

## POETRY.

## THE ABBEY.

A FRAGMENT.

A feeling sad came o'er me, as I trod the secret ground,  
Where Tudors and Plantagenets were lying all around:  
I stept with noiseless foot, as though the sound of mortal tread  
Might burst the bands of the dreamless sleep that wraps the mighty dead'

The slanting ray of the evening sun shone through those cloisters pale,  
With' fitful light, on eglar vest and warrior's sculptured mail;  
As from the stained and storied pane it danced with quivering gleam,  
Each cold and prostrate form below seem'd quickening in the beam.

Now sinking low, no more was heard the organ's solemn swell.  
And faint upon the listening ear the last hosanna fell;  
It died—and not a breath did stir; above each knightly stall,  
Unmoved, the banner'd blazonry hung waveless as a pall.

I stood alone—a living thing midst those that were no more—  
I thought on ages that were past, the glorious deeds of yore—  
On Edward's sable panoply, on Cressy's tented plain,  
The fatal Roses twined at length, on great Eliza's reign.

I thought on B'enheim—when, at once, upon my startled ear  
There came a sound; it chilled my veins, it froze my heart with fear,  
As from a wild unearthly voice I heard these accents drop—  
"Service is done—it's tuppence now for them as wants to stop!"

A grisly sight . . . . .  
*Fraser's Magazine.*

## MISCELLANY.

## LANGUAGE OF ANIMALS.

BY THE ETTRICK SHEPHERD.

That animals have each a language of their own to one another, there can be no doubt. I know a good deal of their language myself. I know by the voice of the raven when he has discovered one of my flock dead—I know also his prelude to the storm and to fine weather. The moor-fowls can call one another from hill to hill. I learned to imitate their languages so closely that I could have brought scores of them within the range of my shot of a morning. The blackcock has a call, too, which brings all his motley mates around him, but the females have no call. They are a set of subordinate beings, like the wives of a nabob. They dare not even incubate upon the same hill with their haughty lords. But the partridge, and every mountain-bird, have a language to each other, and though rather circumscribed, it is perfectly understood, and, as Wordsworth says, 'not to me unknown.' Even the stupid and silly barn-door hen, when the falcon appears, can, by one single alarm-note—make all her chickens hide in a moment. Every hen tells you when she has laid her egg; and, lest it should not be well enough heard or understood, the cock exerts the whole power of his lungs in divulging the important

secret. The black-faced ewe, on the approach of a fox or a dog, utters a whistle through her nostrils which alarms all her comrades, and immediately puts them upon the look out. Not one of them will take another bite until they discover whence the danger is approaching. If the dog be with a man, sundry of them utter a certain bleat, which I know well, but cannot describe, and begin feeding again. If the dog is by himself, they are more afraid of him than any other animal, and you will then hear the whistle repeated through the whole glen.

But the acuteness of the sheep's ear surpasses all things in nature that I know of. A ewe will distinguish her own lamb's bleat among a thousand all braying at the same time, and making a noise a thousand times louder than the singing of psalms at a Cameronian sacrament in the fields, where thousands are congregated,—and this is no joke neither.—Besides, the distinguishment of voice is perfectly reciprocal between the ewe and lamb, who, amid the deafening sound, run to meet one another. There are few things that have ever amused me more than a sheep-shearing, and then the sport continues the whole day. We put the flock into a fold, set out all the lumps to the hill, and then they set out the ewes to them as they are shorn. The moment that a lamb hears its dam's voice, it rushes from the crowd to meet her, but instead of finding the rough, well-clad, comfortable mamma, which it left an hour, or a few hours ago, it meets a poor naked shrivelling—a most deplorable-looking creature. It wheels about, and uttering a loud tremulous bleat of perfect despair, flies from the frightful vision. The mother's voice arrests its flight—it returns—flies, and returns again, generally for a dozen times before the reconciliation is fairly made up.

SMOKING AND SNUFF.—Tobacco belongs to the class of drugs called narcotics, and is possessed of many of their most noxious qualities. The excessive use of tobacco, in whatever shape it is taken, heats the blood, hurts digestion, wastes the fluids, and relaxes the nerves. Smoking is particularly injurious to lean, hectic, and hypochondriacal persons; it creates an unnatural thirst, leading to the use of spiritous liquors; it increases indolence, and confirms the lazy in the habits they have acquired; above all, it is pernicious to the young, laying the foundation of future misery. I am, therefore, glad to see that our young men have generally abandoned the obnoxious and unbecoming custom, lately so prevalent, of smoking in the street. A patient of mine, a young officer of dragoons, who was quite an amateur smoker, and used to boast of the number of cigars he could smoke in a day, produced ptyalism by his folly, and had he not abandoned the practice, he would, in all probability, have lived but a very short time. The use of tobacco in the form of snuff is still more objectionable than smoking. On account of its narcotic quality, snuff is improper in cases of apoplexy, lethargy, deafness, and other diseases of the head. The use of snuff is likewise extremely dangerous to the consumptive, to those afflicted with internal ulcers, or who are subject to spitting of blood. Snuff-taking is an uncleanly habit—it vitiates the organs of smell; taints the breath; ultimately weakens the faculty of sight, by withdrawing the humours from the eyes; impairs the sense of hearing; renders breathing difficult; depraves the appetite; and, if taken too copiously, gets into and affects the stomach, injuring in a high degree the organs of digestion.—*Curtis on Health.*

EXTRAORDINARY TWINS.—*Le Morgentjeran* (a Swedish Journal,) contains an account of a natural phenomenon, more extraordinary

than that of the Siamese twins. In the small village of Bielodin, twelve years ago, two male twins were born, joined together back to back, and placed in such a position that when one stood up he was obliged to carry his brother on his back, his legs above and his head below; in this position they could change alternately. The children were perfectly formed and their growth has been equal, which gives rise to the idea that their adherence is neither organic nor so firm but that they may be separated; this at least, is the opinion of the medical men who have visited them. What is curious is that they change their positions with regularity; when one is fatigued he utters a faint cry, and the change of position or jump takes place immediately. This happens every quarter of an hour, with such precision that the number of turns they make serves as a sort of clock to their parents. About a year ago, while they were playing, they executed a number of evolutions, or somersets, in such a way that they went over a great deal of ground with much rapidity; and since this discovery, they are able to reach any spot with greater rapidity than a horse. The somerset is similar to that executed by clowns, who throw themselves over with their hands and feet. The only difference is that the movement is perfectly natural to the twins. In the country they are called the brothers *furstiva* (four booted brothers.)

HOW TO SECURE AN ELECTION.—In 1722, Sir Richard Steele, who had formerly represented Borough-bridge, in Yorkshire, was desirous of trying to come in for Wendover, Bucks, but his finances not enabling him to bear the expense of opening a variety of public-houses, he devised an expedient which had the desired effect. Instead of treating indiscriminately at every tap-room, as had been the custom, he caused a handsome entertainment to be provided at the principal inn, to which he invited all the married electors and their wives. Having diverted them with his wit, and circulated the glass sufficiently to bring them all into good humour, he took occasion to address them, and concluded an amusing speech by telling the ladies that he was about to make a promise, which if it was agreeable to them, he hoped for their influence, with their husbands in his favour. The women were all impatient to hear what he had to say, when Sir Richard, smiling round him, said—"Ladies, Wendover is famed for its excellent wives, who always make excellent mothers, the offspring from so valuable a stock cannot be too much multiplied; as an encouragement therefore, I promise each of you fifty guineas that has a child within ten months from this day, and a hundred for every one that has twins." The time of saying this, and the happy manner in which it was said, produced, as may be imagined, shouts of laughter among the men, and infinite good humour among the women. The result was, that female influence was exerted so successfully that Sir Richard gained his election by a great majority, against a powerful opposition.—*Gardener's Gazette.*

A GENTLEMAN dining in company requested a friend to help him to a potato, which he did, saying, "I flatter myself you will find that a very good and *mealy* one." "I thank you," quoth the other, "it could not be *melior*."

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