

ORIGINAL POETRY.

[For the Literary Transcript.]
ON WALLACE.

Rest, in the patriot's land of promise, rest,
Thou best and noblest of the sons of men;
No monument above thine honoured breast;
Thou didst not fall amid the thousand slain.
Thy brave foes, upon the battle plain,
That form, where patriot freedom lodged her soul,
Returned not mouldering to its earth again;
But, while thy spirit flourishes its heavenly gold,
Sought purer element beyond the earth's control.

What thou' wert when the land thou diedst to save,
No colour' rears its marble to the sky,
To tell of thee—the warlike, the brave—
And draw the cold regard of passer-by—
Some soulless pedant, haply, to whose eye
The marble, not the memory, makes the theme.
No, no, unsullied let that memory be,
Deep in our hearts,—a pure and sacred beam—
A holy, hallowed light,—a passionate, cherished
dream.

guard against any misunderstanding, I recapitulated the dishes we had previously agreed upon—beginning, "viz., fish, veal, hum," and so forth.

By return of post, I received the following answer:
"Sir,—I received your commands, but I don't know what you mean by videlicet, as I did not hear you mention it when you was here. Every thing else shall be obeyed, as yours to command."
E. W. R.

This letter, of course, afforded considerable mirth to the party who received it, but it appeared to me strange that my landlord should be incapable of understanding the contraction, and yet write the word at length, though improperly spelt. To rectify this point, I was at considerable trouble; and I cannot convey the result of my enquiries in a better form than the dialogue actually took place upon the receipt of my letter, at which time the landlord, his wife, and a waiter, were in the bar:—"Why, wife, did you ever hear me mention such a dish as viz, when the gentleman was down here ordering the dinner?" "No, husband, nor what is viz?" "A gentleman who had just paid the waiter for his morning beverage, hearing the last question, politely answered, "It means videlicet madam," and passed on. Here mine host was again at a pause, when he suddenly exclaimed, "And what is videlicet? I never heard of such a dish as that in all my life." "No, I husband, though I've lived in the fish trade—viz, and where every sort of made dish has been sent to table." "Thomas, do you know what is videlicet?" "No, sir; but I suppose it's one of those newfangled dishes that the French are so fond of. I'll ask in the kitchen." The enquiries in the kitchen were equally unsuccessful; but Thomas, upon recollection, thought he had heard of a fish of that name. To the shore my landlord immediately proceeded, all the river fishermen were in turn applied to, but all were equally positive that videlicet did not grow in the river Thames, or else they must have caught him—perhaps it might be a salt-water fish; but that opinion was not supported by the landlady, who declared that it videlicet was any thing, it was a made-dish; and not to expose their ignorance, they agreed to apologise, and make no further enquiries.

A. G. L.
* There is no monument to Wallace throughout Scotland; nor does he require one.

MISCELLANEOUS SELECTIONS.

LITTLE MASTER VIZ.

Some writers follow an absurd practice in interlarding their productions with scraps of Latin, and other languages, ancient and modern. Even men who affect to hold classical learning in contempt, do so, generally to the vexation of those who wish to see the English tongue purified from all such pretended ornament and overloading. It is argued, that the use of a Latin word and phrase, now and then, gives strength to the expression, at least, that it embellishes it considerably. Thus we deny, there are words in the English language sufficient for every variety of expression. A fine first, the most essential requisite in literary composition, is intelligibility—clearness of expression. Every kind of mysticism, ambiguity or jargon capable of confusing the sense, should be avoided in author-craft. And what is the introduction of Latin words into books for common reading, but a mystifying of the sense? Is there one out of a thousand readers who understands Latin? Perhaps there may be one, and yet even he, we are convinced, would have no objections to be spared the trouble of translation.

There is also a matter of lesser moment connected with our vernacular tongue, which it also may not be amiss to give a hint about.—We mean the practice of substituting contractions of Latin words for terms which could be much better expressed in English. There are many of these contractions in vogue, but a notice of one or two will be sufficient. For instance, let us point out the contraction i.e., These letters signify, in fact, the plain English of which is, *id est*. Now we ask any one, whether it is less in Latin or otherwise, if there be the least value in substituting i.e., for that is I. Is the sense rendered more clear? By no means. Let us turn to the singular case of the contractor, viz. This ugly little word which is used so freely in all kinds of literary composition, is a contraction of the Latin videlicet, which signifies something like, *see here*; its meaning, however, is far better expressed by the plain English word, namely, which every body understands. Viz; we remember, was one of those troublesome words which our grammar books explained to us at school, and probably most boys are in the same manner informed of its meaning. But we cannot exactly see the propriety of foisting a difficulty into the language in order to have the pleasure of conquering it. It would be much more comfortable, we think, for all parties, that Master Viz should forthwith be dismissed the service. He is an old mysterious little imp, that has well executed his duty of bothering mankind, and may now with all due courtesy be laid upon the shelf.

Speaking of this little fellow, Master Viz, we are put in mind of a story which we read some years ago in an old Magazine, and which we beg to restore for the amusement of those readers who have not previously perused it.

Being deputed to make choice of a house—says the relator of the anecdote,—and to order an annual dinner for a party of gentlemen, I determined on one pleasantly situated on the banks of the Thames. Having agreed with the landlord as to terms, and the precise dishes to be placed on the table, I informed him that in the event of the party being likewise satisfied, I would transmit him a letter by post, naming the day, &c. Their consent being signified, I wrote; merely stating that on such a day he might expect us, to the number of twenty-two, at so much per head, and to

the most superb ornaments ever designed; it consists of the richest dark purple velvet, lined with rich white silk; it is made in the same form as that of the Order of the Bath, and the star affixed in the same style; there is a small round cape running round the top of this mantle; it is lined with white satin; this is hooked on the top of the low dress which is worn underneath—the ribbon passes from the right shoulder and fastens at the waist; the garter, with the motto "Honi soit qui mal y pense," elegantly embroidered, is worn upon the arm. The orders and medals worn at the end of the ribbons being in the orders of the Bath and of the Garter are now being made smaller, as the weight of the former ones used was found to be inconvenient to her Majesty at the late prorogation of Parliament. The state robe is always kept in a splendid crimson velvet bag, trimmed round with rich lace; it is drawn by most sumptuous gold and purple tassels. The bag is lined with white silk. It is generally conveyed to the House of Lords in a state carriage, and under the care of three officers of state. The bag, the crown, and the sceptre are taken together.

THE COURT COSTUME.—The Queen issued her orders on Tuesday for the drawing-room dress. Her Majesty will introduce embroidered trains, a fashion which was exploded more than thirty years ago. This judicious arrangement will give employment to a branch of the arts which has been long neglected.

An impost "de lunatico" was held on the 1st of December, on a gentleman of fortune John Henry Frolic, who conceives himself to be King John the first, husband of the Empress of all the world, and intended husband of the Princess Victoria.—In the course of the examination the following strange letter was read:

"I have been guilty of writing to her Royal Highness the Princess Victoria, who, I believe, is now Queen Victoria. The proceedings that were taken previously led me into the art. I am extremely sorry for having done so, and I humbly beg her Majesty will condescend to pardon the liberty I have taken. I ought immediately to have sent an apology, but I was assured by all here that the letter was not forwarded to her royal highness. I wish I had sent an apology into the parlor, and had left it there, it might have avoided all that has taken place. I thought Miss Beldway, who was created an empress, from having revised the Bible, had died, and that she had arranged that I should marry the Princess Victoria, the present Queen.
"Nov. 11, 1837."
"J. H. FROLIC, jun."

PATRARCHAL FAMILY.—Mrs. H. T., a lady of considerable property, residing in the vicinity of Edgware, attained her 103d year on the 28th of October. She is the youngest of three sisters, one of whom is 107, and the other 105 years of age, and Mrs. H., one of the ladies, has a son 80 years of age. Another sister died about two years ago in her 102d year.

LACHRYMUL.—Man is the only animal with the powers of laughing, a privilege which was not bestowed upon him for nothing. Let us then laugh while we may, no matter how loud the laugh it be shot of a lock-jaw, and despite of what the poet says about, "the loud laugh that speaks the vacant mind." The mind should occasionally be vacant as the loud should sometimes be fallow; and for precisely the same reason.

PHILOSOPHERS DISPUTING.—A Cartesian and Newtonian disputing in a coffee-house at Paris, fell to fighting; after they were parted the Newtonian made a heavy complaint of the blows which he had received. A merry fellow, who had seen the affair, said to him, "You must forgive your adversary, he was determined by superior force; attraction acted upon both, and the repulsive force unhappily failed, he was carried towards you in a direct line with such an impetus, as occasioned a collision."

REMEDY FOR DULNESS.—Lord Dorset used to say of a very good-natured, dull fellow,—"Tis a thousand pities that man is not ill natured, that one might kick him out of company."

Colonel Kenyess, of the 40th regiment, was remarkable for the studied pomposity of his diction. One day, observing that a careless man in the ranks had a particularly dirty face, which appeared not to have been washed for a twelvemonth, he was exceedingly indignant at so gross a violation of military propriety. "Take him," said he to the corporal,

who was an Irishman, "take the have him in the waters of the Guadiana." After some time, the corporal returned. "What have you done with the man I sent with you?" inquired the colonel. "Up flew the corporal's right hand across the peak of his cap.—"Sure ain't please your honour, and ain't your honour tell me to take him in the river? and sure enough I left him in the river, and there he is now according to y'r honour's orders." The bystanders, and even the colonel himself, could hardly repress a smile at the factious mistake of the honest corporal, who looked in ignorance itself, and wondered what there could be to laugh at.

BOOKS FOR SALE,
AT THE OFFICE OF THE QUEEN'S GAZETTE,
No. 14, Mountain Street

SCOTT'S Novels, in seven vols.
Butler's Novels, in 1 vol. cloth.
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Cooper's Novels, in 26 vols. sheep.
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Dwight's Theology.
Home and Smollett's History of England, with Miller's continuation, 4 vols.
Austria, by N. Ashmole, on Irving.
The Pickwick Papers, by "Boz."
Mishington's Exploits, by the author of Ration in the Regent.
Quebec, 13th January, 1838

JOSHUA HOBROUGH,
TAILOR.

No. 3, HOPE STREET, NEAR TO MR. J. J. SIMS, IMPRESSED with a due sense of gratitude for the favours conferred upon him by the gentleman residing in Quebec, and its vicinages, and by the public in general, avails himself of the present moment, to return them his most heartfelt thanks; at the same time he assures them, that no efforts on his part shall be wanting to insure a similar continuance of their future patronage and support.
J. H. takes this opportunity likewise, of respectfully informing the gentry and the public at large, that he has received his Fall Supply, consisting of—Bearskin Cloth (superior to any in town), Pilot Cloths, Buckskins, Casimires, &c. suitable to the season; and he is ready to receive and execute all orders on the lowest terms for cash.
Quebec, 13th January 1838.

RUSSIA ERMINE CLOAK.

TO BE RAFFLED.—A Carmel Cloak, lined throughout with Russia ermine,—by forty subscribers at five shillings each. A subscription list is left at the Elephant & Castle Hotel, Upper Town, where the Cloak may be seen.

SAMUEL TOZER,
BUTCHER.

STALL No. 1, UPPER TOWN MARKET, BIGGS respectfully returns thanks to his friends and the public for the liberal support he has hitherto received; and takes this opportunity of informing them that he has always on hand Corned Rounds of Beef, Briskets, &c.; also, Mutton for Saddles and Hamsteaks, all of the very best quality.
Quebec, 13th January, 1838.

FIRE WOOD

FOR SALE, in quantities of from One to Fifty Cords,—consisting of Birch and Maple.—Apply to Mr. SAMUEL TOZER, Upper Town Market.
Quebec, 13th January, 1838.

PROSPECTUS
OF
THE LITERARY TRANSCRIPT,
AND GENERAL INTELLIGENCER.

[N submitting a new paper to the judgment of the public, it becomes a duty incumbent on the conductors to state what are the objects contemplated in its publication.

Briefly then,—the design of this paper will be to yield instruction and amusement to the domestic and social circle. It will contain choice extracts from the latest European and American periodicals,—selections from new, popular and entertaining works of the most celebrated authors, with other interesting literary and scientific publications.

The news of the day, compressed into as small a compass as possible, yet sufficiently comprehensive to convey a just and general knowledge of the principal political and miscellaneous events, will also be given.

Its columns will at all times be open to receive such communications as are adapted to the character of the work; and the known talent and taste existing in Quebec justify the hope we entertain that the value of our publication will be enhanced by frequent contributions.

The publication in this city of such a paper as the one now proposed, has many been long considered a desideratum; and the kindly disposition which has already been evinced in behalf of our undertaking warrants our confident anticipations that THE LITERARY TRANSCRIPT will meet with encouragement and success.
Quebec, 6th December, 1837.

THOMAS J. DONOUGHUE, PRINTED.