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## Portry.

### THE PALM TREE.

BY MRS. HEMANS.

It waved not through an eastern sky,  
Beside a fount of Araby,—  
It was not fanned by southern breeze,  
In some green isle of Indian seas,—  
Nor did its graceful shadow sleep  
O'er stream of Afric, lone and deep.  
But fair the exiled palm-tree grew  
'Mid foliage of no kindred hue;  
Through the laburnum's drooping gold  
Rose the light shaft of orient mould,  
And Europe's violets faintly sweet,  
Purpled the moss beds at its feet.  
Strange looked it there! the willow stream'd  
Where silvery waters near it gleam'd,  
The lime-bough lured the honey-bee  
To murmur by the desert's tree,  
And showers of snowy roses made  
A lustre in its fan-like shade.  
There came an eye of fatal hours,—  
Rich music filled that garden's bowers;  
Lamps, that from flowering branches hung,  
In sparks of dew soft colour flung,  
And bright forms glaucous and fairy slow,  
Under the blossoms to and fro.  
But one, a lone one, midst the throng,  
Seemed reckless all of dance or song;  
He was a youth of dusky mien  
Whom the Indian sun had been,  
Of crested brow and long black hair—  
A stranger, like the palm-tree there.  
And slowly, sadly, moved his plumes,  
Glittering athwart the leafy glooms;  
He passed the pale green olives by,  
Nor won the dusiest flowers his eye;  
But when to that sole palm he came,  
Then shot a rapture through his frame.  
To him, to him, its rustling spoke,  
The alliance of his soul it broke!  
It whispered of his own bright isle,  
That lit the ocean with a smile;  
Aye, to his ear that native tone  
And something of the sea-wind's moan!  
His mother's cabin home, that lay  
Where feathery coes as fringed the bay;  
The dashing of his brethren's oar,  
The cock-nut heard along the shore;  
All through his waking dream swept,  
He clasped his country's tree, and wept.  
He scorn him not—the strength whereby  
The patriot girds himself to die,  
His unconquerable power which fills  
The freeman battling on his hills,  
These have one fountain deep and clear,  
The same whence gush'd that child-like tear.

### SINGLE BLESSEDNESS.

BY A LADY.

I have met with very few unmarried ladies  
to have not appeared to me to feel, after the  
of thirty, that their existence was thughly  
comfortless and wretched. Many  
I heard express it openly; and that such  
the fact, can very easily be discovered by an  
acute observer of the human countenance.  
I also certain that three out of every five of  
young English ladies of the present day  
remain unmarried, because no man can  
of on less than two thousand a-year when  
married; and how few young men there are  
in two thousand a-year, compared with the  
number of young ladies! Five, six, eight,  
retimes in one family; generally all toler-  
ly pretty, and most of them possessing talents of  
acplished women—many possessing talents of  
ordinary stamp—yet, perhaps, in our *salons*  
so lovely and accomplished beings are con-  
sely neglected by the other sex, "because"  
must repeat the sentiments I have heard  
in thousands of young men of fashion; "I  
er talk to girls—I dare not pay attention to  
married women, because I am not a marry-  
man—my friend—flirted with so and  
and was accused of behaving ill—I don't  
to excite false hopes—I shall never mar-  
unless I can find a wife with at least two  
three thousand a year, because I am much  
her, unmarried, with the fortune I have."  
It is of no use to quarrel with the state of  
ity as it is at present constituted, for we  
not alter it; but I think it might be benefi-  
cious, which might perhaps be useful in pro-  
ting them, in a state of single blessedness,  
as very falsely called, a greater share of hap-  
ness, or a less load of misery, than they at pre-  
ent appear to me to possess after the awful  
of thirty.

A girl at thirty is called an *old maid*—she  
goes to a ball, and generally sits neglected all  
the evening, or dances with some gentleman  
who has been often asked to dine at her father's  
house, and who, perhaps, remarks, "Miss—  
is rather *possee*—a good old girl—and I must  
do my duty there; and now I shall dance with  
the beautiful Miss—"  
My heart always  
bleeds for the mortifications I see endured by  
these poor old girls continually. There are  
certainly some single women whose talents  
have made them as much considered in soci-  
ety as they ought to be; but then I have gen-  
erally observed that they have fortunes, or have  
had advantages above others to bring into no-  
tice, and to give to the natural ambition of the  
human species some scope of action.

I will suppose a case in which there are four  
girls—a moderate proportion in one family—  
and two sons; and I will suppose their father  
possessed of fifteen hundred a-year. The es-  
tate of course, goes to the eldest son; the se-  
cond must be a clergyman, if his relations have  
any preference, or he must be of some profes-  
sion; of course, he can never marry without a  
large fortune—unless, at the age of forty-five,  
he has made one for himself. The eldest son,  
having been to Eton and Cambridge, has learnt  
that fifty hundred a-year is nothing, and, in  
all probability, determines (not to be taken in)  
not to marry any lovely girl, without, at least,  
forty or fifty thousand pounds. I now come  
to my four young ladies. I will suppose one  
very pretty, one tolerably pretty, and the  
other two rather plain. They have been edu-  
cated, in all probability, as the greater propor-  
tion of English girls are. First of all, they go  
every Sunday to church—and are, as I con-  
ceive all, or nearly all, the class of moderately  
rich English gentry to be, perfectly honour-  
able, upright, and well-principled. It is only  
for their own happiness that I would propose  
any change in the education of a class for  
whom I entertain so high a respect.

To return to the four young ladies. They  
have all been brought up with the idea that  
they will become wives and mothers, and are  
taught to cherish those natural affections which,  
if by some remote chance one out of the four  
ever does marry, make then so amiable and  
lovely as such. They are all allowed to read  
modern novels, at least all such as are con-  
sidered to have a moral tendency. Now, I main-  
tain, that there is scarcely one of these works  
which does not in press any young woman with  
the idea that happiness can alone be found in  
love and perfect, surrounded with admirers,  
all contending for the honours of her last no-  
tice; but where is the novel which represents  
four poor, pretty, unnoticed girls, who are de-  
stined to pass their young years without per-  
haps so much as one admirer amongst them?  
Year after year passes—their bloom and beauty  
fade—and my four lovely and accomplished  
warm-hearted beings, having seen all their  
youthful castles fall one by one, become listless  
and unhappy. They have little life to in-  
terest them; one dies of a complaint in the  
spine; another lives many years on arrow-  
root and calf's-foot jelly, and is enveloped in  
flannel even in July; a third is under the care  
of Dr. S., for indigestion; and perhaps the  
fourth, who is made of tougher materials, and  
born with less feeling than the others—or per-  
haps from having something to occupy her mind  
in preparing the arrowroot for one sister, and  
ordering the hard dry plings, prescribed by  
Dr. S., for the other—suffers her sorrows and  
disappointments; and if she takes an interest  
in her brother's children, or a share in their  
education, or in something which gives vent to  
those affections which are implanted by nature  
in the breast of woman, she becomes happy.

This, then, appears to me to be the secret  
too much neglected in female education. Teach  
them, by all means, that one great source of  
happiness consists in the indulgence of virtu-  
tous affection; but do not teach them that  
there is no affection capable of producing this  
happi-ness, except such as may be felt for lo-  
ver or husband. If the heart be properly reg-  
ulated, it may take a warm and sufficiently  
engrossing interest in many objects less inti-  
mately connected with it. Marriage is a sad

lottery, and, at the best, is a state full of cares  
and anxieties. Freedom and independence  
ought not to be lightly parted with, or set down  
as possessions of little value.

## MISCELLANEOUS SELECTIONS.

### SUPERSTITIONS RESPECTING THUNDER AND LIGHTNING.

It was formerly the custom during thunder  
to invoke the aid of St. Barbara. The great  
bell of Malmsbury Abbey, called St. Adelm's  
bell, was also rung to drive away thunder and  
lightning. A similar practice was also resorted  
to in France, particularly at St. Germain's.  
In Herefordshire, says Aubrey, they lay a  
piece of iron on the barrel to keep the beer  
from souring, and the like is done in Germany.

The ancients had singular notions respecting  
lightning; they regarded it with a supersti-  
tious horror of which we can have but a faint  
conception, and as a visible manifestation of  
divine wrath; hence, whatever was struck with  
it, was looked upon as sacred, (in its ce-  
rimonial sense of devoted or accursed,) and  
separated from human uses. The corpse of a  
person struck by lightning was never moved  
from its place; where it fell it lay, and with  
every thing pertaining to it, was covered with  
earth.

### PLANTS.

Nothing is more truly delightful to a refined  
mind than the study of nature in all her varied  
charms. The numerous and wild produc-  
tions of the field are particularly deserving of  
our attention, not only for their medicinal qual-  
ities, but for the remarkable properties they  
possess of providing for their own security.

If we thrust a pole into the earth at a con-  
siderable distance from a running or climbing  
plant, it will instinctively direct its course to  
the pole, attach itself to it, and rise to its nat-  
ural height. A hop-plant, twisting round a  
pole, directs its course from south to west, as  
does the sun; but if we untwist and fasten it  
in the opposite direction it will die. When a  
plant of woodbine proceeds in its course till it  
is too long for supporting itself, it receives  
strength by shooting into a spiral. If two of  
these plants happen to meet, they will unite  
for mutual aid, one stretching itself to the right  
and the other to the left, in order to catch hold  
of whatever twigs come in their way. By  
twisting the branch of a young and tender tree  
so as to invert the leaves, and leaving it in  
that position, we may find, by close observa-  
tion, that it will gradually recover its first po-  
sition, and proceed in its usual course.

Thus we see that plants have the wonderful  
power bestowed on them by the Great Su-  
preme, of providing for their own welfare like  
rational beings.

### THE FLYING-FISH.

The flying-fish, connects the birds of the air  
with the fish of the sea: when pursued in the  
water it raises itself in the air, and flies on-  
siderable distance: it is a fish that seems to  
lead a most miserable life; in its own element  
it is perpetually harassed by fish of prey; if it  
endeavours to avoid them by having recourse  
to the air, it meets its fate, or is forced again  
into the water, by gulls and other birds.  
Whole shoals of them fall aboard ships in warm  
climates.

### THE BAT.

The bat is placed by naturalists in the class  
of *mammals*. This singular genus brings forth  
two young at a time, which are suckled at the  
breast; but it has the power of flying, and  
therefore connects the birds with the beasts.  
The bat is so dexterous a blooder as to insin-  
uate its tongue into a vein without being per-  
ceived, and then suck the blood until it is sat-  
isfied. Perhaps it is from this dexterity that  
one of the species, which inhabits Guinea and  
Madagascar, has been named the vampire.  
The vampires are imaginary demons which it  
is pretended, suck the blood of persons during  
the night, and thereby destroy them. Those  
who were killed by vampires were said to be-  
come vampires themselves. The way to des-  
troy them was to drive a stake through their

bodies, (at which time they would give a hor-  
rid groan,) and then burn them. This species  
of superstition occasioned, some years ago,  
great disturbances in Hungary and other  
places.

### THE POLYPUS AND HYDRA FUSCA.

The polypus is classed in the animal king-  
dom, although it was formerly considered as a  
vegetable or sea plant. The multiplying pow-  
er of this insect is astonishing; for if a polypus  
be slit into six or seven parts, it becomes a  
hydra, with six or seven heads. If again di-  
vided, we shall have fourteen heads.

The hydra fusca furnishes us with another  
prodigy, to which there is nothing similar in  
animal or vegetable life. It may be turned in-  
side-out like a glove, and, notwithstanding the  
improbability of the circumstance, it lives and  
acts as before.

PLEASURE.—It was the remark of Langer, a  
physician at Vienna, that at the age of 25 we  
kill pleasure; at 30 we enjoy it; at 40 we  
husband it; at 50 we hunt after it; and at 60  
we regret it.

Serenity of mind is nothing worth, unless it  
has been earned; a man should be as once  
susceptible of passions and able to subdue  
them.

Memory is like a picture gallery of our past  
days.—The fairest and most pleasing of them  
are those which immortalize the days of useful  
industry.

Forget not that human virtue is a polished  
steel, which is rusted by a breath.

The test of an enjoyment is the remembrance  
which it leaves behind it.

The sun produces life, or causes death, ac-  
cording as its rays fall—and so doth love.

Handel's early oratorios were but thinly  
attended. That great composer would, how-  
ever, often joke upon the emptiness of the  
house, which, he said, "would make do  
music sound all de petter."

FASHION IN DEUSS.—The English correspon-  
dent of the New York Star, has the following  
remarks upon the outer decorations of the En-  
glish ladies.—A decided novelty in fashion has  
been introduced at Paris. It is called a Chal-  
eaine. A thick hook of gold, such as our  
grandmothers wore in the girdle to hold keys,  
a watch etc. is placed in the hair—this is the  
chateleine. The only qualifications are, it  
must be old and massive.

GRASSES.—The number of this extraordinary  
race in Europe, Asia, and Africa, is calculated  
to amount to seven hundred thousand. In  
America they have been hitherto unknown,  
though a small number are said to have emi-  
grated to that quarter recently. Throughout  
the world they speak the same kind of gibber-  
ish, which is very similar to the language of  
Hindustan, to which country their origin has,  
on that account, been assigned.

SINGULAR FEAT.—In July, 1776, a man hav-  
ing laid a wager that he would cross the  
Thames in a butcher's tray, without any other  
assistance than his hands, set out from Sum-  
erset stairs, and reached the Surrey shore in  
safety; he had on a cork jacket, in case of any  
accident. It is said that there were fourteen  
thousand pounds depending on this feat, and  
that upwards of seventy boats full of specta-  
tors were present.

It has been estimated that there are now  
living in Europe eighteen thousand one hun-  
dred and forty actors, twenty-one thousand  
six hundred and six actresses, one thousand  
nine hundred and forty-seven prompters, and  
twenty-eight thousand seven hundred and sixty  
artists connected with theatrical establish-  
ments.

### UNITED STATES.

A petition from certain ladies to the Pen-  
sylvania Legislature, praying that a tax might  
be laid on bachelors, was strongly advocated  
by a young bachelor member, on the ground  
that all luxuries should be taxed!

Betting on Elections has been prohibited by  
a late act of the Illinois Legislature, by a pe-  
nalty not exceeding one thousand dollars, and  
imprisonment not to exceed thirty days.