

THE WELCOME BACK.

BY ELIZA COOK.

Sweet is the hour that brings us home,
Where all will spring to meet us;
Where hands are striving, as we come,
To be the first to greet us.
When the world hath spent its frowns and wrath,
And care been sorely pressing;
'Tis sweet to turn from our roving path,
And find a fireside blessing.
Oh, joyfully dear is the homeward track,
If we are but sure of a welcome back.

What do we reck on a dreary way,
Though lonely and benighted,
If we know there are lips to chide our stay,
And eyes that will beam love-lighted?
What is the worth of your diamond ray,
To the glance that flashes pleasure;
When the words that welcome back betray,
We form a heart's chief treasure?
Oh, joyfully dear is our homeward track,
If we are but sure of a welcome back.

A YOUNG JEWESS OF TANGIER.

We find an interesting article on the Jews in the *Missionary Chronicle* copied from an "Appeal for the Jewish Nation," by E. L. Mitford, Esq.

It appears that nothing more is required to make a Christian, or a Jew, a Mahometan, by their law, than the deposition of two witnesses of their having pronounced the words, "There is no God but God, and Mahomet is the Apostle of God." Against this testimony the protestation of the Jews are vain, and the penalty of recantation is burning at the stake.

There was a young Jewess of respectable family residing in Tangier, summoned before the Cadi by two Moors, who deposed to her having pronounced their profession of faith. This she utterly denied, but in vain, and the Cadi decreed her conformity to Islamism on pain of death. But the affair became public and reached the ears of Mulia Abderrahman, to whose decision it was referred.

"Whatever might have influenced her accusers, there could be no doubt of the motives of the Sultan in enforcing the decree, which was to obtain another plaything for his harem; in fact, so well known was his character in this respect, that from the moment of her being ordered to his presence, no one expected any other result—for few possibly imagined, nor did the Sultan himself, that she would have courage to brave the alternative rather than abandon the faith of her fathers. Such, however, was the case. She was first sent to the Serail, where every means were employed to shake her constancy; threats, blandishments, and the most brilliant promises were tried by turns, and were equally unsuccessful. Even her relations were allowed to see her, to endeavour by their persuasions to divert her from her resolution; but with a firmness which against such assaults could have been the effect only of the deepest conviction, this young and noble creature held fast her integrity, and calmly choose a horrible though honorable death, rather than the enjoyment of an ignominious existence of shame and infamy.

"The Jews came forward with offers of immense sums of money to save her, but her fate was irrevocably decided, and the only mercy the baffled tyrant could afford his young and innocent victim was, to allow of her being beheaded instead of her being burnt alive. I had an account of the closing scene by an eyewitness who was one of the guards at the execution, and although as a body, there is nowhere a more dissolute set of irregular soldiery than the Morocco Moors, yet he confessed to me that many of his vice-hardened companions could not refrain from tears, and that he himself could not look with dry eyes on a sight of such cold blooded atrocity.

"This beautiful young creature was led out to where a pile ready for firing was raised for her last couch; her long dark hair flowing disheveled on her shoulders, she looked around in vain for a heart and hand that could succour, though so many eyes pitied her; for the last time she was offered—with the executioner and

pyre in all their terror before her—her life, on condition of being false to her God; she only asked for a few minutes for prayer, after which her throat was cut by the executioner, according to the barbarous custom of the country, and her body consumed on the fire."

NEWS.

PENNY POSTAGE.—The annual returns, just published, show that the progress of penny postage, during the year 1845, has been much greater than at any former period. The number of letters delivered in the United Kingdom, was two hundred seventy-one-and-a-half millions, being an increase of nearly thirty millions on the year 1844. The gross revenue for the year was £1,901,580, being an increase of nearly £200,000 on 1844, and nearly four-fifths of the amount under the old system. The net revenue, notwithstanding that more than £100,000 was paid to the railway companies, for work done in former years, was £775,986, being an increase of £56,000 on 1844, while the London district (old twopenny) post letters have increased to such an extent, that the revenue derived from them must far exceed that which was obtained from the same class of letters before the reduction of the rates. In January of the present year, the number of letters delivered in the United Kingdom was at the rate of three hundred and three millions per annum; or, excluding the franks, four times the number under the old system. The money-orders, since 1839, have increased about thirty-fold.—*Economist*.

REMARKABLE RELIC.—In the southwest part of Franklin county, Mississippi, there is a platform or floor of hewn stone, neatly polished, some three feet under ground. It is about one hundred and eight feet long and eighty feet wide. It extends due north and south, and its surface is perfectly level. The masonry is said to be equal, if not superior, to any work of modern times. The land above it is cultivated, but thirty years ago it was covered with oak and pine-trees, measuring from two to three feet in diameter. It is evidently of very remote antiquity, as the Indians who reside in the neighbourhood had no knowledge of its existence previous to its recent discovery. Nor is there any tradition among them from which we may form any idea of the object of the work or of the people who were its builders. There is also a canal and well connected with it, but they have never been explored. A subterranean mansion may be underneath. Further explorations may throw some light upon its origin.—*Louisville Journal*.

REARING APPLE TREES.—A gentleman in Bohemia has established a plantation of the best sort of apple trees, which have neither sprung from the seeds nor from grafting. His plan is to take shoots from the choicest sorts, insert each of them into a potato, and plunge both into the ground, leaving but an inch or two of the shoot, whilst it pushes out roots, and the shoot gradually springs up and becomes a beautiful tree, bearing the best of fruit without requiring to be grafted.

THE CROPS FOR 1845.—The report of the Commissioner of Patents makes the following estimate of the crops of last year: Wheat 106,548,000 bushels; barley, 5,100,000 bushels; oats, 163,208,000 bushels; rye 27,175,000 bushels; buck-wheat, 10,269,000 bushels; corn, 417,809,000 bushels. Total: Grain, 730,258,600 bushels; potatoes, 88,392,000 bushels; hay, 14,065,000 tons; hemp and flax, 37,500 tons; tobacco, 187,422,000 lbs.; cotton, 936,088,000 lbs; silk, 486,530 lbs.; sugar, 226,026,000 lbs. New York stands first in the list of agricultural products; Ohio second; Pennsylvania third.

FLOGGING IN THE NAVY.—It is stated that the Lords of the Admiralty are determined to put an end to the practice of flogging in the Navy, except in extreme cases of misconduct; and that any officer having recourse to that mode of punishment either frequently or on insufficient grounds, will be considered unfit to command, and be shelved as quickly as possible.

EDUCATION IN MISSISSIPPI.—There are now in Mississippi eight colleges, educating only four-hundred and fifty-four students. In the whole state there are but three-hundred and ninety-six common schools, educating only 8263 scholars out of a population of near 200,000 whites. There are seven counties in the State, with a population of 11,070 persons, in which there are no schools of any kind; and there are in the whole State 50,000 children who have no possible means of education. There are 8358 free white persons over 21 years of age in the State who can neither read nor write. Such are the facts regarding education in the great State of Mississippi, as stated by Mr. Allen, a member of the Legislature, in a speech at its recent session.

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