

Original Poetry.

MIDNIGHT MUSINGS.

BY THE REV. W. J. DARLING.

I. From the old Church tower, The midnight hour Comes to our ear on the sounding blast;

II. Though its record of light, To our blinded sight, Seems shrouded for ever in endless night;

III. Midnight! thou mother of the wand'ring thought, And of the wayward dream!

IV. Its growing power, In the dawning hour, Was causing the shadows of night to flee;

V. The drops of dew On the churchyard yew Are gleaming like gems in the sun's glad ray;

VI. The sun looked down, from his noonday height, On a field of force and edging light.

VII. Again, when his orb was sinking low, He looked on the earth with a gentle glow.

VIII. And now the sun hath sunk to rest, 'Midst the gorgeous hues of the golden west;

IX. A lamp's rich light O'er the dark'ning night, Was streaming brilliantly;

X. Onwards he sped; and on a dreary moor Descended a hill; and through its half-closed door,

XI. An ancient and a holy face uprose against the sky, And proudly 'midst the dimness reared its pinacles on high;

XII. Onwards, still onwards, he passed along, Till the city's garish light That rose from the shades of its countless throng

XIII. I'll muse no more o'er the day that's fled Nor dream of his course again, For the pathway in which 'twas his lot to tread

Review.

LONDON LABOUR AND THE LONDON POOR: BY HENRY MAYHEW: New York, Harper & Brothers: Toronto, Maclear, 1851.

This work, for the first two numbers of which we are indebted to Mr. Maclear, gives promise of being an acceptable addition to the popular literature of the day.

No small space is devoted by Mr. Mayhew to the "Coster-mongers," and many curious details are given of their mode of living, amusements, and general habits.

THE LITERATURE OF COSTERMONGERS.

"We have now had an inkling of the London costermonger's notions upon politics and religion. We have seen the brutified state in which he is allowed by society to remain, though possessing the same faculties and susceptibilities as ourselves—the same power to perceive and admire the forms of truth, beauty, and goodness, as even the very highest in the state.

"It may appear anomalous to speak of the literature of an uneducated body, but even the costermongers have their tastes for books. They are very fond of hearing any one read aloud to them, and listen very attentively. One man often reads the Sunday paper of the beer-shop to them, and on a fine summer's evening a costermonger, or any neighbour who has the advantage of being 'a schollard,' reads aloud to them in the court they inhabit.

"One intelligent man considered that the spirit of curiosity manifested by costermongers, as regards the information or excitement derived from hearing stories read, argued well for the improbability of the class. Another intelligent costermonger, who had recently read some of the cheap periodicals to ten or twelve men, women, and boys, all costermongers, gave me an account of the comments made by his auditors.

scenes in a play and all. His 'Bottle' was very much admired. I heard one man say it was very prime, and showed what 'lush' did; but I saw the same man,"

Surely no sound thinking man would accuse our legislators of an undue interference with the liberty of the subject, if they stringently prohibited the circulation of such soul debasing trash as pervade the pages of Reynold's penny periodicals!

We have noticed with regret the growing appetite manifested in Toronto, for theatrical entertainments, especially as regards the younger portion of the community. Mr. Mayhew's description of a "theatre," when the performances are much upon a par with those which form the staple fare of our Canadian histrionic saloons, ought to induce both magistrates and parents to use every exertion to nip such abominations in the bud.

"Singing and dancing formed the whole of the hour's performance, and of the two, the singing was preferred. A young girl, of about fourteen years of age, danced with more energy than grace, and seemed to be well-known to the spectators, who cheered her on her Christian name. When the dance was concluded, the proprietor of the establishment threw down a penny from the gallery, in the hopes that others might be moved to similar acts of generosity; but no one followed up the offering, so the young lady hunted after the money and departed.

Our readers will derive both amusement and information from Mr. Mayhew's work, which is illustrated with well executed and characteristic wood cuts.

ILLUSTRATIONS OF PROPHECY.

BABYLON.

Ancient Babylonia, the country of which Babylon was the capital, comprised the tract of land which lay between the Tigris and the Euphrates, and which was bounded on the north by Mesopotamia and Assyria, and on the south by the Persian Gulf.

Gen. x. 10. And the beginning of his kingdom was kingdom was Babel, and Erech and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.

Gen. xi. 2-9. And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there. And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar. And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.

cially intersected by numerous canals, formed to carry off the annual inundations of the two rivers which bounded it. No records exist of the ancient condition of Babylon, except that it is said to have been enlarged by Semiramis, the wife of Ninus, about 2000 B.C., and doubled in size by Nebuchadnezzar. Under this monarch, it reached the utmost height of magnificence and grandeur: it was the metropolis of the civilized world, and there flowed into it the riches of almost all lands.

Whilst Babylon was in this state of magnificence it was selected by God to be his instrument for punishing the rebellious Jews, who, neglecting the warning conveyed by the capture of the ten tribes by the Assyrians, pursued their course of idolatry and immorality until they had fulfilled the doom pronounced by Moses 850 years before, and repeated by subsequent prophets.

In the year 606 B.C., Jeremiah foretold that the tribe of Judah should be carried captive to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar, and should remain there for seventy years. In the same year Jerusalem was taken, the temple partially despoiled, many of the principal inhabitants carried captive to Babylon, and the Jewish king made a vassal of

1 Ps. cxxxvii. 1. By the Rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion.—Jer. li. 13. O thou that dwellest upon many waters, abundant in treasures, thine end is come, and the measure of thy covetousness.

2 Dan. iv. 30. Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the honour of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?

3 Jer. li. 41. How is Sheshach taken! and how is the praise of the whole earth supplanted! how is Babylon become an astonishment among the nations!

4 Isa. xlii. 19. And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.

5 Isa. xlv. 2. I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron.

6 Deut. xxviii. 36. The Lord shall bring thee, and thy king which thou shalt set over thee, unto a nation which neither thou nor thy fathers have known; and there shalt thou serve other gods, wood and stone, &c.

7 Jer. xxix. 22. And of them shall be taken up a curse by all the captivity of Judah which are in Babylon, saying, The Lord make thee like Zedekiah and like Ahab, whom the king of Babylon roasted in the fire.—Ezek. xii. 13. My net also will I spread upon him, and he shall be taken in my snare; and I will bring him to Babylon to the land of the Chaldeans; yet shall he not see it, though he shall die there.—2 Kings. xx. 16-18. And Isaiah said unto Hezekiah, Hear the word of the Lord. Behold, the days come, that all that is in thine house, and that which thy fathers have laid up in store unto this day, shall be carried into Babylon: nothing shall be left, saith the Lord. And of thy sons that shall issue from thee, which thou shalt beget, shall they take away.

8 Jer. xxv. 8-11. Therefore thus saith the Lord of hosts; Because ye have not heard my words, behold, I will send and take all the families of the north, saith the Lord, and Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and will bring them against this land, and against the inhabitants thereof and against all these nations round about, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, and an hissing, and perpetual desolations. Moreover I will take from them the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones, and the light of the candle. And this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.

9 Dan. i. 1-4. In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah came Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon unto Jerusalem, and besieged it. And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with part of the vessels of the house of God: which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the vessels in to the treasure