

POETRY.

THE PENITENT'S HYMN.

BY WILLIAM M. LESSETT.

HARK! the spirit groans within,
Struggling with the weight of sin!
Who, can tell what conflicts there
Blend in agony of pray'r?

Jesus Master, none but thee
Now can set the prisoner free!

Publicans of old appear—
Be each burning drop sincere—
God of Love, I ask in pain;
Never let me hope in vain!

Jesus Master, none but thee
Now can set the prisoner free!

Unawaken'd ease is loss—
Nail me to the hallow'd cross—
Should the stubborn flesh rebel,
Shake it o'er the flames of hell!

Jesus Master, who but thee
Now can set the prisoner free?

Hark! the voice of GOD within—
"Grace shall triumph over sin!"

Need we more on earth to prove:
'Tis the witness of His Love!

Jesus Master, who but thee?
Thou hast set the prisoner free!

ST. JOHN.

NATURAL HISTORY.

THE ANT-LION.

No creature displays greater talent in providing for his own subsistence than the ant-lion, an insect which is particularly fond of ants; but has neither strength to master them in a fair field, nor fleetness to run them down. Indeed its means of progression are very unfavourable to the case, as it can only move backwards, and that with a halting gait; its appearance is so uninviting, that other insects think twice before they go near it; it will eat no meat except what it has slaughtered with its own hands. With this fastidiousness and these disabilities, one would say, that the creature had a reasonable prospect of starving to death. This, however, is not his opinion. He knows that stratagem is sometimes an overmatch for strength; he therefore selects a place where he may construct a pitfall for a trap, generally choosing a loose soil, which can be excavated with less trouble. The way in which he goes to work is entirely his own. He first describes a circle, to mark the rim of his pit; then placing himself on the inside of this circular furrow, he pushes himself backward into the sand, and making the hind part of his body serve as a plough-share; then using his fore leg for a shovel, he heaps a load of earth upon his head, which is flat and square; then giving his head a jerk, he tosses the earth to the distance of several inches. Thus he goes round the circle; then he marks and shovels out another furrow inside the former, and so on till he reaches the centre of the circle. In order that the whole burden may not come upon one leg, when he has finished one furrow, he proceeds with the next in an opposite direction. Should he come to a bit of gravel, he lays it on his head, and flings it out; should the stone be too large, he shoulders it, and carries it on his back up the sloping side of the pit; if this cannot be done, he either leaves the pit or works the stone into the wall. The pit when completed is conical, sloping down to a point, where the ant-lion takes his station, and in order that other insects may not suspect his object, covers himself with sand. When idle and thoughtless insects see this pit, they must needs look on, to see what it is for; but as they are indulging their curiosity, the sand gives way under them, and down they go. If they attempt to escape by climbing the side, it yields beneath their feet, and the ant-lion pats them with sand in such a manner, as soon to put an end to their endeavours; having fed upon his prey, the ant-lion, in order to save his reputation, throws the skin to a considerable distance. After having led this life for two years, the ant-lion is promoted to the rank of a fly.

VARIETIES.

ECONOMY.—A celebrated French writer on political economy, M. Say, has this story: "Being in the country, I had an example of one of those small losses which a family is exposed to through negligence. From the want of a latchet of small value, the wicket of a barn-yard, looking to the fields, was often left open; every one who went through, drew the door to, but having no means to fasten it, the poultry escaped and were lost. One day a fine pig got out and run into the woods. Immediately all the world was after it; the gardener, the cook, the dairy maid, all ran to recover the swine. The gardener got sight of him first, and jumping over a ditch, to stop him, he sprained his ankle, and was confined a fortnight to the house. The cook, on her return, found all the linen, she had left to dry by the fire, burned; and the dairy-maid, having run off before she tied up the cows, one of them broke the leg of a colt in the stable. The gardener's lost time was worth 20 crowns, valuing his pain at nothing; the linen burned, and the colt spoiled, were worth as much more. Here is a loss of forty crowns, and much pain, trouble, and vexation, and inconvenience, for the want of a latch, which would not cost threepence, and this loss, through careless neglect, fell on a family little able to support it.

MAXIMS.—Consider the end before you begin, and before you advance provide a retreat.

Give not unnecessary pain to any man, but study the happiness of all.

Grieve not for that which is broken, stolen, burnt or lost. Never give orders in another man's house; accustom yourself to eat your bread at your own table.

Take not a wife from a bad family, and seat not thyself with those who have no shame.

A WITTY REPLY.—A city TANNER who has realized a large fortune, asked a witty Alderman and Baronet last week, what he should call the seat which he had lately purchased. 'Call it HIDE-park,' said Sir W. Curtis.

EATING A CHURCH.—At a church in the neighbourhood of Sheffield, the clerk, after the usual service of the Sabbath had been gone through, gave out the following notice:—The Church wardens are desired to meet in the vestry, to consult on the best way of eating (heating) the church, and digesting other matters.

TERMS, &c.

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