

POETRY.

A POET'S CHILDHOOD.

BY BEATTIE.

And yet poor Edwin was no vulgar boy.
Deep thought oft seemed to fix his infant eye.
Dainties he heeded not, nor gaude nor toy,
Save one short pipe of rudest minstrelsy,
Silent when glad, affectionate, though shy;
And now his look was most demurely sad,
And now he laughed aloud, yet none knew why.
The neighbours stared and sighed, yet bless'd the
lad;
Some deemed him wondrous wise, and some believed
him mad.

But why should I his childish feats display
Concourse, and noise, and toil, he ever fled,
Nor cared to mingle in the clamorous fray
Of squabbling mps; but to the forest sped,
Or roam'd at large the lonely mountain's head,
Or where the maze of some bewildered stream
To deep untrodden groves his foot steps led,
There would he wander wild till Phœbus' beam,
Shot from the western cliff, released the werry team.

Th' exploit of strength, dexterity, or speed,
To him nor vanity nor joy could bring.
His heart, from cruel sport estranged, would bleed
To work the woe of any living thing.
By trap or net, by arrow or by sling;
These he detested; those he scorned to wield
He wished to be the guardian, not the king,
Tyrant far less, or traitor of the field,
And sure the sylvan reign unbloody joy might yield.

Lo where the stripling, rapt in wonder, roves
Beneath the precipice o'erhung with pine;
And sees, on high, amidst the circling groves,
From cliff to cliff the foaming torrents shine;
While waters, woods, and winds, in concert join,
And echo swells the chorus to the skies.
Would Edwin this majestic scene resign
For ought the huntsman's pany craft supplies?
Ah no! he better knows great nature's charms to prize.

In truth he was a strange and wayward wight,
Fond of each gentle and each dreadful scene.
In darkness and in storm he found delight;
Not less than when on ocean-wave serene,
The southern sun diffused his dazzling sheno.
Ev'n sad vicissitude amused his soul,
And if a sigh would sometimes intervene,
And down his cheek a tear of pity roll,
A sigh, a tear, so sweet, he wished not to control.

MISCELLANY.

PULMONARY CONSUMPTION.—Although thousands are annually swept from existence by this disease, the public never seems to be alarmed at the fearful mortality, though the fairest, most promising and intelligent portion of society, in the day spring of youth are dropping into the tomb, one after another in rapid succession. That imprudence in dress is one of its predisposing causes, is beyond all doubt, yet with a multitude of evidence, all of which is irresistible that in a majority of instances the consumptive induces the disease which must necessarily be fatal, inasmuch as it destroys the organization of the lungs, little or no attention is given to the fact, and year after year, therefore, victims are multiplied. Physicians have certainly discharged their duty; they have warned, entreated, both by lectures and popular essays, but to no purpose. Regardless of all counsel, *phthisis* has become the most familiar terms in northern bills of mortality. Great complaints are made against the climate, and travellers from milder regions are shocked with the destruction that is made of

human life by what they consider atmospheric changes of temperature, so sudden, and so severe as to destroy the functions of the bronchial apparatus. Now it may be true that in some individuals consumption may have had its origin from this cause; and others, the number of whom, however is comparatively small, have a hereditary tendency to that condition in which the lungs are drawn into disease; but two thirds of all who die of pulmonary affections, it is presumed, have directly generated the malady by trusting to the physical energies of the system. The idea is absurd, to youth, that simply wetting the feet, wearing thin shoes, dressing in thin clothing in damp, cold weather, &c. can have an influence upon the functions of concealed organs of the body. Knowing little of the sympathies existing between the skin and the vital machinery within, it is not strange, perhaps, that little attention is paid to the admonitions of those qualified to advise.

We designed these remarks for popular reading—hoping that they might fall into hands where no prompter has been. To be well, guard against the inclemency of a northern winter, by warm clothing and continue these till the mild air of summer has succeeded the frosts of winter and the vicissitudes of spring.—*Medical Journal*

THE MONKEY AND CROW.—In the jungles about Tillycherry, there is a large species of monkey, frequently tamed by the natives, and at a village a short distance from this celebrated seaport, we had an evidence of the remarkable sagacity of this animal. A few yards from the house of the person to whom it belonged, a thick pole at least thirty feet high, had been fixed into the earth, round which was an iron ring, and to this was attached a strong chain of considerable length, fastened to a band round the monkey's body. The ring being loose, it slid along the pole when he ascended or descended. He was in the habit of taking his station on the top of the bamboo, where he perched as if to enjoy the beauties of the prospect around him. The crows, which in India are very abundant and singularly audacious, taking advantage of his elevated position, had been in the habit of robbing him of his food, which was placed every morning and evening at the foot of the pole. To this he had vainly expressed his dislike by chattering, and other indications of his displeasure equally ineffectual; but they continued their periodical depredations. Finding that he was perfectly unheeded, he adopted a plan of retribution as ingenious as it was effectual.

One morning when his tormentors had been particularly troublesome, he appeared as if seriously indisposed: he closed his eyes, drooped his head, and exhibited various other symptoms of severe suffering. No sooner were his ordinary rations placed at the foot of the bamboo, than the crows watching their opportunity, descended in great numbers, and, according to their usual practice, began to demolish his provisions. The monkey now began to slide down the pole by slow degrees, as if the effort were painful to him, and as if so overcome by indisposition that his remaining strength was scarcely equal to such exertion. When he reached the ground, he rolled about for some time, seeming in great agony, until he found himself close by the vessel employed to contain his food which the crows had by this time well-nigh devoured. There was still however some remaining, which a solitary bird, emboldened by the apparent indisposition of the monkey, advanced to seize. The wily creature was at this time lying in a state of apparent insensibility at the foot of the pole, and close by the pan. The moment the crow

stretched out its head, and ere it could secure a mouthful of the interdicted food, the watchful avenger seized the depredator by the neck with the rapidity of thought, and secured it from doing further mischief. He now began to chatter and grin with every expression of gratified triumph, while the crows flew around, cawing in boisterous chime, as if deprecating the punishment about to be inflicted upon their captive companion. The monkey continued for a while to chatter and grin in triumphant mockery of their distress; he then deliberately placed the captive crow between his knees, and began to pluck it with the most humorous gravity. When he had completely stripped it, except the large feathers in the pinions and tail, he flung it into the air as high as his strength would permit, and, after flapping its wings for a few seconds, it fell on the ground with a stunning shock. The other crows, which had been fortunate enough to escape a similar castigation, now surrounded it, and immediately pecked it to death.

The animal had no sooner seen this ample retribution dealt to the purloiner of his repast, than he ascended the bamboo to enjoy a quiet repose. The next time his food was brought, not a single crow approached it.—*Oriental Annual*.

SCENES IN THE HOUSE.—From Random Recollections of the House of Commons.—I shall allude to only one more scene of this kind. It occurred towards the close of last session. An hon. member whose name I suppress, rose amidst the most tremendous uproar, to address the house. He spoke and was received, as nearly as the confusion enabled me to judge, as follows:—I rise, Sir, (ironical cheers mingled with all sorts of zoological sounds) I rise, Sir, for the purpose of stating that I have (Oh, oh, bah, and sounds resembling the bleating of a sheep, mingled with laughter.) Hon. gentlemen may endeavour to put me down by their unmannerly interruptions, but I have a duty to perform to my con—(ironical cheers &c.) I say, Sir, that I have constituents, who on this occasion expect that I—(cries of should sit down, and shouts of laughter.) I tell hon. gentlemen who chose to conduct themselves in such a way, that I am not to be put down by—(groans, coughs, sneezing, hems, and various animal sounds, some of which closely imitated the yelping of a dog, and the squeaking of a pig, inter-persed with peals of laughter.) I appeal—(Cock-e-leeri-o-co! The laughter which followed drowned the Speaker's cries of Order, Order!) I say, Sir, This is most unbecoming conduct on the part of an Assembly calling itself de—(Bow-wow-wow, and bursts of laughter.) Sir, I claim the protection of the chair. (The Speaker rose, and called out order! in a loud tone, on which the uproar in some measure subsided.) If hon. gentlemen will only allow me to make one observation, I will not trespass farther on their attention, but sit down at once. (This was followed by the most tremendous cheering in earnest.) I only beg to say that this is a most dangerous and unconstitutional measure, and will therefore vote against it. The hon. gentleman then resumed his seat amidst deafening applause.

AGENTS FOR THE BEE.

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