

POETRY.

OUTWARD BOUND

The stars shone bright on the restless wave,
The breeze blew light, yet fair,
Her lofty sails were trimly spread,
To woo the soft night air.

Her seamen slowly paced the deck,
Or watchful, gazed around,
Their mirth was mute, they felt the check,
Of sailors outward bound.

Her track was given, the helmsman's lamp
Shone o'er the magic steel,
He pensive ruled the vessel's course,
And lonely touched the wheel.

And many a league of ocean's brine
Before that vessel lay,
And many a wave she'll breast before
She plies her homeward way.

Cut off from friends, in solitude
Of waters and of sky,
Their ship, their home, their thoughts, as one,
Our native land, good bye.

Yet deem not those who perils know,
As wanderers o'er the wave,
Because their hearts like others feel,
May be less bold or brave.

If midnight duty calls the tar,
He mounts the shrouds with glee,
In reefing topsails many a joke
Hath often passed at sea.

May God then speed their gallant barque,
Be still their guide and friend,
Thro' stormy days, or dangers dark,
As on their voyage they went.

Hope guard their anchor, faith their souls,
And Heaven be pleased to lead
Their hearts to that *Almighty One*,
Who saves in time of need.

THE USE OF TEARS.

Be not thy tears too harshly chid,
Repine not at the rising sigh;
Who, if they might, would always bid
The breast be still, the cheek be dry?

How little of ourselves we know
Before a grief the heart has felt;
The lessons that we learn of woe
May brace the mind, as well as melt.

The energies too stern for mirth,
The reach of thought, the strength of will,
Mid cloud and tempest have their birth,
Through blight and blast their course fulfil.

Love's perfect triumph never crown'd
The hope unchequer'd by a pang;
The guardian wreaths with thorns are bound;
And Sappho wept before she sang.

Tears at each pure emotion flow;
They wait on pity's gentle claim,
On admiration's fervid glow,
On

was not the less cordial for this event; indeed the social system along the whole river was found to be so dislocated by the unhappy slave trade, that though a sort of authority was asserted by some principal places, as Eboe, Atta, and Funda, over the others, it was the mere authority of force and aggression, the strong insulting and oppressing the weak—not any bond of union for mutual protection. And in this way the fate of the destroyed village was never alluded to by any of the natives as a reproach to the party though no doubt, it was to many, and operated as the warning desired.

They remained at Eboe two days, which were passed in palavering, (exchanging presents and other civilities) with the King, and in embarking the supplies thus obtained.—They then proceeded on the 9th, and passed through what Mr Lander, in his previous voyage, had supposed to be a considerable lake, with three rivers proceeding from it, but which proved to be merely a widening and separation of its streams into two, not three, channels, by an island. The river was here, from bank to bank, about 3000 yards across, with a varying depth from seven fathoms under; but Mr Laird can scarcely imagine whence all the water comes that appears to be discharged into the gulph of Benin, by the numerous rivers which flow into it. He cannot think that the Quorra alone furnishes the whole. Its mean breadth is not far above 1500 or 1600 yards, and it is no where above two miles and a half across. Its stream is full of shallows and altogether, Mr Laird thinks that the Nun mouth alone discharges as much water as it brings down, though there is probably deception in this, arising from the periodical accumulation of water near the mouth, caused by the flood tides.

Two days after leaving Eboe, the mortality re-commenced in the expedition, and a blank occurs in Mr Laird's recollection in particular, until the 5th December, when he found that he had lost in the Quorra alone, 14 men, and in the Alburkah three more. This disproportion was believed to be owing to the

superior coolness of the latter vessel, the iron hull of which conducted and diffused all over her the freshness of the water in which she floated.

The expedition was now at Atta, a considerable town picturesquely situated on a low hill on the left bank of the river, and containing a population approaching 15,000 souls. The population of Eboe was not supposed to exceed 6000. The expedition was now fairly entered within the district of the Kong mountains, which rose on both sides to an estimated height of 2,000 to 2,500 feet, and were extremely grateful to the eyes of those who had been so long accustomed to dull swamps, and who hailed the change as the harbinger of future health. The loftier among them were extremely precipitous in their ascent, with flat table summits; the lower were also frequently table, but some rise in conical peaks. They appeared to be distributed in two nearly parallel ranges, crossing the river in a direction from N.W. to S.E., with a spur as it appeared afterwards, running N.E. from the point of land between the Quorra and Tachadda, and dividing the basin of the latter from that of the Coodoonia.—Their composition appeared to be chiefly mica-schist, as far as Mr Laird was enabled to observe.

The King of Atta was not so friendly to his visitors as the King of Eboe had been; and all endeavours to engage him in the ivory trade were fruitless. It did not appear whether he was without a supply of ivory himself, as he sometimes allowed, though always with magnificent statements of the quantity which he could procure; or whether he was guided merely by feelings of suspicion and malevolence: but both probably combined.

He was rude and disrespectful in his bearing, and his priests made a fetish above where the boats lay, (that is, sacrificed a human victim, and threw the body, in morsels, into the river,) to prevent the boats from passing up; but at length, weary of his prevarication, Mr Lander left the place, and the natives were much disappointed at finding their incantations of no avail.—The next point to which the party proceeded was Bockua, a town which Mr Lander had left on the right bank of the river, but which having been sacked in the interval by enemies, was found removed to the opposite side. A market on the river, which had been held in the old town, had followed to the new; and a remarkable circumstance was here observable, arising probably from the necessity of the case, but which shows how near barbarism and civilization may meet. The market was a neutral ground, a sort of free port in which the subjects of antagonist kings meet in peace. The people of Egga, Juttum, Curfee, and other towns up the river, exchanged their goods here, without molestation, with those of Atta, Eboe and others below; the chief articles of exchange being tobos, horses, goats, sheep, rice, &c. Butter was also found in the boats from above, of good quality, but without salt; of which there is an almost total want in this part of the river. The substitute is a harsh, acid, pungent, deposit from a lixivium of the ashes of certain plants: a potash rather than a salt, but crystallized.

The river above Atta was found excessively intricate in its navigation. Mr Laird, indeed considers that a step, or rise in its whole bed, takes place here, corresponding with the adjoining elevation of the Kong mountains, and that probably its course above this is again comparatively clear, as far as Bousea, where according to Mr Lander's report in his first voyage, another similar rise takes place. Among the sand banks thus encountered, the Quorra repeatedly grounded, and at length finally hung for six months, her progress upwards being here arrested. The Alburkah was more fortunate—she went up to the junction of the Tachadda, and Mr Laird thinks might easily have gone farther. But she did not proceed till the following season.

The mortality in both vessels meanwhile proceeded, though not with the same frightful violence as below Atta; and the character of the diseases was various, fever, ague, dysentery, debility, &c. The blacks (Kroomen,) embarked at Cape Coast Castle, fortunately remained well and faithful; and Mr Laird pays the usual tribute to the valuable qualities of these people, who are familiarly called the Scotchmen of the coast of Africa, and without whom scarcely any trade could be prosecuted along its shores. A good detailed account of them is wanting to the British public; we know of none except some short notices in the Parliamentary report on Sierra Leone and the Gold Coast; yet some instructions must be deducible from the details of their erratic disposition and general superiority to the rest of the natives.

In February Mr Laird lost his last immediate companion in the Quorra, Doctor Briggs, the surgeon and naturalist, who accompanied the expedition; and he is peculiarly earnest now in a wish to do justice to this most amiable and excellent young man, whose memory has been injured by a report that he was incompetent to his duties and had not taken out with him the requisite supply of medicines. These misrepresentations appeared in a letter which was some time ago published in the newspaper,

and to which his father (Dr Briggs of Liverpool,) has replied in print. But besides this the most satisfactory testimonials are adduced now by Mr Laird as to the high qualifications of his lamented friend; and the fact, that on the return of the Quorra from the interior, his medicine-chest was still well-supplied, is a conclusive answer to the other allegations.

After Dr Briggs's death, Mr Laird became dispirited from living so much alone; for the Alburkah being above six miles higher up, his intercourse with Mr Lander and Lieutenant Allen, who were embarked in her was necessarily very limited. He planned accordingly, an excursion to Funda, a considerable town up the Tachadda, and departed for this in April. He had become by this time, so confident of the pacific dispositions of the people, or at least of his own

extent, artificially constructed, a number of pits were dug, four feet wide by eight deep. These were about one quarter, or one fifth filled with indigo balls, three inches in diameter, but coarse and dirty, and were then filled up with waer and a ley from wood ashes, when the wole was left to ferment.—When the fermentation had ceased, a plank was put down, which coarsely raked the deposit to one side, and the cloths, suspended from a gallows, were dipped in the blue water, and hung to dry, alternately, till the colour was approved of: they were then highly glazed, as Clapperon describes, by heating.

The colours were good, in consequence of the quantity of indigo used; but not fast, even soiling the hands when touched. (Specimens were on the table of the Society.)—All this the Fallatahs destroyed, their only objects being slaves, booty, and destruction; but the art is widely diffused throughout the country.

The inhabitants of Funda are also good weavers of coarse cotton cloths, and did not at all approve of our Manchester goods, in which they said there was no stuff. They very much admired, however, our gaudy colors. They are also good common black-smiths; fashion copper into bowls for their pipes, which they make so long, that when riding they can draw them, resting the bowl on the foot; dress and sew leather well, and brew an excellent beer. They are ignorant of distilling, and as yet indifferent to rum—they will too soon learn, and suffer under its effects.

The breed of horses in the country is small, but the natives are great riders, sitting well on Moorish saddles, high before and behind. The dress of ceremony, when going out on horseback, is a quantity of clothing, such as almost makes the rider helpless; but this is seldom used. The Arab bit is employed.—The breed of cows is also small; of sheep and goats middle-sized; of poultry very small indeed. Great variety of fish is found in the river; one in every respect externally resembles the salmon, but the flesh is white; its average weight is about 9lb. Two kinds of alligator, or rather crocodile, were met with—one snub-nosed, which attacked men, and was only found in the brackish-water near the mouth of the river; the other was found higher up, with a long snout, and only dangerous when attacked. The natives take it in the same manner as the Egyptians take their Crocodiles, by introducing into its open mouth, when running at them, a thick short stick, sharpened at both ends. Two or more will also attack them with spears, but the issue is more doubtful. The flesh is eaten, in the latter case, with great triumph.

A race of the natives are peculiarly fishermen, and in the dry season build round straw huts on the sand-banks in the stream, for the more convenient prosecution of their trade, but Mr Laird believes that they also frequently engaged in slaving, the encouragement for which occupation is here prodigious, there being a slave trade both up and down the river. To this, almost alone, he attributes the failure of the present expedition as a commercial speculation, nor does he think that any thing can be very successful while it is maintained.

We must now, however, conclude this rapid analysis. On his return from Funda, Mr Laird found that Mr Lander had gone down the river to communicate with the brig, and obtain reinforcements and supplies. He was absent several months, having been induced to visit Fernando Po; and Mr Laird, finding the crew of his vessel, the Quorra, now aloft, reduced to himself, so ill that he could scarcely crawl, and two English seamen, very little better, determined also to return.

He came away in August, and when half way down, Mr Lander then returning up, and intending to prosecute the voyage at least to Boosa. He also touched again at Eboe, where, notwithstanding his helpless state, he was received with the same deference as before. In descending thence, he got into the wrong branch of the river, and had some difficulty in extricating himself from that leading to Benin, which he considers the principal mouth, in order to get into the Nun, inferior stream. Having recruited his stores from the brig, he proceeded to Fernando Po, where his health was much restored; and he laments, both for the sake of the trade and the British cruisers on this coast, that this station is about to be abandoned. A road is now cut through the woods from Clarence Cove to the top of the hill, (11,000 feet,) so that any climate may be commanded; and captured slave ships arrive here in a few hours, whereas the voyage to Sierra Leone, costs many weeks. He afterwards visited Old Calabar, and in October left the coast to return home.

The communication was closed, by an intimation that Mr Laird was a candidate for admission, into the Society; and his election was carried by acclamation.

USE OF COFFEE IN ASTHMA.—Coffee is the best abater of the periodic asthma, that I have seen. The coffee ought to be the best Mocha, newly burnt, and made very strong, immediately after grinding it. I have commonly ordered one ounce for one dish, which is to be repeated fresh after the interval of a quarter of an hour, and which I direct to be taken without milk or sugar.

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