



AND LITERARY GEM.

"Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging, and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise."—PROVERBS, Chap. 20.

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Poetry.

From the *Ulica Tectotaler*.

THERE WAS A SMILE.

"They sin who tell us love can die."—*Southey*.

There was a smile that once was mine,
In a brighter world it now doth shine—
Brighter, fairer, than it e'er could be
In this world of sorrow and misery;
No more!

Shall beam that smile as it did of yore

There was a voice that in music fell
Like the echo far of a fairy's bell:
Plaintive and low, it would always seem
Like the musical sound we hear in a dream;
No more!

Shall sound that voice as it did of yore.

There was a sad, yet soothing tear,
That would fall for me when my heart was drear—
When I mourned o'er the Past with its faded
flowers—

O'er the blasted hopes of my brighter hours:
No more!

Shall fall that tear, as it did of yore.

There was a heart that was ever true—
Tho' my friends were then as they now are—few—
But the heart is laid low with the mould ring dust
And the soul has fled to a world more just;
No more!

Can beat that heart, as it did of yore.

Smiles that beam in a brighter sphere!
Tea's that fell when my heart was drear!
Long-loved tones that no longer sound!
Heart that lies 'neath the cold damp ground!
Ever more!

Shalt thou be as dear as thou wast of yore.

OLIVE H. TRACY.

WESTERN ANTIQUITIES.

Vast regions of ancient ruins were discovered last year at the head of the Gulf of California. In describing them it was said at the time, "that portions of temples, dwellings, lofty stone pyramids (seven of these within a mile square) and massive granite rings of circular wall, round venerable trees, columns and blocks of hieroglyphics—all speak of some ancient race of men now forever gone, their history utterly unknown to any of the existing families of mankind. In some points these ruins resemble the recently discovered cities of Palenque, &c., near the Atlantic or Mexican Gulf coast; in others, the ruins of ancient Egypt; in others again the monuments of Phenicia; and yet in many features they differ from all that I have referred to. The discoverers deem them to be antediluvian, while the present Indians have a tradition of a great civilized nation, which their ferocious forefathers utterly destroyed. The region of the ruins is called by the Indians "The Valley of Mystery."

In connection with this very curious and interesting subject, it occurs to us to draw special attention to the singular terms in which the following well known passage in Plato's *Timæus* is indited. In place of taking the original, which, we suspect might now admit of a little improvement in translation, we merely adopt the first English translation that happens to come in the way, preferring it, in the meantime, to any re-translation of our own, even with all the—it may be equivocal—advantages of this suggestion, as objection might be taken to a re-translation made under such circumstances. The passage occurs as will be recollected, in the detail, by Critias, of his great grandfather's version of his kinsman Solon's intercourse with the priests of Egypt, to whose ancient "sacred records" or traditions the allusion is made by one of these priests in the outset, who narrates the tradition as one even then of extreme antiquity:—

"Our sacred records relate what a prodigious force your city once overcame, when a mighty warlike power, rushing from the Atlantic sea, spread itself with hostile fury over all Europe and Asia. That sea indeed was then navigable, and had an island fronting that mouth which you in your tongue call the Priars of Hercules: and this island was larger than Lybia and Asia put together; and there was a passage hence for travellers of that day to the rest of the islands to the whole opposite continent that surrounds that the real sea. For as respects what is within the mouth here mentioned, it appears to be a bay with a kind of narrow entrance; but that sea is indeed a true sea, and the land that entirely surrounds it may truly and most correctly be called a continent. In this Atlantic island then was formed a powerful league of kings, who subdued the entire island, together with many others, and parts also of the continent; besides which they subjected to their rule the islands of Lybia as far as Egypt, and Europe also, as far as Tyrrhæna. . . . The At-

lantic island itself was plunged beneath the sea, and entirely disappeared; whence even now that sea is neither navigable nor to be traced out."

The mud of the subsiding island, and the earthquakes and deluge made to account for the disappearance of this transatlantic land, may well be excused a place in so momentous a record; and had the loss of the power or skill on previous generations to navigate the "real sea,"—the Atlantic, and hence to cross from and to the disappeared land been placed among its consequences, Plato, or Critias, or Solon's priest, would have been a little more local, and nearer the truth, perhaps over which the "mud" or dust of ages has cast its obscurity.

At all events it would almost really appear as if it were here recorded, in something else than mere ideal terms, however much obscured by error or tradition, that at one time, our own hemisphere, or a very considerable portion of it was overrun (just as America has been since the Atlantic has again become "navigable") by a great and enterprising people, who navigate the Atlantic ocean from "the great Atlantic islands," or, in fact from the transatlantic continent or one or other of its island dependencies, of whose actual and wide spread civilization (and hence possible skill in navigation) in the most remote antiquity even of what we call the ancients of our own hemisphere, we are now attaining for the first time some important and unequivocal glimpses, in at least singular and heretofore unlooked for accordance with Plato's obscure tradition,—hitherto denounced as "a mere myth" full of improbabilities.

ANCIENT CLOTH TAKEN FROM THE MOUNDS OF OHIO.

In 1838, Mr. Foster, U. S. Geologist, procured from a resident of Charleston, Jackson county, Ohio, several fragments of cloth taken from a mound in that vicinity. They were found near the bottom, enveloping several copper rings, and were greatly decayed; though some were sufficiently preserved to evidence their having been woven. Fearing deception or error, Mr. Foster refrained from making public, at that time, a fact so novel in itself, and so repugnant to prevailing ideas as to the degree of civilization possessed by the mound-builders; but having lately received from Mr. John Woods, of Ohio, a gentleman high in office, and of unquestionable veracity, additional samples, accompanied by a descriptive letter, all doubt as to the propriety of publishing the discovery is removed. In his letter, Mr. Woods states that the fragments of charred cloth, together with an arrow, and a considerable quantity of charcoal and bones, were taken from a mound on the western bank of the Great Miami River, two miles north of Middleton, Butler county, Ohio, during some excavations rendered necessary in constructing the Cincinnati, Hamilton, and Dayton Railroad. The mound was originally twenty feet high, and, fifty years ago, was covered with large forest trees. About ten