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POETRY.

SCORN NOT THE VILEST.

From Chamber's Journal

Scorn no one, even the vilest. Who art thou
That, with sour purity, dost proudly mouth
And look contempt on folly or on vice!
Even that bath'd outcast, shameless though she be,
That wears the highway through the darkness
night.

Polluted and polluting, even she—
She is thy sister. He whom thou callest Father,
Is he not hers! The balmy influence
Of sunshine and of shower, of light and heat,
Distils around for her as well as thee,
Her sin hath not yet quenched her Maker's love,
Let it not, nor even in thought disown—
The sisterhood of her whom God calls child.

Pure as thou art, she once was pure as thou,
Purer than thou art now. There was a time
In her sad history, when, a beautiful babe,
She nestled in a mother's loving arms,
Guileless as innocence. Ah, let her fall
Arouse thy deepest fears and humblest thoughts!

Perchance thy virtue is indebted more
To weak temptation than to strong resistance,
And sures like those that hedged about her path
Had snatched thy purity and stained thy name:
Nor is thy history ended; what hath been
May be again. Be humble; in her fall
Read, trembling, thine own weakness, lest thy feet
Slide down the smooth and slippery paths of vice.

Fear for thyself, lest thou shouldst live to be
The wretched thing that loath'd to contemplate:
And hope for her, that she may yet repent,
And live again to virtue and to God.

HEAT AND COLD.—A foreign journal contains
some interesting remarks included in a
chemical lecture before an European Institution,
on the philosophical causes of hot and
cold summers. The subject is not uninteresting
at the present time, and is certainly in-
structive as being connected with the equaliza-
tion of temperature by atmospheric and marine
currents, besides being of importance in
aiding the prognostication of future weather.

In the atmosphere there are always two
currents of air passing in opposite directions
and at different altitudes—the upper or heated
stratum passing from the equator to the poles,
and the lower or cold air from the poles to the
equator, thus regulating the distribution of
temperature over the earth, whilst in the
mighty ocean itself, we have precisely the
same important conditions present. It is well
known that heated matter expands and be-
comes lighter, while matter under the influence
of cold contracts and becomes heavier.

The water on the surface of the ocean be-
comes cooled down by two causes—first, by
subtraction of heat owing to the floating ice
passing from the northward. Now the cool-
ing of the water being rendered denser, sinks and
forces to the surface other portions of warm-
er water, which again communicates heat to
the air passing over it. The cool water
spreads itself at the bottom of the sea and
flows towards the equator, producing compensa-
ting currents in opposite directions. Thus
the ocean tends to regulate the temperature
of the earth, moderating the heat of the torrid
and frigid zones. Every seaman is aware
that the Gulf Stream is an example of these
compensating currents; and many naval of-
ficers have ascertained the possibility of steer-
ing through the Gulf Stream by dipping a
thermometer in the water.

It is always possible, late in the winter,
or very early in the spring, to prognosticate
the heat or coldness of the succeeding sum-
mer, by ascertaining the comparative amount
of new ice formed in the northern latitudes,
even as low down as Russia and Sweden.

It seems that the coldness and wetness of our
summers is influenced by the quantity of new
ice, which, during the heat of that season,
continually liberated from northern waters,
and as it flows towards the equator with the
superficial current cools down the waters of
the ocean as well as the wind passing over its
surface, and thereby condenses the atmos-
phere throughout many of the European lati-
tudes. This opinion is confirmed by the
fact that the hot summers for many years
have been preceded by winters in which
scarcely any new ice was formed in the high
northern latitudes. This was the case last
winter, and also in the winter preceding the
summer of 1842, while on the contrary, cold
and damp summers have always succeeded
winters giving much new ice.

Vegetable Diet.—It has been established
by nature, on the best grounds, that our
nourishment should be used in form rather coarse
—securing full mastication and insatiation,
and a longer retention in the stomach. Plain
simple food only promotes moderation and
longevity, while compounded and luxurious
food shortens life. The most extraordinary
instances of longevity are to be found among
the tribes of mankind who, amidst bodily
labour and the open air, lead a simple life
according to nature—such as farmers, garden-
ers, hunters, &c. The more man follows na-
ture, and is obedient to her laws, the longer

will he live; the further he deviates from
these, the shorter will be his existence. Rich
and nourishing food, and an immoderate use
of flesh, do not prolong life. Instances of the
greatest longevity are to be found among men
who, from their youth, lived principally on
vegetables, and who perhaps never tasted flesh.
—Hufeland.

HORTICULTURE.—In a number of a late pe-
riodical, we came across the following brief,
but sweetly-poetic thoughts on this agreeable
and highly useful science, by Mrs. Sigour-
ney:—

"If the admiration of the beautiful things
of nature has a tendency to soften and refine
character, the culture of them has a still more
powerful and abiding influence. It takes the
form of an affection; the seed which we have
nursed, the tree of our planting, under whose
shade we sit with delight, are to us as living,
loving friends. In proportion to the care we
have bestowed on them, the warmth of our
regard. They are also gentle and persua-
sive teachers of His goodness who causeth the
sun to shine and the dew to distil; who for-
gets not the tender barbed vine amid the ice
and snows of winter, but bringeth forth the
root, long hidden from the eye of man, into
vernal splendour and autumnal fruitage."

The lessons learned among the works of
nature are of peculiar value in the present
age. The restlessness and din of the railway
principles, which pervade its operations, and
the spirit of accumulation, which threatens to
corrode every generous sensibility, are mod-
ified by the sweet friendship of the quiet
plants. The toil, the hurry, the speculation,
the sudden reverses which mark our own
time beyond which have preceded it, render
it particularly salutary for us to heed the
admonition of our Saviour, and take instruction
from the lilies of the field, those peace-
ful denizens of the bounty of Heaven.

Horticulture has been pronounced by medi-
cal men as salutary to health and to cheer-
fulness of spirit; and it would seem that this
theory must be sustained, by the happy coun-
tenances of those who use it as a relaxation
from the excitement of business or the ex-
haustion of study. And if he who devotes
his leisure to the culture of nature benefits
himself—he who beautifies a garden for the
eye of the community, is surely a public ben-
efactor. He instils into the bosom of the man
of the world, with the gold fever, gentle
thoughts, which do good like a medicine.

He cheers the desponding invalid, and makes
the eye of a bright child brighten with more
intense happiness. He furnishes pure alim-
ent for that taste which refines character
and multiplies simple pleasure. To those
who earn their subsistence by labouring on
his grounds, he stands in the light of a bene-
factor. The kind of industry which he pro-
motes is favourable to simplicity and virtue.
With one of the sweetest poets of our native
land we may say—

"Praise to the sturdy blade,
And patient plough, and shepherd's simple
crook;
And let the light mechanic's tool be hailed
With honour, unceasing, by the power
Of long companionship, the labourer's hand,
Cut off that hand, with all its world of nerves,
From a too busy commerce with the heart."

A SINGULAR SERMON.
Four gentlemen and an old minister were
assailed on the highway by three robbers;
they demanded and took possession of all their
funds. The old minister pleaded very hard
to be allowed a little money, as he was on his
way to pay a bill in London. The highway-
men, as our authority informs, "being gener-
ous fellows, gave him all his money, back
again on condition of his preaching them a
sermon." Accordingly, they retired a little
distance from the highway, and the minister
addressed them as follows:

GENTLEMEN—You are the most like the
old apostles of any men of the world, for they
were wanderers upon the earth, and so are
you; they had neither lands nor tenements
that they could call their own; neither as I
presume have you. They were despised of
all, but those of their profession, and so, I
suppose are you; they were often hurled into
jails and prisons; all of which sufferings I pre-
sume have been undergone by you; their
profession brought them all untimely deaths;
and, if you continue in your course, so will
yours bring you. But in this point, beloved
you differ mightily; for the apostles ascended
from a tree into heaven, where, I am afraid,
you will never go, but as their deaths were
compensated with eternal glory, yours will
be rewarded with eternal shame and misery un-
less you repent of your sins.

PHYSICAL FACTS.—As an instance of the
adaptation between the force of gravity and
forces which exist in the vegetable world, we
may take the positions of flowers. Some
flowers grow with the bellow of their cups
upwards; others hang their pensive heads,
and turn the opening downwards. The posi-
tions in these cases depend upon the length
and flexibility of the stalk which supports the

flower, or in the case of the *euphorbia*, the
germen. It is clear that a very slight altera-
tion in the force of gravity, or in the stiffness
of the stalk, would entirely alter the position
of the flower-cups, and thus make the con-
tinuation of the species impossible. We have,
therefore, here a little mechanical contrivance,
which would have been frustrated if the prop-
erty of gravity had not been assumed
in the reckoning. An earth, greater or
smaller, denser or rarer, than the one on
which we live, would require a change in the
structure and strength of the footstalks of all
the little flowers that hang their heads under
our hedges. There is something curious in
this considering the whole mass of the earth,
from pole to pole, and from circumference to
centre, as employed in keeping a snowdrop
in the position most suited to the promotion
of its vegetable health.—Whewell.

DISTINGUISHED CONVICTS.
In the year 1788, Captain Philip settled the
first detachment of convicts at Port Jackson—
in those days better known as Botany Bay.
Since that period, many distinguished charac-
ters have found their last abode in the Aus-
tralian wilderness. Could I record the history
of the most celebrated convicts who have
laid their unhonoured remains on the genial
soil of "Fair Australasia"—could I pourtray
their characters—could I analyse their feel-
ings, and separate the good from the bad—
yea, could I even depict the closing scene,
when "the actor has strutted and fretted his
hour upon the stage," and he sinks, covered
with guilt, his mind firmly entrenched in a
citadel of moral depravity, and perhaps athe-
ism, and uncheered by the love or friendship
of one living thing—could I do this, what
book ever published so interesting? Philo-
sophers, poets, philanthropists, historians,
moralists, essayists, lawyers, actors, and even
ministers of the gospel, might study the de-
pravity of the human heart in its tainted re-
cords, and learn what the study of a lifetime
could scarcely teach. It is now impossible.
Those wretched beings have gone down with
their thoughts and feelings unrecorded. Men
have even held, that the sooner such wretches
are forgotten, the better!

These reflections were induced by the trial
and execution, some time since, of Captain
Knatchbull, R. N., for murder. This person
was a convict, and perhaps as unmitigated a
scoundrel as ever breathed. Twice before
had the extreme sentence of the law been
passed, but he was pardoned; upon this oc-
casion the Government would not hear his
petition. Convicted of having barbarously
murdered an inoffensive and unprotected fe-
male, he was sentenced to die. He acknowl-
edged his guilt upon the scaffold, and asked
for "mercy." It is to be hoped he found it
at a higher tribunal. I present a brief re-
sumé of this too celebrated criminal to the pub-
lic.

May the warning it will convey pen-
etrate the adamant heart of one criminal,
and the author will be repaid for his trouble.

John Knatchbull was the second son of
late Sir Edward Knatchbull, and claimed re-
spect on account of the untainted character of
his half-brother, the present Sir Edward
Knatchbull, a gentleman of considerable polit-
ical influence, and of untarnished reputation.

John Knatchbull first entered the navy as a
midshipman, and was, in due course, pro-
moted to the rank of post-captain. He com-
manded the Linnet, a ten-gun brig, and he is re-
ported to have served under Lord Cochrane,
as well as many other celebrated officers.
During the time he commanded the Linnet,
he was regarded as the greatest scoundrel in
the service. Obsequious to his superior offi-
cers, he proved a perfect tyrant to those under
him. The influence of his family rescued him
often from disgrace; but no danger
would frighten him from the evil course he
had entered upon, and at length his character
became so notorious, that his family disowned
him, and he was even openly expelled the
service by a court-martial. I shall now re-
cord the circumstances which led to his trans-
portation to the colony of New South Wales.

In the year 1824, a person of some note was
surrounded in the Vauxhall Gardens by three
men, who jostled him and picked his pocket.
He was not sensible of his loss until some
moments afterwards, when the persons had
disappeared. Late the same evening, while
perambulating the street in a disconsolate
mood, his attention was attracted by a secret
quarrel. Amongst the bystanders he ob-
served one of the men who had picked his pocket,
and gave him in charge. The person appear-
ed indignant, and almost speechless with pas-
sion; he declared himself to be the brother
to Sir Edward Knatchbull, and a post-captain
in the navy. Of course his story was not be-
lieved; he was taken into custody. But some gen-
tleman of respectability having informed his
accuser that the prisoner (Knatchbull) was in
reality, the person he described himself to be,
he waited upon Sir Edward Knatchbull to
apologise for having given his brother into
custody; and he even offered to withdraw
his accusation, as he could not think it was
anything else than a drunken frolic. Sir
Edward thanked him for his attention, and
informed him there was no mistake, but, on the

contrary, there was no crime his brother
would not perpetrate, and that the only favour
he could show his family would be to bring
the charge home to him, that he might be
convicted, and meet the disgraceful fate which
was certain to overtake him sooner or later.
He was tried, accordingly, at the Surrey As-
sises, under the name of "Fitch," or "Fitch,"
and, having been found guilty, was transpor-
ted for fourteen years. During the voyage
of the Asia, the vessel in which he was sent
out, he displayed his former feeling of cruelty.
The Captain, having very improperly assign-
ed him a comfortable berth, Knatchbull next
requested a servant. This the Captain also
allowed. Knatchbull used this man in the
most cruel manner, and struck him so se-
verely that he died. The Captain, however,
was in favour of his respectable prisoner,
having, it was supposed, received presents
from some unknown hand before the vessel
sailed, on his account. I do not believe this
report. The Captain, no doubt, regarded
him with pity, on account of his former res-
pectability. Not long after he was landed,
he procured a "ticket of leave," and returned
from the country into Sydney, where he con-
tinued for some years to live in a disreputable
manner. In 1831, he was apprehended and
tried before Sir Francis Forbes, the then
Chief Justice, for forgery. Sentence of death
was passed, but the sentence was mitigated to
seven years transportation to Norfolk Island.
On the voyage in the Governor Phillips, he
instigated the prisoners to poison the captain
and crew; and the poison was actually mixed
with the food in the coppers, when Knatch-
bull revealed the circumstance, and his coad-
jutors were punished, while he, the originator
escaped. His next exploit was in Norfolk Is-
land, where he caused a number of the pris-
oners to revolt. The scheme was well de-
signed. One evening, when the prisoners re-
turned from the fields with their mattocks,
instead of arranging them in the usual place,
they fell upon the soldiers on guard, and at-
tempted to disarm them. Had the garrison
been unaware of the plot, the convicts might
have succeeded. Knatchbull had, however,
given information, and the moment the at-
tempt was made, a file of armed soldiers
walked up and took the belligerents into cus-
tody. From Norfolk Island he was sent to
Hobart Town, and from thence he returned to
Sydney. He was sent to Port Macquarrie,
and remained there a few years, when he re-
turned to Sydney, and soon embarked in his
former course of living. We shall not pic-
ture the last crime he committed—the details
would disgust the man of taste and the female
of sensibility. Knatchbull entered the house
of a Mrs. Jameson, robbed her of £17, and
murdered her. This barbarous act was per-
petrated on the 6th January, 1844; on the
23d he was tried and sentenced; and on the
11th of February, he suffered the extreme
penalty of the law.

Savage and Civilised.—Stripped of all its
fictitious ornaments, savage life, though it has
natural beauties, yet the darker shadows of
its vices overcomes the lustre of its virtue;
and though we may regret the individual loss,
we cannot but rejoice in the universal advan-
tage and progress. The mill and the factory
of the white man may be less picturesque
than the deer-skin lodge of the red, the smoky
steamer, as panting and rattling, she cuts
through the lakes or rivers, less in harmony
with their features than the undulations of
the buoyant canoe; the blackened clearing
less grateful to the eye than the woodland
glade; the dusty road than the forest trail;
but the perfection to which they lead, the
bright day of peace and love of which they are
the harbingers—though but dimly discernible
in the long perspective of years to come—its
too pregnant with the happiness of the hu-
man race, and the glory of the Deity, to leave
any serious pain, from the means by which it
is of necessity to be obtained, upon the mind
which looks forward to it.—Rev. C. Nicolson.

POPULAR DELUSIONS.
It takes a keen observer to direct all the
popular fallacies that are rife in the country.
We, in *passant*, note a few of them:

It is popular delusion to believe that an
editor is a public bellows, bound to puff every-
thing and everybody that wants to use him.

That the most certain road to fortune is
thru' the turnpike of politics.

That a man's intellect is in a ratio with his
assurance.

That a poor, hungry plover, though he does
wear a tinzel crown, feels as happy as a king.

That the most Christian like course which
a Clergyman can follow is to slander and vilify
those who differ with him in the doctrinal
points of faith.

That powder on a lady's face has the same
effect as that in the pan of a musket—assist
her to go off.

That Nature, when she made "lovely woman"
meant, but omitted, to have finished
her off with a musket.

That the music of a consumptive piano is
fully equal to that of the spheres.

That an ignorant and vulgar man, by being
smuggled into one of the learned professions,
is a scholar and a gentleman.

FROM MEXICO.
SIX DAYS LATER FROM THE ARMY.
The steamship Alabama, arrived at New
Orleans on the 27th Aug. from Brazos Santi-
ago, whence she sailed on the 24th ult.

A letter dated the 16th inst. from San Fer-
nando, announces the arrival there of the
Texan regiment of mounted men, three days
previous, in fine health and spirits.

Editorial correspondence.
CAMARGO, Aug. 11.
Capt. Duncan, with the small party of Tex-
an Rangers, recently sent out on a reconnois-
sance into the interior, got back this morning,
after having scoured the country on the other
side the San Juan as far as Seralito, a pleas-
ant town half way to Monterrey.

On the second day Capt. McCulloch was
sent into Mier very much indisposed. The
night before, he shot a Mexican, who was
caught on an American horse and who at-
tempted to escape by running.

A force of 1000 well appointed cavalry ar-
rived at Saltillo a few days since, and report
now has it that Torrejon has been sent off
with a large party of mounted men to cut off
Col. Hays.

CAMARGO, Mexico, Aug. 14.
Yesterday and to-day, between the hours
of 9 o'clock, a. m. and 4 o'clock, p. m. were
the hottest days I ever heard of. The atmos-
phere, the earth, and the limestone walls of
Camargo, seemed to be on fire.

How the troops bear up under it is a won-
der, and yet there are not many of them down
with fever. I attribute this extraordinary
health in a great degree to the absence of in-
toxicating liquors.

I should pity the Mexican army that would
have the temerity to meet General Worth in
the field, for this brave officer is determined
to do something brilliant at all hazards.

An American arrived in town to-day from
Monterrey, with, I am told, reports that there
are 1,000 rancheros and regulars [4,000 regu-
lars] collected at that place already. Many
of this force are from the Rio Grande.

They speak confidently of whipping our ar-
my. It is rumoured about camp, too, that
Capt. Duncan, who left here before yester-
day, to reconnoitre some 20 leagues distant,
was yesterday on Canales's trail, with a fair
prospect of overtaking him.

CAMARGO, Saturday, Aug. 15.
Since my letter of yesterday, I have learn-
ed that soon after McCulloch's party left Chi-
na, some weeks ago, a Mexican named Sar-
riego, raised four or five hundred men and
started off, as he told the people there, in pur-
suit.

He was careful, however, not to overtake
the rangers; but learning that our troops
were leaving Matamoros, and thinking that
none were left to defend the place, made up
his mind to retake it; but unfortunately for
his plan, he soon found that Capt. Hays was
there.

They have it here that the colonel met him
and gave him men-a-drubbing, in true Texan
style, but this is probably nothing more than
a camp rumour.

P. S.—Saturday Evening.—In addition
to the report given above, written this morn-
ing, I will state what I have since heard from
a gentleman well informed on the subjects
therein alluded to.

A man has arrived from Monterrey, who
says that from the number of troops there, and
the feelings of the inhabitants, it would be
imprudent for Gen. Taylor to move upon that
place with less than 10,000 well disciplined
men.

The army will probably move on Monterrey
by two separate routes, clearing the country
for a considerable extent on either side and
between the two roads.

Late from Yucatan.—By the way of Ha-
vana, we have advices from Merida, and from
Campeche to the 5th of August.

A letter is published in the *Diario de la Ha-
bana*, dated 31st July, to the effect, that there
was a tumultuous outbreak a few days previ-
ous at Valladolid.

It was excited by an individual, whose
name is not given, who was anxious to gain
the seat occupied by Gov. Barbachano. The
grito or popular cry of the sedition was "down
with the taxes."

The insurgents obtained possession of the
quarters of their troops, seized their arms, and
were fortifying their position, but abandoned
it upon learning the approach of Col. Gamboa
at the head of 800 troops.

They retreated to Tixualautum, 2 leagues
from Valladolid. They being called upon to
surrender, they quietly laid down their arms,
without firing a gun, and the leaders of this
magnanimous insurrection were seized and
turned over to the proper tribunal for trial.

Other than this outbreak, and the excite-
ment caused by the arrival of Gen. Basadre
from Havana, the peninsula was perfectly
quiet.

The declaration of different departments of
Mexico in favor of Santa Anna being known,
the *Siglo XIX.*, the official organ of Yuca-
tan, comes out very boldly for his cause.

Congress had passed a decree exempting
from duty saltpetre and sulphur prepared for
the manufacture of powder.