THE HEARTHSTONE.

THE ORDER OF NATURE. (FROM THE LATIN OF BOETHUES.)

BY WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT.

Thou, who wouldst read, with an undarkened eye, The laws by which the Thunderer bears sway. Look at the stars that keep, in yonder sky. Unbroken peace from Nature's earliest day.

The great sun, as he guides his fiery car. Strikes not the cold moon in his rapid sweep: The Bear, that sees star setting after star. In the blue brine, descends not to the deep

The star of eve still leads the hour of dews: Duly the day-star ushers in the light; With kindly alternations Love renews 'The eternal courses bringing day and night

Love drives away accursed War, and keeps The rentm and host of stars beyond his reach. In one long calm the general Concord steeps The elements, and tempers each to each.

The moist gives place benignly to the dry: Heat ratifies a faithful league with cold: The nimble flame springs upward to the sky: Down sinks by its own weight the sluggish mould

Still sweet with blossoms in the year's fresh prime: Her harvest still the ripening Summer yields: Fruit-Inden Autumn follows in his time. And rainy Winter waters still the fields.

The elemental harmony brings forth And rears all life, and whon life's term is o'er It sweeps the breathing myriads from the earth. And wholms and hides them to be seen no more.

While the great Founder. He who gave these laws, Holds the firm reins and sits and the Momreh and Master, Origin and Cause. And Arbiter supremely just and wise.

He guides the force He gave: His hand restrains And curbs it to the circle it must trace; Else the fair fabric which His hand sustains Would fall to fragments in the void of space.

Love binds the parts together; gladly still They court His kind command and wise decree. Unless Love held them subject to the Will That gave them being, they would cease to be.

NO MAN'S LAND.

RY WALTER THORNBURY.

Mr. John Raffles, better known to the companions of his lighter hours as Jack Raffles, having contemptuously folded up a venerablelooking legal document and crammed it into his desk, and having then imitated the handwriting of several eminent inhabitants of Sloweum-cum-Mudford with infinite exactness

"A pretty dose I've brewed for this infernal, stuck-up, dead-alive, old rotton borough!" he stuck-up, dead-alive, old rotton borough!" he said to himself, as he all at once vaulted off his high stool, looked at the clock, which was on the stroke of twelve, threw his blue bag at a buzzing luebottle, put on a rakish-looking, seedy white hat, cocked it over his left eye, and fanced a can-can of triumph opposite the empty desk of his venerable employer in the farther corner of the room. "If Joe Parsons only does his part as well as I've done mine, and divides the tin fairly, I'm a made man. By George! won't I let the corks fiv! I'll run George! won't I let the corks fly! I'll run horses, mark you; I'll swagger at the clubs; I'll drive the best steppers in London: I'll wear the noblest clothes that money can buy; I'll go in a reg'lar buster at the Stock Exchange; and I'll show the world that Jack Raftles has been a grossly misunderstood individual, has got the right sort of stuff in him after all, and is up to the latest dodges out. But suppose Joe doesn't run square, Mr. John Raflies—what then? But no, he daren't run on the cross now. Only let him try, that's

This doubt, however, set Jack thinking; and sitting backwards on a chair as if it was a horse, he was quietly meditating, with the stump of an unlit eigar stuck in the corner of his mouth, when the door opened softly, and a

ittle, portly, sharp man in black entered, and eyed him with indignation and amazement.

"Is that deed done yet?" said Mr. Bartholomew Potterton. "You've been long enough to do twenty deeds. If this goes on, my gentleman, you and I will have words. Take

ago, and I've done a great deal of dirty work in that time. I gave you notice this day month remember, when you rowed me. I want my but it had since transpired that the said Job month's wages, and then I'm off. I shan't be Simpson, after long detention in a Flemish very inconsolable—I'll try and bear up. Come, down with the dust, old cock; for I want to before the birth of a son, who eventually came catch the 1.30 to London." And so saying, the audacious liafles struck a fusec, lit the stump of his cigar, and puffed furiously from the back of his imaginary and inexpensive

Mr. Potterton foamed with rage

"You idle worthless scamp!" he said stamping. "You're not worth your salt! You'll the present claimant. The proofs of the lineal die on a dunghill, and serve you right too! descent of the said Jeremiah Simpson, and a You're a drunken, cheating, gambling scape grace, and more fit for a groom or a racing tout

than a clerk in a respectable office.'
"Respectable?"

"There's your wages, you impudent, low-"
"Take care!" said Rassles menacingly; "take care! You've said enough already for three actions of defamation of character. I've not been in your office four years for nothing. I could expose one or two pretty dark jobs. How about old Twitcher's will? How about the costs in that action of Benger's? You take

care what you say !"

"You lay a finger on me!" "You say one word more against my character! Why, I'd wring your old yellow neck for twopence."

"Provoking a breach of the peace! I'll summon you this very day!"
"Summon away. Do you remember what "Summon away. Do you remember ?" Serjeant Perry said of you at Colchester?"

"Take your money and be off, you low scamp! "More defamation! Go it!-that's right!-

go it!" "You threatened me—you put your fist in my face. I only wish I'd got a witness, you

all your windows, only it's two expensive! I'd fling this ink in your face, only that's black enough already! Ta-ta! and one word of advice: Don't take so much of that old port of old Twitcher's, or you'll go out some day like a bad brimstone match; and all the widows and orphans you've plundered in Sloeum will put on black for you at their own expense. Oh, you're a nice old customer, you are! and Old Nick couldn't get his work done half so well in any other olice."

This was too much for old Detauted.

This was too much for old l'otterton's temper. He snatched up an inkstand, which he forgot was full, and was about to send it at the head of the contumacious clerk, when Railles snatched up the deed, flew out at the

door, and langed it behind him.

"Impudent rascally blackguard!" gasped old Potterton, putting on his hat fiercely; when in at the open window skimmed the deed, and knocked off his beaver, while a voice in the street outside leaved. in the street outside bawled.

"It's all blank, so you can put in as many lies as you like, you old swindler! Summon away! I'm off!" In vain old Potterton rushed for a summous

In vain old Potterton rushed for a summons to a brother Magistrate, for John Raffles had started for London by the 1.30 train, and had left no trace of his whereabouts.

For at least a century and a half, a long strip of land, running parallel with the High Street of Slocum-cum-Mudford, had been known to the inhabitants as "No Man's Land." It had belonged to a family long cines supposed to be actions and no eleganters. since supposed to be extinct, and no clear title could be obtained with it. Tramps squatted among the nettles and thistles; and in later ages strolling players set up their ten.'s there, side by side with the itinerant photographer and his wandering house. It was a c metery for cats, a graveyard of pariah dogs: a neglected, hopeless, mournful-looking strip of land, on which an immovable curse seemed to have fallen. It was an obstruction to all improvements—a bar to the progress of the borough of Slocum-cum-Mudford. It was where the new Town Hall should have stood -the very site for the Mechanics' New Reading Room. There it had remained, an oasis of weeds and rubbish, amid the houses of Slocum
—an eye-sore, a bald place, a reproach, and a

At last, however, the hour came, and the on a piece of paper, which he tore into small man. That respectable and energetic business bits, was now, with a malicious chuckle, man, Mr. lartholomew Potterton, taking upon cutting his name in large letters on his well-himself the whole risk and responsibility, had worn and inky desk in a bold and masterly offered the Corporation of which he was Mayor, style. This sculpturesque design he only delayed a sum (not large) for the obnoxious spot, and to cut six quill pens into rings for a rude sort of had built a row of excellent shops, which, soon letting, produced a rental of some £1,500 and the energy model in the e

a year, with every probability of a rise.

It was a nice little prize: and the least scrupulous and most venturesome of the Corporation had snapped it up very cleverly. The Robinsons, who once owned it, were gone several generations ago, and "No Man's Land" had turned to use after all. "Our energetic Mayor," as the local paper observed, "has at last removed the long-existing barrier to the progress of the thriving centre of an immense agricultural district — Slocum-cum-Mudford; and no minor town in Essex has now a chance with that borough in the honorable race for wealth and distinction. There can be no doubt," continued the eminent editor, "that the Conservatives, at the impending election for Slocum, will return our excellent Mayor by an enormous majority."

Imagine, therefore, the vexation and dismay of the excellent Mayor's tortuous mind when, four days after the somewhat abrupt departure of Mr. John Rafiles, he received a long quarto letter from the London firm of Parsons, Jobson, and Billage, threatening immediate proceedings against him on behalf of the descendants of the late John Robinson, Esq. of Darkhold House pear Sleeum-eye. of Darkhold House, near Slocum-cum-Mudford. The action of ejectment referred to

"No Man's Land," a strip of ground near the High Street of Slocum, at present the site of Potterton Terrace and Bartholomew Row

(lately built.)
The discovery of the lost heir was a somewhat remantic story. It appeared that Messrs. Parsons, Jobson, and Billage were successors of Messrs Kite and Jolipp, solicitors to the last of the R-binson family, who died 1720. In rummaging an old deed-box that had long remained upper the last of their story. gentleman, you and I will have words. Take that eigar out of your mouth, sir, and get on with your work. Raffles, you're drunk,"

"It's with ink, then," said unmoved Raffles; "It's with ink, then," said unmoved Raffles; the senior member of the firm had, much to their surprise, discovered a will dated 1718, by leave a man! There's your rascally deed—take it." And so saying, Raffles went to his desk, took out the deed, and skimmed it so near old Potterton that it brushed the stiff groy hair that rose like white flames over his little scarlet choleric face. "No more pendriving for me. You engaged me four years ago, and I've done a great deal of dirty work in the Scots Greys. This man, it had generally the Scots Greys. This man, it had generally been supposed, fell in the battle of Oudenarde hospital, married a Beguine. The father died before the birth of a son, who eventually came to Slocum, and, knowing nothing of his rights, set up as a cobbler. This cobbler's son became "boots" at the "King's Head," Slocum, and left a son, who settled as a tinker in Blue Yard, Slocum. The tinker's son, Jeremiah Simpson, now stableman at the copy of the will, were inclosed. The writer suggested an immediate surrender of the property as the best means of avoiding a very pensive and (to Mr. Potterton) inevitably fruitless litigation.
The proofs seemed indubitable; the copies

of the registers of the births and deaths were

unquectionable The purchase from the Corporation was most questionable affair. However the case went on, Potterton would have to refund There was no hope of his holding the land whoever was the heir. Perhaps a compromis was possible. This Jerry Simpson was the pariah, the "Christopher Sly," of Slocum. Half his time went in the workhouse, and the other half in gaol. A poacher in youth-in mature life he had turned petty pilferer and pugilista more confirmed sot was not in Slocum. In stendier moments he was extra-stableman at the "Ring of Bells," a low inn in the outskirts of Slocum. He was the terror of the police and the opprobrium of the back slums of Mud ford—a more idle, worthless, contemptible, hopeless rough did not exist in all Essex; and to this dreg and lee of society His Worshipful was to surrender his magnificent stroke of spe-"You old tape-worm, 1 defy you!" and into the light of day, and on the eve of an elec-Raffles snapped his bony fingers. "I'd break tion, too, was insupportable; to lose all his

rents for years, even if the assailants proved unsuccessful, was unbearable. Potterton, how-ever, had got into scrapes before, and, more-over, he was an energetic man. With the promptitude of true genius and rascality, he at once resolved on a line of conduct. He re-solved to seek out this Jerry Simpson, and, offering him a large sum, get him to sign a paper surrendering all claims for a certain con-sideration, and to thus settle the matter for ever in the very teeth of Messrs. Parsons, Job-

son and Billage.
The heir to "No Man's Land" happened, at this special moment, to be an inmate of the Slocum-cum-Mudford workhouse. Mr. Potter-ton, on entering that noble exemplification of a nation's progress, discovered Mr. Oakham, the master, in his parlor, with his face to a back door, angrily chiding a contumacious pauper, who was mopping out a brick-paved back kitchen. Mr. Potterton mildly asked what was the matter.

"Matter!" said Mr. Oakham. "These pau-

pers is enough to break a man's 'art. Their ingratitood is intolerable. I set this man to sweep out my back kitchen after he's done his stone-breaking, and he turns round and swears he won't do it, and yet I give him all the

"Jerry Simpson!" exclaimed Mr Potterton.
"One of the most interesting examples of misdirected energy; a man, sir, though of low origin, capable, as I have long observed, of far better things; an individual of whose future I feel it is my duty to guard. Will you be kind enough to obtain me a short private interview with that eccentric but most interesting per-

son?"
Mr. Oakham was dumbfoundered, but he contrived to muster sufficient presence of mind to call in Jerry, and leave him closeted with His Worshipful. Jerry entered, his brawny limbs thrust into much-too-small pepper-and-salt habiliments, his great shufting feet wandering about in felt slippers, his red bristling hair covered by a torn straw hat. In one hand he held a pail, in the other the dripping stump of

a mop.

"You're always a-worreting of me and a-nagging of me," he said, "and the skilly ain't enough to support a nigger slave. I tell you what I've a mind to do: to knock the whole biling of ye over the head with this mop, and get back into gaol at once. The grub's better there, and the work lighter. Yah! you're a

mean lot, you are."
"My dear Mr. Jeremiah Simpson," said Mr. Potterton, blandly offering his hand, "you mistake a friend for an enemy. I have such an extreme feeling of the hardships of your present position, that I am come to offer you the means of escape from this place of retirement. I have five pounds here, which are at your disposal."

If Mr. Oakhan had been dumbfoundered, Jerry was paralysed.

6 What! all these 'ere blessed gold shiners

for me ?" he said, extending his huge dirty fingers towards them as they lay, a little glittering row, in l'otterion's crafty palm. "What, the whole blessed lot? Well, you are a gentleman—the right sort, you are! and if there's any double X left at the 'Ring of Bells,' I add my pals will drink your jolly good health this

very night till we can't see out of our eyes."

"I feel a great, a very great, interestin you,
my worthy fellow," said the old lawyer in his oiliest tones, "and I haven't done with you

yet,"

"Oh, I'll stick to ye, old gentleman. I'm not
the feller to desert a friend—I'll stick to ye,
But what's your little game, eh? People, as
far as I've gone, don't generally give shiners for

"All that you will hear in due time. You go now, my dear fellow, purchase a neattidy suit out of the money I've given you, and meet me to-night at seven, in the coffee-room of the King's Head,' where we'll talk over matters of some importance to you."

"All right, old cock, I'm your man; and I'll

bring old Bob the sweep-good sort, he is-with

" No. you had better come alone. Bob the sweep may be a most estimable person' "Best company in the world!" " No doubt; but you must come alone. Mind

and keep sober if you can. I'll take care you get leave to go from here directly. " Right you are! Oh, I'm fly !"

Jerry was punctual to his appointment, and considering he had drunk three pots of stout and two bottles of champagne, was reasonably sober. Indeed, so punctual was he, that Potterion when he arrived, found him there in full dress, both legs on the hobs, and a long pipe in his mouth. There was no one else, apparently, in the room, so Potterton at once drew a chair near a fire-screen that stood be-tween the table next the window where commercial gentlemen sat and wrote, and the fire, and opened proceedings.

His first glance at Jerry convinced him, however, that an alarming change had taken place in that gentleman's demeanor. He was bold, rather defiant, suspicious, and overbearing; and when he rang the bell, and shouted to the astonished waiter for two sixes of brandy, he beat

his first on the table, and told the man to look alive, with all the bounce of Bobadil himself. "Well, now, let's hear all about it, you sharp old file," said Jerry—" but toss off your brandy first, and I'll call for some more; for you're a jolly good feller, and so say all of us! which nobody can deny — Come, drink it up like a man, d'ye hear !"

"I never touch brandy during business hours." " More fool you! It's good at all hours.—But

now—out with this game of yours !"
"The facts, Mr. Simpson, are very easily told. An absurd claim has been set up in your name-but, of course, without your cognizance — to a certain piece of land in Slocum, in which I am interested."

"Exactly so;—and 'No Man's Land' is its name till I choose to occupy it." " Then, you know everything ?" said Potter-

ton, with a guilty start.
"No, not everything; only a good deal. Well, proceed," "For that land, which the law will never enable you to obtain, I propose to offer you — to prevent any trouble to myself—a certain sum

on your signing a surrender." A handsome sum, old boy?" ."A very handsome sum — and all for nothing."

"And I'm to sign a paper ?" " Yes."

"Anything else?"

"Yes: start at once to America." "The sum is really handsome? - and how

much may it be?" "Three hundred pounds," and Potterton watched to see the goggle eyes of Jerry open to their widest. Oddly enough, however, they only contracted and winked with the malicious cunning of a bull-dog who is going to

"Is that all ?"

" It is a large sum."

"Oh, yes, blessed large i—Shall I sign; Mr. Parsons? What do you say?" A perky man, with a pale pimply face, sud-denly started up from behind a screen, where its owner had been ensconced.

"Sign nothing, Mr. Jeremiah Simpson!—And let me tell Mr. Potterton that this offer is a most disgraceful attempt to rob an hones

man of his rights !" "This is a plot," said Mr. Potterton, bouncing like a red-hot chestnut. "There has been col-

"Yes, and will continue to be," said Mr. Parsons, "till a great and stupendous fraud has been probed to the—to the—to the very back-

Poor Potterton ! he never recovered that sur-prise; and after a short, sharp tussle, in which he was ignominiously defeated, he surrendred the property to the claimant, to whom the corporation promised immediate possession, after a careful examination had been made of the evidently indisputable will and other documents. As for Jerry, the town lavished attentions on him-balls and banquets were given in his honor, presentations of plate were made to him by the tenants of "No Man's Land." It was even unanimously proposed that Mr. Jeremiah Simpson should at once be asked to stand for the borough. His portrait was painted at the expense of the Corporation. The tradesmen competed for his custom. Jerry had already grown insolent and proud; he threw over Bob the sweep, and Brown the farrier's man, and even refused to lend his old crony, the hosti rat the "Ring of Bells," half a crown. He played all day with his toadies at billiards for legs of mutton and trimmings, drank like a fish, and finally consummated his ingratitude by threatening to take his business out of the hands of Mr. Parsons He wore heaps of vulgar jewelry, drove about in a hired barouche and four grey horses, addressed the people from the hustings, promising to get public houses opened all night, and all taxes repealed; and, in fact, became in three weeks the most popular man of Slocum-cum-Mudford, His vulgarity was called bluff honesty, his oaths were excused as outbreaks of energy and genius, his drinking was pardoned as sociability. People even vowed they saw in him traces of good

The day came for the final surrender of " No Man's Land" by the Corporation. Arbitrators were to adjudge what poor Potterton was to receive in compensation for the houses he had built so imprudently—so dishonestly, as some said; and the magistrates of Slocum were drawn together in the council-chamber. Jerry was of course there, slapping rich trades-men on the back, and tossing of countless glasses of brown sherry.

"The time has now arrived," said Mr. Parsons, taking his worthy client apart, "when we must seriously come to some arrangement about money matters. You have borrowed now of our firm nearly four hundred pounds. We must request you, therefore, before we make any further advance, to surrender to us the disposal of the recovered estate till such time as

posal of the recovered estate till such time as our payments may be reimbursed."

"I tell you," said Jerry, who had quite lost his head, and was naturally a cur at heart, "I found out long ago you lawyers are just what I had always heard you were, a pack of—greedy sharks; and I'll sign no paper of the kind, I'll just hav you when I where and I'll take. just pay you when I please, and I'll take good care your bill is well overhauled, and pared down to its proper length; so put that in your pipe and smoke it, old Six-and-eight-

"And let me tell you, sir," said Parsons, a pale green with rage and bile, "that I have found you, sir, a mean ungrateful dog, and that we'll press you to the very last penny, and we'll hang on the estate like leeches, till we get our reward for raising you from among the gaol-birds that are your fitting companions.

"Gentlemen! gentlemen! pray, silence!" interposed the Town Clerk, for the conflict had grown loud; "Mr. Parsons will now produce

At that moment Parsons' clerk entered, and that home instructive into his hand. The put a letter just received into his hand, postmark was Boulogne, the handwriting Raf-The letter ran thus :

"You Dirty, Shabby Rascal,—
"You think you have done me out of my

share of the tin, and are going to pocket the whole proceeds of our dirty work. You perhaps forget that I am Yorkshire too. I was once apprenticed to a chemist, and I took devilish good care to prepare for any dirty tricks of yours ; and you will soon see no charge of forgery can touch me now, old man. " Your truly, and be-

"JACK RAFFLES."

Parsons, with a spitfire and contemptuous ook, rolled the letter into a ball, and threw it under the table.

" Mr. Parsons, will you now produce this will, which has been pronounced bont fide and con-Parsons pompously produced the square of

old discolored parchment, handed it with his politest bow to the Town Clerk, and sat down to carelessly jot some memoranda. The Town Clerk unfolded it, and, smiling,

handed it back to Mr. Parsons. "You have made a mistake, sir," he said.
"You have given me a wrong document. This

is only a blank parchment." " Blank parchment l"screamed Parsons; and leaping up like a parched pea, he clutched open the will.

Yes; it was blank—blank as the ceiling. Jack Raffles, Jack Raffles, thy vengeance had indeed fallen! The shock was too great. Parsons fell down headlong in a fit.

In stooping down to lift up the fallen law-yer, the Clerk of the Court picked up Raffles's letter, and read it aloud. The whole affair had exploded. Every face darkened against Jerry

Impostor cried " one. " Low cheat !" cried another.

Jerry retaliated with a blow, for the shorry had got into his head. "Seize that man "cried the Mayor. "I always thought he was a scoundrel We'll punish

the whole gang to the very utmost."

Jerry remonstrated, so the police were sent

"No Man's Land is mine!" he shouted: "and I'll fight the whole biling for it! I'll have my own! It's all a lie about the will. You're a mean lot, to turn on a man like this! You Mayor fellow there, come and have a fair stand-up at the 'Ring of Bells,' and I'll knock you into the middle of next week! Come along,

all on yer !"

But the whole police force of Slocum threw itself upon Jerry, and the temporary owner of "No Man's Land," fallen, fallen, fallen from his high estate, was that evening amicably wel-comed to Slocum Gaol by his old friend the

beetle-browed turnkey.
"No Man's Land" still awaits the rightful heir; but he has not yet appeared, even in the Antipodes.—Hood's Com. Annual.

MARKET REPORT.

HEARTHSTONE OFFICE.

Dec. 2, 1872.

There is no change to note in the local flour murket. The demand this morning was light, local dealers being the only purchasers, and sales were limited to about 1500 barrols. The weakness which has characterized the market for some days past is still provalent, and prices to-day are a trifle lower than on Saturday. Cereals of all kinds were lifeless and generally nominal. Provisions were dull and unchanged. Ashes continue excited and unsettled, but we hear of no sales.

Subjoined are the latest market reports from

	Liverpool:	are t	he late	est ma	rket	reports	fron
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10 for Upper Canada.

PEAS, \$\Phi\$ bush of 66 lbs.—Market quiet at \$0c to \$21c.

PEAS, \$\Phi\$ bush of 65 lbs.—Market quiet and steady.

Quotations are; \$2c for new, and \$3c for old.

Corn.—Quiet. Holders ask \$5c to \$5c.

BARLEY.—Nominal at \$2c to \$5c.

BARLEY.—Nominal at \$2c to \$5c.

Corn.—Quiet. Holders ask \$5c to \$5c.

BUTTER, per lb.—Dull and innetive. Nominal quot.

are: Store-packed Western. 9c to 11c; fairy dairy

Western, 12c to 15c; good to choice do. 16c to 18c.

Chesse, \$\Phi\$ 1b.—Market quiet. Factory fine 11c to 11c; finest new 12c to 12c.

Pork. per bri. of 200 lbs.—Market quiet; New

Mess, \$16.50 to \$16.75. Thin Mess, \$15.50.



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