

POETRY.

From "The Pearl," for 1837.

ROCKS.

BY MISS M. A. BROWNE.

HERELSS and crownless, with your foreheads bare
Unto the blast, your bald heads reared towards
Heaven,
Unheeding winds and tempests, round you driven—
Your bosoms scorning every floweret fair,
To stand a fearless band!—yet often, when,
The storm is past, and summer suns are bright,
Some look most beautiful—and only then,
Though ever grand. Oh! ye are like to those
Who for their faith in older times were slain,
Scorning alike this low world's joy or pain,
And Fame's green laurel, or soft Pleasure's rose;
And only deigning to receive a crown
Of light—and that from Heaven's own realms sent
down.

MISCELLANY.

"NOTHING IS BENEATH THE ATTENTION OF A
GREAT MAN."

This short sentence is inscribed over the door of the small building in Holland, which was once the workshop of Peter the Great; and furnishes more than volumes of common description and history could do, an insight into the character of the man who raised the Muscovites from the deepest barbarism to the rank of civilization, and laid the foundation of an empire, the extent of which the world seems as yet unable to comprehend.

One of the most fatal errors to which men are subject is the disposition to treat small things with contemptuous indifference; forgetting that great things are but aggregates of small ones, and that discoveries and events of the greatest importance to the world, can be traced to things most insignificant in themselves. Nothing more truly marks an original mind and stamps its possessor as a truly great man, than the seizure of circumstances which would pass unnoticed by the great multitude, and by subjecting them to the powerful analysis of his reasoning powers deducing inferences of the greatest practical results.

The power of the loadstone to attract iron, has been known from time immemorial; accident discovered the fact that a magnetized needle would indicate the north; but for a long time this truth was productive of no results. In the hands of Flavius Gioia of Amalfi, it produced the mariner's compass, an instrument which has changed the whole course of commerce, and opened America and Australia to the rest of the world. To mention only one of the things that the use of the compass in maritime discovery had led to—it has given the potato to Europe, and thus trebled the means of subsistence as well as doubled the population.

A chemist was at work in his laboratory preparing a powder for a certain purpose. A spark fell into this composition and it exploded; and from that day gunpowder was discovered. Some may question the utility of this discovery, but we do not. Gunpowder has materially aided the miner, the founder and the chemist; but more than all, it has given internal order and tranquility to the kingdoms of Europe, by knocking down those strong holds of feudal barbarism and cruelty, the castles of a haughty and domineering nobility, and placing the weak, so far as regards protection by law, and security to person and property, on a level with the highest.

A German peasant carved letters on the bark of a beech tree, and with them stamped characters on paper for the amusement of his children. Nothing more was thought of them;

but from them Faust conceived and executed moveable type; and printing, an art that perhaps has exercised a greater influence on the destiny of mankind than any other, thus had a beginning.

Galileo was in a church at Florence, where a drowsy Dominican was holding forth on the merits of the Virgin, and the miracles of the Holy Church; things about which the philosopher cared very little. The principal lamp of the church had been left suspended in such a manner that it swung to and fro in the slightest breath and caught the eye of the philosopher. The regularity of its oscillations struck him, and the idea of employing such vibrations to measure time occurred. Galileo left the church and returned to his study, and in a short time the first pendulum ever made was swinging.

Some children playing with the glasses of a Dutch spectacle maker, accidentally placed two so that the steeple of a church appeared much nearer and turned bottom upwards. From this small beginning was produced the telescope; an instrument which more than any other, has enlarged the boundaries of the universe, and given to man more exalted ideas of that Being who spake all these worlds into existence.

About one hundred and fifty years ago, an old man might have been seen in his study apparently amusing himself by witnessing the escape of steam from an old wine bottle, and then checking it by instantaneously plunging it into cold water. There are multitudes who would sneer at an observer of nature who could stoop to notice such a trifle, yet this expansion and condensation of steam in the bottle, and the train of thoughts which it suggested, in the hands of the Marquis of Worcester, gave birth to the steam engine, the most valuable present science has ever made to the arts. These very men who are now filled with delight and astonishment when they behold the beautiful steamboat majestically ploughing the waves, or the steam car whirling its train of carriages over the railroad with almost the rapidity of thought, would be the first to look and speak with contempt on the train of small causes that led to such important results.

But perhaps the example of Newton, more than any other, conclusively proves that there is in the whole circle of nature, nothing trifling to a truly great mind. Thousands had seen apples fall from the trees to the earth; yet no one had ever asked the question whether the cause that caused the apple to fall to the earth extended to the moon?—yet this question and its solution was the key that has unlocked the mechanism of the universe, and given to man powers and ideas, which could otherwise never have existed.

The great truth these examples inculcate is this—that there is nothing trifling in nature, nothing that is not worthy of attention and reflection, nothing that does not form part of the grand chain of cause and effect, consequently capable of leading to the most valuable and interesting events.

THE CAN'T BE DONE OUTCRY.—The story of Fulton, who first introduced the steam-boat in America, affords a provoking specimen of the "it can't be done" outcry.—After being the laughing-stock of every body while pursuing his object and making experiments, he at length announced that he was prepared to take a boat up the Hudson River, and solicited passengers to come on board to witness his success. Many came, and to their very great surprise the boat moved forward upon her course. It had not proceeded far, however, before it stopped abruptly; and the general voice immediately exclaimed at the absurdity

of the project, "We said it would never succeed!" &c. Fulton addressed them mildly, declaring that he did not know the cause at present, but he would descend and see. He did so; and soon rectifying the error, the boat again moved forward, and amidst the incessant cavilling of the learned and unlearned fools, and their momentary expectation of another and a final stoppage, proceeded steadily till it reached Albany, and then returned to New-York; thus performing a distance of nearly three hundred miles. When, however, they had reached home, as Fulton writes in a letter to a friend, "he was still doomed to be disappointed: imagination superseded fact; they said he could not do it again—and if he could, what was the use of it?"—*Exposition of the False Medium.*

A HINT TO TOBACCO-CHEWERS.—America consumes a vast quantity of tobacco in chewing. The manufactory which I visited appeared exclusively occupied in preparing it for this purpose. The first process devolves on the oldest negroes, who assort the different kind of leaves. The stalks are then taken out, and the tobacco rolled on a table till it has acquired the necessary form. I shudder when I think of those excessively dirty hands which handled the very tobacco that was soon after to be chewed by elegant amateurs. The most disgusting part, however, of the whole preparation, was the manufacture of the tobacco of inferior quality. It is only necessary to witness these preparations once, to take a dislike to tobacco for life.—*Arfwedson.*

THE COMMON FLEA.—At a meeting of a Scientific Society at Oxford, some time ago, Mr Hussey, of Christ Church, read a Paper on the growth of the flea, in which the changes through which the flea passes were described, and an account was given of some observations of the manner in which changes may be retarded. The flea, it was stated, lays from eight to twelve eggs, which fall down into crevices, or among dust, where they are hatched in about five days; they produce small white maggots like cheese-mites, which increase in size for about fourteen days when they spin a bag or case of silk around them, and become chrysalids. Within this case they gradually darken in colour, until at the end of about sixteen days, they come out of it perfect fleas; having been, on the whole about thirty-four days from the laying of the egg to the perfect insect.

REDBREAST.

BY COLERIDGE.

How simply unassuming is that strain,
It is the Redbreast's song, the friend of man.
High is his perch, but humble is his home,
And well concealed. Sometimes within the sound
Of heartsome mill-clack, where the spacious door,
White-dusted, tells him plenty reigns around—
Close at the root of briar-bush, that o'erhangs
The narrow stream, with shealings bedded white,
He fixes his abode, and lives at will;
Of near some single cottage he prefers
To rear his little home; there pert and spruce,
He shares the refuse of the good wife's churn,
Which kindly on the wall for him she leaves:
Below her lintel oft he lights, then in
He boldly flits, and fluttering loads his bill,
And to his young the yellow treasure bears.

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