

POETRY.

NIGHT BETWEEN BERUDA AND THE GULF STREAM.

*From loose leaves of a Sailor's Journal.*

The day had closed, the gale was done,  
While far'ring breezes blew;  
And long and smooth the dark waves run,  
As o'er their crests we flew.

The lurid light our wake reveal'd,  
The aching eye did tire,  
It seem'd the friction of our keel  
Had set the waves on fire.

And round our bows the spray we threw  
To mark our track of foam,  
As quick on eagle wings we flew  
Towards our early home.

And now arrived the appointed hour,  
When Ella said she'd join—  
Before the Great Eternal pow'r—  
Affection's prayer with mine.

And I, to our appointment true,  
Had bent my knee to heav'n,  
And my past life I did review,  
As back by memory given.

Yet tho' I pray'd my darling's life  
Might long and happy be;  
From all the chequer'd scenes of strife  
And fair temptation free:—

My heart as yet but half contrite,  
My tongue refused to plead  
Forgiveness for the errors bright,  
Before my memory laid.

But well I knew my Ella's pray'r  
For me, to God did rise;  
Much more acceptable, by far,  
Than smoking sacrifice.

And as I knelt hope rose again,  
His promise to believe,  
That none at Heaven shall knock in vain  
To ask is to receive.

My mind at ease, my vow fulfill'd,  
I sought the deck once more;  
But now the clouds the wind had still'd,  
That drove us on before.

Those sable clouds, that seem'd to bear  
Like mountains on the sea,  
When the blue lightning's lurid glare  
Display'd them fearfully.

To shorten sail we then began,  
While seamen, ever gay,  
Along the rigging laughing ran,  
Like children loas'd to play.

But when was seen each dusky form,  
(Mid canvass rattling loud,)  
He seem'd a spirit of the storm,  
Wrapp'd in a thunder cloud.

Scarce under snug and easy sail,  
Before the threat'ning squall  
Was heard, like distant thunder's peal  
Upon the waves to fall.

And as I sought to pierce the night,  
The lightning's vivid gleam  
Reveal'd it, foaming, to my sight,  
Close on the weather-beam.

It came with all the tempest's pow'r,  
At visions fearful rais'd,  
With sounds so loud—tho' dull—they were  
Almost articulate.

Our sailing bark, like living thing,  
A moment down she lay:  
Just as the bird to use its wing,  
First stoops, then flies away.

The startled sea began to rise,  
Like madness clothed in foam,  
While every spray that wet the skies,  
Seem'd fire amid the gloom.

The trifling canvass that we show'd,  
Was from the bolt-rope driven,  
And high, an airy play-thing flow'd,  
For the wild winds of heaven.

Close o'er our head, the thunder cloud  
In fire and darkness hung,  
While our pain'd ears (it peal'd so loud)  
With hollow murmurs rung.

Our mainmast head was clothed in flame  
More bright than noon-day's sun;  
Which rattling, crackling, downwards came,  
Out o'er the rigging ran.

That lightning's blue and dismal glare,  
That thunder pealing loud,  
Appear'd some spirit of the air,  
Wrapp'd in a demon's shroud.

But now the rain began to flow  
From sluices op'd on high,  
And broken clouds began to show  
The bright cerulean sky.

Our eyes were fill'd with tears and foam—

To us a pleasant sight—  
For well we knew as down it came,  
The gale was at its height.

The wearied Sea with dying tone,  
In heavy surges fell,  
Till it resumed the eternal moan,  
The long and heavy swell.

And now the clouds began to fly  
In fragments all about,  
And left so clear the azure sky,  
That moon and stars came out.

**CHINESE CRUELTY.**—An Italian sailor, on board a vessel of the United States, accused of murdering a Chinese woman, was delivered up to the government and strangled, though perfectly innocent of the crime imputed to him. The American captains and agents, whose commercial proceedings were put a stop to until satisfaction should be made to the government, persuaded this poor Italian, by name Terranova, that he would certainly be acquitted, and shortly restored to his ship! No sooner, however, was he in the hands of the Chinese, than a mock trial was instituted, at which not a single American was present. A body of the captains and officers of the East India Company's ships repaired to the Consol or Court House, but were refused admittance, on the plea that, as the prisoner was an American it was no affair of theirs. It was afterwards learned, from some of the Chinese who were present, that after some questions put to the poor man, and the pretended examination of two witnesses, they produced a paper, which they advised him to sign, by imprinting the mark of his open hand upon it in red ink. They represented to him that this was merely a statement of the trial, which must be sent to Peking for inspection, and that on the return of an answer he would most likely be immediately acquitted. The unfortunate man, surrounded by strangers, and put off his guard by the fair promises of a principal security merchant, imprinted his hand on the paper. All further proceedings were instantly stopped—it was a confession of his guilt. Poor Terranova, still ignorant of his fate, was taken to prison, and, according to Chinese custom in condemned cases, his irons were taken off, and he had plenty to eat and drink. On the fourth or fifth day after, the security merchants who attended his trial visited him, and told him that a reply had been received from Peking (distant 1,200 miles), and that it was necessary he should go into the city, and hear the result. The wretched man, in high hopes of a speedy liberation, cheerfully obeyed; he was taken into the city, and the first intimation he had of his cruel fate was, the executioner and implements of death before him, with the heads of decapitated Chinese, hung round an open space crowded with native spectators. He uttered a cry of despair, and was understood to protest his innocence, and to implore the sight of a European or American. The executioner paid no attention to his outcries, but immediately proceeded to strangle him, according to the horrid Chinese mode, by the gradual tightening of ropes from the lower extremities upwards. His bones were all broken, and the mangled remains of the victim delivered up to the American consul! This officer, a man of honor and feeling, disgusted at the conduct of his interested and disunited countrymen, threw up his commission instantly; and even the lower orders of the Chinese expressed contempt at the willing blindness and credulity of the employers of the miserable Italian, who, to secure their own individual profits, persuaded the ignorant man to trust himself to a Chinese tribunal, divested, as they must have well known from the past, of all justice and mercy towards white strangers.

SPECIMEN OF A PATENT POCKET DICTIONARY.

**Abridgement.**—Any thing contracted into a small compass; such, for instance, as the abridgment of the Statutes in fifty volumes folio.

**Absentees.**—Certain Irish land-owners, who stand a chance of being knocked on the head if they stay at home, and are sure of getting no rents if they go abroad; thus illustrating the fate of the hippopotamus, which, according to the authority of the showman at Exeter Change, "is a amphibibious animal, that cannot live upon land and dies in the water."

**Absurdity.**—Any thing advanced by our opponents, contrary to our own practice, or above our comprehension.

**Accomplishments.**—In women, all that can be supplied by the dancing-master, mantua-maker, and milliner. In men, trying a cravat, talking nonsense, playing at billiards, dressing like a groom, and driving like a coachman.

**Advice.**—Almost the only commodity which the world refuses to receive, although it may be had gratis, with an allowance to those who take a quantity.

**Ambiguity.**—A quality deemed essentially necessary in diplomatic writings, acts of parliament, and law proceedings.

**Ancestry.**—The boast of those who have nothing else to boast of.

**Antiquity.**—The youth, nonage, and inexperience of the world, invested by a strange blunder, with the reverence due to the present times, which are its true old age. Antiquity is the young miscreant who massacred prisoners taken in war, sacrificed human beings to idols, burnt them in Smithfield as heretics or witches, believed in astrology, demonology, witchcraft, and every exploded folly and enormity, although his example be still gravely urged as a rule of conduct, and a standing argument against any improvement upon the "wisdom of our ancestors!"

**Argument.**—With fools, passion, vociferation, or violence; with ministers, a majority; with kings, the sword; with men of sense, a sound reason.

**Ball.**—An assembly for the ostensible purpose of dancing, where the old ladies shuffle and cut against one another for money, and the young ones do the same for husbands.

**Ceremony.**—All that is considered necessary by many, in friendship and religion.

**Challenge.**—Giving your adversary an opportunity of shooting you through the body, to indemnify you for his having hurt your feelings.

**Private Correspondence.**—Letters written for the newspapers.

**SOUNDS DURING THE NIGHT.**—The great audibility of sounds during the night is a phenomenon of considerable interest, and one which had been observed even by the ancients. In crowded cities or in their vicinity, the effect was generally ascribed to the rest of animated beings, while in localities where such an explanation was inapplicable, it was supposed to arise from a favorable direction of the prevailing wind. Baron Humboldt was particularly struck with this phenomenon, when he first heard the rushing of the great cataracts of the Orinoco in the plain which surrounds the mission of the Apures. These sounds he regarded as three times louder at night than during the day. Some authors ascribed this fact to the cessation of the humming of insects, the singing of birds, and the action of the wind on the leaves of the trees, but M. Humboldt justly maintains that this cannot be the cause of it off the Orinoco, where the buzz of insects is much louder in the night than in the day, and where the breeze never rises till after sunset. Hence he was led to ascribe the phenomenon to the perfect transparency and uniform density of the air, which can exist only at night after the heat of the ground has been uniformly diffused through the atmosphere. When the rays of the sun have been beating on the ground during the day, currents of hot air of different temperatures, and consequently of different densities, are constantly ascending from the ground and mixing with the cold air above. The air thus ceases to be a homogeneous medium, and every person must have observed the effects of it upon objects seen through it, which are very indistinctly visible, and have a tremulous motion, as if they were dancing in the air. The very same effect is perceived when we look at objects through spirits and water that are not perfectly mixed, or when we view distant objects over a red hot poker or over a flame. In all these cases the light suffers refraction in passing from a medium of one density into a medium of different density, and the refracted rays are constantly changing their direction as the different currents rise in succession. Analogous effects are produced when sound passes through a mixed medium, whether it consists of two different mediums or of one medium where portions of it have different densities. As sound moves with different velocities through media of different densities, the wave which produces the sound will be partly reflected in passing from one medium to the other, and the direction of the transmitted wave changed; and hence in passing through such media different portions of the wave will reach the ear at different times, and thus destroy the sharpness and distinctness of the sound. This may be proved by many striking facts. If we put a bell in a receiver containing a mixture of hydrogen gas and atmospheric air, the sound of the bell can scarcely be heard. During a shower of rain or of snow, noises are greatly deadened, and when sound is transmitted along an iron wire or pipe of sufficient length, we actually hear two sounds, one transmitted more rapidly through the solid, and the other more slowly through the air. The same property is well illustrated by an elegant and easily repeated experiment of Chladni's. When sparkling champagne is poured into a tall glass till it is half full, the glass loses its power of ringing by a stroke upon its edge, and emits only a disagreeable and a puffy sound. This effect will continue while the wine is filled with bubbles of air, or as long as the effervescence begins to subside, the sound becomes clearer and clearer, and the glass rings as usual when the air bubbles have vanished. If we reproduce the effervescence by stirring the champagne with a piece of bread the glass will again cease to ring. The same experiment will succeed with other effervescent fluids.—*Sir David Brewster.*

A laborious special pleader being constantly annoyed by the mewling of his cat, at length resolved to get rid of it. He accordingly told his clerk "to take and place it where it could never get out." The clerk instantly walked off with poor puss in his lawyer's bag. On his return, being asked by his employer, "whether the noisy animal had been so disposed of that it could not come back to interrupt him." The carrier duly answered, "Certainly, I have put him where he cannot get out—in the Court of Chancery."

**A LIBERTY BOY.**—At the period when Buonaparte was about to be named Consul for life, General Saint-Hilaire assembled the troops under his command, and delivered the following harangue:—"Comrades! the nation are deliberating on the question if General Buonaparte shall be appointed Consul for life. Opinions are as free as air: I would not for the world seek to influence yours. However, I think it right to apprise you, that the first man who refuses to vote in Buonaparte's favour shall be shot at the head of his regiment.—Liberty for ever!"

A lady's album is generally worth looking at, as a psychological curiosity, indicative to a considerable extent, of the taste and feelings of its owner.

Snuff taking in a woman is abominable, unless she be very aged—say eighty or upwards—when it is rather becoming than otherwise.

According to Dr. Ure, there were, in 1839 205 burning volcanoes on the globe. Of these, 107 occur in islands, and 98 on continents, but ranged mostly along their shores.

In the time of Cromwell and Charles II., ordinary hats were lined with iron plates to prevent assassination.

**EPITAPH ON MR DEATH, THE ACTOR.**  
Death levels all, both high and low,  
Without regard to stations;  
Yet why complain,  
If we are slain?  
For here lies one, at least, to show  
He kills his own relations.

If a man borrows a shilling from you, and on being dunned pretends to have forgotten it, you may with considerable safety set him down for a liar.

A person who cannot relish absurdity and wit, and must moreover, have a satisfactory reason, for whatever is said or done, is a philosophical blockhead.

**TOAST.**—May the man who wins a woman's heart never be instrumental in breaking its peace.

The salary of the Chancellor, as fixed by Henry I., amounted to 5 shillings per diem, and a livery of provisions.

The Coronation of his late Majesty, George the Fourth, amounted to more than £268,000.

The Coronation of their present Majesties Queen Adelaide and William the Fourth, amounted to £43,159, 11s. 6d.

When the bronze gates of the baptistry of the church of Florence were produced, Michael Angelo cried out with emotion at the sight of them, "that they deserved to be the gates of Paradise." Casts of these gates may be seen in the Royal Academy, London.

"I look upon indolence," says Lord Chesterfield, "as a sort of suicide; for the man is efficiently destroyed, though the appetite of the brute may survive."

A highland sergeant, formerly billeted in Mrs Van Mon's house at Brussels, came back with the basket hilt of his sword so bruised that he could not get his hand out of it till relieved by a blacksmith! He made very light of his wounds, and only hoped soon to be "at the enemy again."—They had not disarmed him at least.

**BON MOT, BY J. SMITH.**—In this witty author's company, not very long since, it happened that two gentlemen were discussing, rather warmly, a medical point. "You say," cried one, "that our blood is at first quite white; I will credit it, if you can also tell me in what stage (of circulation) it becomes red." "Tell him," whispered Smith to the hesitating antagonist, "tell him in the Reading Stage, of course."

Though I never attempt to put forth that sort of stuff which the "intense" people on the other side of St. George's Channel call "eloquence," I bring out strings of very interesting facts; I use pretty powerful arguments; and I hammer them down so closely upon the mind, that they seldom fail to produce a lasting impression.—*Cabbett.*

It looks handsome now a-days to be attended by a bailiff. It shows one had credit once.

Honour to king and country means getting rich and paying taxes. The more taxes a man pays, the greater honour he is to both.

When a man who can spell comes to be hung, the anti-educationists accuse the spelling book of his murder.

A well made man always looks shorter than he is; ditto a well made woman.