

The Advocate

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THE MOURNER.

"It is th Lord: let Him do what seemeth Him good"

Yes, mourn the dead, check not your tears,
Give the full heart relief;
Indulge awhile—'tis meet and right—
The luxury of grief.
Your heart's desire, by one swift stroke,
Is torn from earth away.
And all around is strange and sad,
Like darkness at noon-day.

Yet, 'mid thy first and bitter pang,
While nature pours her cries,
O let thy smitten, stricken soul,
To God, thy God, arise:
He gave, and He hath ta'en away—
Rest on His holy word,
And learn, with suffering saint,
To bless thy gracious Lord.

The grass grows on the loved one's grave,
The flowers are springing fast,
The first dark thunder-cloud of grief
From o'er thy head hath passed,
Aroused, as from a stunning blow,
'Thou rear'st at thy brow on high,
But O, the blank, the sad, sad blank,
Which meets the inquiring eye,

Where, where is he, the loved, the lost,
Who made thy home so bright?
Where are his looks of quiet love,
His eyes of joyous light?
His tones of truthful tenderness,
To comfort and to cheer?
That form on earth no more thou'lt see,
That voice no more wilt hear.

But hush all rebel murmurings—
'Thou beating heart, be still—
The Lord is ruler over all,
Obey his sovereign will.
How canst thou say, "His will be done,"
If, shrinking from his hand,
Thou turn'st, a puny worm of earth,
Against his high command?

Enough, the dead have had thy tears,
The living need thy care;
A sinner in a dying world,
No time hast thou to spare.
Up, pilgrim, to thy work again:
Sad, chastened, may'st thou feel;
But Christ to thee, in duty's path,
Will light and love reveal.

RUSSIAN SKETCHES—DOMESTIC LIFE.

Condensed from a Work by J. J. Von Lattrow.

The consumption of tea in Russia is enormous, and Von Lattrow says that the article is so cheap as to be within the means of the poorest classes, and that it is of a much better quality than that imported by England or Holland, which has its fine flavor impaired by a sea voyage. The Russians, he says, procure all their tea from Kiachta, whence it is carried overland; but we know that, of late years, at least, the English have regularly imported large quantities into Odessa, where they can considerably undersell the native

merchants, partly in consequence of the obstructive commercial policy of the government, and partly of its neglect to improve the means of internal communication. Sugar being very expensive, the humbler classes use honey instead of it. The Russian honey is cheap and of a delicious flavour, incomparably superior to the produce of our hives. It is of a green color, and is made by wild bees that inhabit the limen woods. Raisins are a very favorite appendage to the tea-table among the common people. The beverage is prepared in a tin or copper vessel called *samovar*, which is generally of an urn shape.

The moment a visitor enters a room, he is immediately followed by the *samovar*, which the servant brings in as matter of course, without waiting for special orders. The mistress of the house always takes her cups with her visitor, and as she receives many calls, particularly on Sundays and holidays, it is not at all unusual for her to drink upwards of twenty cups in the course of the day without feeling any inconvenience from it. The practice is carried to still greater excess by the men, especially by the petty traders. Often have I seen parties of these *kupzi*, just arrived from a journey, sitting down in their bear skin cloaks, covered with ice and snow, before a huge *samovar* and a great dish of raisins, and not quitting the table till both were empty. Each might have swallowed some two dozen cups during the sitting; and the perspiration caused by such a quantity of scalding hot liquid was so great, that the water ran in streams down their shaggy faces, which they were obliged to wipe and mop without ceasing. But they must have felt quite comfortable, for not one of them took off his heavy cloak to lighten, what seemed to me, his laborious work. The *samovar* is the Russian's constant accompaniment, and is to be found in the poorest hut. How often when on entering one of these, in which everything betokened great penury, I saluted the inmates with the usual question *kak zhiviosh?*—(How do you live?) I was answered with a phrase expressive of cheerful contentedness, which has become in a manner proverbial, *Slava Boga, kheb yest, samovar yest, nichevo ne nadumna*.—(Thank God, there is bread, there is the *samovar*, we want nothing more.)

Instead of being prejudicial to health, this free use of warm beverage is perhaps necessary to the preservation of life in such a climate.

It is not unusual for sitting rooms to be heated to 30° Reaumur, (99° Fahrenheit) whilst the temperature out of doors is as many below Zero. Now, as the inmates of such rooms must leave them more or less every day, and expose themselves to the open air, they thus undergo a sudden change of temperature of fully 60°, (135° Fahrenheit) which not even a Russian constitution can endure, unless peculiar precautions were taken. The middle-aged foreigner who settles in these regions, and chuses to adhere to the customs of his own warmer country, generally succumbs quickly to the severity of the climate. In Perm, for instance, a town that is south of the latitude of St. Petersburg, I was told by a young German, who had been settled there for six years, that not one of his countrymen whom he found there on his arrival, still survived. "Within these six years," he said, "I have followed more than twenty German fathers of families to the grave, and I should probably myself have had a like fate, if I had not arrived here in my twenty-third year, at an age when the constitution is sufficiently plastic to accommodate itself to new outward circumstances. The Russians," he added, "know this very well, and they look on every foreigner who comes amongst them in his fortieth year, as certainly destined to die soon. Thus the parents all die off prematurely, but their children in general thrive very well." The frequent and sudden exchange of a hot room for the cold outer air produces a malady peculiar to those northern regions, and which is the more appalling since it must be remedied on the instant, otherwise it will be rapidly fatal, or will end in a very distressing chronic malady. The strongest and healthiest man, if he puts one