

POETRY.

1st KINGS, CHAPTER 19.

By James Whiggl, Esq.

There was a wind that rent the rock,
And blew its fragments in the air,
Echoed around an awful shock,
But still the Godhead was not there.

The wind had scarce forgot to rove,
And silence had began her reign,
When, from the mountain to the cave,
An earthquake rent the ground in twain.

Next from a flame the mountain groaned,
Which burnt with unrelenting ire,
But Deity was not enthroned,
Or in the earthquake or the fire.

When these phenomena, alas!
Could gender nothing but despair,
A voice it echoed thro' the pass,
Borne on the bosom of the air.

It was a voice so still and small,
That e'en the prophet dared not move,
He listened to its dying call,
It was the melody of love.

So may the law its terrors sound,
And drive enjoyment far away,
Strike the offender to the ground,
And make him curse his fatal day

But winds may blow, and earthquakes start,
And fire descend from heaven above,
And nought shall melt the sinner's heart,
But the still voice of Jesus' love.

MISCELLANEOUS.

LYCEUMS.

All editors of newspapers and other public journals throughout the United States are requested to mention, "That the Pennsylvania Lyceum is prepared to deliver *gratuitously* an elementary set of specimens in Geology and Mineralogy, to any and every county Lyceum, which is or may be formed in the Union. If any such Lyceum or a few individuals, with a view of forming one in any one of the eleven hundred counties in the United States, will request some merchant or other person who may visit Philadelphia the present season, to call upon John Simmons, corresponding secretary of the Pennsylvania Lyceum, or upon Dillwyn Parish, corner of Arch and Eighth streets, they can procure a set of specimens representing the elements of rocks and mountains, the different stratas, or kinds of rocks, the ores of the most useful metals, and a few other minerals; also a few specimens of improvements in schools and lyceums, such as geometrical and perhaps architectural and other respective drawings, foliums, impressions of leaves, and possibly a few specimens of needlework.

Editors of this and other countries, are also requested to mention in their columns, that the next National Convention of American Lyceums, will be held in Philadelphia, commencing on the first Tuesday of May next, and that any person or persons from either continent, who may bring or send to that meeting specimens of plants, minerals, shells, insects, or other productions of nature or art, may exchange them for others, deposit them for the use of the National Cabinet, or appropriate them in some way for the diffusion of knowledge, and for instituting a scientific, and it is hoped, a Christian intercourse among the nations of the earth.

It is expected that delegates from state and county lyceums in America, and from similar societies in other countries, will be provided with accommodations by the hospitalities of the citizens.

Out of the wild fig-tree some profit may come, but no thanks to the tree but the Creator.—*Travels.*

NEW CHURCHES IN ENGLAND.

A meeting convened by the vicar of the two adjoining parishes of Portsmouth and Portsea, was held on Friday, at the Green-row Rooms, to consider of means for building additional churches. The vicar, who presided, stated that the subject had been in contemplation ever since the erection of All Saints and St. Paul's. Three churches had been asked for Portsea alone, but for want of funds two only had been erected. The Church Building Commissioners, although their original funds had long been exhausted, had lately, by receiving back moneys advanced by way of loan, been enabled to consent to a grant of £1,000 towards an additional chapel in Portsmouth, and another in Portsea, on conditions that by other means those amounts can be increased to £5,000 for the two parishes; on the whole of which being placed at their disposal, they will undertake to complete the necessary erections. The College of Winchester, in which is vested the right of presentation to both incumbencies, has subscribed £500, and the vicar himself £500. Each chapel is calculated to contain one thousand sittings, at a cost for erection of fifty shillings per sitting. It is proposed to reserve a fund for keeping the buildings in repair without burdening the parishes; and the present vicar promises to relinquish his right of presentation to the Bishop. Resolutions were passed appointing a committee, consisting of the clergymen, church and chapel wardens within the parishes *ex-officio*, and twenty-four laymen to be hereafter named. The site for the Portsmouth chapel is to be on the south side of College Garden Burial Ground; the building to be on arches, beneath which will be constructed catacombs with vaults. Application has been made to the Board of Ordnance for a spare piece of ground at Portsea, at the end of North-street.—*Salisbury Herald.*

Lord Melbourne and the Church.—It affords us sincere gratification to announce that Lord Melbourne has given a very powerful practical demonstration of attachment to the Establishment, which it is our duty and our pleasure to record. His Lordship is patron of the very populous but very ill-endowed church of Greaseley, in this county, in the parish of which the Duke of Newcastle, Lord Stamford and Warrington, and others, have considerable property. The income of the living is so small, that the Vicar has hitherto been compelled to engage in the services of another and a distant parish, and to carry on the duties of a school, to enable him to make a provision for himself and family. Lord Melbourne has subscribed the sum of 1,000*l.* towards increasing the income of the living, with the hope that such additions to his donation may be obtained as to render it adequate to the maintenance of the vicar without his engaging in any other duties whatever but those of the parish alone. He has, moreover, subscribed the sum of 1,000*l.* towards repairing the church, and making free accommodation for the poor. We recently recorded that his Lordship, at the request of the Archdeacon of Nottingham, had rebuilt the chancel of the church, and given to the parish an additional burial-ground, which was consecrated last summer.—*Nottingham Journal.*

Influence of religious instruction in diminishing Crime.—In addition to all the facts on this subject which are furnished by the records of jurisprudence, both in our own country and Great Britain, we have one testimony from a quarter very unlooked for—the Hottentots.

The Calcutta Christian Observer for March last contains the following statement made to the celebrated Dr. Philip, of the Cape of Good Hope, by the Hon. Judge Barton, after a circuit in his official character. That gentleman says that he had made three journeys over the colony as a circuit judge: that during these circuits he had nine hundred cases before him; and that only two of these cases were connected with Hottentots who belonged to missionary institutions, and that neither of them were aggravated cases.—*N. Y. Observer.*

British Free Schools at Paris.—The building recently erected in Paris, Rue des Ecuries d'Artois, for the use of these schools, was opened for the purposes of education on Monday, the 1st of August. We take this opportunity of calling the attention of the Christian public to those institutions, which are at this

moment attended by eighty boys and about the same number of girls; children of poor British subjects residing in that capital, where they are receiving gratuitously a sound education on scriptural principles. These schools have been in existence since 1832, and have been thus far abundantly blessed. As their support, however, depends entirely upon voluntary contributions, and the Committee have necessarily been put to extraordinary expences in fitting-up and furnishing the new school-house, this charity is particularly recommended to the liberality of the British public.

NEW TESTAMENT FOR THE BLIND.

It is announced that the New Testament for the Blind, printed with raised letters, so that they can be read by the sense of touch, is completed at Boston in two volumes. Dr. Howe, in a letter to the Corresponding Secretary of the Massachusetts Bible Society, which aided in the accomplishment of the undertaking, says,—“If the contributors to your fund, and the members of your society, witness the joy which this work produces in those blind persons who have access to it, they would be amply repaid for their generosity.”—*Jour. Com.*

The Blind.—“Father,” said a young one of a flock to us a few days since, “how does that poor blind man find his way home?”

“He has a cane in his hand,” my child, “and feels his way along towards his distant home.”

Shortly afterwards, the following paragraph met the eye of the child:

“LIGHT FOR THE BLIND.—The whole New Testament, in raised characters, for the blind, is completed at Boston, and bound in two volumes. The Massachusetts Bible Society contributed liberally to defray the expense of printing, and the completion of the work has been announced to the Society.”

Having ascertained that the letters were raised on the pages of the volume, the child significantly observed that this was probably another plan by which the blind could feel their way along towards a distant home.—*U. S. Gazette.*

ASIA MINOR.

Ravages of the Plague.—Smyrna papers state that while the plague was stationary in that city, and had much abated at Metelin, it was raging dreadfully at Adramittum and along the coast of Troy. At Vira, 12 hours from Gallipoli, almost the whole population, comprising 3,000 or 4,000 souls, had been swept down by the disease. Only the governor and about 20 individuals escaped the contagion, and took refuge in Gallipoli.

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