

POETRY.

The Bald-Headed Tyrant.

BY MARY E. VANDYKE.

Oh! the quietest home on earth had I,
No thought of trouble, no hint of care;
Like a dream of pleasure the days flew by,
And Peace had folded her pinions there,
But one day there joined in our household band
A bald-headed tyrant from No-man's-land.

Oh, the despot came in the dead of night,
And no one ventured to ask him why:
Like slaves we trembled before his might,
Our hearts stood still when we heard him cry:
For never a soul could his power withstand,
That bald-headed tyrant from No-man's-land.

He ordered us here and he sent us there—
Though never a word could his small lips speak—
With his toothless gums and his vacant stare,
And his helpless limbs so frail and weak,
Till I cried, in a voice of stern command,
"Go up, thou bald-head from No-man's-land!"

But his abject slaves they turned on me;
Like the bears in Scripture they'd rend me there,
The while they worshipped with bended knee
This ruthless wretch with the missing hair;
For he rules them all with relentless hand,
This bald-headed tyrant from No-man's-land.

Then I searched for help in every clime,
For peace had fled from my dwelling now,
Till I finally thought of old Father Time,
And low before him I made my bow.
"Wilt thou deliver me out of his hand,
This bald-headed tyrant from No-man's-land?"

Old Time he looked with a puzzled stare,
And a smile came over his features grim,
"I'll take the tyrant under my care;
Watch what my hour-glass does to him.
The veriest humbug that ever was planned
Is this same bald head from No-man's-land."

Old Time is doing his work full well—
Much less of might does the tyrant wield;
But, oh! with sorrow my heart will swell
And sad tears fall as I see him yield.
Could I stay the touch of that shrivelled hand,
I would keep the bald-head from No-man's-land.

For the loss of Peace I have ceased to care;
Like other vassals I've learned, forsooth,
To love the wretch who forgot his hair
And hurried along without a tooth,
And he rules me, too, with his tiny hand,
The bald-headed tyrant from No-man's-land.
—(*Harper's Magazine for September.*)

THE JOURNAL OF EDUCATION.

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We have received a copy of the Report of a Committee appointed 9 November 1875, for the purpose of gaining information in regard to the Schools of Art established in the Cities of Boston and New-York. This Report is made to the members of the Council of Arts and Manufactures of the Province of Quebec, and we think it right

to give the following extracts therefrom showing the great utility and benefit to be derived from "Schools of Arts" several of which have been established in various parts of this Province.

Importance of the Study of Design.

An error generally fatal to the workman of whatever kind is to believe that he must, or, at least, that he may without inconvenience, remain in his ignorance; that his handiwork, a certain routine, a very limited amount of knowledge purely practical, effectively fill the place of conceptions of intelligence and protect him sufficiently against all competition. Although we put ourselves on guard against mere theories, we believe that there is no more salient danger than this complacent security of certain working classes, which, for some years past, has been at the bottom of all the strikes and of those intervals of idleness so disastrous for workmen's associations or corporations, and for commerce and industry at the same time. Intelligent labour is rarely without employment; crises affect it little. Stagnation is never total or universal. In a moment of depression, the little commerce which is transacted is that of merchandise produced according to the best laws of taste and wholesome economy, the price of raw material being otherwise equal. So also, a master seldom sends away his most skillful employees; the evil weighs only upon the less experienced, those who can be easily procured. Moreover, technical education to the advantage of the artisan is the prize of liberty, and even a necessity of the organisation of modern society.

In England in the time of Elizabeth, the *Statute of Apprenticeship* decreed that "No person should for the future exercise any trade, craft or mystery at that time exercised in England, unless he had previously served to it an apprenticeship of seven years, at least; and," adds Adam Smith, "what had before been the by-law of many particular corporations, became, in England, the general and public law of all trades carried on in market towns."

In France, the duration of apprenticeship varied according to towns. At Paris, the number of years of apprenticeship was generally five; but no person could become foreman or employer, in the greater portion of the industries, without having served five years more as journeyman, with the title of Companion. The author above-cited, Adam Smith, in his work, "*Wealth of Nations*," observes that "The policy of Europe occasions a very important inequality in the whole of the advantages and disadvantages of the different employments of labour and stock, by restraining the competition in some employments to a smaller number than might otherwise be disposed to enter into them. The exclusive privileges of corporations are the principal means it makes use of for this purpose."

As the question of artistic ability greatly interests industry, and it is of supreme importance not to be deceived as to the means to be taken to impress upon it a seal of superiority, it is not, perhaps, out of place to recall in what terms the same economist combats the system formerly pursued in Europe; for if we are convinced that this system is vicious, it is necessary, nevertheless, to find a substitute, and the solution of the question which the Council of Arts has proposed to this Committee becomes more easy; there will be no longer any reason for hesitating as to the urgency of the means to be taken for forming skillful artisans:—

"The institution of long apprenticeships can give no security that insufficient workmanship shall not fre