

# The Weekly Observer.

BEING A CONTINUATION OF THE STAR.

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## THE GARLAND.

### NATURAL MONITORS.

I asked the lark in the summer morn,  
Why he left so lightly his nest in the corn;  
Why he sang so sweetly his matin song,  
That the clouds and the breezes bore along;  
When he knew, that, perhaps, before 'twas night,  
The hunter's shaft might stay his flight?  
By the messenger Wind was this answer given,  
"I fear not, I fear not, I fly towards heaven!"  
I asked the flowers in the soft spring-time,  
Wherefore they smiled in their youthful prime,  
When the stormy days so soon should come,  
That would blight forever their beauty and bloom?  
And sweet flowers answered, "Each day renews  
On our leaves the sunshine that dries the dew!  
Why should we not smile? 'Till now we have thrived;  
And as the sunshine and dew are both from Heaven!"  
I asked the clouds in their pomp of light,  
As they sat in the crimson west at night,  
Wherefore they gathered round the sun  
And brightened—although his course was run—  
When, perhaps, the breezes of night might strow  
Their fragile folds into mist and dew?  
The clouds replied, "Though we should be driven  
Away from our rest, we should still be in Heaven!"  
And I saw a lovely child who knelt  
Beside the cot where his father dwelt,  
At the sun-set hour, and his hands were raised  
Towards the sky, on which he gazed;  
And on his rosary lips a prayer  
Seemed hovering—like the summer air:  
"Fear not, thou," said I, "the shades of even!"  
He smiled and said, "See, how bright the Heaven!"

## GEMS.

BY JOHN BOWRING, ESQUIRE, L. S. Q.

From the Gem for 1830.

Earth has its gems around  
Creatures through ether winging,  
Flow'rets in glory springing,  
Dew-drops upon the ground;  
Sparks of the water-fall, insects' wings—  
Ay! and a million beautiful things!  
See hath its gems below!  
In grotes to man forbidden  
Marvelous treasures are hidden—  
Pearls and corals grow:  
Deep and dark in the tombs of the wave,  
Jewels are hung in palace and cave.  
Heaven hath its gems above!  
Look! for its arch exalted  
With planets and stars is vaulted.  
O, what spirits are hidden—  
Gems of the soul—through scenes like these,  
Learning eternal mysteries.

## THE MISCELLANIST.

GOOD AND BAD STYLES OF LIVING.—Good style of living consists in having a mansion exquisitely fitted up with all the expensive bijouterie compatible with true elegance, yet avoiding the lavish superabundance of gimcrackery which borders on vulgarity; comely serving men in suitable liveries, all so well initiated into the mysteries of their respective duties, that a guest could imagine himself in a fairy palace, where plates vanish without the contamination of a mortal finger and thumb, and glasses more without a jingle: then the feast is exquisitely cooked and exquisitely served; the table groans not, the hostess cares not; but one delicious dainty is followed by another, and each remore brings forth a dish more piquante than the last: every thing is delightful, but there must appear to be an abundance of nothing; two spoonfuls alone of each delicious viand should repose under its silver cover: and he who dared ask to be helped a second time to any thing, ought to be sentenced to eternal transportation from the regions of haught.

Bad style of living—Shocking even to describe! A large house in streets or squares unknown; hot ugly men servants, stumbling over one another in their uncouth eagerness to admit you; your name unpronounced, and shouted at the drawing-room door; your host and hostess in a fuss, apologising, asking questions, and boring you to death; dinner at length announced, but no chance of extrication from the dull drawing-room, because the etiquette of precedence is not rightly understood, and nobody knows who ought to be led out first; all the way down stairs a dead silence, and then the difficulty of distributing the company almost equals the precious dilemma of the drawing-room: wives are wittily warned against sitting by husbands, and two gentlemen are facetiously interdicted from sitting together; the hostess takes the top of the table to be useful, not ornamental, for fish and joint and turkey, must she carve; while her husband, at the other end of the mahogany, must equally make a toil of a pleasure, and yet smile as if it were a pleasure to tell! The beasts of the earth and the birds of the air appear upon the board, scolding and disingenuous in their own proper forms, just as they stepped out of Noah's ark, always excepting those who are too unwieldy to be present in whole skins; and even they send their joints to table in horrid unsophistication: Sweets follow, but how unlike the souffles of Ude! Grim green gooseberries, lurking under their heavy coverings of crust; and custards the plain produce of the dairy, embittered with bay leaves, cinnamon, and cloves! Cheese follows with the alternatives of port wine and porter; and all this weary time the servants have been knocking your head about, thumping your plate, or pouring lobster sauce into your pockets!—*Sharpe's Magazine.*

MODERN BOOK MAKING.—I have never been able to ascertain what is the use of writing so many books as are published every year. It cannot be said that it is to supply the increased and increasing number of readers, because it is very well known to publishers and authors that very few of the works which are written are read at all; while scarcely a much less expensive mode of providing trunk-makers, pastry-cooks, and cheese-mongers with waste paper, might easily be hit upon. I should think, lawyers letters, and barristers' briefs for example, if carefully preserved, would always be more than sufficient for those purposes. Be that as it may, however, there can be no fear of a dearth of waste paper for many years to come, were there no other than the reams of securities which were

made during the bubble mania, to say nothing of the prospectuses. These are as good as ever they were, and better without the "securities" than with them; for, in the former case, they are like a bill of exchange on a promissory note with a long time to run; but with the securities tacked to them, they look like the same bill of exchange after it has been noted for non-payment. With regard to curling-paper for young ladies who wear their own hair, if all the printing presses in England were stopped for the next century, there are enough of poems, novels, romances, travels, and reminiscences, waiting to be torn up, for all the tresses of all the heads that shall need them during that space; and as to the old ladies, their wigs and mohair fronts curl naturally. I saw it stated lately, that the new catalogue of the British Museum, would extend to fifteen quarto volumes! This catalogue alone! The catalogue of only one library! Upon a moderate computation we may calculate that each volume will contain the names of three thousand books; so here we have five and forty thousand volumes, and yet we go on writing and publishing. It follows that reading, not thinking, must be the business of an author. Two hundred years ago, a man might hope to read all that was expected to be read by an industrious scholar, by the time he was thirty; but now, if a man could live to be two hundred years old, and ever so industrious, he could not reckon upon the same result.—Either every thing has been said that can be said, and therefore a new book is, after all, nothing more than a new edition of an old one; or a man's life must be employed to find out what has not been said already, and then, he is ready for his coffin by the time he has ascertained that he has something original to publish. What is to be the lot of future scholars, I cannot pretend to foretell; but I suppose, as extremes are said to meet, the consequence of there being more books than can be read, will assimilate itself to that of there being no books to be read; and so nobody will read.—*Monthly Magazine.*

PRINCE HENRY AND CHIEF JUSTICE GASCOIGNE.—A favorite servant of King Henry V., when Prince of Wales, was indicted for a misdemeanor; and notwithstanding the interest he excited in his behalf, was convicted and condemned. The prince was so incensed at the issue of the trial, that forgetting his own dignity and the respect due to the administration of justice, he rushed into court, and commanded that his servant should be unfettered and set at liberty. The chief justice, Sir William Gascoigne, mildly reminded the prince of the reverence which was due to the ancient laws of the kingdom: and advised him, if he had any hope of exempting the culprit from the rigour of his sentence, to apply for the gracious pardon of the king, his father, a course of proceeding which would be no derogation to either law or justice. The prince, far from being appeased by this discreet answer, hastily turned towards the prisoner, and was attempting to take him by force out of the hands of the officers, when the Chief Justice, roused by so flagrant a contempt of authority, commanded the prince on his allegiance instantly to leave the prisoner and quit the court. Henry, all in a fury stepped up to the judgement seat, with the intonation as every one thought, of doing some personal injury to the Chief Justice; but he quickly stopped short, awed by the majestic sternness which frowned from the brow of the judge, as he thus addressed him; "Sir, remember yourself. I keep here the place of the king, your sovereign lord and father, to whom you owe double allegiance. In his name, therefore, I charge you desist from your disobedience and unlawful enterprise, and henceforth give a better example to those who shall hereafter be your own subjects. And now, for the contempt and disobedience you have shown, I commit you to the prison of the King's Bench, there to remain until the pleasure of the king, your father, be known."

Henry, by this time, sensible of the insult he had offered the laws of his country, suffered himself to be quietly conducted to goal by the officers of justice. His father, Henry IV., was no sooner informed of this transaction, than he exclaimed in a transport of joy, "Happy is the king who has a magistrate possessed of courage to execute the laws; and still more happy in having a son who will submit to the punishment inflicted for offending them."

CHILLING POLITENESS.—Without entering into any disquisition as to the rights of hospitality and the merits of social duties, we shall briefly notice what we conceive to be "singularly cold civility," the effects of which are felt by the suffering party, long after their exposure to it. Large rooms reserved for the use of company, or invited guests, are often shut up for many days, and even sometimes for weeks together, in damp and cold weather. These are opened, and a fire made in them an hour or two only before the arrival of the visitors, who are allowed by this means, to sit exposed, at first to the chilling air of the room, and subsequently to the moisture which evaporates from the curtains, carpeting, and chair seats. The persons thus suffering, are generally clad in a lighter attire than is customary with them, and if they do not actually shiver under their reception, we must attribute it to an uncommon effort of volition. But in addition to these dispensations common to the whole group, there is not unfrequently a current of air rushing in with force enough to turn a small wind-mill, through the crevice, or opening of a door, or window, which strikes against the neck or back of some timid maiden, or awkward country youth, who are fearful of being thought unpolite by changing their places, and obtaining a seat nearer the fire. Dinner is at length served, and then, by the doctrine of compensation, these two persons are allowed to sit with their

backs to the fire during the repast, to make room, at a more pleasant part of the table, for their seniors, or those who have frankness enough to say that they cannot bear the fire; that is they cannot bear to be roasted for politeness sake.

Night arrives, and the hour for sleep finds the favored guest in a bed, which has been for weeks a bed of state, and between sheets which are so damp that they adhere to the skin. Perhaps the room had been washed out in the morning, in order to be in nice trim, and as an evidence of still greater respect to the visitor, who, in addition to the other evidences of chilling politeness, receives the cold damp air coming from the floor and walls.

Colds, coughs, and consumptions, are often the effects of this kind of friendly attention, which are succeeded by another series, scarcely less distressing and still more fatal. These consist in the recommendation of sundry cough mixtures, pulmonic balsams, and the like.—Hence, a person has a poor chance of escape, under the kindness of these friends, of whom one class bring on the disease, and the other kill while promising to cure it.—*Journal of Health.*

MYSTERIOUS DISCOVERY AT BURY, IN LANCASHIRE.—Within the last few days the body of a man, of the name of John Newbold, brother of Mr. Joseph Newbold, iron-founder, of Bury, was discovered under most peculiar circumstances. The deceased was a single man, lived in a cottage in Bury, opposite to St. John's Chapel, near which place there is a considerable number of houses. He had several respectable relations residing in the vicinity, from whom he had frequently received pecuniary assistance; but he was a man of irregular habits, and for a long time had been a source of great uneasiness to his family. The last time he was seen alive was about two months ago, when he solicited the loan of some money from a person who well knew him; and about the same period he visited a relation near Rochdale, from whom he received a sovereign. The people in his neighbourhood, for some time before the body was discovered, expressed doubts as to his being alive, as the house was continually kept closed, and he was not observed about the place as usual. It is reported also that his brother, who resides in Bury, was somewhat alarmed by dreaming that he witnessed a corpse carried through the streets, followed by a numerous assemblage of persons. Having related his dream to his family, he accompanied his son to the cottage of the deceased, and found the door was fastened. The unfortunate man being of an irritable temper, they were fearful of bursting open the door, and they therefore obtained a sight of the room, in which the body lay, by means of a ladder. They immediately entered the house, and, on examining the corpse, found it to be in a rapid state of decomposition. The spectators who beheld it describe it to be one of the most horrifying objects which their eyes ever beheld. The body was in a reclining position. The eyes and other parts of the body were frightfully decayed, and, altogether, the remains of the wretched creature, with the damp and cheerless aspect of the dwelling, formed a scene as repulsive and desolate as could well be imagined. An inquest has been held on view of the body, and a surgeon has viewed it, whose opinion is, that the death of the deceased had been caused by a complaint in the bowels.

BOW-STREET.—Sad effects of Spirituous Liquors.—James Ivory was charged before Mr. Minshull, the sitting Magistrate at Bow-street, on Friday, with having assaulted his father, a schoolmaster, residing in Short's-gardens, Belton-street. The case was as lamentable a one as had occurred for some time. The father deposed, that his son was a young man of bad character, and had been several times in custody and in prison. He was constantly in the habit of coming home in a state of intoxication, and using violence towards all the family. On Thursday night he returned at a late hour in liquor, and threatened to treat him as Hanlon, the man who was lately murdered in Dublin, was treated. He then seized witness by the collar and shook him. Witness escaped into the parlour, and bolted the door; upon which his son attempted to break it open, declaring that he did not care a rush for the new police, as they dared not enter a dwelling-house, or take a party into custody, without seeing violence committed. Before his son could accomplish his purpose, however, witness called in an officer, and gave him into custody.—The son said that his misconduct had been produced by his father's example; and if he (the son) had taken the father's advice literally, he should now have been in Botany Bay.—His sister, though she admitted that her brother's conduct was inexcusable, yet said her father had set him the very worst possible example.—Mrs. Minshull said he could not give credence to persons who vilified their parent.—Sister: Sir, I assure you that there are faults on both sides; and that my father and brother are equally to blame. They are both equally violent when in liquor, which, I regret to say, is but too frequently the case. There is my poor mother, whose eye my father put out with a hot poker.—Mr. Minshull, who was horror-struck, said, that if such were the case, his opinion would be considerably changed.—The poor mother, who seemed to be a mild, inoffensive old woman, admitted that what her daughter had stated was true, but as she could not allow her son to ill-treat his father, which was not to be justified either in the sight of God or man, she wished him to be held to bail, and compelled to keep away.—Mr. Minshull expressed the pity which he felt for the poor woman, and regretted that she should be subject to such unkind treatment. At her request, he would call the defendant to put in bail.—He was then locked up in default.

A man and a woman named Skillman have resided for some months at Union Row, Newington, in extreme privacy. The man represented himself as having failed in business as a stationer, but his person bore none of those indications of poverty which attached to his wife's. He left home on Friday night, and requested the landlady, (whom he had been in the habit of keeping out of his room) to pay some attention to Mrs. Skillman. The landlady, on entering the room, found the poor creature wasted to a skeleton, stretched on straw, covered only by a few rags of carpet, and without food or fire. The parish officers were sent for, but she was too much paralysed by cold to answer their questions; she was then attended by the parish doctor, but she died on Sunday. An inquest was held on Thursday, at which it appeared that Skillman had another wife, with whom he spent Friday night, though he knew the deceased to be on the point of death. This other wife, it was proved, visited the deceased on Saturday, and said to her, "Poor creature, I freely forgive you, and I hope God will forgive you for the injuries you have inflicted on me." She remained with the deceased till she died. Skillman, when examined, pleaded poverty as the cause of the misery to which his wife had been subjected. The jury expressed their abhorrence of his brutality. The inquest was adjourned till Friday. On its being resumed, it appeared that the woman who waited on the deceased had been married to Skillman for eighteen years; that he had left her about five years ago to live with the deceased. It did not appear that the deceased had been married to Skillman. The jury found, "that the deceased died from cold, and want of the necessaries of life, and the jury are unanimously of opinion, that the said Benjamin Skillman has been grossly negligent and inattentive to her."—*London paper.*

SCOTCH MARRIAGES.—A judicial enquiry, which has excited much interest, has been for some time going on respecting what may be called the marriages without the pale of the church, at Annan and its neighbourhood. It is known that the acknowledgment of the parties, legally proved by competent witnesses, establishes a marriage by the law of Scotland, and every magistrate has a right to certify that such an acknowledgment was made before him; but it appears that two or three private persons in Annan have been for a considerable time in the habit of assuming, in some way or other, the right to receive and certify these acknowledgments of marriage, which was always believed to be only in the power of magistrates, and prosecutions for this supposed infringement of law have been commenced against them in the Sheriff Court of the county, and the decision must deeply affect at least a certain class of the community.—*Carlisle Patriot.*

SOMNAMBULISM.—A most extraordinary case of sleep-walking occurred in the Castle Hill, (Edinburgh), on Sunday morning. A tenant in the attic of one of the old houses there, which is five stories high, was alarmed by a snoring on the roof, and on the arrival of the watch, a man was discovered lying fast asleep on the house top, within a few feet of the edge of the slates. The question was now how to get him relieved from his dangerous situation. McDonald, the captain of the red engine, was had recourse to, who immediately brought from head-quarters the proper tackle for lowering persons from such situations in cases of fire, as practised in the late exercises of the fire establishment.—The belt was put round the waist of the sleeper, and he was lowered in the most approved manner, and in the greatest safety, to the street. On his being awakened, he proved to be a smith, named Joseph Brooks, who resided in the tenement adjoining, and who could only account for the situation in which he was found by a habit of sleep-walking, to which he is addicted. He had been drinking the night before, and supposes that, on his way home, he had mistaken the house top for his own bed. He states that on one occasion, about four years ago, he arose from his bed in Stirling, walked to the Forth, and swam across, and only awoke on reaching the opposite bank. On another occasion, also, he arose in his sleep, kindled his mother's fire, and after making porridge for the whole family, lay down again in bed, quite unconscious of the transaction.—*Caledonian Mer.*

A correspondent happening to look at a Scottish newspaper, no farther back than 1787, was amused with an enumeration of many astonishing improvements which it is said had lately taken place in the country, and among others with what is stated to be the most miraculous speed with which letters were then conveyed. "To prove this (says the writer) a curious fact may be mentioned, which is, that a letter may be conveyed from Aberdeen to Falmouth and the answer from Falmouth back to Aberdeen, in fourteen days, and the distance between the two places is eight hundred miles—so that the coaches travel at the rate of sixteen hundred miles in a fortnight—an expedition which by our forefathers would have been ascribed to magic."—What would the author of the observations say to the expedition of the present day, when the same distance may be travelled in one half of the time!—*Edinburgh Courant.*

CURIOS CALCULATION.—On a moderate estimate, we may compute that there are about a thousand great guns fired every time the 5th of November comes round, in Britain and the colonies, by forts, castles, and ships of war. If we suppose the guns to be 24-pounders, and the charge of powder 6lbs. at 8d. per lb. we find that each of these salutes costs £200; and in the course of twenty-two years, the country must have expended above £40,000 in keeping up these noisy demonstrations, which would be more honoured in the breach than the observance.—*Scotsman.*

DR. EDMUND CALAMY.—The life of this great Divine, (soon to be published) includes a period of sixty years, distinguished by some of the most remarkable events that figure in our annals; those, namely, that occurred during the reigns of Charles II., James II., William, Queen Anne, and George I. and II. The work will embrace, among other subjects, the court and ministry of Charles II., the flight of James II., the Revolution and establishment of the House of Hanover, and comprise notices of most of the great public characters of the day, the following among many others: Lord Clarendon, Lord Shaftesbury, Duke of Buckingham, Bishop Burnet, Stillingfleet, Archbishop of Canterbury, Sir Robert Walpole, Baxter, Archbishop Tillotson, &c. It is expected to form a valuable addition to the history of our own country, and commensurate in importance with the Diaries of Pepys, Evelyn, and Clarendon.—*Edinburgh W. Journal.*

EFFECTS OF SEASONS.—Seasons arrive and pass away, the general features alone remaining impressed upon our minds; but they often produce consequences not commonly expected, and a departed summer or winter has frequently been the cause of some event, which we consider as exclusively occasioned by atmospheric changes, or present temperature. A warm dry summer generally occasions a healthy spring blossom the ensuing year, the bearing wood being ripened and matured to produce in its most perfect state. A wet, damp one usually effects the reverse, by occasioning an abundant flow of sap, producing wood and foliage rather than blossom; and the following spring, in such cases, from the floral vigour being diverted, has generally its blossom weak, and, though perhaps not defective, incompetent to mature the germs. This is mere reasoning upon general consequences; but so imperfect are our theories, and so many circumstances counteract the calculations, the predictions of human wisdom, which can rarely even "discern the face of the sky," that results must more often be looked for than known.—*Journal of a Naturalist.*

A Greek can seldom sing without dancing at the same time, and the rest of the company cannot resist the temptation of joining the party, as if actuated by a natural impulse; and when they all sing together the din is really horrible. It may be ranked among the petty vexations of travelling in Greece, as well as the songs and music with which the traveller is complimented to the great offence of his ears and nerves; for although at first all this excites laughter, yet, when the novelty is over, it becomes insupportable. The traveller is sometimes tormented in this manner by his attendant from sunrise to sunset.—*Harmonicon.*

HANT.—We are so wonderfully formed, that, whilst we are a creature vehemently desirous of novelty, we are as strongly attached to habit and custom. But it is the nature of things, which hold us by custom, to affect us very little while we are in possession of them, but strongly when they are absent. I remember to have frequented a certain place every day for a long time together; and I may truly say, that so far from finding pleasure in it, I was affected with a sort of weariness and disgust; I came, I went, I returned without pleasure; yet if by any means I passed by the usual hour of going thither I was remarkably uneasy, and was not quiet until I had got into my old track. They who use snuff, take it almost without being sensible that they take it, and the acute sense of smell is deadened, so as to feel hardly any thing from so sharp a stimulus; yet, deprive the snuff-taker of his box, and he is the most uneasy mortal in the world.—*Burke.*

A correspondent, who writes on the extraordinary consumption of gin by the lower-classes, states, that he watched one shop in Holborn, of great business, and saw, on the average, six individuals enter per minute, being equal to 360 in an hour!—*London Herald.*

There was no part of the Roman policy which so effectually promoted the good of mankind, or which has transmitted more exalted ideas of their imperial grandeur, as the number and magnificence of their Roads, which were of vast utility to the districts which they traversed, and proved the most efficacious means of promoting the comfort and civilization of conquered States.

CHRISTENINGS AND BURIALS.—There were christened in London during the year ending December 25, 1829:—Males, 13,674; females, 13,354; in all, 27,028. Buried, males 12,015; females, 11,560; in all, 23,575: whereof have died, under two years of age, 6710; between two and five, 2347; five and ten, 1019; ten and twenty, 949; twenty and thirty, 1563; thirty and forty, 1092; forty and fifty, 2093; fifty and sixty, 2094; sixty and seventy, 2158; seventy and eighty, 1843; eighty and ninety, 749; nine and one hundred, 85; one hundred and one, 1; one hundred and eight, 2.

By the revised laws of New-York, any apothecary or other person selling poisonous substances or tartar emetic, without having the word 'poison' attached to the phial, &c. is to be fined on conviction, not exceeding \$100.

EMPLOYMENT.—Amasis, King of Egypt, established a law commanding that every Egyptian should annually declare before the governor of the province by what means he maintained himself; and if he omitted to do so, or gave not a satisfactory account of his way of living, he should be punished with death. This law Solon the Athenian brought from Egypt, and introduced into Athens, where 'tis invariably observed as a most equitable constitution.—*Herodotus.*

Truth is the first interest of society; more harm is done by falsehood in an hour, than by violence in a year; yet have all nations paid dearly for establishments, calculated for the express purpose of confining inquiry in one exclusive direction, and shutting out all other avenues of light but their own.—*Lady Morgan.*