

POETRY.

[From the Glasgow Christian Journal.]

THE SPIRIT OF FREEDOM.

There are murmurs prophetic abroad on the earth,
Like the sounds when the ocean is curled,
That oppression all red with the blood of his mirth,
Shall be swept from the thrones of the world.

The spirit is breaking the fetters that thrall'd,
And the vassal has sprung from his knee;
And nation to nation has joyously called
In the voice and the songs of the Free.

The conclave of despots may league in their might,
And their secrets be deep as the grave,
Till the war-storm burst in its fury, to blight
The home and the hopes of the brave.

The onsign of slaughter may flutter to heaven—
The fields may be red with the slain;
But the pillars of century thrones have been reared,
And the battle must rend them again!

The Czar may lead millions exultingly forth—
The slaves of his pride and his power;
All savage and stern as the climes of the north,
And dark as their winter may lower.

It is not a conflict for kings or for life;
'Tis a war for the hopes of mankind
Though a Poland again may be crushed in the strife,
There are legions of heroes behind.

There are sounds in the cottage that tyrants shall hear;
For knowledge—ay, knowledge has been
With the vassal and lord, and the moment is near,
When the sword of the peasant is keen.

Where are the cloisters where knowledge was hid?
They are shrunk in the valleys of Spain!
Where are the bigots that Europe undid,
Whose fiat was—faggot or chain?

The shadows that brooded for ages are gone,—
The night of the world has fled;
And the death-fires that blazed for religion alone,
Have been quenched by the blood that was shed.

The sect proudly sit with the triumph of scorn,
Though they ask not the nation to bleed,
Yet the insult and burden by all must be borne,
While they tolerate each for his creed.

Toleration is tyranny's shadow, that stood
When the fate of the martyr was sealed:
It points to the statute-book, blotted with blood,
And the law of the sword unrepealed.

Turn to the children where liberty reigns,
In the glorious land of the West:
Where forests have fallen on the limitless plains,
That a nation may spring from its breast.

There Freedom is free, and Religion stalks forth
Untrammelled by titles or strings;
There her altar is reared in its primitive worth,
Unstained by the trappings of kings.

H. BROWN.

THE FOLLOWING ACT,

Passed in the last Session of the General Assembly, is published by Authority.

An Act for granting Duties on Licences for the Sale of Spirituous Liquors, in Taverns, Public Houses or Shops, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted, by the Lieutenant-Governor, Council and Assembly, That, from and after the passing of this Act, and in every year during the continuance thereof, there shall be raised, levied and collected from, and paid by, every person now licensed or hereafter to be licensed, by any Tavern License or Shop License, granted or to be granted for the sale of

Rum or other strong or distilled Spirituous Liquors, and Wine, Ale, Beer, Cyder or Perry, at any Town or Place within this Province, (save and except only the Town and Peninsula of Halifax,) pursuant to the rules, regulations and provisions of the Act, passed in the Second Year of His present Majesty's Reign, entitled, An act concerning persons licensed to keep Public Houses and Shops, and the Duties thereon, the several and respective License Duties following, that is to say:—

For and upon every Tavern License, the sum of Seven Pounds and Ten Shillings, Currency.

For and upon every Shop License, the sum of Five Pounds.

Which said several License Duties or Taxes shall be paid and payable, at such times, and in such proportions, and under and subject to such reductions, for any time less than one year, and shall be raised, levied, collected and secured, in and by such Bonds or Obligations, Ways and Means, and under such penalties and forfeitures, and shall be applied and disposed of in such manner, and to such persons, and for such purposes, as in and by the said Act of the Second Year of His present Majesty's Reign, or any other Act in addition, alteration or amendment thereof, to be passed, are or shall be provided, declared, directed or enacted, of and concerning the said License Duties or Licenses aforesaid, or any of them respectively.

And be it further enacted, That no General License whatever shall be granted, made or issued, to any person or persons whomsoever, residing in any part of this Province, save and except only to persons residing in the Town or Peninsula of Halifax.

And be it further enacted, That no person holding a Shop License, (save and except in the Town or Peninsula of Halifax,) shall sell any Rum or other strong or distilled Spirituous Liquors, in any quantity less than one gallon, to be delivered at one and the same time, and not to be drunk in the House or Shop of the party holding such Shop License; and any person or persons holding such Shop License, (save and except in the Town and Peninsula of Halifax,) who shall sell or cause to be sold any quantity of Rum or other strong or distilled Spirituous Liquors, less than one gallon, contrary to the provisions herein before contained, being thereof convicted, shall be subject and liable to the same pains, penalties and forfeitures, as persons convicted of selling Spirituous Liquors without License, and the same shall and may be prosecuted for, paid, levied and disposed of, in like manner as is directed and prescribed by Law, with respect to penalties, pains, and forfeitures, in cases of persons selling Liquors without License.

And be it further enacted, that there shall be hereafter granted, (save and except in the Town and Peninsula of Halifax,) a Tavern License or Shop License, for the sale of Wine, Beer, Cider, Ale, Perry, or other Liquors, not being Rum, or other strong or distilled Spirituous Liquors, to be called a Wine and Beer License, to be in force for one year, or such shorter time, not less than six Calendar Months, as may be therein mentioned and specified, and to be granted in like manner and under the same regulations, as other Licences are directed to be granted either by this Act or the said Act of the Second Year of His present Majesty's Reign, and any person or persons holding such Wine and Beer License, who shall sell or cause or procure to be sold any Rum or other strong or distilled Spirituous Liquors, mixed or unmixed, by whatever name or names the same may be called, shall, being thereof convicted, be subject and liable to the same pains, penalties and forfeitures, as persons convicted of selling Liquors without License, to be prosecuted for, paid, levied and disposed of, in

like manner as directed, with respect to pains, penalties and forfeitures, in cases of selling Spirituous Liquors without License.

And be it further enacted, That for every such Wine and Beer Tavern License there shall be paid by the person or persons obtaining the same, at the time the said License shall be granted and taken out, a Duty or Tax of Two Pounds and Ten Shillings for one year, or any less sum in proportion to any shorter time for which such License shall be granted, and for every such Shop, Wine and Beer License, a Duty or Tax of Two Pounds for one year, and any less sum in proportion to any shorter time, for which such Shop, Wine and Beer License shall be granted.

And be it further enacted, That the Grand Juries for the several Counties and Districts in this Province shall, and they are hereby required, at the first General Sessions in every year, held to and for any such County or District, to nominate and recommend to the Justices in Sessions as many fit and proper persons of good fame and of sober life and conversation, as shall be necessary to be licensed to sell such Liquors as aforesaid, or to keep Taverns or Houses of Public Entertainment within the County or District, and no Tavern License or Shop License to persons within such County or District shall be granted or made at such first Sessions of the year, to any person or persons other than those whose names shall be contained in the list of such recommendations.

And be it further enacted, That every person to whom any such Tavern, Wine and Beer License shall or may be granted, shall hang out and have publicly exhibited, a Sign or Inscription with the name of such person, and the words "Wine and Beer License" thereon, in legible characters, and any person holding such Wine and Beer License, and not hanging out or exhibiting publicly such Sign or Inscription, shall be subject and liable to the like penalty as is imposed on persons holding Licences, and not hanging out any Signs by the sixteenth Clause or Section of the said Act herein before referred to, passed in the Second Year of His present Majesty's reign, to be prosecuted for, recovered, paid and applied in like manner as is directed with respect to the said penalty in the said sixteenth Clause of the said Act mentioned.

And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for the Justices of the Peace of the several Counties or Districts in this Province, upon the recommendation of the Grand Jury, but not otherwise, to grant a License gratis, or upon payment of such less Duty or Tax than is hereby imposed, as may seem to them proper, to any person or persons living on Roads which are little frequented, for the encouragement of such persons keeping Houses of Entertainment on such Public Roads, for the accommodation of Travellers.

And be it further enacted, That no Magistrate or person holding His Majesty's Commission as Justice of the Peace, in and throughout the different Counties in this Province, (the Town of Halifax excepted,) shall be allowed or considered eligible to hold or take out any Tavern License for the retail of Ardent Spirits.

Provided always, and be it further enacted, That nothing in this Act or in any other Act contained, shall extend or be construed to extend to prevent any person holding a Tavern License, (except in the Town of Halifax,) from selling any quantity of Spirits, Wine or other Liquor, not exceeding at any one time one quart, to any person whomsoever, (excepting Indians,) whether the same is to be consumed in his house or elsewhere.

And be it further enacted, That this Act shall continue and be in force until the Thirty-first day of March which will be in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty-seven and no longer.