Original Poetry.

MIDNIGHT MUSINGS.

BY THE REV. W. I. DARLING.

ı.

From the old Church tower, The midnight hour Comes to our ear on the sounding blast; And it says that another day is dead, That its surny hours are for ever fied: It has joined the eternal past.

Though its record of light, To our blinded sight, Sooms shrouded for ever in endiess night; Yet it wings its flight 'To the glorious height Of His throne who alone can read it right : And it speaks of joys, And it tells of wors. That were born and died ere it reached its close.

111.

Midnight ! thou mother of the wand'ring thought, And of the Wayward dream !

Before my teeming fancy thou hast brought

Bome of the lights and shadows, that have been Cast o'er the fleeting moments of the day, That like a rivulet bath ebbed away late the past-that dim and elent ser The bourne of what hath been, and of whate'er shall be.

IV.

Its growing pow'r, In the dawning hour, Was causing the shadows of night to flee, When it broke through the gloom Of a sick man's room Where a maiden was sitting despondingly.
All night her hand the dim lamp had fed,
That shed its rays o'er her father's bed; And with breaking heart, and with tearful eye, But, without a groan, and with scarce a sigh, She watched his breath, As it failed in death; Then, taking his cold hand lovingly, She bent her knee

To the Holy THER, Thron'd in that light which no man can see; And she prayed in that hous That the Spirit's pow'r Might shed peace on her heart's deep agony ! And her guardian sprite

On his wings or light Fied up with her pray'r to the Courts on high;
And the calm that stole
O'er her wearled soul Might be read in the light of her upturn'd eye.

The drops of dew On the churchyard yew Are gleaming like gema in the sun's glad ray:
Ring out 1 ring out f
Let the bells give out Their merriest tones on the wedding day t In her bridal vett. To the alter rail A maiden is led by her sire so grey; And he gives her away To the bridegroom gay, And his heart and his lips alske do pray

That God's blessing may rest On the youngest and best, The light of his home from her earliest day. The buly priest, in his cohe of white, Has made them one by the sacred rite, And kindly speech And a kindly smile is offered by each. In the old Church siele;

But within their hearts is a voice of mirth, That seems sweeter far than sught else on earth. The laughing light Of the early day Falls sparkling and bright O'er their onward way; But the light of juy in their hearts that gleams,

The glorious bue Of the summer sky, Is rich as the blue Ol a malden's eye; But their future path seems n'erarched by skirs. That Hope hath pointed with rainbow dyes.

le brighter for than those amony beams

The sun looked down, from his monday height, And the victor shout and the dying cry Came mingled in triumph and agony; And he drew a dark cloud o'er his glorious face, And hasten'd away on his downward race, And the rain that descended amidst the fight Boomed the tears that fell from his eyes of light.

Again, when his orb was sinking low, He lacked on the earth with a gentle glow, Like the soft, sweet smile that tells that relief Has been brought to the soul that has pined with grief. The peaceful light of his evening beau Lag in radiant sleep on a village green And his slanting ray just tipped with fire The gleaming point of the church's apire. From the door, o'er which hung a gloomy fr. They had closed their toils with an hour of prayer: It cheered their hearts, and it soothed their care.

VIII. And now the sun bath sunk to rest, Midet the gargeous hues of the golden west : But the day thath some hours of his course to run; He yields not his life with the sinking sun, He hath cast round his form of living light The star-gommed robe of the solemn night With the pair young mon he has crowned his brow, And o'er cottage and castie 'tis gleaming now.

A lame's rich light O'er the dark'ning night. Was streaming brilliantly ; And 'neath the festion Of that curtained room He ganed full wistfully, A young mother, mild, O'er a beauteous child Was benefing in grateful prayer; Yet her eye grew dim, As she gased on him Who slept so sweetly there For so deep her joy In the bright-haired boy, Whom she held in her fond areas, Thu the tear that glowed In her eye, but showed Her young heart's happiness.

Onwards he sped; and on a dreary moor Descried a hist; and through its half-closed door, By the pole mich whi's faint and fickering glow, lie saw a sight of sad and atchening wor A feeble mother unrack a feebler child. And her young fee was marked by terror wild; For he who y mod, in tool's own house, to share Her every sorrow and her every care, Had for some total left her all alone, While death was maying on her little one. Vain were her frontic shricks ! no answering voice. Bade her turn ! Art with hope of ald rejoice. She could not leave her child-she could not stay To see his life woulded pass away ! Is there no ore to help? O God ! must ! " Hold him up a my knee, and see him die ?" k on so, pale auf rer ! 'midst thy deep distress I'dou art unfriended in thy loneliness !

An ancient and a holy fane uprose against the sky, And proudly 'midst the dimness reared its pinuacles on high; And from its traceried windows shone a strange unjoyous light. While the organ told a tale of wee to the listenic gear of night.

And hark! upon the pinions of the silent evening air, There comes the tread of multitudes, but not a shout is there; But notes of funeral pump burst forth, and the wind that sweep-Doth breathe around a wailing sound, like a nation's deep-drawn

A mighty monarch of the earth bath bowed his lofty crest, And they bear his dust forth solemnly to his latest place of rest; While the Church, with her unworldly voice, still speaketh as

Of one who, though a mighty King, was still a sinful made She speaketh of that blessed Lord, who died for one and all, The beggar on his pallet bed—the baron in his hall— The Monarch on his throne of pride—the mourner sorrow-riven. And biddeth all to seek through Him the holy rest of beaven.

> XII. Onwards, still onwards, he passed along, Till the city's gariah light

That rose from th' shodes of its countless throng Broke o'er his dark robe of night; And so brightly it shone you'd have thought that Day liad cast his mantle of night away.

But what can it boot for me to tell The sounds that he heard, or the sights he saw, The lamp-lit halls, or the music's swell, And the beggar trembling smidst his straw, The j-your dance, and the revel high.

And the walling of those on the point to die le

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 itad less of pleasure than pain.

The' the smile of gladuess would o'er it stream, Yet it was with a fitful light.

As the meteor that falls with a sudden gleam Makes the dimness of evening bright And the' midst the voices that breathed around, There was song and laughter light; Yet, when mingled, they took a wailing sound, Like the autumn wind at night. Oh Sorrow! Thou art a monarch here, Thy aceptre's a chastening rod; And yet if we would thy mandates hear,

Thou would'at lead us on to God, And teach us to live for that glorious day I'hat shall break on the Christian's sight, When the shadows of earth shall melt away, Midst the blaze of eternal light.

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. It professes to furnish us with a cyclopedia of the ancial condition and earnings of those members of the great metropolis "that will work-that can not work-and that will not work;" and as far as we can judge from the specimen before us, the author is fully competent for the task which he has undertaken. Mr. Mayhew's name must be familiar to many of our readers, as an agreeable original writer, practiced to observe, and qualified to depict the varied "hues" of "many coloured life;" and in the field which he has now entered there are abundant materials for the exercise of his talents. London is a world within itself, a world moreover in which there is still much to explore, and where the philosopher and the philanthropist can never be at a loss in finding subjects for the exercise of speculation or benevolence.

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 of the night, and offered greater scope to the rhyming general habits. Frequently have we had occasion to denounce the infamous writings of Reynolds, and from the following extract it will be seen that the moral poison engendered by this literary ruffian, is widely diffused amongst the more ignorant denizens of the British Capitol.

THE LITERATURE OF COSTERMONCERS.

"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 suscentibilities as ourselves—the same power to perceive and admire the forms of truth, beauty, and goodness, as even the very highest in the state. We have witnessed how, instinct with all the elements of manhood and beasthood, the qualities of the beast are principally developed in him, while those of the man are stunted in the growth. It now remains for us to look into some other matter concerning this curious class of

people, and, first, of their literature: "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. What they love best to listen toand, indeed, what they are most eager for-are Reynold's periodicals, especially the "Mysteries of the Court." "They've got tired of Lloyd's blood-stained stories," said one man, who was in the habit of reading to them, "and I'm satisfied that, of all London, Reynolds is the most popular man among them. They stuck to him in Trafalgar-square, and would again. They all say he's 'a trump,' and Feargus O'Connor's another trump with them.

"One intelligent man considered that the spirit of curiosity manifested by costermongers, as regards the information or excitement derived from hearing stories read, augured well for the improvability of the class.

Another intelligent costermonger, who had recently read some of the cheap periodicals to ten or twelve men, count of the comments made by his auditors. They had assembled after their day's work or their rounds. for the purpose of hearing my informant read the last number of some of the penny publications.

couldn't read, buy a periodical what had an illustration, abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth; and a little out of the common way perhaps, just that he they left off to build the city. Therefore is the name might learn from some one, who could read, what it of it called Babel; because the Lord did there confound was all about. They have all heard of Cruikshank, the language of all the earth; and from thence did the he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his and they think every thing funny is by him-funny | Lord scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth. | god ; and he brought the vessels in to the treasure

scenes in a play and all. His 'Bottle' was very much cially intersected by numerous canals, ' formed to admired. I heard one man say it was very prime, and showed what 'lush' did; but I saw the same man," a portrait of 'Catherine of Russia.' 'Tell us all about her,' said one man to me last night; read it; what was she? When I had read it," my informant continued, nezzar.2 Under this monarch, in reached the utcove as did that know a deal ?' for they fancy,—at least, as many do-that one man writes a whole periodical, or a whole newspaper. Now here," proceeded my friend, "you see's an engraving of a man hung up, they couldn't learn what he'd been doing, who he was, and all about him. 'But about the picture?' they would say, and this is a very common question put by them when they see an engraving."

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 punish the venal apothecary who wittingly sells a deadly drug to the intending suicide, and wherefore not restrain the equally callous wretch who deals in commodities which tend directly to the ruin of immortal souls!

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. The author having paid his penny, gives us the following sketch of what he witnessed.

"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 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 built on the other, the lowest being half a mile in money and departed. The "comic singer," in a battered hat and a huge bow to his cravat, was received with deafening shouts. Several songs were named by the costers, but the "funny gentleman" merely requested them "to hold their jaws," and putting on a knowing" look, sang a song, the whole point of which consisted in the mere utterance of some filthy word at the end of each stanza. Nothing, however, could have been more successful. The lads stamped their feet with delight; the girls screamed with enjoyment.-Once or twice a young shrill laugh would anticipate the fun-as if the words were well known-or the boys would forestall the point by shouting it out before the proper time. When the song was ended the house was in a delirium of applause. The canvas front to the gallery was beaten with sticks, drum-like, and sent down showers of white powder on the heads in the pit. Another song followed, and the actor knowing on what his success depended, lost no opportunity of increasing his laurels. The most obscene thoughts, the most disgusting scenes were coolly described, making a poor child near me wipe away the tears that rolled down her eyes with enjoyment of the poison. There were three or four of these songs sung in the course of the evening, each one being encored, and then changed. One written about "Pine-apple rock," was the grand treat powers of the author than any of the others. In this, be passed by, and it was absolutely awful to behold the relish with which the young ones jumped to the hideous meaning of the verses."

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. This country (originally called Shinar) took its name from the metrophs, which was founded by Nimrod, 1 and was called Babel, from a Hebrew word signifying to confound, from the confusion of tongues formerly inflicted on the inhabitants as a punishment for their impious ambition.* Babylon consisted of one extensive plain, which was artifi-

1 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 journeved from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinur; 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. And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, women, and boys, all costermongers, gave me an ac- which the children of men builded. And the Lord said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do; and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. Go to, let us go down, and there con-"The costermongers," said my informant, "are very found their language, that they may not understand fond of illustrations. I have known a man, what one another's speech. So the Lord scattered them

carry off the annual inundations of the two rivers showed what 'lush' did; but I saw the same man," added my informant, "drunk three hours afterward.— which bounded it. No records exist of the ancient Look you here, sir," he continued, turning over a periodical, for he had the number with him, "here's a been enlarged by Semiramis, the wife of Ninus, about 2000 B C., and doubled in size by Nebuchadanother man, to whom I showed it, said, Don't the most height of magnificence and grandeur: it was the metropolis of the civilized world, and there flowed into it the riches of almost all lands. In the Old Testament it is styled "the praise of the burning over a fire, and some costers would go mad if whole earth," a "the glory of kingdoms;" a description which is amply confirmed by the testimony of profane writers. It was built on a large plain, and was a perfect square, measuring fifteen miles on each side. The walls were 87 feet thick and 340 feet in height, and were built of large bricks. cemented with bitumen, which was found in abundance in the neighbourhood. Outside the wall of the city ran a deep and wide trench filled with water, and crossed on each side by twenty-five bridges, leading to as many gates of brass.5 From each gate ran a street fifteen miles long, so that the whole number of streets was fifty, of which twentyfive ran in one direction, and twenty-five in the other, crossing each other at right angles. Thus the whole city was cut into 676 squares, each two miles and a quarter in circuit. The houses were large and lofty, and faced the streets, the space within the squares being devoted to gardens and pleasure grounds. Through the city flowed the river Euphrates, which was crossed in middle by a bridge. The river flowed from north to south, and was faced on both banks by a breastwork of bricks. through which, avenues, secured by little gates of brass, led by steps to the transverse street. Of the ornamental works of art, the hanging gardens were reckoned by the socients among the seven wonders of the world. They were laid on tiers of with more energy than grace, and seemed to be well- platforms, raised to a great height by rows of arches, and covered with soil sufficient for the growth of large trees. But by far the most interesting structure to the biblical scholar was the temple of Belus, which consisted of eight towers, one compass, and the last 600 feet from the ground, or 120 feet higher than the great pyramid of Egypt. This, there is good reason to suppose, was built around the ruins of the tower of Babel.

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,4 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 Nebuckadnezzar, 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. exxxvii. 1. By the Rivers of Bahylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion - Jer. li. 13. O thou that dwellest upon n been exerted to its utmost lest an obscene thought should waters, abundadt 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 house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty? 3 Jer li. 41. How is Shesach taken! and how is

the praise of the whole earth suprised! how is Babylon become an astonishment among the nations! 4 Isa. xiii. 19. And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency, shall be

as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. 5 Isa. xiv. 2. I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces the pates of bruss, 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 Bahy on, saying. The Lord make thre like Zedekiah and like Ahah, 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 Chaldesos; yet shall be 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.

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 of 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 milstones, and the light of the candle. And this whole land shall be a desolution, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.

* Dan. i. 1-4. In the third year of the reign of Jehoiskim king of Judah came Nebuchsdnessar king of Baby lon 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