

POETRY

THE CLOSE OF THE YEAR.

The flowers were all faded, the branches were bare. The foliage was fled, and its beauty was sere; The first falling snow flutter'd light in the air, And December's chill gales sigh'd the knell of the year.

A LAY OF REAL LIFE.

Who ruined me ere I was born, Sold every acre, grass or corn, And left the next year all forlorn? My Grandfather.

But at the stall the coin was bad? My Godfather. Who gratis shared the social glass, But when misfortune came to pass, Referred me to the pump? Alas! My Friend.

CASE OF A LOST CHILD.

On Thursday a case came on before the Recorder and Aldermen, at the adjourned Quarter Sessions which excited considerable interest. Upon the 22nd of June a female child about two years old, was found standing in the parish of St. Mary, Ethelburga, and was not owned.

RESOLUTIONS WHEN I COME TO BE OLD BY SWIFT.

1. Not to marry a young woman. 2. Not to keep young company unless they really desire it. 3. Not to be peevish, or morose, or suspicious. 4. Not to scorn present ways, or wits or fashions, or men, or war, &c. 5. Not to be fond of children. 6. Not to tell the same story over and over and over to the same people.

Mr Bodkin said that humanity had nothing to do with the question. The point was simply who ought to support the child? He certainly could not see why his clients should...

The fruit woman said the child was wandering about for two hours previously, and appeared to have come from Bishopsgate Without. Witness knew all the children in the neighbourhood, and knew that the child in question was not one of them.

Mr Payne.—It is really too bad to attempt to get over this by a quibble. The Recorder.—Cannot the child be delivered to the Overseers de novo? Mr Payne.—They will not take it.

Mr Bodkin.—There is no pretence for sending the child to us. We shall have nothing to do with it. Mr Payne.—We say, that where the child was dropped, the parish is obliged to support it.

Mr Bodkin.—Give us a precedent to show that there is any obligation upon us.

Mr Payne quoted a case in Burns; but it was said by the Recorder not to bear upon the question.

After some further observations from Counsel. The Recorder said that good sense and good feeling were certainly in favour of the order of the Lord Mayor and his brother magistrate; but no authorities had been produced in support of the decision of the Magistrates.

Swift in his journeys on foot from Dublin to London, was accustomed to stop for refreshment or rest at the neat little ale houses on the road's sides. One of these, between Dunchurch and Daventry, was formerly distinguished by the sign of the three crosses, in reference to the three intersecting ways, which fixed the site of the house.

To the Landlord. There hang three crosses at thy door; Hang up thy wife and she'll make four.

RESOLUTIONS WHEN I COME TO BE OLD BY SWIFT.—These resolutions seem to be of that kind which are easily formed, and the propriety of which we really admit at the time we make them, but secretly never design to put them in practice.

TERMINATION OF WORDS IN "LING."—Here is a complete specimen how much VIVE LA BAGATELLE was a favourite of Swifts. He says, "I have been very curious in considering that fruitful word LING, which explains many fine qualities in ladies; such as grow-ling, rai-ling, tip-ling, (seldom) toi-ling, numb-ling, grumb-ling, cur-ling, puzz-ling, bust-ling, strow-ling, romb-ling, quarrel-ling, tait-ling, whiff-ling, dab-ling, doub-ling."

7. Not to be covetous. 8. Not to neglect decency or cleanliness, for fear of falling into nastiness. 9. Not to be over severe with young people, but to give allowances for their youthful follies and weaknesses. 10. Not to be influenced by, or give ear to, knavish flatterers or to others.

11. Not to be too free of advice, nor trouble any but those who desire it. 12. To desire some good friends to inform me which of these resolutions I break or neglect, and wherein; and reform accordingly.

13. Not to talk much, nor of myself. 14. Not to boast of my former beauty or strength, or favour with ladies, &c. 15. Not to hearken to flatteries, or believe I can be beloved by a young woman.

16. Not to be positive or opiniative. 17. Not to set up for observing all these rules, for fear I should observe none.

Swift dining at a house where the part of the table cloth which was next him happened to have a small hole, tore it as wide as he could, and eat his soup thro' it; his reason for such behaviour was, as he said, to martyr the lady of the house, and to teach her to pay a proper attention to housewifery.

Roger Cox.—We have already described Roger's dress. The scarlet waistcoat soon caught Swift's eye; Roger bowed, and observed that he wore scarlet because he belonged to the church militant!

Swift's Charity.—One cold morning a poor ancient woman sat at the deanery steps a considerable time, during which the Dean saw her through a window, and no doubt commiserated her desolate condition. His footman happened to go to the door, and the poor creature besought him to give a paper to his reverence—the servant read it, and told her his master had something else to do than to mind her petition.

The man afterwards went to sea, which way of life he did not much like; and on his return he solicited from the Dean such a character as he thought he ought to give him; telling the Dean at the same time, he was sure the honour of having lived in his service would procure him a place; accordingly the Dean called for pen, ink, and paper, and wrote what follows:

Whereas the bearer served me the space of one year, during which time he was an idler, and a drunkard; I then discharged him as such; but how far his having been five years at sea may have mended his manners, I leave to the penetration of those who may choose hereafter to employ him. J. SWIFT. Deanery House, January 9th, 1789.

With this certificate the man left Dublin, and came to London, where he applied to Mr Pope, who took him into his service, upon his producing a testimonial of his being the identical man for whom the paper was written, and continued in his service until Mr Pope's death.

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