

mended his soul to God, and with firmness and composure, expired. His preaching was popular in his own times, in which his simplicity, familiarity and drollery were highly estimated.

THE ARTS.

"What cannot Art and Industry perform,
Where science plans the progress of their toil!
They smile at penury, disease and storm;
And o'ercome their mighty moulds record."

PRESSURE OF SAND AGAINST WALLS.—Loose sand, enclosed between two walls, acts as a wedge, and will ultimately force out the weaker wall of the two. A timber-kiln was built some few years ago at a sea-port town, and in order to prevent an ornamental exterior of calcareous stone from being affected by the heat, a double wall was contrived, having a space of four inches in the centre, filled with sand. The shaking occasioned by the carts passing near, caused a gradual settlement of the sand, and before long the external wall gave away in all directions. Loose earth produces the same effect, but in a less degree; and it is observable that walls built against banks of earth, though they resist the pressure perfectly well at first, yield to it by degrees, and ultimately fail, whenever the earth is of a crumbly nature. The formula for calculating the necessary thickness of such walls, does not take into account this singular wedge-like property; indeed, it might be difficult to assign any force equivalent to so extraordinary a pressure, where dry loose sand is the substance of the soil.

VALUABLE PROPERTY OF SILK.

A silk covering of the texture of a common handkerchief is said to possess the peculiar property of resisting the noxious influence, and of neutralizing the effects of malaria. If, as is supposed, the poisonous matter is received into the system through the lungs, it may not be difficult to account for the action of this very simple preventive. It is well known that such is the nature of malaria poison that it is easily decomposed by even feeble chemical agents. Now, it is very probable that the heated air proceeding from the lungs may form an atmosphere within the veil of silk, of power sufficient to decompose the miasma in its passage to the mouth; although it may be equally true that the texture of the silk covering may act mechanically as a nonconductor; and prove an impediment to the transmission of the deleterious substance.

PRODIGY.—A young lady by the name of Miss A. Honeywell, arrived in Philadelphia, for the purpose of exhibiting to the citizens, specimens of her ingenuity in the way of cutting profiles, and ornamental work on paper. She was born without arms, but has acquired an astonishing faculty with a pair of scissors, which instrument she uses with her

mouth. Some of her specimens are remarkably beautiful, and many of her profiles very correct resemblances of the human countenance.

THE CASKET.

Devoted to Select Tales, Sketches from Biography, Natural and Civil History, Poetry, Anecdotes, the Arts, Essays, and Interesting Miscellany.

HAMILTON, DECEMBER 3, 1831.

AGENTS FOR THE CASKET.

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A few sets of the Casket, from No. 1 can be furnished to subscribers who apply immediately.

Post Masters will greatly oblige us by acting as agents.

The exalted genius of Pope could stoop to schemes of economy; and he contrived to curtail his stationer's bill by writing some of his brightest effusions on the margins of his correspondence. We do not, then, cast any unworthy reflection on the generosity or magnanimity of the muses in this region of simplicity and frugality, by offering, as an equivalent for the writing materials which they consume in our service, the following

LITERARY PREMIUMS.

The publisher of the Casket will award the following little tokens of merit to the most successful of those who may esteem a trifling distinction, in the art of cheering the winter's hearth and summer's labour, with the fine spun fabrications of fancy and the ingenious details of truth, worth competing for Three Pounds currency, to the writer of the best *Original Tale*, written expressly for the Casket, and having its scene laid in Canada. Should the tale be lengthy, it is desirable that the division into chapters or other portions should be made by the author, so that not to exceed two pages of the Casket be occupied by its longest part. The same reference to *bounds* is recommended to the competitors for the remaining prizes: One Pound, currency, to the author of the best *Original Essay*—One Pound, currency, for the best *Original Poem*, of any length not to exceed one page of the Casket. As *mechanics*, we prefer lines that do not exceed ten syllables; because very long lines must be broken in a manner to give the page a confused appearance. One Pound, currency, for the most interesting *Original article* under the following heads: Natural History, Biography, The Arts. A volume of the "Rural Repository" will be presented to the successful competitor, for any of the above prizes,

who furnishes the plainest and most correct manuscript; and each of the prizes will be followed by a volume of the Casket at the end of the year.

All the manuscripts must be forwarded previous to the publication of the thirteenth number, (the sooner the better,) when they will be submitted to the decision of three disinterested literary gentlemen, who are not to know any of the authors, their names remaining with the publisher. Immediately after the fourteenth No. of the Casket is published, the prizes will be transmitted to their winners.

Editors, with whom we exchange, will confer a favor by copying or noticing this.

Criticism.—In the second number of the Casket, we copied neighbor Gurnett's criticisms upon the poetical productions of our correspondent "Briton;" and without giving our own opinion, (which we still decline,) left the poet "to vindicate his own figure in any future number of the Casket." We have been taken at our word, which is as inviolable as the laws of the Medes and Persians. But as "Briton's" communication is rather lengthy, we have taken only that part which goes to fulfil our promise.

"If the Editor sees any thing unchaste or unpoetical in a Cossack's flying before a Polish warrior with screaming whoop, I presume he is ignorant of the manners and history, ancient and modern, of that people; and if so, with a suggestion of the propriety of instructing himself in them before he turned critic, I will inform him that it is a peculiar characteristic of the Cossack's, who are the same race of men with the ancient Scythians and Parthians, to fight as well in full speed, in retreat from an enemy, as in the offensive; and it is a well known fact, that this sort of desultory warfare is the most effective they carry on. It was by the fierce, unexpected attacks of these modern centaurs, and their as speedy retreat, that Buonaparte's army in his retreat from his great and fatal Russian campaign, was so harrassed and subdued. These are the same people that in ancient times defeated the Persian monarch, Darius, by the same wiles: that harrassed the Roman General, Antony, in his Parthian expedition; and that proved the unconquerable enemies of the Roman empire, and at last its destroyers, with all its glory. These people always attack an enemy by rushing on him with frightful yell.

Whether Mr. Gurnett ever felt a glow of patriotism for his country, an indescribable thrill of unfeigned affection at the prospect of leaving for the land of his birth, the home of his youth, his children and tender wife, without his fate being known to them in a foreign land; or conceive such an image as the latter in