Unwritten Poems.

There are poems unwritten and songs un sung,
Sweeter than any that ever were heard;
Po ms tha' wait for angel tongue,
Songs that but long for a paradise bird.

Poems that ripple through lowliest lives,
Poems unnoted and hidden away
Down in souls, where the beautiful thrives
Sweetly as flowers in the airs of May.

Poems that only the angels above us,
Looking down deep in our hearts, may beho d,
Felt, though unseen by the beings who love us,
Written on lives all in letters of gold.

Tennyson.

COERCION "SNOW-FLAKES."

From the Dublin Irishman, March 12.

That was a picturesque and apt term which Mr. Gladstone used when he referred to the "notices to quit" as *snow-flakes*. It is a wintry image, that conjures up before the im ination the dreary, grey, brief days, and long bitter nights of the year's cold, inclement season.

Now, unfortunately, the term may be made to describe the acts of his own Government and tell of the notices to quit the free air of heaven, the comforts of happy homes, and the vital breath of liberty, which are falling fast, and thick, and bitterl chill all ov r the country. A foreigner, landing on our shores, a student of the great eulogist of English freedom, would be startled and dumfounded a t the sights and sounds that meet eye and ear. From time to time the hastening newsboy hurries by crying: "Another arrest,"—"More arrests,"—"Several arrests," in this province or in that he cry echoes through every street, and expectant citizens stop on their way, or hurry to their doors to purchase the latest lists of those condemned to the Bastiles.

Then, if he happens to be in the vicinity of the princip l prisons, the rattle of wheels will suddenly break upon the startled ear, and a rush of car or cabs will be seen laden with constables, armed to the teeth, guns shotted, bayonets fixed, conveying a group of respectable Irishmen to jail. Time and again the peace of the street is broken by a caravan of this kind. The glitter of bayonets goes by in a storm of noise; the great prison gate swings slowly open; all strangers are rudely bidden to "sta d back," and another group of Irishmen goes out of freedom into the grave of bondage!

Morning after morning, evening after evening, the daily papers have columns crowded with tidings of the "arrests," "more arrests" —"arrests in Kerry," "arrests in Clare," "arrests in Galway;" "arrests in Longford," arrests everywhere.

The coercion "snow-flakes" fall thick and heavy, fast and furious, in every province throughout the land. Over vast districts,—"proclaimed" territory,—no man or woman can call a day their own. Liberty is "proclaimed" out of existence. The *lettre de cachet* "runs everywhere," secretly and mysteriously. The blow is struck in the darkness, and only when it falls does the sufferer know that he is doomed to months of jail, without trial, or defence, without appeal, without right of seeing his accuser, or examining a witness on his behalf.

All the ancient liberties of the peo le in those districts are submitted to the *snow-storm* of Coercion, whose bitter flakes continue to fall, and will, doubtless, for many a day continue to fall all over the country. This is a strange and biting commentary on the professions in favor of the principles and practices of freedom, indulged in by the Great Liberal Leaders, *out of office*. It irresistably recalls the keen, sarcastic verse of Moore:

Heavens, what a picture! Yes, my friend, 'tis dark;
But can no light be found, no generous spark
Of former fire to warm us? Is there none
To act a Marvell's part? I fear not one.
To place and power all public spirit tends,
In place and power all public spirit ends.
Like hardy plants, that love the air and sky,—
When *out*, 'twill thrive, but taken in 'twill die!
Not bolder truths of sacred freedom hung,
From Sidney's pen, or burned on Fox's tongue,
Than *upstart Whigs* produce each market night,
While yet their conscience—as their purse—is light,
While debts at home excite the care for those
Which,—dire to tell,—their much loved country owes;—
And, loud and upright, till their prize be known,
They thwart the King's supplies to raise their own,
But bees on flowers alighting cease their hum—
So, settling upon places, Whigs grow dumb.
And though I feel as if indignant heaven
Must think that wretch too foul to be forgiven,
Who basely hangs the bright protecting shade
Of Freedom's ensign o'er Coercion's trade,
And makes the sacred flag he dares to show
His passport to the market of her foe,
Yet, yet I own, so venerably dear
Are Freedom's grave old anthems to my ear
That I enjoy them, though by rascals sung,
And reverence Scripture e'en from Satan's tongue,
Nay, when the Constitution has expired,
I'd have such men, like Irish wakers, hired
To sing old "Habeas Corpus" by its side,
And ask, in purchased ditties, why it died.

THE PEACEFUL STATE OF IRELAND.

While the constitution is practically suspended in Ireland, and an Arms Act is being forced with indecent haste through Parliament to abridge still further the liberties of the people, the judges of the land are e gaged in opening the spring assizes in the various Irish counties, and in many places congratulating the grand juries upon the lightness of the criminal calendar and the peaceable condition of the country. At the assizes opened in Drogheda the lord chief-baron received from the hands of the high-sheriff the white gloves, emblematic of a maiden assizes, the calendar not exhibiting a single case for trial; and in the county Meath the Lord Chief-Justice May declared "that the condition of the county was most satisfactory." Referring to the Coercion Act, his lordship said "it was deplorable to think that the liberty of the people of a county should be subjected to the absolute control of the Legislature, and that any person should be liable to immediate arre t." He congratulated the county Meath on the fact that it was not necessary to extend the provisions of the new act to the county. Now that the terrible power has been accorded to the Irish executive, it would seem that they lack the opportunity for exercising it; and, as the heat of passion begins to cool, persons are beginning to discover that, after all, things might have very well gone on without it. Indeed, it is now too evident that the only need of coercive measures was simply to aid the Government to crush out the Land League agitation.—*Tablet.*

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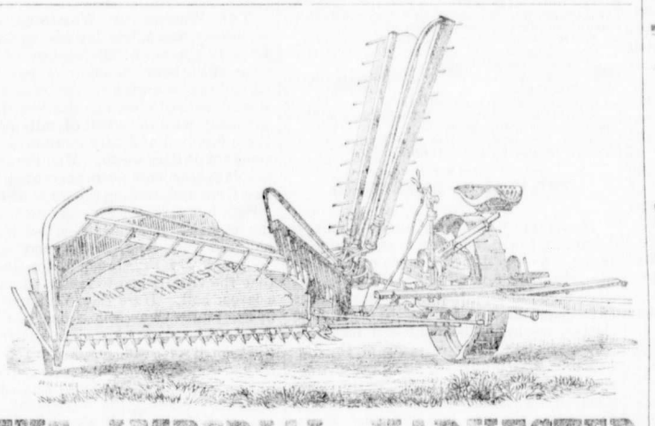

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