

ROBERT BURNS.

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WRITTEN FOR THE NEW YORK CLIPPER,

BY GEORGE BIRDSEYE.

The song of Burns, a century old,
The ills of his short life retrieves;
And shines through years its rays of gold,
Like unlight shining through the leaves,

He sang the song of Brotherhood
Of all mankind, throughout all time,
To him all Nature's works were good;
The humblest, in his sight, sublime.

He sang for all, to all, of all,
The lowly cot, the lofty towers;
He sang of memories that recall
Youth crowned with wreaths of rosy hours.

He sang of love, its Laureate,
By heart—its birth, its life, its cure;
He sang of friendship, consecrate
As love, as worthy, true and pure.

His faults we cover with our tears—
A perfect flower's imperfect bloom;
They died with him; one only hears
The bird left singing on the tomb.

FOREST AND CLIMATE.

The effect that the disappearance of forest has upon climate receives new illustrations every day. In Italy the clearing of the Appenines is believed to have seriously changed the climate of the Po valley, and now the African sirocco, never known to the armies of Rome, breathes its hot, blighting breath over the right bank of the river in the territory of Parma. The removal of the pine forests near Ravenna induced the same desolation wind; and the same destruction of the old forests of the Vosges and of the Cevennes has had like deteriorating influences upon the climate. In Egypt, where during the French occupation of 1708, not a drop of rain fell for sixteen months, and where from time immemorial the country has been a rainless bed of sand, the Mohammed Ali, by planting his millions of fig trees, has seen his country blessed with an annual rain fall of several inches.

THE UPAS TREE.

Java is the home of the upas tree, and as it is only recently that true scientific explanations have been given of them, prob-

ably one theory may be interesting. Wonderful stories were told about the valley where they grew. No living creature was able to live an instant exposed to its effects, and even birds flying over would drop dead, so that the whole valleys were covered with their skeletons. When scientific men first began to inquire into it they could only with the greatest difficulty induce the natives to accompany them to the spots, in such dread and superstition were they held. A peculiar feature in the earthquakes in this part of the world soon solved the problem and exploded the theory as to the trees themselves. It was found that at certain times the sulphurous vapors and noxious gases escaping through cracks in the earth in these valleys were so dense and poisonous as to be destructive to animal life.

The Sunflower as a Preventive of Fevers.

We continue to see favorable mention made of the virtues of sunflowers as preventives of bilious fever, chills and fevers, etc. A correspondent of the *Soil of the South*, writing from a place in Alabama which he says was peculiarly subject to fevers, gives the result of his experience in the premises, and in not a single instance where he planted sunflowers around his negro cabins, did their inmates suffer from fevers, while his wife, two children, and two house-servants, all had fevers, he not having planted any of the sunflowers around his own dwelling, which, in his opinion, accounted for the difference in the results, and that the sunflower in its rank growth absorbs the very elements in the atmosphere that produce fever, or chill and fever, and what is the life of the sunflower is highly obnoxious to the health of the human family; nor do I believe that a man could ever have a chill who would sleep in a bed of rank sunflowers.

Among recent inventions in this country is the manufacture of barrels of pulped wood—one kind for fruit, flour and other dry substances, and the other for oils, beef, pork and liquids. They are so strong that they may be dropped from a wagon without harm. Each barrel is made in one piece of coarse wood pulp, subjected to a pressure of 400 tons, and is light, strong and cheap.