

# The Weekly Observer.

BEING A CONTINUATION OF THE STAR.

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## THE GARLAND.

### SPRING.

Come to my festival! Come to my festival!  
This is the first day of May—  
The sun is rejoicing alone in heaven;  
The clouds have all hurried away;  
Down in the meadow the blossoms are waking,  
Light on their twigs the young leaves are shaking;  
Round the warm knolls the lambs are sleeping;  
The calf from his fold o'er the pasture is sweeping;  
And on the bright lake the lily waves break,  
For there the cowslip is at play.  
Come to my festival! Come to my festival!  
This is the first day of May.  
Come to my festival! Come to my festival!  
Lose not so happy a day—  
The maidens are pranking their locks with flowers,  
And donning their prettiest array;  
Over the mountains the south wind is rolling,  
And tossing its forest with billows;  
Through orchard and vineyard and garden strolling,  
And whispering among the green willows,  
Thou mount the plumed bonnet, and love-knot  
Haste hither—Oh! have an eye stay— [on it,  
Come to my festival! Come to my festival!  
This is the first day of May. [Atlantic Souvenir.

## THE CHILD'S FIRST GRIEF.

Oh! call my brother back to me,  
I cannot play alone;  
The summer comes, with flower and bee—  
Where is my brother gone?  
The butterfly is glancing bright  
Across the sunbeam's track;  
I care not now to chase its flight—  
Oh! call my brother back!  
The flowers run wild—the flowers we sow'd  
Around our garden tree;  
Our vine is drooping with its load—  
Oh! call him back to me!  
He would not hear thy voice, fair child,  
He may not come to thee,  
The face that once like spring-time smil'd  
On earth no more thou'lt see.  
A rose's brief, bright life of joy—  
Such unto him was given—  
Go! thou must play alone, my boy!  
Thy brother is in heaven.  
And has he left his birds and flowers?  
And must I call in vain?  
And through the long summer's hours  
Will he not come again?  
And by the brook, and in the glade,  
Are all our wanderings o'er?  
Oh! while my brother with me play'd,  
Would I had lov'd him more! F. H.

## THE MISCELLANEOUS.

### THE ANCIENT ORATOR.

The history of the wars, negotiations, government, and policy, of the empires and nations, of the progress and decline of all ancient states, is universally allowed to be a study highly delightful and interesting to the ingenious mind. The harangues and councils of their statesmen are no inconsiderable part of this history. Now can it be possible, that a writer or orator, in a free assembly, on any occasion where the public interests were concerned; what were the topics urged to awaken the indulgence or to check the violence of the people—their hopes or to allay their apprehensions—to correct their prejudices and to reform their abuses; what schemes of policy were proposed, what measures suggested—what artifices were used, what arguments urged by contending parties to establish their power and interest—what motives were proposed to engage the community in war, or to inspire the people with pacific dispositions, to prompt them to form or to dissolve alliances—to extend their views to the interest and concerns of foreigners, or to confine their regards to their own security. These, I say, and such like, are by no means unworthy of attention; and these we find in a translation of an ancient orator, executed with any tolerable care and fidelity, however it may be discovered by the discerning reader inferior to the illustrious original, in dignity of expression and excellence of style and composition.

Or, if we consider the remains of an ancient orator in a critical view, merely the production of art and genius, it can be no unworthy curiosity to endeavour to gain a just and accurate idea of that excellence which we are told had such wonderful effects. The appearance of a great public speaker, and the power of his eloquence are so feelingly described by Cicero, that we may be certain the piece was copied for himself, and from what he accounted the greatest glory. "Give me the orator," says he, "who can produce the following effects:—when it is once known that he is to speak, let there be the utmost impatience to secure places in the seats, which must be instantly crowded; let all be busy and eager, and the clerk and officers must fly up and down with an obliging solicitude to provide seats and accommodations for the assembly. The auditors must press forward in a crowded circle. Let the judge be roused to the utmost attention. When the speaker rises the audience must command silence; all must be hushed, till some marks of approbation are expressed, and expressions of wonder break out at frequent intervals. If he would inspire them with the smile must be universal—if with sorrow, their tears must instantly flow. So that a person at a distance though he does not know directly what piece is acting, must yet be witness of the powerful impression, and assured that some great and favorable actor is on the stage.—He that has such power we may pronounce the truly complete speaker; and we have heard of Demosthenes himself."

And if Demosthenes appeared with so great splendor in his judicial pleadings, his speeches in public deliberations were to have been attended with circumstances still more honorable, and with proofs of his abilities still more forcible. He generally acted in scenes of turbulence and public confusion. The speakers of the opposite party had first laboured to propose the people against the sentiment he was to deliver; to stir their own corrupted inclination, and to excite indignation and enmity against all that should dare to control them. In the midst of clamour and commotion the orator rises; his adversaries dread him, and endeavour to drown his remonstrances in tumult. By degrees he gains a patient audience. Opposition is checked, tumult is dispersed. His countrymen hang on him as on some oracle, that denounces despatch on their vices and misconduct, and points out the only way to security. They feel their own weakness and unworthiness; they acknowledge the justice of his severity; they resign themselves to his direction, and rush enthusiastically forward to the dangerous field of duty, which he points out to them. Such were generally the immediate impressions, though not always permanent and effectual.

At other times he appeared when an universal terror and dismay had seized the assembly. When the enemy seemed to be at their gates, when destruction appeared inevitable, and despair had buried the faculties of those speakers in a mournful silence, who in times of less danger were ever forward to take the lead—then did their country (as Demosthenes himself describes the solemn scene) call on her sons to aid and support her by their counsels in this affecting hour of distress. But in a case of extreme difficulty who can dare to propose any measure whose event must be precarious, whose success may be impeded, to the first adviser, and be severely avenged as his crime? Neither the dangerous situation of affairs nor the well-known injustice and enmity of his countrymen could deter Demosthenes. He is known, on such occasions, to have risen in the assembly, and, by his appearance only, to have inspired his countrymen with some confused expectation of relief.

He has awakened them from their despair, and gradually extirpated their apprehensions; he has dispelled the mist of terror, and diffused bright hopes and cheerful expectations through the assembly. Confidence and resolution, magnanimity and courage, indignation and martial rage, vigorous efforts and strenuous contempt of danger, have fully possessed the irresistible force and energy of the speaker.

Such effects were a full reward for the patient assiduity with which Demosthenes laboured to qualify himself for a public speaker; he reads by weighty periods, calling rhetorical flowers; and arranging words; but by collecting a large treasure of political knowledge, with which his most early performance appears to be enriched; by leaving an habit of bringing himself to strict and serious reasoning; by studying the human heart, and the means of affecting it; by acquiring from constant practice, a promptness which so difficult a task could embarrass, an address which no opposition, however subtle and unexpected, could disconcert; with a copiousness and inexhaustible resource for all emergencies—ever flowing, and ever abundantly supplied from his rich and bountiful source.

"Eloquence," says an admired writer, "must flow like a stream that is fed by no constant practice, but by a little fresh stream, some gaudy day, and remain dry for the rest of the year." Such was the eloquence of all those illustrious ancients that history hath celebrated; and such, in every free state, must be the eloquence which can raise the voice of the people to the public ear in the possession. The voice may be tuned to the most musical perfection; the action may be modelled to the utmost grace and propriety; expressions may be chosen of energy, delicacy, and majesty; the period may be brought to a close with all the ease and elegance of harmonious modulation; yet these are but inferior parts of genuine eloquence; by no means the first and principal, much less the sole objects of regard. The weapon of the orator should be bright and glittering indeed, but this should be derived from the lucidity of his ideas; it should be managed with grace, but with such a grace as is an indication of consummate skill and strength.

We are told of a Grecian general, who, when he travelled and viewed the country round him, resolved in his mind to do as an army might be there drawn up to the greatest advantage; how he could best defend himself, if attacked from such a quarter; how advance with greatest security; how retreat with least danger. Something similar to this was the talent of Demosthenes, a study of public speaking, and this was Demosthenes for the most part employed in his days of retirement and severe application. It is indeed intimated by his enemy that he was more sollicitous about rounding a period than preparing his country to be great and good. He is said to have been so conversant with the study of his art, that he was wont to say, "I have spent more time in the study of my art than in the study of my country." It is indeed intimated by his enemy that he was more sollicitous about rounding a period than preparing his country to be great and good. He is said to have been so conversant with the study of his art, that he was wont to say, "I have spent more time in the study of my art than in the study of my country."

DEATH OF CAPTAIN CANNING.—Dr. Walsh, in his work entitled "Notices of Brazil," gives the following account of the death of this eminent officer: "The person who left our ship was Capt. Canning; and we took final leave of this fine young man, whom we were doomed never to see again. He was the son of the late minister, and though engaged in a totally different sphere of life, he had not forgotten his duty to his father. He early obtained the command of a ship of war; and he not only appeared, but I believe he really was, the youngest captain known in his Majesty's navy. He was appointed lieutenant in 1803; commander in 1805; and post captain in 1807; thus rising from midshipman, to his high station in four years. He was tall and slender, with light hair, and a fair complexion, and had the youthful look and air of a midshipman who had just passed for lieutenant; and his good-natured and unassuming manners were in perfect contrast with his appearance. He also informed us of the incidents which occurred on the arrival of the Portuguese squadron at the coast, of which he was a spectator. We soon afterwards heard of the premature death of his father. He was highly popular with the sailors, and particularly with the English, who greatly sought his society. He was one day engaged to dine at Mr. James Gordon's, whose quarters was about a mile and a half from Funchal. He had been himself by violent exertions at sea, and was proceeding to Mr. Gordon's house he entered the room which he used to occupy, and having put on his morning gown, he went down to a large tank in the grounds, where he engaged himself, and plunging in, he sank never more to rise with life. Having discovered the cause of his death, in about fifteen feet of water; it was lying in a bent position, with the head resting on the keel. A cord was immediately let down, and being fastened to his arm, the body was drawn up, but the spark of life seemed totally extinct, and he was supposed to be dead. The death of this fine young man, however, was not so unaccountable as it appeared, and was owing to a violent exertion of his strength, and to the fatigue of his voyage. He was a man of great talents, and his death was a great loss to his country."

PROPOSED GRAND NATIONAL CEMETERY.—The best efforts of scientific ingenuity and public spirit appear to be now in full operation for the architectural improvement of the British metropolis. The superb buildings erected in Liverpool, Manchester, Bristol, and other places, do honour to the taste of their inhabitants; whilst, in the metropolis, very few public works have been produced, whether under the auspices of the state, or the direction of the corporation, that are commensurate with the wealth, or worthy of the taste of the British capital. Roused at length from that apathy which so long confined a stigma upon the metropolitan taste, we now hear of newly projected streets and squares, new markets, and splendid plans of structures for scientific institutions; all of which, their utility once admitted, readily obtain ample support, and vigorously proceed towards completion. Amongst the most prominent ingenious schemes of the day, we have to notice one, which, for architectural splendour, surpasses any we have yet seen or heard of. It is a scheme for a National Cemetery, of nearly the same character as that of Pere la Chaise, but on a much more magnificent scale. At the same time that it will supersede the necessity for burying the dead within the metropolis, will add considerably to the architectural improvements of the north side of this great city. It is intended to occupy a site of a hundred and fifty acres, and to be divided into three regions of tombs. The inner region, of forty-two acres, to be adorned with several temples, exact copies, and of the same dimensions, of the most celebrated ancient Greek and Roman structures, intended for mausoleums, and to contain monumental memorials of those interred within the catacombs beneath. This region, to be surrounded by a double cloister, opening on the two outward sides to the inner and outer region. The second region to be appropriated to sepulture, and the site to be disposed of in single or family catacombs, and to be adorned with monuments, which will afford a rich and varied display of the architectural and sculptural taste of the British artists. These two regions to be planted and laid out in the modern style of ornamental gardening. The third region to be appropriated to the purposes of general sepulture, upon a plan that will secure the salubrity of the spot, and relieve the respective parishes from the danger and inconvenience of burying in churchyards. The whole will provide dry and commodious sepulture for all classes, and secure the sanctuaries of the grave from violation. It is proposed to accomplish the project by raising a fund of £400,000 in 16,000 shares at £25 each; and to form a society for its management, under the direction of a certain number of gentlemen, who are to appoint governors, trustees, treasurers, &c. From the statistical arrangements of the projectors, it appears that they expect a vast revenue to accrue from the disposal of the catacombs, and to produce a large and constantly increasing interest to the subscribers.—*Literary Gazette.*

LAST MOMENTS OF MAJOR ANDRE.—The officer of the guard, who constantly remained with the prisoner, reported to us, that when they came to him in the morning to announce to him the hour of his execution he did not discover the slightest emotion. His countenance, calm and collected, was strikingly contrasted with the sadness of those around him. Seeing his servant enter bathed in tears, he desired him to withdraw and not again show himself but with the courage of a man. His breakfast was sent to him every morning from the table of General Washington. On that morning he received it as usual, and ate it with tranquillity. He

then shaved and dressed himself, and having placed his hat on the table, he turned towards the officers of the guard, and said to them with an air of gaiety, "Now, gentlemen, you see that I am ready to follow you." When the fatal hour had arrived a strong detachment of troops was placed under arms, and an immense concourse of people was assembled. All our officers were present, with the exception of General Washington and his staff. Melancholy reigned throughout the ranks, and despair was on every countenance. Major Andre came from his prison to the place of punishment between two non-commissioned officers, who held him by the arms. The looks of the multitude were directed to him with interest. His countenance, full of dignity, announced his contempt of death; and a slight smile would often arise, still more to embellish his fine countenance, when he saluted as he did with politeness, all those whom he recognized in the crowd. He had expressed a desire to be shot, regarding that kind of death as much more consistent with military habits and opinions, and to the last moment he believed that his wish was to be granted; but when he arrived in front of the gibbet, he made an involuntary movement, a step backward, and stopped for some instants. "What is the matter?" an officer said to him, who was standing by. "I am well prepared to die," was the answer, "but this method is odious to me." While waiting at the foot of the gallows, I observed a slight shudder on his countenance, and that he made an effort in his throat as if attempting to swallow, while he placed his foot on a large stone, and threw his looks for a moment upwards; but soon perceiving that the preparations were completed, he stepped lightly into the cart, and observed, as he proudly raised his head, "That it would only be a momentary pang." Drawing a white handkerchief from his pocket he bandaged his eyes with a firmness and tranquillity which penetrated the multitude with admiration, and which made not merely his servant, but many of those around him, burst into tears. When the cord was attached to the gibbet, he took off his hat and passed the running knot over his head, adjusting it to his neck without the assistance of the executioner. He was in this situation when Colonel Scammell approached, and informed him, that if he had any thing to say, he was permitted to speak. He then raised the handkerchief from his eyes, and said "I beg you not to forget that I submit myself to my fate like a man of courage." The cart was then withdrawn, leaving him suspended, and he expired almost immediately. As he had said, he experienced only a momentary pang. He was dressed in his uniform, and was interred in it at the foot of the gallows, the place of his burial being followed by the tears of many of those who witnessed the close of his career.—Thus died Major Andre, in the flower of his age, the friend of Sir Henry Clinton, and the honour and ornament of the British army.

AMERICAN MOUNTAINS.—It appears that Chimborazo, which has hitherto been considered the highest mountain in America, rises in that respect only the third among those which have been at present measured. In the Eastern Cordillera which separate the valley of Desaguadero from the immense plains of Chiquitos and Mexico, this trigonometrical or barometrical observations of M. Pentland have ascertained that the Nevado de Sorata, and the Nevado de Illimani, are elevated, the former 7,696 metres, the latter 7,315 metres above the level of the sea. According to Humboldt, the Chimborazo of the Andes of Quito is only 6,520 metres above the level of the sea.—*Pentland's unpublished travels.*

DISCOVERY OF THE VARIATION OF THE COMPASS.—On the 13th of September, in the evening, Columbus, for the first time, noticed the variation of the needle, a phenomenon which had never before been remarked. He at first made no mention of it lest his people should be alarmed; it soon attracted the attention of the pilots, and filled them with consternation. It seemed as if the very laws of nature were changing as they advanced, and that they were entering another world, subject to unknown influences. They apprehended that the compass was about to lose its mysterious virtues, and without this guide, what was to become of

them in a vast and trackless ocean. Columbus tasked his science and ingenuity for reasons with which to allay their terrors. He told them that the direction of the needle was not to the polar star, but to some fixed and invisible point. The variation, therefore, was not caused by any fallacy in the compass, but by the movement of the north-star itself, which like other heavenly bodies, had its changes and revolutions, and every day described a circle round the pole. The high opinion they entertained of Columbus, as a profound astronomer, gave weight to his theory, and their alarm subsided.—*Family Library, No. XI.—Columbus.*

INJURIOUS TENDENCY OF MONOPOLIES.—If the world were treated for the support, happiness, and prosperity of mankind, all mankind have a right, in principle, to a share of its produce, and such share will always depend upon the distinction between the characters of man and man, and upon the extent or means they individually possess, to exchange the produce of their soil, skill, and labour with one another. To say, therefore, to an Englishman, you shall not consume the wine of France; or to a Frenchman, you shall not clothe yourself in the manufactured goods of England, is a breach of the law of nature, and of common sense. A bottle of wine in France can only, if sold in France, realize a price in France; but a bottle of French wine sold in England, realizes a price proportionate to the demands of France and England. So a piece of calico sold in England, will realize a price in proportion to the demand for such goods in England; but, if sold in France, in proportion to the united demands of France and England. Thus, if all commerce were unshackled, the price which any commodity could realize would be dependent on the universal demand of mankind for such commodity, and all commodities would bear their real and proportionate value. If wine in France, or calicoes in England, only realized a price in proportion to the demand of the respective countries of their produce, the wages of the labourer, and the profit of the trader would be in accordance with the demand or price of sale; but if these goods were offered to universal demand, the wages of all nations would be dependent, not on contingent circumstances, but upon one universal law, namely, that every man would procure (by a free interchange of produce) an equal proportion of benefit for the amount of skill or labour which he employed in such production. If, therefore, a restricted intercourse between nations be an evil, in principle, it cannot be denied that a restricted intercourse between individuals who constitute a nation is a still greater evil.—*Bathall's Letters on the present Condition of G. Britain.*

MARRIAGE TENDS TO LONGEVITY.—In Bohemia, especially Praga, instances of longevity are confined to poverty and the married life. According to an average of several years, no nobleman, no wealthy person, and no unmarried woman, have passed the age of ninety-five.

IMPORTANT NEW WORKS.—It is not a little remarkable, that the present season should already have produced the works of two eminent divines as Calamy and Doddridge, both of which throw great light on the history of the times in which they lived, especially the former, which elucidates the most remarkable events of the reigns of Charles II. James II. William, Queen Anne, and George I. and II. and carries us with unabated interest through a period of no less than 60 years. Both the above works form a valuable addition to the history of our country, commencing in importance with the diaries of Prynne, Evelyn, and Clarendon, and deserve to take their place in every historical library in the kingdom. Another production of equal importance with the foregoing and relative to a very recent period is the Memoirs and Correspondence in Thomas Jefferson, late President of the United States, in which few men have displayed greater energy, far more powerfully promoted the interests of their country, during very difficult and stormy times. Lieutenant Harpur's Travels in the Interior of Mexico, next claim our attention. This gentleman explored, it appears, many parts of this vast empire, never yet visited by any European, and has succeeded in vividly and forcibly delineating its inexhaustible resources, productions and capabilities, which it must be confessed have not yet by any means been sufficiently known or appreciated. Captain Mignin of the East India Company's service, has recently favored the public with his Travels in Chaldaea, giving the most complete account that has hitherto appeared of the present state of the ruins of the once-mighty Babylon, emphatically denominated in Scripture "the glory of kingdoms," the praise of the whole earth, &c., and forming an indispensable addition to the libraries of all those who take an interest in biblical literature. Lieutenant Rose has also published a Narrative of his Four Years' Residence in Southern Africa, which contains a highly animated description of the splendid and picturesque scenery of that wild country, together with many new details relative to its no less strange inhabitants, whose very singular manners have so long excited the wonder of the inquisitive traveller. We will conclude with the Memoirs and Correspondence of Bolivar, which portray the life of that extraordinary chieftain, who has occupied so much of the public attention, in a very striking manner and record the many active and chequered struggles in which he has been engaged.—*Liverpool Courier.*

HUMANIZING EFFECTS OF THE GOSPEL.—Even over the wild people, inhabiting a country as savage as themselves, the Sun of Righteousness arose with healing under his wings. Good men, on whom the name of saint (while not used in a superstitious sense) was justly bestowed, to whom life and the pleasures of the world were nothing, so they could call souls to Christianity, undertook, and succeeded in, the perilous task of enlightening these savages. Religion, although it did not at first change the manners of nations, warded off barbarism, failed not to introduce those institutions on which rest the dignity and happiness of social life. The law of marriage was established among them, and all the brutizing evils of polygamy gave place to the consequences of a family, which leads most directly to separate the human from the brute species. The abolition of idolatrous ceremonies took away many bloody and brutalizing practices; and the Gospel, like grain of mustard-seed, grew and flourished in no less increase, insinuating into man's hearts the blessings inseparable from its influence.—*Sir Walter Scott's History of Scotland.*

FORGIVENESS.—A more glorious victory cannot be gained over another man than that which, when the injury began on his part, the kindness should begin on ours.—*Archbishop Tillotson.*

An idle person is dead before his time.

Mrs. J. B. B. B.