

THE CONCEPTION-BAY MAN

SECRET POETRY.

POETICAL PORTRAITS.

(From the Oasis.)

SHAKESPEAR.

His was the wizard spell
The spirit to enchain;
His grasp o'er nature fell,
Creation owed his reign.

MILTON.

His spirit was the home
Of aspiration high!
A temple, whose huge dome
Was hidden in the sky.

THOMSON.

The Seasons, as they roll,
Shall bear thy name along,
And, graven on the soul
Of Nature, live thy song.

GREY.

Soaring on pinions proud,
The lightning of his eye
Scar the black thunder-cloud,
He passes swiftly by.

BURNS.

He seized his country's lyre,
With ardent grasp and strong,
And made his soul of fire
Dissolve itself in song.

SOUTHEY.

Where Necromancy flings
O'er Eastern land her spell,
Sustained on Fable's wings,
His spirit loves to dwell.

COLERIDGE.

Magician, whose dread spell,
Working in pale moonlight,
From superstition's cell
Invokes each satellite!

WORDSWORTH.

He hung his harp upon
Philosophy's pure shriae;
And, placed by nature's throne,
Composed each placid line.

CAMPBELL.

With all that nature's fire
Can lend to polished art,
He strikes his graceful lyre
To thrill or warm the heart.

SCOTT.

He sings, and lo! Romance
Starts from its mouldering urn,
While Chivalry's bright lance
And nodding plumes return.

WILSON.

His strains like holy hymn
Upon the ear doth float,
Or voice of Cherubim
In mountain vale remote.

HEMANS.

To bid the big tear start
Unchallenged from its shrine,
And thrill the quivering heart
With pity's voice, are thine.

SHELLEY.

A solitary rock
In a far distant sea,
Rent by the thunder's shock,
An emblem stands of thee!

HOGG.

Clothed in the rainbow's beam,
Mid stream and past-rail glen,
He sees the fairest gleam
Far from the haunts of men.

BYRON.

Black clouds his forehead bound,
And at his feet were flowers;
Mirth, madness, merriment found
In him their keenest powers.

MOORE.

Crowned with perennal flowers,
By wit and genius wove,
He wanders through the bowers
Of fancy and of love.

LITERATURE.

THE WESTERN ANTIQUITIES.

In the valley of the Mississippi, and the more southern parts of North America, are found antique curiosities and works of art, bearing the impress of cultivated intelligence. But of the race, or people, who executed them, time has left no vestige of their existence, save these monuments of their skill and knowledge. Not even a tradition whispers its *guess-work*, who they might be. We only know *they were*.

What proof and evidence do we gather from their remains, which have withstood the test of time, of their origin and probable era of their existence? That they existed centuries ago, is evident from the size which forest trees have attained, which grow upon the mounds and fortifications discovered. That they were civilized and understood the arts, is apparent from the manner of laying out and erecting their fortifications, and from various utensils of gold, copper, and iron which have occasionally been found in digging below the earth's surface. If I mistake not, I believe even glass have been found, which, if so, shows them acquainted with chemical discoveries, which are supposed to have been unknown until a period much later than the probable time of their existence. That they were not the ancestors of the race which inhabited this country at the time of its discovery by Columbus, appears conclusive from the total ignorance of the Indian tribes of all knowledge of arts and civilizations, and the non-existence of any tradition of their once proud sway. That they were a mighty people is evident from the extent of territory where these antiquities are scattered. The banks of the Ohio and Mississippi tell they once lived; and even to the shore where the vast Pacific heaves its waves, there are traces of their existence. Who were they? In what period of time did they exist?

In a cave in one of the Western States, there is carved upon the walls a group of people, apparently in the act of devotion; and a rising sun is sculptured above them. From this we should infer that they were Pagans, worshipping the sun and the fabulous gods. But what most strikingly arrests the antiquarian's observation, and causes him to repeat the inquiry, "who were they?" is the habiliments of the group. One part of their habit is of the Grecian costume, and the remainder is of the Phœnician. Were they a colony from Greece? Did they come from that land in the days of its proud glory, bringing with them a knowledge of arts, science, and philosophy? Did they, too, seek a home across the western waters, because they loved liberty in strange land better than they loved slavery at home? Or what may be as probable, were they the descendants of some band who managed to escape the destruction of ill-fated Troy—the descendants of a people who had called Greece a mother-country, but were sacrificed to her vindictive ire, because they were prouder to be Trojans than the descendants of Grecians! Ay, who were they? Might not America have had its Hector, its Paris, and Helen! its maidens who prayed, and its sons who fought! All this might have been. But their historians and their poets alike have perished. They *have been*; but the history of their existence their origin, and their destruction, all are hidden by the dark chaos of oblivion. Imagination alone, from inanimate land-marks, voiceless walls, and soulless bodies, must weave the record which shall tell of their lives, their aims, origin, and final extinction.

Recently, report says, in Mexico there have been discovered several mummies, embalmed after the manner of the ancient Egyptians. I rue, it carries the origin of this fated people still farther back; and we might claim them to be contemporaries with Moses and Joshua. Still if I own my conclusions correctly from what descriptions I have perused of these Western relics of the past, I should decide that they corresponded better with the ancient Grecians, Phœnicians, or Trojans, than with the Egyptians. I repeat, I may be incorrect in my premises and deductions, but as imagination is their historian, it pleases me better to fill a world with heroes and beauties of Homer's delineations, than with those of "Pharaoh and his host."

LISEITE.

WHERE SHALL I DINE?

One evening Sheridan, not knowing where to go for a dinner, sat down by Michael Angel, Taylor in the House of Commons, and said:—There is a law question likely to arise presently, in which, from your legal knowledge, you will be wanted to reply to Pitt, so I hope you will not mind of leaving the House? Michael sat down with no little pleasure, while Sheridan slipped out, walked over to Michael's house, and ordered a dinner, saying to the servants:—Your master not coming home this evening. He made an excellent dinner, came back to the House, and seeing Michael look expectant, went to release him, saying:—I am sorry to have kept you; for after all, I believe this matter will not come off to night. Michael instantly walked home, and heard, with no little consternation, when he rang for dinner, Mr. Sheridan had it, at about two hours ago.

BENEFITS OF ADVERSITY.

A smooth sea never made a skilful mariner, neither does uninterrupted prosperity and success qualify for usefulness or happiness. The storms of adversity, like the storms of the ocean, arouse the faculties, excite the invention, prudence, skill, and fortitude of the voyager. The martyrs of ancient times, in bracing their minds to outward calamity, acquired a loftiness of purpose, a moral heroism, worth a life of softness and security.

OUR LOST TIME.

Lost wealth may be restored by industry, the wreck of health regained by temperance, forgotten knowledge restored by study, alienated friendship smoothed into forgetfulness, even forfeited reputation may be won back by penitence and virtue—but who ever again looked upon his vanished hours, recalled his slighted years, stamped them with wisdom, or effaced from Heaven's record the fearful blot of wasted time?

TOBACCO.—The *Lancet* having given up its columns for several weeks past to correspondence relative to the tobacco controversy, now delivers its own opinion. Its conclusion may be thus stated:—1. To smoke *early in the day is excess*. 2. As people are generally constituted, to smoke more than one or two pipes of tobacco, or one or two cigars daily, is *excess*. 3. Youthful indulgence in smoking is *excess*. 4. There are physiological indications which, occurring in any individual case, are criteria of *excess*. "We most earnestly desire," says the *Lancet*, "to see the habit of smoking diminish, and we entreat the youth of this country to abandon it altogether. Let them lay our advice to heart. Let them give up a dubious pleasure for a certain good. Ten years hence we shall receive their thanks."

CALUMNY.

Calumny is like the wasp that teases, and against which you must not attempt to defend yourself, unless you are certain to destroy it; otherwise it returns to the charge more furious than ever.

EUROPEAN NEWS.

An evening ministerial print supplies some interesting information about the convention between this country and France relative to the Newfoundland fisheries. According to this authority, the treaty was framed by the agent of the French government and our Colonial Office, and was concluded, subject to the approval of the Colonial Legislature. But as the Colonists have withheld their approval, the treaty is now at an end, and any injury which the Colonists feared from its operation must necessarily disappear.

If we are to credit the morning organ of the Government, the submarine cable for connecting England and America is likely to prove a failure, certain to be so if the assumption on which the reasoning be correct, which time, which tries all things only can determine. "Whenever a cable" it says, "is constructed with spiral wires round a soft core any severe strain in paying it out must by stretching the outside wires, either attenuate or break the copper conductor or injure its insulation. At the lowest computation the Atlantic cable will stretch two feet per mile. At the deepest parts where it must be laid six miles will be suspended at one time. What becomes of the conducting wire during this elongation of twelve feet? It must either break or become attenuated. The latter accident, we believe, will be as bad as the former; for at present it will be most difficult to get the current through 3000 miles of 1-16th of an inch wire, and quite impossible, too, if either strain or pressure reduce it to 1-24th or 1-32nd of an inch diameter, as in electricity the weakest point becomes the standard of the whole. We do not mean to say that the present cable will not succeed, but the chances are against it, and it is almost certain that before it has been down twelve months, it will, like others similarly constructed, be perfectly useless. It is intended to work the cable with Sance's batteries—a most costly and troublesome plan. Morse's recording telegraph, once a very valuable instrument, though now behind many recent inventions, is to be used." This is not a very hopeful state of things for the shareholders in the undertaking, but fortunately for them, they have a rate of interest guaranteed them by the Government which will secure them against loss.

The Prussian Government must read the Liverpool police reports very attentively, for we see it stated that it has instructed its representative at Washington to remonstrate with Mr. Buchanan against the system of kidnapping at New York and other American ports Prussian emigrants and compelling them to act as seamen on board of American merchant vessels. This interference exhibits a singular amount of sympathy for people who leave their fatherland to procure a living in the Great Republic. The system referred to is certainly very brutalising but the greatest sufferers, we suspect, are not Prussians, but Englishmen and Americans. It will continue until the Federal Government adopt the course which we suggested some months ago.

when these atrocities first began to excite attention,—namely, that of compelling each American vessel to carry a certain number of apprentices, a custom which has been found to work well in this country, and always secure to our commercial marine plenty of good and able sailors.

The most heartrending accounts have been published respecting the famine which prevails in Russian Finland. In the districts of Uleaborg, Wasa, and Kurpio the distress is appalling and, as in all such cases, typhus has set in, and the mortality carrying off the population in enormous numbers. If the statements are not exaggerated, the unfortunate people are even worse off than they were in Ireland during the famine ten years back.

CHINESE EMMIGRANTS.—Copies of communications to or from the Foreign Office and other departments of Her Majesty's Government, on the subject of mortality on board the ship *Duke of Portland*, carrying emigrants from China, have just been published by order of parliament. The *Duke of Portland* sailed from Hongkong with 333 (not 500) Chinese emigrants, bound for Havannah and 130 died on the voyage from fever and suicide, the remainder (200) having been safely landed. A rigid inquiry into the circumstances was instituted by the Government. Another vessel the *John Calvin*, lost 122 out of 297 colonists. No blame attaches to the masters of either vessel, both ships had experienced surges and ample accommodation. A fatal disease manifested itself on board the *Duke of Portland*, and soon became epidemic. The causes of the sickness are traced to the quality of the water, and partly to the smoking of opium in excess. The local marine board (*Corabill*) are unanimously of opinion that no blame attaches to the owners or captains, or to anyone connected with the ships. It appears to the board that the mortality on board the *Portland* was much aggravated by the great heat and unusual length of the voyage (150 days), caused by the sailing of the ship in an improper season—one month, at least, later than she ought to have done—to enable her to get down the China seas. The Chinese emigrants gave much trouble on board; they made frequent attempts to take the ship, and the captain never lay down in bed without a cutlass at his belt. Mr. D. Ludgat, the surgeon of the ship, states that a low typhoid fever was generally prevalent among the low class of Chinese, and was brought on board by them at Hong Kong. The sickness was attributed to improper food used by themselves, such as onions, pickles. The habits of the Chinese were very filthy. The coolies died from debility and affection of the liver and lungs, and exhaustion arising from the seeds of the disease. The disposition to commit suicide was most remarkable. An explanation has been demanded from Sir J. Bowring by the Colonial Office relative to the number which the above vessels were legally qualified to carry.

CONVERSATION is the daughter of reasoning, the mother of knowledge, the breath of the soul, the commerce of hearts, the bond of friendship, and the nourishment of content.

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