

THE MERMAID'S SONG.

BY HANNAH F. GOULD.

COME, mariner, down to the deep with me,
And hide thee under the wave ;
For I have a bed of coral for thee,
And quiet and sound shall thy slumber be
In a cell in the Mermaid's cave !

On a pillow of pearls thine eye shall sleep,
And nothing disturb thee there ;
The fishes their silent vigils shall keep ;
There shall be no grass thy grave to sweep,
But the silk of the Mermaid's hair.

And she, who is waiting with cheeks so pale,
As the tempest and ocean roar,
And weeps when she hears the menacing gale,
Or sighs to behold her mariner's sail
Come whitening up to the shore—

She has not long to linger for thee !
Her sorrows will soon be o'er ;
For the cord shall be broken, the prisoner free ;
Her eye shall close, and her dreams will be
So sweet, she will wake no more !

EFFECTS OF CIVILIZATION.

SHALL your cook and your waiters, your carters and your ditchers, be accounted equally civilized with yourselves ? Shall they who watch the look, and tremble at the frown of a superior, be allowed to possess delicacy of sentiment and dignity of character ? No ; they are deprived of all personal consequence in society. Their own interest is annihilated. They are merely a necessary part of the luxurious establishment of their principal.

We passed by the residence of Polydore. We saw his gorgeous palace and widely extended fields. We examined his gardens, his park, his orchards ; and were struck with astonishment at the splendour of his establishment. And is this all, we inquired, designed for the accommodation of one man ? Can one creature, not six feet high, occupy all these splendid apartments ? Behold the flocks, and herds, and fields of corn ! Can all these be necessary for the sustenance of one ? But if all this be the product of his own labour, he has full liberty to enjoy it. Polydore must be a giant. Did he pile up these massy stones, and erect these ponderous buildings ? Did he subdue the lordly forest, and cover the fields with waving grain ? No : Polydore has done nothing. He owes all this to the labour of others. But how then, we inquired with amazement, did Polydore gain this ascendancy over others ? How did he compel his fellows to cultivate his fields, or labour in his ditches ? Polydore did not compel them, they were compelled by their necessities. A fortunate concurrence of circumstances, and the laws of the country, have made Polydore rich ; but these men are poor. A small portion of the product of

their labour goes to the support of themselves and their families ; but the far greater part is applied to the aggrandizement of Polydore's establishment. And as this aggrandizement increases, in like manner increases his ascendancy over others.

We saw through the whole in a moment. It is therefore absolutely necessary that every rich man should be surrounded by others more indigent than himself. If it were otherwise, in what manner would he induce them to supply his factious wants, or gratify his luxurious inclinations ? Cottages, then, must necessarily be found in the vicinity of palaces ; and lordly cities must be surrounded by suburbs of wretchedness ! Sordidness is the offspring of splendour ; and luxury is the parent of want. Civilization consists in the refinement of a few, and the barbarism and baseness of many.

As the grandeur of any establishment is augmented, servile and base officers are multiplied. Poverty and baseness must be united in the same person, in order to qualify him for such situations. Who fill servile and low employments in your Atlantic cities ? Are there not American minds to be found sufficiently degraded for these contemptible occupations. Ye find it necessary to have recourse to the more highly polished continental nations for suitable drudges to sweep your streets and remove nuisances, to stand behind your carriage, and perform degrading duties about your persons.

Civilized Europeans, when they visit your country, complain loudly of your barbarism. You are little better, in their estimation, than the savage of the wilderness. They cannot meet with that obsequiousness and servility which is necessary to their happiness. They complain, most dolefully, of the impertinence of their servants, and, indeed, of the difficulty of procuring any one sufficiently qualified for the situation of a menial. You frequently blush for the rudeness and barbarity of your countrymen, when you listen to these complaints of your polished visitants ; but do not despair. The seeds are sown ; and the growth will be repaid. The causes have begun to operate, and the effects to be seen. There will soon be a sufficiency of indigence and poverty of spirit to make servants obsequious, and multiply the number of domestics. Let splendour, refinement, and luxury triumph ; and we promise that sordidness, baseness, and misery, will walk in their train.

Man was designed by nature to cultivate the fields, or roam in woods. He has sufficient strength to do every thing for himself that is necessary to be done. He can erect a hut of poles and cover it with bark or skins without the assistance of another. A small portion of his time procures clothing and food ; and the remainder is devoted to amusement and rest. The moment you leave this point, your destination is certain, though your progress may be slow.—*The Savage*