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THE BRITISH PATRIOT'S SONG.

BY THOMAS RAGG.

They talk to me of eastern realms, where the sun more brightly glows,
And earth is never visited with winter's driving snows,
Where the leaves are ever on the trees, the verdure's evergreen,
And many richer plants than ours thrive 'neath the lurid sheen ;
Where fruits of every luscious taste are on earth's lap displayed,
And man can find repose from toil 'neath the talipot's thick shade,
And temples and pagodas, such as Europe never knew,
Upraise their heads magnificent into the heaven's deep blue.
They tell me of their riches too, their mines of beaming gold,
And the many precious stones that hide 'neath their luxuriant mould.
But their riches and their fruitfulness, oh! these are nought to me,
They n'er can twine around my heart like the island of the sea.
We too have many precious fruits, and many verdant bowers,
And we can wander in the light of a thousand star-light flowers,
Our mines contain their iron ore, with which our sons of toil
Can purchase half their gleaming gold, and load them with the spoil :
And our chalky cliffs shall echo with the victor warrior's song,
While the winter's cold still serves to brace our arms in freedom strong.

They talk to me of classic lands, where the mighty deeds of old,
Of heroes and of demi-gods, were in the song enrolled,
Where science and philosophy first dawned upon the earth,
And the rites of smooth civility were earliest brought to birth ;
Where man emerging into life from the flood that whelming lay,
On all the world, and swept its towers and palaces away,
Planted the earliest colonies, in love of freedom strong,
Nursed all the arts of war and peace, and awakened glory's song.
And the patriot's breast must fondly glow to think he threads upon
The heights of proud Thermopylae or the plains of Marathon ;
And the poet's thoughts must burn indeed upon the crooked strand
Where Agamemnon marshalled forth the pride of every land ;
Or when he enger wanders over Scio's rocky isle,
Where Homer touched the harp-strings 'neath the epic muse's smile.
But we have had our Alfred, who a noble spirit bore,
Surpassed by none of Eastern race in the song-famed days of yore,
And we have had our bards as great as those of Greece and Rome,
And their scenes are not more dear than thine, my own, my island-home.

They tell of far Columbia, the new, the western world,
Where the banner bright of liberty in splendour is unfurled,
Where all the pomp of royalty is proudly cast away,
And freemen will not bend beneath a monarch's lofty sway,
And of the rights of citizens they eloquently tell,
And of that nation's potency whose sails all breezes swell ;
They talk too of the abundance which is there for all that live,
And the cheapness of all earthly things which joy or comfort give,
While neither debt nor taxes steal the product of their toil,
Nor a race of haughty noblemen step in to take the spoil ;
But their banner bright of liberty is marked with such a stain
Of negroes' blood as Freedom's sons in Britain would disdain ;
And their citizens lay claim to rights which we should never yield,
Who seek o'er all alike to throw protection's sacred shield.
The taxes they declaim against to useless burdens seem,
While wealth into our island flows in such a ceaseless stream :
And their petty lords are despots, such as are not known in thee,
My own, my dear, my native land, home of the brave and free.

They talk too of Australia, where, from the desert won,
A vast extent of cultured lands now smiles beneath the sun :
And of fortunes gathered rapidly beneath that milder sky,
Where no extremes of heat and cold'er riot or destroy.
And pleasant may the task be, man and nature to reclaim,
To train the savage wilderness and the wilder spirit tame,
And still more pleasant must it be when riches crown our toil,
And the efforts of our struggling years are gilt with fortune's smile.
But that is not my birth-place—'twas not there I earliest drew
The breath of life, and smiled upon a thousand objects new ;
It was not there I sported in my childhood's happy hours,
And gathered from the woods and fields unnumbered sparkling flowers ;
It was not there love's pleasing dream across my spirit came,
While youth increased its tenderness, and manhood fed the flame ;
It is not there my little ones beneath the green turf lie ;
And could I bear so far from all that's dear to live and die ?
So many ties indissoluble bind me to thy strand,
And I would lay my bones in thee, my dear, my native land.
Nottingham.

DESTINY.

'Tis fate that flings the dice, and as she flings,
Of kings makes peasants, and of peasants kings ;
What made Ventidius rise and Tullus great,
But their kind stars and hidden powers of fate ?

JUVENAL.

It is much to be regretted that these said kind stars of men should not always be in the ascendants at their births ; but in the revolution of the planetary system this cannot be, and it behoves us, therefore, under the experience of our star's influence, from past failures and misfortunes, to guard as much as possible against like inauspicious results. We are of that incredulous sect who believe not that all the good fortune of life depends on the virtue and honourable industry of men, that is to say, that success usually attends them. The doctrine we are aware is a dangerous one to

inculcate, inasmuch as it is disheartening to exertion in a praiseworthy and honourable course. We admit, nevertheless, that much depends on our own efforts, and that without the proper and fair exercise of the reason and powers given to us, we ought not, in ordinary expectation, to look for a realization of the end which it may be our object to obtain ; but we argue that there is an over-ruling fate, or to use the words of Mr. Bulwer, an influence difficult to trace, "a secret but irresistible principle that impels us, as a rolling circle, onward, onward in the great orbit of our destiny—from which we find no respite until the wheels on which we move are broken at the touch." Were it a regular consequence of things that good results should follow well-conceived plans, or that honourable labours should lead to fortunate terminations, and *vice versa*, we should find the world to undergo an extraordinary change ; and thousands of individuals now suffering under the extreme of penury and distress, and whose fortunes have been expended in scientific pursuits, to benefit mankind and enlighten future generations, raised to the summit of rank and fortune ; while on the other hand, we should behold in descent from their high and unworthy station, many titled and opulent specimens of imbecility, whose lives have never been distinguished by one act or effort, either to benefit mankind by their talent, or to relieve the wants of their fellow creatures by the superfluities of their wealth. Who, we would ask, are the persons most subject to failures in life but those who are most inventive in genius, and enterprising in their speculations ? Success, it is true, frequently accompanies endeavour ; but how oft it is that the active mind that conceives and carries into effect any beneficial work, belongs not to the individual who reaps the reward of its capacity ; the harvest of the project is gathered in by indolent and inactive capitalists, or some drone in the hive of industry, whose whole exertions extend not beyond a degree of vigilance towards the practicable schemes of others, and their inefficiency in point of means to carry them into effect—they are the harvest men who come in at the eleventh hour and bear away from those who have borne the burthen and heat of the day. How many projectors of national plans of improvement and benefit have been ruined, whilst the more fortunate after speculators have reaped the full pecuniary reward due to the merit of the design. How many men of talent and ability in every walk of life give place to the less qualified for service and patronage ? Is not such irreconcilable fact to be ascribed to "the hidden influence of destiny," or what the world terms luck. We are, in fact, the creatures of destiny, shuttle-cocks of fate, handied to and fro by the blows and buffetings of the agencies, and making our respective ways in proportion to the strength or impetus given, and the power of the resisting or opposing medium through which our course is directed. Some make way under great propelling power and little opposing influence ; others no sooner receive an impetus than their progress is checked by some more powerful counteracting agency that destroys the momentum, and cuts short their career. In illustration of the proposition we might adduce very many instances of successes and failures in life, and of the elevation and decline of individuals, strongly corroborative of our view that man does not wholly depend on his own exertions ; but that there is a fatality attending his conduct and actions of times at variance with what in reason appears to be their just reward. An example.—In proof of the favourable working of destiny in the fortunes of individuals, we would instance only two, and these are to be found in the extraordinary elevation of the present King of the Belgians, and in the equally fortuitous good fortune of a lately deceased duchess. The original expectations of these parties, (without disparagement to either be it said,) was not such as to give even the most distant conception, much less hope, that they could ever reach the dazzling height of prosperity which they both attained—there can be traced no assignable or reconcilable cause why such should have been their lot—it was, in both instances, affected by the mere fortuity and combination of circumstances wholly without the region of surmise or calculation, but forming an uninterrupted and unbroken chain of events, leading to one great and fortunate conclusion. The more distinguished of the two individuals alluded to, was the mere scion of a German stock, possessing of himself an income unequal in its amount to that which even a clerk of some few years standing in the Treasury department would receive, and far inferior to the profits in business of many a fourth or fifth rate tradesman of London. His good fortune or destiny guided him to England, where, in spite of the many opposing influences that were arrayed in fearful aspect against all probability of the occurrences that subsequently took place, he was introduced to the court and to the heiress presumptive to England. Be it re-

membered that at that time it was contemplated to bring about a marriage between the hereditary Prince of Orange and the Princess Charlotte of Wales. The prince, under the malign aspect of political events, had been long resident in this country, holding commission in the 10th Light Dragoons, and had paid devoted attention to the royal object of his affection, who, however, was known to be averse to the union proposed. In this state of things, destiny, through the agency of female policy and diplomacy, as worked out by the well-contrived schemes of the Duchess of Oldenburgh, stepped in to the accomplishment of an arrangement. The Prince of Cobourg was introduced, and had the good fortune to take the attention of the Princess Charlotte, which was no sooner perceived by the experienced duchess, than she determined on a speculative manœuvre to turn up for her relative the royal card that should carry the game. She immediately set her wits and contrivances to work, and, as a first step, opened a communication with the great Jew millionaire, Rothschild, and laid before him the exact state of events, as in her view and contemplation they appeared to promise a favourable result. The great capitalist with his usual discrimination and foresight, saw the perfection of the scheme, and immediately communicated to the prince that he could draw on his (R.'s) house for any sum of money he should want in support of his dignity. This grand arrangement effected, every opportunity was of course embraced that could tend to encourage the feeling of preference that the princess had already evinced for the fortunate prince, who ultimately became the avowed object of her affections ; and spite of all opposition by the regent, her father, the only person whom she would hear of or assent to as her affianced husband. All remonstrance was useless ; and it was, therefore, advisable to cede to the princess's wishes. Thus, the impulse which destiny gave to the progress of the Prince of Cobourg was the opposing and counteracting agency to the fortunes of the Prince of Orange ; in other words, the success of the one was the death blow to the hopes of the other. The heir to the throne of Holland was discarded ; and the poor German Prince, whose most sanguine expectations could never have led him beyond the hand and fortune of an English lady, was, on a sudden, raised to almost the highest dignity of the kingdom, receiving therewith an income of nearly treble the amount of the sovereignty of the state of which he was a native, and from which he had set out the mere soldier of his fortune. But the impetus which destiny had first given to his fortunes, had bore him only half way in his marked career. Subsequent events with which every Englishman is too well acquainted, deprived the prince of his betrothed, and he became a widower, with the ample provision of about £60,000 per annum. Trace we next the long chain of political and other events—the downfall of Napoleon—the restoration of the Bourbons—the French revolution of the three days in July, 1830, and the elevation of Louis Philippe to the throne of the French ; and following this, the separation of Belgium and Holland, and the election of this same Prince of Cobourg to the throne of the newly created kingdom ; and lastly, the second union of this most fortunate individual with the daughter of the King of the French, the accession of fortune consequent thereon, and the great security given to his throne by his connexion by marriage with the two greatest powers of Europe. Reflecting on such a marked and extraordinary career, can it be said, that it was produced by the common course of things ? The individual so marked out as the favoured of fortune is, by no means, distinguished by talent or enterprise above other men, on the contrary, his habits are retired, and whatever may be his acquirements, they are equally unobtrusive and unknown.

The next example of destiny's doings may be instanced in the elevation of the late Duchess of St. Albans. This lady, the daughter of humble parentage, was formerly attached to the theatre, and obtained some favour with the public in third rate characters. She possessed, by no means, that generally striking beauty or fascination of face or person, to which many actresses have been indebted for their good fortune ; and her professional talent, except in one or two characters, was not beyond the ordinary quality. Her person and performance, however, attracted the notice and admiration of a very eminent and wealthy old banker ; and, as is usually the case, when very old men become fascinated with very young women, she obtained great and uncontrolled influence over him, and they lived on terms of intimacy for some years. On the death of the old banker's wife, he, at the age of nearly fifty, married his young friend ; and at his death, a few years afterwards, bequeathed to her the whole of the vast property he had amassed, and left her sole and uncontrolled mistress of his great