober man. I discharged him because he cheated me.'

John thanked his Lordship and went off. A few mornings afterwards, when his Lordship was going through his lobby to step into his coach for Westminster Hall, a man in a handsome livery, made him a low bow. To his surprise he recognized his late coachman.

'Why John,' says his Lordship, you seem to have got an excellent place ; how could you manage this with the character I gave you ?'

'Oh, my Lord,' says John, 'it was an exceeding good character ; my new master on reading it, said, he observed your Lordship recommended me as an able driver and a steady man. These are just the qualities I want in a coachman : I observe his Lordship adds, that he discharged you, because you cheated him. Hark you, sirrah, I am a Yorkshireman, and I'll defy you to cheat me.'

Constitution of the Ladies' Anti-lace-tie-tight Society. Established at Squaratum Jano Domini, 1837.

Art. 1. The object of this society, shall be to prevent in ladies, those distortions of nature seen in the wasp, hornet, and other insects quite cut in two in the middle.

Art. 2. No member of this society shall wear stays made of stronger materials, than hemp, whale-bone, and steel.

Art. 3. No cord shall be used in lacing, of more than one inch in diameter, nor shall the same be stronger than well twisted cutgut.

Art. 4. No stronger means shall be used in bringing the stay home, than that of a windlass worked by a stout nigger, or the capstan of a schooner with cook, scullion, and loblulaboy at the bars.

Art. 5. No member of this society when she shall distinctly hear her ribs crack, shall tell the man at the wheel to give it another turn, but shall always belay at that point.

Art. 6. No member of this society, whatever may be her shape, shall compress her waist within one half of its natural dimensions.

Art. 7. No member of this society, so laced by accident or otherwise, that her heart has been obliged to seek her throat for breath, shall complain of head-ache, giddiness, suffocation or apoplexy.

Art. 8. Any member of this society, who shall violate any of the foregoing articles, shall be expelled for life, and at her death shall be delivered over to the surgeons, who may cut and carve

at will, and report in their medical books, any shocking phenomena they may discover, as a warning to all who may refuse to join this anti-lace-tie-tight society.—*Boston Post.*

AN APT ILLUSTRATION.—A person asking how it happened that many beautiful ladies took up with indifferent husbands, after many fine offers, was thus aptly answered by a mountain-maiden :—"A young friend of hers requested her to go into a cane-brake and get him the handsomest reed. She must get it at once going through, without turning. She, went, and, coming out, brought him quite a mean reed. When he asked her if that was the handsomest she saw, 'Oh ! no !' she replied, 'I saw many finer as I went along, but I kept on, in hopes of one much better, until I got nearly through, and then I was obliged to take up with any one I could get ; and a crooked one at last.'"

FROM THE PICKWICK PAPERS.—"There is no deception now, Mr. Weller. Tears," said Job, with a look of momentary slyness, "tears are not the only proofs of distress, nor the best ones." "No, they aint," replied Sam, expressively. "They may be put on, Mr. Weller," said Job. "I know they may," said Sam ; "some people, indeed, has 'em always ready laid on, and can pull out the plug whenever they likes."

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Halifax, Dec. 23, 1837.

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