

"Gold clasped the marble curve of her arms,  
It wound round her throat so fair,  
It coaxing drooped from her pearly ears,  
And rippling gold was her hair."

"*Dicken's Dogs; or, the Landseer of Fiction.*"

## AMERICAN PERIODICALS.

THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW—JULY, 1863.

"*The North American Review*" has now been published for more than forty years. It has long held a foremost place in the ranks of American periodical literature. The July number contains articles on

- I. Traits of Jean Paul Richter and his Titan.
- II. Peerages and Genealogies.
- III. The Chronology, Topography and Archæology of the life of Christ.
- IV. Liberia College. &c., &c.

"*Peerages and Genealogies.*"—The English nobility is of Norman origin. Few of the Saxon families survived the Conquest, and those which did were subjected to the feudal system, introduced by the Conqueror. The earliest honours were territorial, the counts or earls being governors of counties, with high authority, and the barons feudal tenants. All the tenants *in capite*, whether by knight's service or grand serjeantry, were required to give their attendance upon the sovereign at stated times, and at times to give advice. The transfer of the tenure to another person transferred the honours and duties to him. Thus were created barons *by tenure*, and such were all the great baronies of the earlier Norman kings. It has for a long time been in dispute whether the possession of one of these ancient baronies entitled the owner to a writ of summons to the House of Lords. The question was frequently raised, but never decided until two years ago, when Sir M. Berkeley claimed a summons as proprietor of Berkeley Castle, and it was then declared that baronies by tenure had long ceased to exist in England.

Baronies by writ of summons followed the tenure baronies. These were created by a writ of summons issued under the great seal to certain individuals to attend Parliament. Some persons were summoned regularly, others only occasionally, or even only once. The custom varied, also, as to the heirs of a first baron. But if a person summoned actually sat in Parliament, he acquired a barony in fee, which descended like real estate at common law, the males taking in succession, and the females together. In the latter case the barony falls into *abeyance*, and so continues until all the heirs but one