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The Garland.

THE POLLY OF ATHEISM.

BY DR. DARWIN.

"I am fearfully and wonderfully made."

Dull Atheist! could a giddy dance
Of atoms lawless be left,
Construct so wonderful, so wise,
So harmonised a world?

Why do not Arab's driving sands,
The sport of every storm,
Fair freighted fleets, the child of chance,
Or gorgeous temples form?

Presumptuous wretch! thyself survey,
Thou lesser fabric scan;
Till me from whence th' immortal dust,
The god, the reptile man?

Where wast thou, when this pop'ulous earth
From chaos burst its way,
When stars exulting sang the morn,
And hail'd the new born day?

What, when the embryo speak of life,
The miniature of man,
Nurs'd in the womb, its slender form
To stretch and swell began?

Say, didst thou wrap the fibre woof?
Or mould the sentient brain?
Thy fingers stretch the living nerve?
Or fill the purple vein?

Didst thou then bid the bounding heart
In ecstasies begin?
Or clothe the flesh the hardening bones,
Or weave the silken skin?

Who bids the babe, to catch the breeze,
Expand his panting breast,
And with impatient hands outstretch,
The milky rill arrest?

Or who with unexpress'd love
The mother's bosom warms,
Along the rugged path of life
To bear it in her arms?

A God! the wide earth shouts,
A God! the heavens reply;
He moulded in his palm the world,
And hung it to the sky.

Lest we make man!—With beauty clad,
And health in every vein,
And reason thron'd upon his brow,
Stepp'd forth majestic man.

Around he turns his wand'ring eyes,
All nature's works surveys;
Admires the earth; the skies; himself,
And tries his tongue in praise.

Ye hills and vales! ye meads and woods!
Bright sun and glittering seas!
Fair creatures, tell me, if you can
From whence, and what I am?

What parent power, all great and good,
Do these around me own?
Tell me, creation, tell me how
Th' adore the vast Unknown!

MISCELLANEA.

CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE, FOR THE YEAR 1830.

[From the New-York Almanac.]

JANUARY.

- The weather is intensely cold, and the ground in the neighbourhood of London covered with snow several feet deep. The port of Havre, in France, frozen up, and the neighbouring sea covered with floating ice.
- A dense fog in London, which compels many of the inhabitants to burn candles during the day. Great distress among the poor from the severity of the season.
- The King of the Netherlands dismisses several officers of State for voting against the Budget. Great opposition to the Government in that country, and growing discontent.
- The cold still intense, the thermometer being frequently at 20.
- Lord Redesdale, after a short illness, dies at his seat in Gloucestershire, in the 89th year of his age. His Lordship had been successively Solicitor-General, Attorney-General, Speaker of the House of Commons, and Lord Chancellor of Ireland.
- Simon Bolivar resigns the Presidency of the Colombian Republic.
- Sir Thomas Lawrence is buried in St. Paul's Cathedral. The funeral was on a grand scale, and attended by a great many of the Nobility and gentry in London.
- Hinckinbrook Castle, the seat of the Earl of Sandwich, is destroyed by fire.
- The twelve Mayors of Paris, with the Prefect of the Seine at their head, present an Address to Charles X. in the name of the inhabitants, for the gift of 50,000 francs for the relief of the indigent. His Majesty goes to the opera in the evening, where he is received with the most enthusiastic greeting.
- The Right Hon. George Tierney dies suddenly at his house in Saville-row, aged 74.
- An immense Meeting is held at Birmingham for the purpose of taking into consideration the distress of the country, and forming a Political Union. More than 10,000 persons present.
- Three men frozen to death on the road from Paris to St. Cloud.
- Martin Arthur Shee, Esq. elected President of the Royal Academy.
- A son of Earl Spencer (a Clergyman of the Church of England) announces the Catholic religion.
- Both in this country and throughout Europe more snow has fallen during this month than in any preceding month for many years. The frost, particularly in the south of Europe, has been most intense. At Saragossa the shops and theatres were shut in consequence. The snow in the mountains in Savoy not less than 40 feet deep. Even at Naples there had been a considerable fall of snow, an event which had not occurred for a great number of years. Owing to the severity of the weather, there has been great distress among the poorer classes in England, which has been partially alleviated by voluntary subscription.

FEBRUARY.

- Mr. Barrie is appointed President of the Board of Trade, in room of Mr. Vesey Fitzgerald.
- Rendlesham House destroyed by fire—the damage computed at £100,000.
- Lord H. Seymour, uncle of the Marquis of Hertford, dies at the Isle of Wight, aged 85.
- The Plenipotentiaries of Great Britain, France, and Russia, offer the Government of Greece to Prince Leopold.
- Parliament is opened by Commission. In the Speech delivered by the Lord Chancellor his Majesty recommends to the consideration of both Houses improvements in the Law Courts—laments that distress prevails among the agricultural and manufacturing classes, though the reports of British produce had ex-

ceeded that of any preceding year and trusts that no pressure or temporary difficulty would deter them from maintaining public credit inviolate.

—The Address in the Lords is moved by the Duke of Buccleuch and seconded by the Earl of Darlington, and seconded by Mr. Ward. Amendments are moved in both Houses, which are negatived—in the House of Lords by 71 to 9, and in the Commons by 158 to 105.

—The Argyll Rooms burnt down.

—In Brittany the cold so severe that sentinels are frozen to death, and many dogs from want of water have gone mad. In the course of the night 165 poisoned by order of the Police.

7. Great sensation caused by the death of Lord Graves, who destroyed himself at his residence in Hanover-street.

8. De Potter, Editor of the *Courier Des Pays Bas*, committed to prison for a supposed libel.

10. It is announced that the French Government have determined to send an expedition against Algiers.

—The road between Dover and London impassable, in consequence of the snow and ice.

11. A discussion takes place in the House of Commons on the borough of East Retford, and a motion is made to transfer the franchise to Birmingham—negatived by a majority of 154 to 55.

16. The English Opera House burnt down.

18. A motion for Parliamentary Reform is made in the House of Commons, by the Marquis of Blandford, and negatived by a majority of 160 to 57.

23. Lord John Russell moves in the House of Commons for an extension of the elective franchise to Manchester, Leeds, and Birmingham. The motion is negatived by a majority of 188 to 140.

24. The Helen McGregor steam-hoat is blown up on the Mississippi, and causes the death of between 30 and 80 passengers.

DEFENCE OF DINNERS.

—England is a dining nation, and her people a dining people, as, indeed, Voltaire said long ago. What is there in way of show, of ceremony, of association, of charity, of pleasure, of conviviality, of business, in England, which is unaccompanied with a dinner? The coronation itself concludes with a dinner. Is not the King's speech first promulgated after dinner? With high and low, with great and small, eating is the soul and spirit of English society. Who that had not dined, and swallowed wine enough to digest his dinner, could make the speeches which we see reported as having been delivered at tavern meetings? Why did Sir George Saville himself, after attending Crown and Anchor banquets for years, in furtherance of his great passion for freedom, at length grow so disgusted with the undivided application of his colleagues and followers to those periodical feasting, as at last to declare it his opinion, that since they eat so much and did so little in the cause, they ought, instead of supporters of the bill of rights, to be called supporters of the bill of fare? It would be my Lord Mayor's show, if it were not for the dinner? The dinner is the sugar after the physic; nay, the propensity is not confined to human beings in the metropolis, nor to the mere pleasure of eating; the delight of seeing others eat is characteristic of a true Briton, and accordingly we find the galleries of tavern rooms crammed with the spectators of dinners, and find that at Piddcock's menagerie, an extra sixpence is charged for leave to look at the lions while they are feeding; in short, *Life in London* would be a dull work unless illustrated with plates. If this be the case, how shall a man attempt to describe London life, or life any where in England as it is, without talking of dinners? Follow the banker or the merchant into his smoky shop, or accompanying-house, in some narrow lane in the city, there he is, in his dimly lighted den, hovering about with a pen behind his ear, pale and wan, like the wax work in Westminster Abbey, dead and dressed; at half-past seven see him dining, the bright lights reflected from the shining dishes, his pallid countenance is absolutely illuminated, and joke and jest flow from his lips while he sits and enjoys his *entree*, and sips his silvery. Look at the wholesale trader, gloomy in his warehouses, cursing tallow for being dull, praying that saltpetre may look up, or that madder may be quoted as per last; what is he at dinner time? he flings tallow and care behind him; saltpetre and madder never enter his head; he is all smiles and good nature, and looks, by ten o'clock at night, as if he would lend his friend a hundred pounds to save him from hanging; next morning the tallow and the madder prevail again, and he is as dull and disagreeable as ever. The lover who is making the amiable, flies to dinner, and sits either near or opposite to her in whom all his hopes and wishes centre; the look unseen, the remark unheard by any but themselves, are all given and taken so well at dinner; a smile or a good wish comes conveyed in a glass of wine; and, an offer itself sometimes explodes with a detonating motto. See the farmer strike his bargains over fat bacon and cabbage. Mark the tradesman coming into his shop from his parlour, smelling of onions, and chewing, as he comes, the tough mutton which he as yet has scarcely had time to swallow. Go to the assizes, watch the care with which the judges' dinners are served, so as not to interfere with the condemnation of culprits or the convenience of jurors! In short, for where could we stop! eating is the universal employment of our countrymen, and as has been before observed, so much time is devoted to the operation, and occupied by it, and it is, in fact, so vitally interwoven with English society, that to give any thing like a faithful sketch of passing events, dinners must be served up on paper as well as in parlours.—*Maxwell, by Mr. T. Hook.*

ADVANTAGES OF MACHINERY.

—In 1760, Richard Arkwright, a barber of Preston, invented the principal part of the machinery for spinning cotton, and by so doing, he gave bread to about two millions of people, instead of fifty thousand; and, assisted by subsequent inventions, raised the importation of cotton wool from India from less than two millions of pounds per annum, to two hundred millions; set in motion six millions of spindles, instead of fifty thousand; and increased the annual produce of the manufacture from two hundred thousand pounds sterling to thirty-six million pounds. We make it cheaper, and we make it better. The trade in cotton, as it exists in the present day, is the great triumph of human ingenuity. We bring the raw material from the country of the people who grow it, on the other side of our globe we manufacture it by our machines into articles which we used to buy from them ready made; and taking back those articles to their own markets, encumbered with the cost of transport for 14,000 miles, and encumbered also with the taxes which the state has laid upon it in various ways, we sell it to these very people cheaper than they can produce it themselves, and they buy it therefore with eagerness. Mark, therefore if the cotton-spinners of Lancashire had triumphed sixty years ago over Arkwright's machinery, there would not have been a single man, woman, or child of those spinners employed at all, within twenty years after that most fatal triumph.—The manufacture of cotton would have gone to other countries; cotton spinning in England would have been at an end. The same thing would have happened if the power-loom twenty years ago, had been put down by combination; that is, if the hand-loom weavers had not been so well informed and as reasonable as we see they are. Mr. Fielden says, "The introduction of the power-loom, I conceive, will be the cause of saving the manufactures to this kingdom; without the power-loom, the Americans are making use of the power-loom."—*Results of Machinery.*

INIGENIA OF THE ADMINISTRATION.

—In the two little words Economy and Reform the whole definition and eulogium of the system of government is comprised. These are the two stars which must illumine the stormy and perilous course on which the government is now embarking—these are dazzling gems which they have placed aloft on their forehead—the anulets which they have bound on their invincible arms—the spells and phylacteries, in the potency and virtue of which they go forth against tumult and corruption conquering and to conquer—these are the true supporters of their proud emblazonry—the lion and the unicorn—which uphold the red-cross shield of Britain—the buckler and banner of the free. Economy and Reform are the two pillars on which the new system is founded, the cardinal principles on which the government rests its claims, and puts itself on its country for trial—demanding a patient and fair trial. These are the two great arteries through which the life blood of the land finds its regular and salutary way to the heart, which sustains, and which by its own vital energy throws it back again to the extremities of the body.—*The Lord Advocate's Speech at Dundee.*

FIRST INFORMATION OF THE EXISTENCE OF THE PACIFIC OCEAN.

—The eldest son of the cacique Comagre was of a lofty and generous spirit, and distinguished above the rest by his superior intelligence and sagacity. Perceiving, says old Peter Martyr, that the Spaniards were a "wandering kind of men, living only for shifts and spoil" he sought to gain favour for himself and family by gratifying their avarice. He gave Vasco Nunez and Colmenares, therefore, 4,000 ounces of gold, wrought into various ornaments, together with sixty slaves, being captives that he had taken in the wars. Vasco Nunez ordered one fifth of the gold to be weighed out and set apart for the crown, and the rest to be shared among his followers. The division of the gold took place in the porch of the dwelling of Comagre, in the presence of the youthful cacique who had made the gift. As the Spaniards were weighing it out a violent quarrel arose among them as to the size and value of the pieces which fell to their respective shares. The high-minded savage was disgusted at this discordant brawl among beings whom he had regarded with such reverence. In the first impulse of his disdain he struck the scales with his fist, and scattered the glittering gold about the porch. Before the strangers could recover from their astonishment at this sudden act, he thus addressed them: "Why should you quarrel for such a trifle? If this gold is, indeed, so precious in your eyes, that for it alone you abandon your homes, invade the peaceful lands of others, and expose yourselves to such sufferings and perils, I will tell you of a region where you may gratify your wishes to the utmost. Behold those lofty mountains," continued he, pointing to the south; "beyond these lies a mighty sea, which may be discerned from their summit. It is navigated by people who have vessels almost as large as ours. All the streams which flow down the southern side of those mountains into that sea its borders eat and drink out of golden vessels. Gold, in fact, is as plentiful and common among those people of the south as iron is among you Spaniards."—*Family Library, XVIII.*

THE WHALE.

—The whale, in attempting to escape, sometimes exerts prodigious strength, but inflicts upon its pursuers not only danger but the loss of their property. In 1812, a Whoby, struck a whale on the margin of a floe. Supported by a second boat, they felt much at their ease, there being scarcely an instance in which the assistance of a third was required in such circumstances. Soon however, a signal was given for more line, and as Mr. Scoresby was pushing with his utmost speed, four oars were raised in signal of the

most distress. The boat was now seen with its bow on a level with the water, while the harpooner, from the friction of the line, was enveloped in smoke. At length, when the relief was within a hundred yards, the crew were seen to throw their jackets upon the nearest ice, and then leap into the sea; after which the boat rose into the air, and making a majestic curve, disappeared beneath the waves, with all the line attached to it. The medially commenced, and the whale being traced through narrow and intricate channels when three harpoons were darted at him.—The line of two other boats was then run out, when, by an accidental entanglement, it broke, and enabled the whale to carry off in all about four miles of rope, which, with the boat, were valued at £150. The daring fishers again gave chase, the whale was seen but missed; a third time it appeared, and it was reeled; two more harpoons were struck, and the animal being plied with lances, became entirely exhausted, and yielded to its fate. It had by that time drawn out 10,440 yards, or about six miles of line. Unluckily, through the disengagement of a harpoon, a boat and thirteen lines, nearly two miles in length, were detached and never recovered.—*Edinburgh Cab. Library.*

BEER.

—That the ancients were acquainted with wine is universally known. The knowledge must have been nearly coeval with the origin of society; for we are informed in Genesis that Noah, after the flood, planted a vineyard, and made wine, and got intoxicated by drinking the liquid which he had manufactured. Beer also is a very old manufacture.—It was in common use among the Egyptians, in the time of Herodotus, who informs us that they made use of a kind of wine made from Barley, because no vines grew in their country. Tacitus informs us, that in his time it was the drink of the Germans. Pliny informs us that it was made by the Gauls, and by other nations. He gives the name of *cerevisia* or *cerevisia*; the name obviously alluding to the grain from which it was made. But though the ancients seem acquainted with both wine and beer, there is no evidence of their having ever subjected these liquids to distillation, and of having collected the products. This would have furnished them with ardent spirits, or alcohol, of which there is every reason to believe they were entirely ignorant.—*National Library.*

INDUSTRIALITY OF MASTER.

—The destruction by fire is most striking: in many cases, as in the burning of a piece of charcoal or a taper, there is no smoke, nothing visibly dissipated and carried away; the burning body wastes and disappears, while nothing seems to be produced but warmth and light, which we are not in the habit of considering as substances; and when all has disappeared, except perhaps some trifling ashes, we naturally enough suppose it is gone, lost, destroyed. But when the question is examined more exactly, we detect, in the invisible stream of heated air which ascends from the glowing coal of flaming wax, the whole ponderable matter, only united in a new combination with the air, and dissolved in it. Yet, so far from being thereby destroyed, it is only become again what it was before it existed in the form of charcoal or wax, an active agent in the business of the world, and a main support of vegetable and animal life, and is still susceptible of running again and again the same round, as circumstances may determine; so some identical atom may be concealed for thousands of centuries in a limestone rock; may at length be quarried, set free in the it by plants, and, in succession, become a part some concurrence of events consign it once way infits it from again resuming its former activity.—*Herschel's Discourse on Natural Philosophy, in Dr. Lardner's Cyclopaedia, Vol. XIV.*

CURIOUS METHOD OF SPLITTING ROCKS.

—In the granite quarries near Seringapatam the most enormous blocks are separated from the solid rock by the following neat and simple process.—The workman having found a portion of the rock sufficiently extensive, and situated near the edge of the part already quarried, lays bare the upper surface, and marks on it a line in the direction of the intended separation, along which a groove is cut with a chisel about a couple of inches in depth.—Above this groove a narrow line of fire is then kindled, and maintained till the rock below is thoroughly heated, immediately on which a line of men and women, each provided with a pot full of cold water, suddenly sweep off the ashes, and pour the water into the heated groove, when the rock at once splits with a clean fracture. Square blocks of six feet in the side, and upwards of eighty feet in length, are sometimes detached by this method. Such a block would weigh nearly 500,000 pounds.—*Idem.*

STARCH.

—The manufacture of starch was known to the ancients. Pliny informs us that it was made from wheat and from *siligo*, which was probably a variety or sub-species of wheat. The invention of starch is ascribed by Pliny to the inhabitants of the island of Chio, where in his time the best starch was still made.—Pliny's description of the method employed by the ancients of making starch is tolerably exact. Next to the China starch that of Crete was most celebrated; and next to it was the Egyptian. The qualities of starch were judged by the weight; the lightest being always reckoned the best.—*National Library.*

THE OLYMPIC GAMES.

—So mutable are human affairs, so short is the comparative duration of the mightiest dynasties and empires, that the Olympic games, by the mere fact of their having continued in unbroken quinquennial celebration for a thousand years from the verities of their revival, command a sort of reverence, and excite a feeling of involuntary pleasure and oblivion. Loyalty and ennobling, and awaken, are all the associations connected with them. Kings and powerful states were often competitors of these illustrious sports, the periodical recurrence of which the whole civilized world looked forward with an intensity of expectation that absorbed every other thought and pursuit. Public and private business was forgotten, the fiercest wars were suspended, a universal truce was proclaimed by sea and land, that all mankind might travel in safety to Olympia, and regard nothing but the paramount, the supreme object of attention—the festival. And all this has passed away like a dream, which, however glorious and magnificent while it lasted, leaves not a shadow behind!—*National Library, vol. 6.*

UNCHANGABLE COSTUME.

—The Asiatic people never change the fashion of their dress. From one generation to another the same forms, folds, decorations, and colours descend unvaried. They never laugh at their grandmothers, and are totally inapprehensive of the humour of quizzing an old square-toe. They have a notion of a by-gone age, and they partake of the universal feeling of veneration for the wisdom and virtue of the good old times, but it is altogether a moral and not a formal notion. They have no peculiarly quaint form in which they dress out ancient virtue. They have no picturesque recollection of high-crowned hats, or flowing periwigs, or tattered waistcoats, or high-heeled shoes, or head-dresses grazing the moon. The Father of the Faithful were precisely the same kind of turban and vest as are now worn by the gayest dandy of a Mussulman.—*Asiatic Jour.*

LIBERALITY OF THE POLISH JEWS.

—Among the many signs of public enthusiasm for liberty in Warsaw, we notice one which is of a very gratifying character. The Jews have not only contributed with great liberality to the fund raised by the patriots, but they have started a newspaper in the Jewish language, in which the cause of freedom is warmly advocated. The second number of this paper, which is called the *Israelita Polki*, dated December 30, is now before us. It states that the utmost confidence is placed in the Dictator, and that all classes are enthusiastic in the cause of freedom. Amongst its new paragraphs it announces that a new corps of 2,400 infantry and cavalry, to be called the "Children of Warsaw," has been raised; and that the Adjutant of the Dictator has left Warsaw with despatches for St. Petersburg.—The co-operation of the Jews with the Polish Patriots of a different creed, is not confined to contributions of money, and attempts to excite a general feeling in their favour—there are in the Polish army about 2,000 Jewish cavalry, who are said to be equal in appearance to any troops in Europe.—*London Courier.*

GREEK ANTIQUITIES IN INDIA.

—The Chevalier Ventura, formerly in the French army, and now a general in the service of Rungt Singh, was encamped, in April last, near Manekala, or Maneyala, where there are the ruins of a large city. The place is seventy-two miles east of the Indus, and thirty or forty west of the Jylum or Hydaspes, in lat. 33° 23' north, and long 73° 15' east. In the *Elphinstone's Cabul*, the very remarkable stone cupola, on the top of a solid mound, which is believed by the natives to have been built by the gods, is described as bearing a much greater resemblance to Greek than to Hindoo architecture. General Ventura made an opening into the cupola, and on digging three feet, he found six medals; and at intervals the workmen came to a chamber of hewn stone, twelve feet square. The excavation was continued to the depth of the six feet, and another opening was afterwards made in the north side of the cupola, and more than eighty medals were found. Most of them were copper, but some were gold and silver. There were also other curiosities, rings, and boxes containing liquids. We understand that the Chevalier intends to transmit an account of his praiseworthy labours and discoveries to the Asiatic Society. Perhaps this may be the site of some of the cities that were founded by Alexander or Felencus in the dominions of Taxiles.—*Er Gou Harkara.*

MUSIC.

—"Whoever despises music," said Martin Luther, "I am displeased with him. Next to Theology, I give a place to music; for thereby all anger is forgotten, the devil is driven away, and melancholy, and many tribulations, and evil thoughts, are expelled. It is the best solace for a desponding mind."

A family near Somerton is now consuming a Cheddar-cheese, thirty years old, and which is quite sound and good. The circumstances which occasioned its being kept so long, is the following: About thirty years ago, a farmer went up stairs and found his wife examining her stock of cheese, and, on asking what she was about, received for reply that she was looking out for a cheese to be eaten at her funeral. Well, says the husband, if this be the case, I might as well look out one for mine also. The wife died a few years ago, and the husband a few weeks since. All who have tasted this aged cheese speak of its excellence.—*Each Journal.*

Mr. J. M. H. H. H.