

# THE WEEKLY OBSERVER.

## POETRY.

**THE SUMMER MIDNIGHT.**  
BY THE LITTLE STREAM.  
The breeze of night has sunk to rest,  
Upon the river's tranquil breast,  
And every bird has sought her nest,  
Where silent is her melody;  
The queen of Heaven is sailing high,  
A pale bark on the azure sky,  
Waves not a breathless hand to sigh—  
So sleep the soft tranquillity.

Forgotten now the heat of day  
That on the burning waters lay,  
The moon of night her mantle array,  
Spreads from the sun's high bazaar;  
But glittering in that gentle light,  
There gleams a line of silvery light,  
As tremulous on the shores of white  
It hovers sweet and playfully.

At peace the distant shore rises;  
Not as when closing o'er her hills  
The roaring bay's mournful cries;  
Were hailing round her gloriously;  
But every sail is furl'd and still;  
Sleeps the season's whistle still.  
While dreamy slumbers seem to thrill  
With parted hours of ecstasy.

Stars of the many spangled heaven!  
Finally this night your beams are given,  
Though proudly where your hosts are driven  
Ye rear your dazzling galaxy;  
Since far and wide a softer light  
Is spread across the plain of life,  
Where in bright throns ever true  
For ever swell your harmony.

O for some still dying note  
Upon this silent hour to float,  
Where from the hush'd world remote,  
The lute might wake its melody;  
One feeble strain is all can swell  
From mine almost deaden'd shell,  
In mournful accents yet to tell  
That slumbers not in minstrelsy.

There is an hour of deep repose,  
That yet upon my heart will close,  
When all that nature drives and knows  
Shall burst upon me suddenly;  
O may I then awake for ever,  
My heart to rapture's bick'lin leave,  
And as from earth's vain scene I sever,  
Be lost in immortality.

## VARIETIES.

LITERATURE, as a general name for learning, equally includes the liberal arts, and the useful and abstruse sciences. Philosophy, in this acceptance of the word, is a branch of literature. But literature, in its peculiar sense as distinct from philosophy, may be regarded as the expression of every fixed form of thought, whether by speech or writing. Literature, in this view, will embrace poetry, eloquence, history, romance, didactic, and, indeed, every kind of verbal composition, whatever be the subject; all books, in reference to their execution, are literary works; and so are the songs and traditions of barbarians, among whom letters are unknown; the latter, not less than the former, being vehicles for communicating pre-edited thought in set terms. Of literature thus defined, there are two species, verse and prose; and the first takes precedence of the second; for though the structure of ordinary discourse be prose, the earliest artificial compositions, in all languages, have used the form of verse; because, as the subjects were intended to be emphatically impressed upon the mind, and distinctly retained in the memory, point, condensation, or enigma of diction, combined with harmony of rhythm, arising from quantity, accent, or merely corresponding division of sentences, were the obvious and elegant means of accomplishing these purposes.—*The Metropolitan.*

*Objections to Marriage.*—A gentleman who paid his addresses to a lady in every way qualified to make him an excellent wife, had been accustomed to spend almost every evening, during a period of upwards of twenty years, at her house. A friend met with him, and in the course of conversation said, "Why, in the name of all that is charming, don't you marry Miss —— you have known her now above twenty years, she is amiable, clever—has got fortune, and is precisely the person you ought to choose for a wife?" "Why," said he, "I have often thought of marrying her, but have been as often deterred by the reflection, that I should then have no where to spend my evenings."

*First Writer AGAINST THE SLAVE TRADE.*—Las Casas was a passionate missionary, whose zeal kindled by the long and near contemplation of cruelty, prompted him to exaggerations of fact and argument; yet, with all its errors, it afforded the only hope of preserving the natives of America from extirpation. To Soto belongs the signal honour of being the first writer who condemned the African slave trade. "It is affirmed," says he, "that the unhappy Ethiopians are by fraud or force carried away and sold as slaves. It is true, however, that those who have taken them, nor those who purchased them, nor those who hold them in bondage, can ever have a quiet conscience till they emancipate them, even if no compensation should be obtained." As the work which contains this memorable compilation of man-stealing and slavery was the substance of lecture many years delivered at Salamanca, philosophy and religion appear to have had their fatal influence to have the entire monopoly of the present age, to conceive the pause which is due to the excellent monks who congreavably inserted the rights of those whom they never saw, animal the principles of their order, the supposed interest of their religion, the ambition of their Government, the warlike and pride of their countrymen, and the prevalent opinions of their time.—*Encyclopaedia Britannica, new edition, Sir James Mackintosh's Dissertation.*

*Quick Voyage.*—The barque *Aeolus*, belonging to this port, Jeremiah Nagle, Master, has just performed one of the shortest voyages that was ever made to the West Indies and back. She sailed from here on the 9th April, arrived at Barbados on the 6th May, discharged her outward cargo, took in a full load of sugar, sailed again from Barbados on the 18th May, and arrived at this port on Tuesday last, having been only 66 days away.—*Globe's Liverpool Advertiser.*

## GIN AND PORK.

*The Subscribers offer for Sale:*  
**10 HDS.** and Pipes Superior Hollands  
Rum Landing ex Briz. Eliza, from Montego Bay;  
29 Bigheads ditto SUGAR;  
Ex Bit James Lovell, from Antigua;

25 Pds superior MOLASSES—For sale by  
E. DEW. RATCHFORD.

## P. HATFIELD,

BEGS to apprise the Publick that he has opened an **Auction** and **Commission Warehouse** in Ward-street, adjoining the store of Messrs. JOHN WARD & SONS, South Market Wharf, where he will execute all orders with promptness, and on the most liberal terms.

*He has on hand, at the present date:*

Cottons and Cambrics, Flannels, Slops, Homespuns, Cotton Sheetings and Shirtings, Muslins, Laces, Ribbons, tercine shell and Iron Comb, Black and Club Beaver Hats, Parasols and Umbrellas, Shoes and Boots, Silk and Twiss, Spool Cotton, &c. &c. —A variety of SHIP CHANDLERY, Ironmongery and Cutlery, including Joiner's Tools, &c., Iron, Steel, Anchors, small Chains, Cambous, Cast Iron Ware, Tin Ware, Stone and Earthenware, &c.—Also, CROCHETED FLOURS, Corn Bread, Naval Stores, and other American Produce.—*All of which will be disposed of at the most reduced prices for next; and as the greatest allowance will be made to the Retailers, the Assortment is*

*May 8.*

E. DEW. RATCHFORD.

## SHANNOOAH FLOUR, SUGARS, SPIRITS, &c. &c.

*Just received from Alexandria, via New-York:*  
**50 C BLS.** superfine Shanooah Mountain  
SUGAR, (Family) FLOUR, (new wheat);  
25 Do. RYE FLOUR, superior quality, from  
Southern Market.

*Also—Per Brig Thomas, Bell, from Jamaica:*

3 Hds. first quality JAMAICA SUGAR;

1 Punchon high proof JAMAICA SPIRITS;

All which will be sold low for punctual payment.

—ON HAND—

Superfine, fine, common and coarse CLOTHES of all

colours and qualities, which will at all times be made

up to order on the most reasonable terms.

*Also—* *Per Brig Thomas, Bell, from Jamaica:*

15 Hds. first quality JAMAICA SUGAR;

1 Punchon high proof JAMAICA SPIRITS;

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