



The Literary Gem.

WHAT IS NOBLE!

Respectfully inscribed to Henry T. Tuckerman, Esq.;
author of "Thoughts on the Poets," "Artist Life,"
"Italian Sketch Book," "The Optimist," &c., &c.

BY CHARLES SWAIN.

What is noble? to inherit
Wealth, estate, and proud decree?—
There must be some other merit
Higher yet than these for me!—
Something greater far must enter
Into life's majestic span;
Fitted to create and centre
True nobility in man!

What is noble? 'tis the finer
Portion of our Mind and Heart,
Linked to something still diviner
Than mere language can impart;
Ever prompting—ever seeing
Some improvement yet to plan;
To uplift our following being—
And, like man, to feel for Man!

What is noble? is the sabre
Nobler than the humble spade?
There's a dignity in labor
Truer than e'er pomp arrayed!
He who seeks the mind's improvement
Aids the world—in aiding mind!—
Every great commanding movement
Serves not one—but all mankind.

O'er the forge's heat and ashes—
O'er the engine's iron-head—
Where the rapid shuttle flashes,
And the spindle whirls its thread;
There is labor lowly tending
Each requirement of the hour,
There is genius still extending
Science—and its world of power!

'Mid the dust, and speed, and clamor,
Of the loom-shed and the mill;
Midst the clink of wheel and hammer
Great results are growing still
Though, too oft, by Fashion's creatures,
Work and workers may be blamed;
Commerce need not hide its features!
Industry is not ashamed!

What is nobler? That which places
Truth in its enfranchised will;
Leaving steps—like angel traces—
That mankind may follow still!
E'en though scorn's malignant glances
Prove him poorest of his clan,
He's the Noble—who advances
Freedom, and the Cause of Man.

PHENOMENON OF THE LAKES RISING.

The following remarks are cut from the "Western Planet," a paper published at Chatham, C.W. We have often heard of the phenomenon of the periodical rise and fall of the Lakes of North America. Whether it really is so or not is not fully known. It seems to us that the rise of the lakes depends entirely on the waters of the northern and western rivers flowing into them. Such is the case with the great rivers, and we see no reason to doubt that any unusual rise in our lakes is caused by an extra amount of rain or floods from the North and West caused by great falls of snow. All of the great lakes have evi-

dently receded within past ages. Lake Ontario at one time washed the base of the mountain at Hamilton and covered all the country lying between the Rochester ridge-road and its now shores as well as the present site of Toronto. Nothing is more evident, upon examination of the earth, than that the lakes have all fallen, and that gradually too, during thousands of years past:—

LAKES RISING.—The phenomena of the periodical rise and fall, of the great American Lakes, is again attracting attention. During the last nine months they have rose rapidly, and are now some 30 inches higher than they were last summer. It appears to us, that in a matter of such great importance, the Government should institute strict enquiry, independent of local interests, the trade and commerce of the Lakes, &c.; there is a sort of philosophical query, connected with the circumstance, that well deserves investigation. In the year 1836, when these waters were highest, it was said by many of the old residents here, that the period of change from highest to lowest, was every seven years, and *visa versa*; by others the period was fourteen years, and with some it was every twenty years. While many contend that all were wrong, and that there was no such thing as a periodical rise and fall. That the lakes were only affected by rains and thaws, or winds. That the actual rise of the waters during the years 1834, '35, '36, are unaccountable. That the immense and aged forests, that were inundated and destroyed by the event, demonstrated that no such circumstance had occurred for at least 500 years previous. Might not the Government give some instructions to the various Custom House officers, Light House keepers, and the Indian agents in the upper Country, to keep journals of a certain form arranged for the purpose, and collect every information bearing upon the subject.

THE PRESS OF CANADA AND ITS PROGRESS.

Few who now live in Canada know the wonderful progress made in all the arts and comforts of life by its present population as compared with those of 1800, and even of those of 1820. A most striking change has been effected for the better in every thing during the last fifty years. Those who were acquainted with the situation of Canada in 1800 are fast passing away. It is true there are very many persons living in all parts of our Province who were then children, but the fathers and pioneers of the country are nearly all gone. Upper Canada was then comparatively a wilderness, and even in 1812 during the last American war it only contained about 60,000 people. In 1800 it contained probably only half the number. One of the earliest settlements made in Upper Canada (always excepting the neighbourhood of Detroit) was the Niagara District, wherein many of the refugee United English Loyalists and their children settled about the year 1782. At this early day there was no newspaper published in U. Canada. About the year 1800 the "Government Gazette" was commenced to be published at Little York (now Toronto), by the late Dr. Horne, we think. It was, however, a mere channel of Executive doings (something in a Lilliputian way) like the present "Canada Gazette." The first regular newspaper that we know or have ever

heard of being published in Canada West, was published by two American printers, named Gideon and Sylvester Tiffany; commenced in the year 1799 at Newark (now Niagara). These two pioneers of the press in Canada, came from the State of New York about the year 1798, and published for two or three years at Niagara a (for those days) good looking sheet, called the "Constellation." They are brothers of the late Dr. Tiffany of Ancaster, and the uncles of G. S. Tiffany, Esq., of Hamilton. A son of one of them now living in Toronto, has kindly loaned us a copy of this paper, bearing date 21st June, 1800, now upwards of 51 years ago. We give below its leading article, written on that day, from which our readers will see that Canada and our lakes and commerce and even manners, were in a very rude state. They will also see that even at that early day, the curse and evil of drunkenness was felt in Canada, and is denounced by the Editor. Our ancestors it seems were more prone to beat their wives than they are now. There was then scarcely a vessel on our Lakes, and the country from Niagara to Sandwich was the residence of wild beasts, except a few isolated spots. We will continue this subject in our next, and would ask a careful perusal of the Editorial of 1800. The paper is full of allusions to the doings of Robespierre, the terror of whose name still frightened the civilized world, and also of accounts of the ravages of the French Army. The price of this paper (which was weekly and only about one third of the size of this magazine) was one pound per year. Now we can get for the same money two weekly papers in Canada, either of which would contain ten times the amount of matter that this one of olden times did. There are now in Canada West alone near, or perhaps, exceeding one hundred publications of different kinds, many of them of a highly respectable appearance. We will in our next give the names of most of these papers, and also a short sketch of the progress of the Press since 1800 in Canada:

BRITISH AMERICA,

NIAGARA, June 21, 1800.

Charles Trump and Ann C. Cain have for some considerable time lived together as servants and the housekeepers of George Forsyth, Esq., of this town, and at sundry times have quarrelled, and blows, &c., ensued. On the 6th inst. some dispute arising between them, Trump gave her several blows and kicks; on the 2nd day thereafter Mrs. C. left the house, was about town and complained but of her arms, until the 4th day, when she became feverish, took her bed, and continued with increasing fever and debility until the 10th, (Sunday last the 15th) when she expired, and Trump apprehended and lodged in goal. On Monday a jury of inquest sat on the body, and after several hours broke up divided on the opinions whether the beating and bruising given by Trump, alone produced the fever, and the fever her death, or, the beating and bruising, with the probable injury sustained by a fall from a chamber window a month before, and her intemperate use of spiritous liquors, particularly since these injuries, produced the fever of which she died. The inquest was given in two parts expressing their opinions. The next day, (Tuesday) the coroner deeming it no inquest summoned another jury, who agreeing in the first stated opinion,