

THE WEEKLY OBSERVER: BEING A NEW SERIES OF THE STAR.

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THE GARLAND.

THE FIRE-WORSHIPPER, OR GUEBRE. (From the Fire Herald.)

Soft blew the Malabar breeze, Light sweeping o'er the Tivving Seas Each gentle star beheld its ray Reflected in the tranquil bay...

The Guebre's Hymn.

Lo! kneeling again at the face of my sire, I bow to the God whom their fathers adored; And in his bright altar I never expire...

THE MISCELLANIST.

THE OBLISK OF ROME.—Rome alone, of all the cities of the world, boasts the obelisks of Egypt. These sublime monuments of the grandeur of past ages...

the Castle, San Angelo, proclaimed the triumphant tidings, and the bells of all the churches rang peals of joy. The obelisk which now crowns the lofty summit of the Pincian-hill, in front of the church of the Trinita de Monti, towers far above the domes, the towers, and the palaces of "the Eternal City," enjoys by far the most beautiful situation of all the obelisks of Rome...

Secus V. A. D. 1859.

BYRON'S EARLY DAYS.—Byron would at times exceed the limits of temperance, and was then particularly kind—not violent or lachrymose. He was certainly rather fond of wine, and could bear a good deal. He has been known to put a bottle of claret to his mouth, and drink it off at a draught. He kept monks' gowns and hoods at the Abbey; and used to delight sometimes in frightening his visitors in the gloomy galleries and chambers so favourable to superstition and romance...

STATE OF THE EMERALD ISLAND.

of a certain kind, is still kept up, not only by the Governor-General (who has most of the usual appendages of a sovereign, such as body-guards, gold-sticks, spearmen, peacock plumes, state-carriage, state-horse, and elephants); but by all the principal persons in authority. You would laugh to see me carried by four men in a palanquin, two more following as a relay, two silver maces carried before me, and another man with a huge printed umbrella at my side...

ORIGINAL ANECDOTES CONCERNING BURNS.

THE SPOT THAT CONTAINS THE DUST OF THE ILLUSTRIOUS DEAD, HAS ALWAYS BEEN RECKONED SACRED, and worthy of being visited by their admirers. But this veneration and amiable feeling is not confined to the dust alone; it extends to whatever was once in their possession, of which innumerable instances might be adduced. The biographer of Melancthon informs us that those who came to take a last look of his remains, snatched up an old pen, or any scrap of paper which they imagined had been in the hands of that celebrated reformer...

planted in Britain. The ruins of Alloway Kirk, merely because they furnished the muse of Burns with one of the most imaginative of his visions, have been stripped of every vestige of timber, to be manufactured into snuff boxes or toddy-laddies. Mr. Lockhart, in his life of Burns (which we reviewed last week), informs us, that at the sale of his farm-stocking, every article was purchased with avidity, because it had been the property of the hapless poet; and it gives us pleasure to corroborate the testimony of his biographer, by an authentic anecdote. About twenty years ago, a Scotch gentleman still alive, and a warm admirer of Burns, on his return from London, happened to travel some stages in Scotland, perfectly unacquainted with the vernacular expressions and idiom of our language, and was a still more enthusiastic admirer of Burns than his companion, who, on the first opportunity, recited and explained the most beautiful passages of the "Cotter's Saturday Night." The Scotsman inquired whether he was personally acquainted with Burns. "No, I never had the happiness of seeing him," replied the Englishman, "but I once rode ten miles out of my way for the sole purpose of seeing a cow, which had been reared on the farm of Blisland, and was purchased at the sale of his farm-stocking!"—Edinburgh Evening Post.

Preservation of Fresh-water Fish in Winter.

The destruction of pond fish being very considerable during severe winters, it has been too generally ascribed to the severity of the cold. The chief cause, however, of the mortality and general sickness among fish, is the want of oxygen when the air ponds are frozen over so as to prevent the renewal of the air. The importance of respiration, and a full supply of atmospheric air, may be easily proved by confining a few small fish in a glass vessel nearly filled with water, and tied over with a piece of bladder. The fish will speedily grow languid and die, while the air above the water will be found to extinguish a lighted taper, being deprived of its oxygen. When fish ponds are frozen over, it should therefore be the daily practice, for the preservation of the fish, to break the ice in several places, and agitate the water beneath as well as possible, in order to renew the supply of atmospheric air. If, as in many fish-preservers, a penstock will allow of the water being partially drawn off from beneath the ice, it will materially aid to the health and preservation of the fish.—London Review.

The Dead Allee.

The following singular occurrence has been vouched by a respectable medical student.—A person named Mahony, residing at Blackpool, in Cork, after a short illness, died, to all human appearance, on Wednesday morning last. The usual means of laying out the corpse were observed; when night approached twelve candles were lighted and placed around the emblems of death. The friends and relatives of the departed spirit were assembled, and all the sad paraphernalia of the "grim tyrant" were perfected. During the conversation of the company, a hectic flush was observed on the countenance of the corpse; in a few minutes being resuscitated. Shortly after a heavy sigh was heard, and respiration staggled. The cheeks now exchanged for the pallid hue of death, the evidence of returning circulation; the pulse resumed its operations, and the poor man once more opened his eyes on terrestrial objects. All was confusion—some retreated from the living spectre, whilst others stood out to the scene. When composure was procured, the re-animated being, amongst other matters, told his anxious hearers, that he certainly should give up the ghost on Friday night. But up to eleven o'clock on Saturday, he was a sojourner in the land of his fathers.—Dublin Correspondent.

Jew's Harp.

The Memoirs of Madame de Genlis first made known the astonishing power of a poor German soldier on the Jew's harp. This musician was in the service of Frederick the Great, and finding himself one night on duty under the windows of the king, played the Jew's harp with so much skill, that Frederick, who was a great amateur of music, thought he heard a distinct orchestra. Surprised on learning that such an effect could be produced by a single man with two Jew's harps, he ordered him into his presence; the soldier refused, alleging that he could only be relieved by his colonel; and that, if he obeyed, the king would punish him the next day, for having failed to do his duty. Being presented the following morning to Frederick, he was heard with admiration, and received his discharge and fifty dollars. This artist, whose name Madame de Genlis does not mention, is called Koch; he has not any knowledge of music, but owes his success entirely to a natural talent. He made his fortune by travelling about and performing in public and private, and is now living retired at Vienna, at the advanced age of more than eighty years. He used two Jew's harps at once in the same manner as the peasants of the Tyrol, and produced, without doubt, the harmony of two notes struck at the same moment, which was considered by the musically-curious as somewhat extraordinary, when the limited powers of the instrument were remembered. It was Koch's custom to require that all the lights should be extinguished, in order that the illusion produced by his playing might be increased.—Philosophy in Sport.

Literary Prizes.

The Norisian prize, at Cambridge, has been adjudged to the Rev. W. M. Mayers, of Catherine-hall; the subject, "The proofs of a General Judgment to come, and the advantages of the knowledge revealed to mankind concerning it." The Holsen prize for last year was adjudged to this gentleman, for his essay on the Divinity of Christ. This young gentleman is of Jewish parentage, and has not been a convert to the Christian religion more than four years.

RECOVERY OF DROWNED PERSONS.

M. L. D'Écône states, in a letter to the French Academy of Medicine, that he has succeeded invariably in recovering drowned animals, by the following galvanic application. A short and fine needle is inserted into the sides of the body, between the eighth and ninth ribs, so as to come in contact with the attachment of the diaphragm, and then a current of electricity, from twenty-five or thirty pairs of inch plates is passed through them. The diaphragm then immediately contracts, and an inspiration is effected. On breaking the communication and again completing it a second inspiration is occasioned, and by continuing these means, a regular respiration is ultimately effected.

To stop Bleeding.

Sir Astly Cooper says, "in bleeding from small vessels on wounded surfaces, very fine wool laid down and confined by bandage on the parts is one of the best styptics. The wool may be dipped in flour to aid its efficacy. There is an old prescription for the same purpose, in St. Thomas' Hospital.—Take powdered Catechu, and Armenian Bole, each 2 ounces; Alum once, and Laudanum enough to make a paste. This will stop the troublesome bleeding from Leechbites.

New Plant which supplies Water.

A shrub has been discovered in our new Indian territories, from whose stem, when divided, there issues a copious vegetable spring of limpid and wholesome water. The natives know this well, and hence we rarely meet with an entire plant. It is a powerful climber, and is quite new and non-descript.—London Medical Gazette.

Mr. Ideler of Berlin, author of a work on mathematical chronology, &c.

has just published a pamphlet, in which he attempts to prove that the Saviour was born six years before the period usually assigned by history, and that consequently the year 1828 ought to be 1834.

A correspondent of Professor Silliman's Journal states, that the mines employed at the amalgamating mines in Mexico, are opened after death, and that from two to seven pounds of silver are often taken out of their stomachs. He says that he is in possession of a specimen, which is perfectly pure and white.

Canine Transformation.

When the Marquis of Desseins, who was very anxious to preserve the game on his estates, and desired that none of his tenants would keep sporting dogs. One of them, having a great favorite, dropped his ears and docked his tail, rather than part with him. Some time afterwards, a gentleman seeing this animal following a man who was driving a cart, inquired of what he was. "To farmer such a one," said the fellow. "Of what breed is he?" inquired the gentleman. "Why, Sir, he was a greyhound, but master cut his ears and tail off, and made a mastiff on him."—Berks Chronicle.

Difference in Constitution.

Substances that are poisonous to one tribe of animals are medicinal to a second, and even highly nutritive to a third. Thus, swine are poisoned by pepper seeds, which to man are a serviceable and a grateful spice; while henbane roots, which destroy mankind, prove a wholesome diet to swine. In like manner, aloes which to our kind is a useful medicine, is a rank venom to dogs and foxes; and the horse, which is poisoned by the water hemlock, and corrosive sublimate, will take a dram of arsenic daily, and improve thereby in his coat and condition.—N. Y. Farmer.

Newspapers.

If the sheets published in England in 1827, were laid in a circle upon our globe, a child might walk on paper round the earth; and if the stamp duties were also distributed in shillings, he might pick up one at every third step.—London paper.

SCIENCE.

The Ancient Stadium.—A comparison of various standards of the ancient Egyptian cubit which have been discovered at different periods, commencing with the year 1799, has led to the establishment of the true length of the cubit (of 700 to a degree) known to geographers by the name of the stadium of Eratosthenes. This discovery has afforded the means of comparing the length of the terrestrial degree measured by Eratosthenes, with that which the actually ascertained figure of the earth gives. It appears that the length, as obtained by that celebrated geometer, whose labours justly excited the admiration of antiquity, was the mean length between those now obtained at 45 deg. and at the equator, and that it exactly accords with the position of the planets situated between Alexandria and Syrene; the extreme points of the earth measured by Eratosthenes.

Cook's Patent Bookbinding.

The improvements in binding books, &c. proposed by the patentee, are designed to protect them from fire; and consist in attaching the leaves and backs of the books to plates of metal, secured by clasps in front, and by metal joints at the back. The plates may be thin iron or brass, or tinned plate; and they may be externally coated with plain vellum, parchment, or leather, as account-books are usually covered, or they may be enclosed in the superior kinds of leather, and decorated by gilding, and other elegant ornaments, for the book-case and library.

Fire Engines for Shipping.

It has often struck us with surprise that, considering the great liability to fire, and the dreadful alternative of the crew, with a ship on board, that any well-found ship should be sent to sea without a fire-engine on board. Had this been the case, the ship that was recently burnt to the water's edge near Hastings, might have been saved. An ingenious correspondent in the Mechanics' Magazine, recommends what we think ought to be immediately adopted in every steam-ship, as being peculiarly liable to fire; that a forcing-pump should be fitted up so as to be worked by the crank of the steam-engine (when necessary) with a pipe or hose to communicate with all parts of the vessel.—London Review.

A Valuable Discovery.

It is said that the engineer at Mr. Warner's factory at Longborough, Leicestershire, has made a discovery which doubles the power of the steam-engine, and that he has been offered £1000 for the secret.

Hydrogen Gas from Salt Mines employed for producing Light and Fuel.

In the salt mine of Gottesgabe at Rheino, in the county of Tecklenburg, there has issued for sixty years from one of the pits, which has on this account been called the "Pit of the wind," a continued current of inflammable gas. The same gas is pro-

duced in other parts of the mines. M. Roeders, the inspector of the salt mines, has used this gas for two years not only as a light, but as fuel for all the purposes of cooking. He collects it in pits that are no longer worked, and conveys it in tubes to the house. It burns with a white and brilliant flame. Its density is about 0.66. It contains only traces of carbonic acid and sulphuretted hydrogen, and therefore should consist of carbonated hydrogen and aëlian gas.—Brewster's Journal.

Improved Bedsteads, Sofas, &c.

This improvement, communicated to Mr. Perkins by a foreigner, is very simple and effective. The object of it is to keep the canvas bottom or sacking of a bed always in a proper state of tension. This is effected by making the two horizontal bars or rails to which the canvas is nailed, turn a little round their axis, by means of a lever. They are then held in the position, which of course stretches the canvas, by a click and ratchet wheel, which has also the effect of keeping the joints of the rails and mattress firmly together.

Singular Time-piece.

Mr. Robert Manzius, an ingenious watchmaker in Crief, and the author of several inventions in his profession, has contrived a time-piece of such singular simplicity, that with only two wheels and one pinion, the hours and minutes are indicated with the utmost accuracy; and in consequence of the smallness of the weight attached, (2 lbs.) the machinery is subject to comparatively little friction.

THE REFLECTOR.

Man—An Extract.—"What a curious object of contemplation to a superior being, who casts an eye over this lower world and surveys the busy, restless, and unceasing operations of the people who swarm upon its surface!—Let him select any one individual amongst us, and confine his attention to him as a specimen of the whole. Let him pursue him through the intricate variety of his movements, for he is never stationary; see him with his eye fixed upon some distant object, and struggling to arrive at it; see him passing forward to some eminence, which perpetually recedes away from him; see the inexplicable being, as he runs in full pursuit of some glittering bauble, and on the moment he reaches it, throws it behind him, and it is forgotten; see him, unimpaired of his past experience, hurrying his footsteps to some new object with the same eagerness and rapidity as ever—compare the eciacy of hope with the listlessness of possession, and observe the whole history of his day to be made up of one fatiguing race of vanity, and restlessness, and disappointment; and like the glittering of an idiot's toy, "Doth fancy mock his vows."

To complete the unaccountable history, let us look to its termination. Man is irregular in his movements; but this does not hinder the regularity of nature.—Time will not stand still to look at us. It moves at its own invariable pace. The winged moments fly in swift succession over us. The great luminaries which are suspended on high, perform their appointed round of heaven. The sun describes his circuit in the firmament; and the space of a few revolutions will bring every man among us to his destiny. He decrees gases abroad against the poor child of infirmity, and it hogs him in the full career of hope and enterprise. He sees the dark curtain of mortality falling upon the world, and upon all its interests. The busy, restless heart, so crowded with its plans, and feelings, and anticipations, forgets to play, and all its being and being anxieties are pushed forever.—Chalmers's Sermons.

Early application to Wisdom.

It is necessary to habituate our minds, in our younger years, to some employment which may engage our thoughts and fill the capacity of our souls at a tender age. For, however we roam from folly to folly, too volatile for rest, too soft and effeminate for industry, ever ambitious to make a splendid figure; yet the time will come when we shall outgrow the habit of childish amusements; and, if we are not provided with a taste of manly satisfaction to succeed in their room, we must of course become miserable at an age more difficult to be pleased. While men, however unthinking and unemployed, enjoy an insupportable flow of vigorous spirits; a constant succession of gay ideas, which flatter and support in the brain, makes them pleased with themselves, and with every frolic as trifling as themselves. But, when the ferment of their blood abates, and the freshness of their youth, like the morning dew, passes away, their spirits flag for want of entertainments more satisfactory in themselves and more suited to mature age; and the soul from a sprightly impetuosity, from quick sensations, and florid desires, subsides in a dead calm and sinks into a flat stupidity. The figure of a glowing imagination, the property of youth, may make folly look pleasing, and lend a beauty to objects which have none inherent in them; just as the sunbeams may paint a cloud, and diversify it with beautiful streams of light, however dark, unshining, and empty in itself. But nothing can shine with undiminished lustre but religion and knowledge, which are essentially bright. Take it therefore, for granted, which you will find by experience, that nothing can be long entertaining but what is in some measure beneficial; because nothing else will bear a calm and moderate review. You may be fancied for a while upon the account of good nature, the inseparable attendant upon the flush of sanguine health and a fulness of youthful spirits. But you will find, in process of time, that among the wise and good, useless good nature is the object of pity, illustration of hatred; but nature beautified and improved by an assemblage of moral and intellectual endowments, is the only object of a solid and lasting esteem.

Leaving off Wine.

Baber had made a resolution to leave off wine at forty years of age, and we find him the nearer he approaches to that period, as we do on that ground drinking the more copiously; at other times, he makes any brilliant prospect which raised his spirits the more; he was always accustomed to pitch his camp on an eminence, while his army occupied the valley below; he describes the appearance of his people's fires being so brilliant and beautiful, that in an undulating country he never could refrain from drinking wherever he halted. At length, one day, February 25th, 1527, as he was riding, he was, says seriously struck with the reflection, that he had always resolved, one time or another, to make an effectual repentance. "I said to myself, O my soul, how long wilt thou continue to take pleasure in sin? Repentance is not palatable—taste it!"—and he breaks his goblet and renounces wine for ever.—Westminster Review.

He that gives good advice, builds with one hand; he that gives good counsel and example, builds with both; but he that gives good admonition and bad example, builds with one hand and pulls down with the other.—Lord Bacon.

If I am asked who is the greatest man? I answer, the best;—and if I am required to say who is the best—I reply he who has deserved most of his fellow creatures.—Sir Wm. Jones.

At twenty years of age the Will reigns; at thirty the Wit; and at forty, the Judgment.—Gracian.

Repentance without amendment is like continual pumping without mending the leak.—Fuller.