

## POETRY.

## THE DESERTED HOME.

On 'lonely is my Island home,  
How else can it appear!  
I think of those dear absent ones,  
And shed a silent tear.

It was not so in former days,  
When friends I loved so well,  
Did round the cheerful fire sit,  
And pleasant stories tell.

The happy hours flew swiftly by,  
We mark'd not old times' hand—  
Our hearts were full of youthful glee,  
And thoughts of fairy-land.

But time was never known to fail  
In working out his ends—  
The sporting child, who makes a man—  
The man, to old age bends.

His scythe is always sharp and keen,  
The bonds of love to sever;  
He has our dearest parents freed  
From this dear world for ever.

O God! in mercy hear the prayer  
Which from my heart is given,  
And grant that we may meet again  
Where glory's thine in Heaven.

## SPRING.

Spring! spring! beautiful spring,  
Hitherward cometh like hope on the wing—  
Pleasantly looketh on streamlet and flood,  
Raiseth a chorus of joy in the wood;  
Touchech the bud; and it bursts into bloom;  
Biddeth the beautiful rise from the tomb;  
Blesseth the heart like a heavenly thing;  
Spring! spring! the beautiful spring!

Song—sweetly salutes the morn!  
The robin awaketh and sits on the thorn,  
Timidly warbles, while yet in the east  
Twilight looketh on streamlet and flood;  
Galleth the lark, that ascendeth on high,  
Greeting the sun in the depths of the sky,  
Telleth the musical blackbird to sing—  
Welcome! oh welcome! beautiful spring!

Life! love! in gladness serene,  
Wander in innocence over the green;  
Dwell in the garden, and mead-w, and wood;  
Sing on the mountain, and shine in the flood;  
Smile on the bud as it bursts into bloom,  
Welcome the beautiful fresh from the tomb;  
How the heart bleareth each fair living thing!  
Spring! Spring! beautiful spring!

GIVE ME THE HAND.  
Give me the hand that is warm, kind and ready  
Give me the clasp that is calm, true, and steady  
Give me the hand that will never deceive me;  
Give me the grasp that I may believe thee.  
Soft is the palm of the delicate woman;  
Hard is the hand of the rough, sturdy yeoman;  
Soft palm or hard hand, it matters not—never  
Give me the grasp that is friendly for ever.

Give me the hand that is true as a brother;  
Give me the hand that has harm'd not another  
Give me the hand that has never before it;  
Give me the grasp, that I may adore it.  
Lovely the palm of the fair, blue veined maid—  
Horny the hand of the workman or errand;  
Lovely or ugly, it matters not—never  
Give me the grasp that is friendly for ever.

Give me the grasp that is honest and hearty,  
Free as the breeze and unshackled by party;  
Let friendship give me the grasps that become  
her,  
Close as the twine of the vines of the summer,  
Give me the hand that is true as a brother;  
Give me the hand that has wronged not another;  
Soft palm or hard hand, it matters not—never  
Give me the grasp that is friendly for ever.

SABBATH SCHOOLS. The little seed which Robert Raikes sowed in Gloucester, sprang up and spread its branches far abroad; and before his death thousands of children, in England, found a shelter under its boughs. A shoot from this tree was transplanted to this country. Here it found a genial soil, and rapid has been its growth, till thousands and hundreds of Thousands of children in this land, are now reposing in its refreshing shade.

DEATHBED REPENTANCE. It is very dangerous as well as wicked, to defer repentance and preparation for death, to a dying bed. Out of the many reasons why it is dangerous, that might be mentioned, we will now give but this one: The anxiety of friends and physicians for the recovery of the sick, often leads them to conceal from him the alarming character of his illness, till the last moment, when it is too late to make any preparation.

## MEXICO AND THE UNITED STATES.

Mexico, conquered by Cortes, misgoverned by the Spaniards, worse ruled by the revolutionists, appears likely to become at length the prey of the restless Anglo-Saxons of North America, who have, to quote their own emphatic statement been only prevented from appropriating it long since, by the reflection that south of the Rio Grande del Norte the country is too dry and too warm for agricultural purposes. Doubtless among the better and more honourable-minded American politicians, arguments of a more lofty character have had due weight. We instance Mr. Everett, who suggests that all disputes between the rival republics may be settled in an amicable manner. The fate of this fair but unhappy division of the globe has been singularly unfortunate. Darkness clings to both extremes of its history; its ancient story is wrapped in the gloom of uncertainty; its colonial state was chequered and unhappy, while its revolutionary tale is one of blood and rapine. Enjoying rare natural advantages, bathed by two oceans, rising from one and sloping to the other, with, on the same parallel of latitude, every variety of climate—here the graceful palm, there the eternal ice—with a deep blue sky above, and ever-during spring in its valleys below, capital of bringing forth for the use of its inhabitants every production which in other lands have to be sought for in various corners of the earth, with an inexhaustible supply of the precious metals, and a numerous population—seven millions and a half—we should natural expect consequences most encouraging to the great cause of humanity and enlightenment. As, however, such is not the case, and the Mexicans are in reality centuries behind the age, we must look for the reasons, which have induced this anomalous state of things. The over-abundance of gold and silver, tempting to idleness, the devotion of the people to mining, to the exclusion of agricultural pursuits, a system of narrow commercial policy, no manufactures to supply what they refuse to receive from without, are in part rather results than active causes. Ignorance, superstition of the most delusive and gross character, the degeneracy of the two races, native and Spanish, and the restless ambition and blood-thirsty character of its politicians, without honour or patriotism, the profligacy, open and avowed, of its priesthood, are the great stumbling-blocks in the way of Mexico becoming a prosperous country. It is yet to be seen whether, in the present moment of peril, the national will can find nobler exponents.

At the date of the conquest, the Aztecs, or people of Mexico, had attained a very surprising degree of civilization. Their Government, civil and criminal laws, their arts and sciences and Mechanical skill, their disciplined armies and well appointed garrisons even the complex machinery of their sanguinary religion—a religion of human sacrifice—not always wise ones, further on the road to civilization than any other people on the North American continent. The Spaniards overthrew their empire, at one blow arrested the progress of their peculiar system of improvement, substituting the rule of military adventurers, and priests more anxious to destroy the records of Aztec antiquity, and to make nominal converts, than to educate the people in the precepts and practice of an enlightened faith. The adventurers too were not of the highest class of morality; men of broken fortunes, old rakes, riotous youths, guerilla soldiers, the very offal of Spain—these were in a great measure the conquerors of Mexico. The result rigidly in accordance with all experience. The Mexicans, treated as an inferior, conquered, slavish race, became degenerated from the mere force of position. None but Spaniards were eligible for any offices, civil, military, ecclesiastical; the conquerors were the nation, the millions beneath a mere servile crew, fit to labour in the mines, and to pinch to fill the ranks of the army. Nor has the system much altered, except that now the creoles have the upper hand. In the unrestrained passions of the governing party, secretly lurked the rod which at length severely punished their oppression. While the Indians were treated with severity, their wives, sisters, and daughters enjoyed too much of Spanish favour, and hence, arose often, it must be allowed, by marriage, but often from lawless intercourse, that race of Creoles, or mixed bloods, who wrested Mexico from Spain, and who are now quarrelling among themselves for the mastery. By a not unnatural result of former misrule, when in the early part of the present century these offspring of Spanish fathers began their struggle for independence, to be a Spaniard was to be guilty of a crime, and many advocates were found for a general massacre of Europeans. A French aristocrat during the reign of Terror, was not much worse off.

To understand the present position of Mexico, and its capabilities of coping with the United States, as well as for rightly comprehending the grounds of the quarrel which has caused the sword between the two republics, it is necessary briefly to sketch the history of the former since the day of its severance from Spain. Various efforts were from time to time made for this purpose, in the beginning of this century, stimulated by the French revolution, but none of any real consequence until 1820, when Agustine de Iturbide, an officer universally respected, was induced to take upon himself the task of cutting the Gordian knot that linked Mexico with the mother country. This man, who, we have every reason to believe, had zealously the good of his country at heart, employed the latter end of that year in organizing a plan, which in February, 1821, was published as the plan of Iguala. It was a document declaring Mexico independent from Spain, but offering the crown of the new country to Ferdinand VII., or in default of his accepting it, successively to the Infantes Don Carlos and Don Francisco de Paula. The plan was to a certain extent successful, for, without any of the usual horrors of civil war, the country was free, and transformed from a colony into an empire. The Spanish governor surrendered to Iturbide, and, after the organization of the provisional government, the most liberal and capable Spaniards were elevated to the highest stations. A junta was appointed, to fill which men of the highest reputation were selected from all parties, while such was the enthusiasm of the people, that Iturbide was only prevented from being declared emperor by his absolute refusal. Had he been the man of genius which some of his friends describe him to be, he would have accepted at once, and have formed a strong government, the only one suited to a population like that which he led. For democracy they were totally unfit; a representative system was little better than a solemn farce; nor one man in ten knew what a vote meant; but many and well-meaning politicians, belonging to the constitution of the United States working wonderfully by their side, thought that it would be quite sufficient to have a paper code and everything would work well of itself. A republican party, a Bourbon party, and one in favour of making Iturbide emperor, therefore arose. With regard to the former it is more fully remarked that as in nature nothing is produced by sudden leaps, intermediary degrees being required; so in the moral world. To imagine, indeed, that a nation could emerge from a state of debasing slavery and ignorance, consequent on three hundred years of oppressing, to a sufficient knowledge of self-government, was a fatal error of the few honest democrats of Mexico. Nations spring not from babyhood to man's estate at one leap but reach maturity only after a long series of self-denials and suffering. The correctness of those who stated that Mexico was not fit for self-government, was at once made manifest by the defective and partial action of the junta on the election laws. The authorities were allowed to return the members, or at all events such loopholes were left as enabled designing men to vitiate every one of the elections. A turbulent, corrupt and unpatriotic congress was hence returned, who wasted eight months in debates on vain forms, and in voting honours to revolutionary leaders. The people who were yearning for wise legislation, grew disgusted, and perceiving that congress aimed at overthrowing their saviour Iturbide, proclaimed him emperor by one sudden impulse, conjointly with the army. He accepted, and was inaugurated amid universal rejoicings, the since celebrated Brigadier Santa Anna being 'one of the prime workers of the imperial movement. Peace, internal prosperity, and tranquillity followed, but jealousy soon stirred up ambitious men against the idol of the people, and conspiracies, taking root in the bosom of the house of representatives, were of constant occurrence, which induced the emperor to dissolve that body, forty-five being retained as a junta during the elections.

Meanwhile, Santa Anna, offended at a just decision of the emperor against him, raised the standard of revolt, and though at first defeated, succeeded by the treachery of the Imperial Generals in gaining sufficient power to march on the capital. Disgusted with the lukewarmness of friends, and poverty by blood, Iturbide abdicated and went in voluntary exile to Italy. A constitution was now proclaimed in nearly all things resembling that of the United States, except that trial by jury was not granted. Roman Catholicism was declared the only religion, and unlike the Yankees, that all colours were equal—Guadalupe Victoria, the ablest republican in Mexico, was its first president. Under his administration, it was that the Americans were allowed to colonize Texas, the door being thus opened, by the infusion of restless spirits into the plains lying between the Sabine and Rio Grand, to the present unhappy state of things. For a brief period, Mexico now enjoyed the blessings of order and good government, and perhaps, but for the intriguing ambition of Santa Anna, would long have continued to do so. This man, who had elevated Victoria's simple as a *lorum tenens*, as he hoped, for himself, endeavoured again to stir up a civil war, in which attempt, however, he signally failed. But the period of the election of a chief magistrate approached, and two candidates took the field, Gomez Pe-

dreza and Guerrero; the former supported by the York Lodge and Free Masons, and professing republican views; the latter by the Scotch Lodge, who were Monarchists. The election was a bloody struggle over the whole republic, and ended in the selection of Pedraza by a majority of one vote in the electoral college. Santa Anna at once took the field, declared the majority the result of a trick, and Guerrero legally elected president. Pedraza was disposed, and his rival took the chair, with Santa Anna as minister of war; but the triumph was short-lived. Bustamante, one of Guerrero's creatures, turning against him, levying an army, and having deposed the usurper, he was executed. Bustamante was now president, but Santa Anna, who never lost sight of the grand object of his life, the rule of his country, soon declared against him, banished him, and recalled Pedraza, whom he compelled to serve out his unexpired time, and then by his assistance declared himself at length elected President of the republic of Mexico, after a solemn pledge to respect the constitution. In 1831, however, after a previous attempt to erect himself into a dictator, which failed, he dissolved the legislative council, overthrew the federal constitution, and established a military despotism. Now it was that the sanguinary character of the tyrant displayed itself in atrocities against Zacatecas, which remained true to the ancient constitution. He marched against them, sacked their town, gave up their women to the savage soldiery, and gained their forced submission. Though defeated, these brave citizens were not unavenged, for Texas had once declared independence, fixing the Rio Grand del Norte as its boundary. This certainly was always considered as the frontier of the young republic, having been so decided by the Texas Congress, and of course continued to be so when, by the act of these latter, the country was annexed to the Union. The justice or morality of the whole transaction is very questionable, but still, there is no doubt that, at the date of annexation, the Rio Grand was the recognized boundary of Texas. The Americans accordingly now claim it as part of the Union; the Mexicans, on the other hand, look on the Nueces as the rightful boundary. The presence of an armed force, therefore on the debated strip of ground, whether American or Mexican, is mutually regarded as an invasion. It will presently be seen how his this affects the present war. The contest between Texas and Santa Anna ended in the single defeat of latter, he being captured by a vastly inferior force, to whom he promised the instant recognition of their independence. While a prisoner, his absence was of course taken advantage of, and Bustamante returned from exile, defeated Barradas, Santa Anna's lieutenant, entered Mexico, raised a revolt, and became once more president. His administration was most unpopular, and Santa Anna once liberated, after a brief retirement, too part in 1841 in the revolution of Tacubaga, by which the new constitution of 1836 was abolished, and himself again elevated to the presidential chair. In 1842 a Congress was returned who busied themselves in framing another constitution, but they were suddenly dissolved, and a junta of notables selected, who framed the basis of the political organization of the Mexican republic.

(To be Continued)

## Extracts from the Reports of M. H. Perley, Esq., Printed by order of the House of Assembly, COUNTY OF CHARLOTTE.

This County occupies the South West angle of New Brunswick, and is the last of the Maritime Counties which remains to be noticed. It contains 783,360 acres, of which 317,245 acres are granted and located leaving 466,115 acres still ungranted and vacant. The population of the County in 1840 was 18,178 and the estimated quantity of cleared land, 35,135 acres. The quantity of vacant land sold in 1845 was 3,786 acres.

Charlotte may be described as a hilly country, with ridges of granite rocks along its Northern Boundary. Yet there is much good land in the County, especially in the valleys of the numerous Rivers which intersect it in all directions. These Rivers have afforded the means of bringing large quantities of Timber from the interior to places of shipment.

The Fisheries in this County, in the vicinity of West Isles, Campo Bello, and Grand Manan, are excellent. That the exports of Fish should be so small as above stated, is somewhat singular, and requires explanation. These Fisheries might be prosecuted with advantage on a much larger scale, but they need protection against foreign aggression, and judicious encouragement. A plan for encouraging the Coast Fisheries of Ireland, has been adopted by the Irish Fishery Board, which is deserving notice. It was stated to a Committee of the House of Commons by J. Redmond Barry, Esq., the Director General of Coast Fisheries in Ireland, that the Board had, within a few years, adopted the plan of small loans to enable the peasantry upon the coast to avail themselves of the advantage of

their contiguity to the Fisheries. Mr. Barry said the plan worked admirably well. Many persons who were an incumbrance and burden to society, no better than paupers, had become productive, useful, and industrious, and had repaid with the most extraordinary degree of punctuality, these small loans. Mr. Barry, being asked by the Committee, if there had been any other operations of the Fishery Board which had a tendency to develop and stimulate productive industry, replied that the Board had been engaged in the building of small piers upon different parts of the coast, for the purpose of encouraging the Fisheries. These piers had proved extremely useful for agricultural purposes, for hauling sea-mure, and for the general purposes of trade; it was added, that the piers had been built by grants in aid of local contribution.

The encouragement of the Fisheries of the Province generally is a subject of very great importance; and the establishment of Fishing Loan Funds, for aiding and assisting the poor but hardy and industrious fisherman, is a matter well worthy immediate attention.

An Agricultural Society has been established in Charlotte County nearly thirty years, and their annual Reports show that activity and enterprise have always prevailed among its Members. In the twenty third annual Report of the Society, presented in 1843, it is stated, that the bounty, granted by the Society on Lime, had induced Members to try it as a manure, and wherever it had been applied on land sufficiently drained, the benefit had been obvious, and in several instances the yield of crop, especially of wheat had been extraordinary. One acre in the vicinity of Saint Andrews, thus treated, had yielded fifty bushels of good wheat, weighing 59 lbs. per bushel.

The twenty seventh annual Report of the Society, was presented on the 12th January instant, and it states that the past season having been one of the most favorable for agricultural pursuits with which the County had been blessed for many years, the different kinds of produce had amounted to a full average crop. The various kinds of grain had been very productive, and had harvested in good condition. The potato crop in Charlotte was a total loss in the year 1845: this report states the gratifying fact, that seed having been imported into the County, the potato crop of 1846 had been of good quality, and generally free from disease; and that, with reference to the quantity planted, the crop had been a fair one.

There is abundance of both lime and mare in this County, as well as sea-mure, and in those respects Charlotte possesses advantages over most other Counties in the Province.

In 1846 an Act was passed to incorporate the "Saint Andrews and Quebec Rail Road Company," which still remains in force, and under which a Company has very recently been organized in terms of the Charter. A deputation from the promoters of this Rail Road proceeded to London in 1836 and submitted the project to Government, with a petition to His Majesty for aid. A sum of ten thousand pounds was thereupon granted for an Explanation and Survey of the line, about £9,000 of which was expended in prosecuting the objects for which it was made, principally under the superintendence of Major Yule of the Royal Engineers, whose Report is extremely favourable to the undertaking.

In consequence of a remonstrance from the United States Government in 1837, further proceedings were suspended, and that suspicion has continued until the past season, when measures were adopted for opening the Line as far as Woodstock, and the Company was organized.

On inspecting the plan of Survey and sections of the Line, prepared by the several Surveyors under Major Yule's direction, it appears that the survey commenced at Katy Cove, (on the Eastern side of the Town of St. Andrews) and thence proceeded on a course nearly North, to the foot of the Chanceok Lake; thence around the Eastern shore of that Lake, and after crossing its inlet thence Northerly on the Western shores of the second and third Chanceok Lakes, to the valley of Waveville, which river it reaches at ten miles from the starting point; thence North Eastwardly to the Valley of the Digdigwash the Western bank of which River is struck at twenty miles on the line; thence Northwardly and Westwardly up the Valley of the Digdigwash on its Western side, to the sources of that River, at forty miles at the line; thence North Eastwardly, through the basin of the Little Digdigwash River to the Valley of Cranberry Brook—which Brook is crossed precisely at the fiftieth mile; thence nearly due North, and almost on a dead level or ten miles, through the valley of the Shugomock River, a branch which is crossed at the sixtieth mile; thence Northwesterly, through the Howard Settlement, the North Western bank of Eel River, which it touches at the seventieth mile. From this point the surveyed line followed a North West course, until near the Boundary, and thence proceeded Northerly, along the Boundary between Maine and New Brunswick. In order to connect the line with the populous and thriving Village of Woodstock, it is now

Remainder on the fourth page.