

POETRY.

THE BETTER LAND.
BY MRS. HEMANS.

"I hear thee speak of the Better Land,
Thou callest its children a happy band;
Mother! Oh where is that radiant shore?
Shall we not seek it, and weep no more?
Is it where the flower of the orange blows,
And the fire-flies glance through the myrtle-boughs?"
—"Not there, not there, my child!"

"Is it where the feathery palm-trees rise,
And the date grows ripe under sunny skies?
Or 'midst the green islands of glittering seas,
Where fragrant forests perfume the breeze,
And strange, bright birds, on their starry wings
Bear the rich hues of all glorious things?"
—"Not there, not there, my child!"

"Is it far away, in some region old,
Where the rivers wander o'er sands of gold?
Where the burning rays of the ruby shine,
And the diamond lights up the secret mine,
And the pearl gleams forth from the coral strand?
Is it there, sweet mother, that better land?"
—"Not there, not there, my child!"

"Eye hath not seen it, my gentle boy!
Ear hath not heard its deep songs of joy;
Dreams cannot picture a world so fair—
Sorrow and death may not enter there;
Time doth not breathe on its fadeless bloom,
For beyond the clouds, and beyond the tomb,
—It is there, it is there, my child!"

MESSRS. SCHEERBOOM'S LIFE-BOAT.—Thursday being appointed for exhibiting the experiment with the apparatus by which any ordinary boat or vessel may be converted into a life-boat, and for which Messrs. Scheerboom and Co. have obtained a patent, the three bridges, of Blackfriars, Southwark, and London, were by two o'clock crowded with spectators; the barges and the craft on the sides of the river were also filled with anxious expectants, and the river itself presented one of the most animated spectacles we have witnessed for some time; every boat appeared to be put in requisition, and so intense was the interest and curiosity of the various aquatic parties, that it was with some difficulty sufficient space could be cleared amidst the dense mass of cutters and wherries for the display of the experiments.—Shortly after three o'clock, it being then high water, the vessel by which the efficacy of the contrivance of the patentees was to be established, after having performed a few evolutions, for the purpose of ascertaining the most convenient spot for the exhibition, was by the united force of her crew, which consisted of eight persons, who were stripped of every thing but their trousers, and furnished with "schaphanders" (a species of buoyant jackets), overset in so complete a manner, that her masts and sails were capsized, and her keel and bottom remained above water. The crew, who were floating in all directions, lost no time in regaining the vessel; and after seating themselves across the keel, to confirm their security, again plunged into the water, and succeeded in righting the vessel, and getting again on board of her. This experiment was repeated six times between the bridges, and was as fully successful as the most enthusiastic admirer of the contrivance could desire; there was no blunder committed in the detail, and the performers of the experiments were fully competent to the task their employers and directors had assigned them. Every thing went off well, the satisfaction of the spectators, which was expressed in loud terms, was universal, and we are happy to state no accident occurred. Of the general utility of this invention, which is by means of wooden boxes or frames placed beneath the seats and along the sides of the vessel on the inside, and filled with a substance rendered impervious to wet, and three times more buoyant than cork, to render it impossible for a vessel to sink, from what we have seen, we can speak in terms of high encomium; but whether or not it would be sufficiently efficacious to preserve, or be applicable to vessels in a gale of wind, or in a heavy sea, from our own knowledge of the subject we cannot, of course, speak in positive terms, but we see no reason to doubt its being a very great improvement upon any thing of the kind that has as yet been produced, and as we are of opinion that, with some very simple additions, it may become the means of preserving the lives of a class of persons on whom the national welfare is dependent, we recommend it to the attention of all persons connected with the trade and navigation of the empire.—*Times*.

CHARACTER OF BERNADOTTE, THE PRESENT KING OF SWEDEN.—This officer had been recently promoted to the rank of General; he combined with the courage that characterized the army of Sambre-et-Meuse an experience seldom found at that period in the French ranks. He had been a soldier from the age of fourteen; had seen service in America as well as in Europe; and had evinced on the banks of the Delaware, as he then did on the Sambre, that eagle eye, and velocity of manoeuvre, which few of his colleagues then possessed. He added to the ascendancy which the habit of warfare had given him many qualities not less precious in a soldier. He was enterprising, intrepid, and as ardent in action as in the expression

of his opinions. His enthusiasm delighted the men under his command; his fine, soldier-like appearance, and his confidence, warmed their imaginations. There was nothing too difficult for them when led on by him—nothing they would not undertake at his bidding. But everything has its limits; valour even meets with obstacles which it cannot overcome.—*Memoirs of Marshal Ney*.

ANECDOTE OF A SAILOR.—During the prevalence of cholera last year, a sailor of decent appearance called at Mr. W. J. Lacoste's boarding-house, and frankly told him he was a-drift at the mercy of the elements, without a harbour a-head, or a shot in the locker, and if perchance he should be boarded by the cholera, why, he must founder in the street, he supposed. Lacoste, who was never known to be backward in extending relief to a fellow-creature in distress, and who perceived warrant for the poor fellow's honesty in his countenance, readily tendered him a bed and a seat at his table, until it should be better times with him, which friendly offer Jack accepted with much joy. Not readily meeting with a vessel to ship on board of, our hero became impatient, and after making suitable acknowledgement of gratitude to his kind host, and promising to quit the score as soon as it was in his power, he left his house and embarked for New York. Twelve months had rolled on, and the sailor had entirely escaped from Mr. L's memory, when one day last week, a seaman, very neatly clad, and of a prepossessing countenance, called at his house, and without any preface thus accosted him: "Here are 200 dollars; I wish you to take as much of it as you want to pay yourself for your generosity to me, and keep the balance till I call for it. I am just off to sea, and if I should go to Old Davy, why, you see, I had rather you should have it than any body I know." "Why, who are you, and what claim have you to your money?" "Oh! then, you have forgot the poor sailor you took out of the street last year, and treated so kindly—but he has not forgot you." So saying, he forced the money on his benefactor, adding, "I know if I get back I shall find the money safe, and if I don't, why keep it and welcome. And here (pulling a lottery ticket from his pocket) here, take this, and if it draws a prize keep that too. Then giving Mr. L. a cordial shake of the hand, he left him and went on board his vessel, which in an hour after was under weigh for a foreign port. In less than twenty-four hours after his departure, Mr. L. called at a lottery-office to inquire the fate of Jack's ticket, when he had the satisfaction to learn that its numbers had drawn the handsome sum of 1000 dollars, Jack's share of the prize-money being 250 dollars.—*Norfolk U. S. Herald*.

INFLUENCE OF THE MOON ON RAIN.—From the comparison of a series of observations, continued for twenty-eight years at Munich, Stuttgart, and Augsburg, by Professor Schubler, it appears that the maximum number of rainy days takes place between the first quarter and the new moon. The number of rainy days in the last of these intervals is to that in the first as 696 to 845, or in round numbers, as 5 to 6. And this proportion is not only true of the twenty years taken together, but also of the separate groups of four years, which give analogous numbers; we therefore conclude that it rains more frequently during the increase than during the wane of the moon. The results obtained by Schubler receive support from a series of observations made by Pilgram at Vienna. On 100 repetitions of the same phase, Pilgram found the falls of rain to be as follows: New moon 26, mean of the two quarters 25, full moon 29; consequently, at Vienna, as well as at Augsburg and Stuttgart, it rains more frequently on the day of the full, than on that of the new moon. Arago remarks in regard to the observations, "Confining ourselves to the principal results, it seems difficult to resist the conclusion that the moon exercises an influence on our atmosphere; that in virtue of this influence rain falls more frequently towards the second octant, than at any other epoch of the lunar month; and, lastly, that the chances of rain are fewest between the last quarters and the fourth octant."

AMERICAN FREE SCHOOLS.—It is obvious that the character of the mass of the people will be formed in these schools, because the great majority cannot, from their circumstances, afford to seek higher or better education than can be obtained in them. These schools, therefore, demand the first attention in a free state, and happily for New England, received this attention so early, that they have always constituted the foundation of what is most peculiar and valuable in the character of its inhabitants. One of the advantages of the system is, that the whole population is made to take a direct personal interest in the business of education, and to carry it on in the way best suited to supply the general wants. The people, in their town-meetings, vote the money, by their committees spend the money, and by their children get the good of the outlay; the whole conduct of the schools is directly in their hands. Another great advantage is, that the schools are supported by a tax upon property,—although this remark does not apply strictly

to all the states, in some of which there is a public fund for bearing a certain proportion of the expenses. But every where in New England, except in Connecticut, they are supported by a tax on the property of all.—It is therefore an arrangement eminently beneficial to the poorer classes of the community. In most towns, one-fifth of the inhabitants pay at least one-half of the tax, and instead of sending one-half of the scholars, do not send one-sixth. Of course the school tax is substantially a tax on the rich to educate the children of the poor; and it is thus equally beneficial in its operation upon both parties. The poor have the promise of the law and the constitution that their children shall be educated, and thus preserved from the greatest temptation to crime: the rich are assured that they shall live in a community where universal education shall keep the foundations of society safe, and afford them a greater personal security than the law can offer. In this way the system of free schools, as practically carried into operation in New England, is to be regarded as a great moral police, to preserve a decent, orderly, and respectable population; to teach men, from their earliest childhood, their duties and their rights; and, by giving the whole mass of the community a sense of character and a general intelligence, make them understand the value of justice, order, and moral worth, and more anxious to maintain them than the law itself can be.—*View of the United States of America*.

PATRICK'S LETTER TO HIS KINSFOLK.—*New York, April, 3, 1833.*—Praised be all the saints! Thady, my dear brother, we have got here at last. Oh! of all born places in the big world America is the land for the poor and desolate man to come to. Barring ould Ireland, it's the Paradise of the earth.—We'd a pleasant passage enough, save now and then, when the sea put on airs, and made a big swell of itself. No deaths on board, except two pigs, five sheep, and twenty-two fowls, which were all kilt to find a grave in the stomachs of the cabin passengers. Our father boré the passage mighty well, considering his gray hairs; but Lion, poor dog! didn't seem to like his berth at all at all. He suffered much from say-sickness, and barked a good dale at nights; but 'twas moonlight, and you know he never could abide the moon. Well, New York is, barring Cork, the city of the universal world. There's a street in it, Thady, called the Broadway, which runs five miles and a half, and then don't stop: and the beautifullest pigs ever you laid your eyes on, running through the streets, without an owner; and as the serjeant tould Barney, (thru enough,) squealing as if they were saying, "Come and catch me." It's full of handsome shops and illigant ladies. Oh! Thady, Thady, if ye want to see delicate shapes, coal-black eyes, and nate ancles, you must come to New York. By the powers, the bare sight of them has made the ould man quite young again. Only think! he said to me yesterday,—"twas after dinner.—"Pat," says he, "I hear there's a bushel of fresh widows in this town; and, plaze goodness, I'll be after giving ye a second modher, my lad, before long." Ha! ha! Thady, how odd if we should get an American modher, and wee twins, too! We have put up at a boarding-house, in the upper part of the city, (for 'twas there, the captain said, they let lodgings cheapest,) and find ourselves comfortable enough. There are more than twenty fellow boarders to keep us company, and we go on as regularly and pleasantly together as if we were playing a game of lapfrog.—They've a mighty fine breed of pigs in this city, and 'tis as good as a play to see the poor, dumb bastards strutting about, as free as lords, in the streets. See that! Last night we, that is, father and myself, went to a playhouse called the Park; why they called it the "Park" I didn't ask, but it's very like a house. The play was called the Merchant of Venus, and funny enough, troth! It is all about an ould jew butcher, who gives a heap of duck hats, (what queer names Thady, those mounseers give to their money, and every thing else,) for a pound of man's flesh. The cannibal! However, 'twas against the law, thank goodness! as a lady in a large black gown tould them, and the butcher, as regular a built savage as ever I saw, barely escaped hanging for making such a bargain. During the play, father and I were much plazed at an instance of the prodigious spirit of this fine people. All of a sudden the boys in the pit set up a d'ivel of a shout at a dandy in the boxes, who turned his back, instead of his face, to the stage.—"A Trollop! a Trollop!" bawled they; which soon brought little mister to the right-about. A mighty nate way that, Thady, my boy, of teaching the craters manners in good company.

NEGRO ENTERTAINMENTS.—It is quite common for negro slaves to give parties, and employ some one to write invitations for them: but the price of the party is always put upon the note. These invitations are expressed in the same way as if one lady wrote to another, and I shall here faithfully copy one. "Mr. — requests the honor of Mr. —'s company to a dance and supper, on Tuesday evening, at nine o'clock.—Three dollars." Some parties cost even more than

this, and some less, according to the entertainment given. Drinking to excess is hardly ever known; and though our servants often went to dances, I never knew any of them return in the slightest degree intoxicated. X. was the only servant I ever saw who habitually drank to excess. B. I have seen twice a little tipsy, but not so as to incapacitate him for his work—he had just enough to make him unusually impudent; however, he was at all times very forward; and, indeed, negro men are most disagreeably so. I recollect obtaining the following information from him as to one of these dances. "How many had you at the dance?" "More than two hundred." "What did they dance?" "Quadrilles and waltzes." "Did you not dance the English country-dance?" "No, they no fashion now-day." "Had you any refreshment during dancing?" "Yes." "What had you?" "Tea and coffee, and wine of different kinds, sangaree, lemonade, and porter." He also informed me they had an excellent supper. Such entertainments are quite common, and negroes enjoy themselves very much at such times. Indeed, they will dance at any hour of the day. I recollect when our estates' people finished crop, a great band, in gay clothes, came to town to see us, preceded by the estates' fiddler, whose hat was trimmed up with ribbons; they had paid for getting these decorations themselves, because they said "they wished to surprise me, cause they knowed I had never seen the like afore." The house servants went all into the largest negro house, and began to dance although this was just the hottest time of the day; they danced with the greatest agility, not appearing at all inconvenienced by the heat. Their dresses were really ludicrous,—one woman had her own Christian name and her master's surname marked in large letters in front of her dress; and she told me she paid half a dollar for getting it done. Having got wherewithal to make merry on, they left us in about an hour, as jovial a party as could be.—*Mrs. Carmichael's West Indies*.

The difference between prejudices and other opinions doth not consist in this, that the former are false and the latter true; but in this, that the former are taken upon trust, and the latter acquired by reasoning. He who hath been taught to believe the immortality of the soul, may be as right in his notion as he who hath reasoned himself into that opinion. It will then by no means follow, that because this or that notion is a prejudice, it is therefore false. The not distinguishing between prejudices and errors is a prevailing oversight.—*Berkeley*.

REVOLUTION WILL FOLLOW REFORM.—Up to the present time, discontent has been, in a measure, isolated, and confined to individuals; it has been as devoid of danger as of inconvenience. But now a revolutionary spirit has infused that discontent into all classes, and, at no distant period, we shall witness its formidable progress. For a long time the word *reform* had been familiarized to the people's ears. Innovations prepared them to desire it as a want which brooked no delay, and which was equally felt by those who clamoured for it, and those whose interests it would affect. This latter class has not seen that the sacrifices they would be called upon to make, far from putting off the evil day, has only rendered more inevitable the death-struggle which must now be fought between indigence and property. Violence will now wrest that which a tardy prudence would recommend to withhold. The battle will not be long contested, if the weaker party are the first to aid in the overthrow of institutions which have hitherto protected them.—*Great Britain, by Baron D'Haussez*.

An American remarked, that Mr. Rush's book threw considerable light upon the manners of this country. A waggish Englishman replied, that it was a *rush-light*.

A public cemetery is about to be erected in the vicinity of Exeter on the New North-road.

THE SAILOR'S ADIEU!

The bark is now leaving
Which bears me from thee,
Thus doomed to lone grieving
Far o'er the dark sea!
In sighs for my country
Remembrance will dwell,
But my heart throbs with anguish
To say, love—farewell!
Thou' lost in dejection
Fond memory shall tell
How dear thine affection,
Mine own love—farewell!
On ocean, when sleeping,
Sweet dreams will prevail;
Though torrents are weeping,
Love sighs through the gale;
Though tempests assail me,
Proud billows may swell;
Thy prayers will avail me,
Mine own love—farewell!
With Hope—ne'er depressing,
My safety foretell,
My shield in thy blessing,
Mine own love—farewell!

Printed and Published by D. E. GILMOUR, at the Star Office, Carbonar, Newfoundland, to whom all Communications must be addressed.—Subscription. ONE GUINEA PER ANNUM payable half-yearly.