

## POETRY.

From the Novascotian.

RETURNING from the house of prayer,  
I went my lonely way;  
And thoughts that I can hardly bear—  
Oppress my soul to-day.

I think upon the time when last  
This very path I trod,  
With one, whose spirit since hath passed  
Through Death's dark gates to God

Thou wert beside me then my child,  
For whom I mourn in vain;  
With bounding feet whose motions wild—  
I scarcely might retain.

Thy merry prattle on mine ear,  
Like pleasant music fell:  
Alas! I never more shall hear  
The voice I loved so well.

I held in mine the mado hand,  
As nearer home we drew—  
And on this spot where now I stand,  
We paused and bade adieu.

I saw thee pass it once again,  
Ere many days had flown;  
Slow followed by the funeral train,  
And in thy coffin borne.

Breathless I gazed, and only cried,  
Oh, God! and can it be—  
Thou, who wert bounding at my side,  
So full of life and glee?

They pass'd, and then thy tears found way,  
And calmer beat my heart:  
But a shade fell on my soul that day,  
That may not soon depart.

M—Y.

March 24.

## MISCELLANY.

## THE EMPEROR AT THE PLOUGH.

ON the fifteenth day of the first moon, in every year, which generally corresponds to the first of March, the Emperor (of China), in person performs the ceremony of opening the Grounds. This Prince, in great pomp, proceeds to the field appointed for the ceremony: the princes of the imperial family, the presidents of the five great tribunals, and an infinite number of mandarins, accompanying him. Two sides of the field are occupied by the Emperor's officers and guards; the third is allotted for all the laborers of the province, who repair thither to behold their art honored and practised by the head of their Empire; the fourth is reserved for the mandarins.

The Emperor enters the field alone, prostrates himself, and nine times strikes his head against the ground, in adoration of Tien, the god of heaven; he pronounces with a loud voice, a prayer appointed by the tribunal of the rites, invoking the blessing of the Almighty Sovereign on his labor, and on the labor of his people, who form his family; he then, in quality of sovereign pontiff of the Empire, sacrifices a bullock, which he offers up to heaven, as the source of every blessing: whilst they cut the victim in pieces, and place them on the altar, they bring the Emperor a plough, in which are yoked a pair of bullocks magnificently adorned. The Emperor then, laying aside his royal robes, takes hold of the handle of the plough, and turns up several furrows the whole length of the field; then, with a complaisant air, having delivered the plough to the mandarins, they successively follow his example, emulating one another in performing this labor with the greatest dexterity. The ceremony concludes with the distribution of money, and pieces of stuff among the laborers there present; the most active of whom finish the remaining labor, in presence of the Emperor, with great agility and address.

Some time after when they have sufficiently labored, and manured their grounds, the Emperor repairs again, in procession, and begins the sowing of the field, al-

ways accompanied with ceremony, and attended by the laborers of the province.

The same ceremonies are performed on the same days, in all the provinces of the Empire, by the viceroys, assisted by all the magistrates of their departments, in presence of a great number of the laborers of their respective provinces. I have seen this opening of the grounds at Canton, (says the writer of this article,) and I never remember to have beheld any of the ceremonies invented by men, with half the pleasure and satisfaction with which I observed this.

**GLASS BEADS.**—Few persons probably are aware of the amount of trade carried on in this apparently insignificant article. We are told that from Venice, which contains the principal manufactory, whole ship loads are annually sent to different quarters. The principal customers for them, are the various savage tribes in our own Continent, in New Holland, the Pacific Islands, &c. This branch of the glass manufactory still remains to the Venetians, nearly the sole relic of their once boasted superiority in every department of the art. No other nation can rival her in regard to variety and beauty of color, or cheapness of production.

The glass-houses are erected on the island of Murano, about half a league from the city. The alkalis employed, are soda and potash, and the sand is found in abundance on the neighboring coast. The coloring matters are obtained from the mineral kingdom, and so varied that the beads present more than two hundred different shades. While the metal is in fusion the workman dips into it an iron tube, five feet long, and withdraws a certain portion of the adhesive mass. A hole corresponding to that of the tube, is then made through it. Two workmen having tubes thus prepared, join them together by the ends, and then separate them as rapidly as possible, stretching the paste between them. A tube is thus formed varying in length and fineness, according to the distance which can be attained before the glass cools.

In some instances the tube reaches one hundred feet in length, and becomes like the finest hair. They are divided into pieces of two feet in length, and then submitted to the bead maker, who with a sort of hatchet cuts them into fragments of a length to their diameter. These fall into a box full of powdered charcoal and clay, which gets into the beads and prevents their filling up when subjected a second time to the action of fire. Thus cut, and mixed with a certain quantity of this dust, they are put into an iron cylinder, sealed hermetically, and by means of a handle, are turned over the fire until the vessel acquires a red heat. The beads are then sufficiently softened to lose their asperities and become smooth by friction, and when taken out it remains only to wash and sort them—which last operation is effected by a series of sieves of different degrees of fineness. They are then given to women, who thread them in rows of six or seven inches long, and such is the rapidity with which this is practised, that the work can be procured at the rate of a little more than one cent for one hundred rows. This quantity sells at from four to ten cents.

**FAMILY PHYSICIANS.**—In Burmah when a young woman is taken ill, her parents agree with the physician, that if he cures the patient, he may have her for his trouble; but if she dies under his medicines, he is to pay them her value. It is stated that successful physicians have very large families of females who have become their property in this manner.

Some men are put into office on the same principle that a short piece of candle is put into a high candlestick. The less they are intrinsically, the higher they are raised in the world.

**COAL.**—An extensive bed of Anthracite coal has been discovered on the bank of the Hudson, in the town of Haverstraw.

**EXPANSIVE POWER OF FREEZING WATER.**—We remember reading an account of an experiment made at Woolwich in England, several years ago, which gave an amazing proof of the power in question. An iron thirty-two pounder was prepared with a plug, or tomion, 12 inches long, made to screw into the mouth of the piece with a very close and deep-cut worm, (or spiral groove); the cannon was filled with water, the plug screwed in, and moreover fastened with strong chains and ropes to the axles, and thus charged, it was exposed to the cold of a severe winter night. In the morning the chains were found broken, the worm destroyed, and the plug driven bodily out, while a cylinder of ice occupied half the space it had previously filled.

In Norway, it is a constant practice with the millstone quarriers to avail themselves of this irresistible force. They quarry out large cylinders of stone, long enough to make six or eight mill-stones of the usual thickness; then drill a number of holes, about 6 inches deep, in the circumference of the cylinder, so as to girdle it by rings of holes at the proper distances. Into these holes are driven wooden plugs, perfectly saturated with water, and the frost soon splits the cylinder into as many blocks as there are circles.

**HOUSEBREAKING.**—On Wednesday night, or Thursday morning last, the printing-office of Mr Smellie, Anchor Close, High street, was entered by some thieves, who had found admission by means of breaking a pane of glass in one of the windows, and withdrawing the bolt or screw by which it was fastened down. After ransacking the several desks and drawers of the establishment, they decamped almost as poor as when they went in, having, it would appear, found nothing more worthy of carrying off than an office-jacket belonging to Mr Smellie.—*Scotsman.*

**IMMENSITY.**—We are assured by Astronomers, that the distance of the nearest fixed star is so great, that the utmost measure we can apply to it—the diameter of the earth's orbit—a space of no less than 192,000,000 of miles—is absolutely too little to measure it by—is, in fact, contained within it so many times that the number cannot be counted!

**MINUTENESS.** On the other hand, we are assured, that the molecules of matter, of which the objects we see around us are composed, are so minute, that the one-thousandth part of an inch, a measure scarcely appreciated by the unassisted sight, is vastly too large to compare them with, and may, in fact, comprise millions of them!

"I cannot imagine," said Alderman H—, "why my whiskers should turn gray so much sooner than the hair on my head."—"Because you have worked so much more with your jaws than your brains," replied a wag.

**LOVE OF FAME.**—The love of fame not regulated by principle, is more dangerous to the welfare of society than the love of money.

**FOX HUNT.**—A Mr Fox (says an American paper,) was married to a Miss Hunt, last week, in Troy.

He that sets no value on a good repute, is careless of the actions that produce it.

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