

Varieties.

From the British Magazine.

AN EVENING AFTER A SNOW STORM.

The wind and snow, which on the hedge-row clings,
Have been at play, and shapes of beauteous mould
Their tricks of vagrant fantasy unfold;
Haply in semblance of celestial things,
O'er all the Sun his parting lustre flings,
Careful to spare, innocuous and cold;
He sees all silvery here below, and brings
His skies in gentle rivalry to gold,
Purpling the clouds which tend his evening lower.
O Lord, if thus so marvellously fair
The things thou dost for one fleeting hour,
No delicately gentle, soft, and pure,
Then, what must be those scenes which shall endure,
And those Thy mansion which eternal are!

MELANCHOLY DEATH OF MRS. McLEAN, LATE MISS LONDON, OR L. E. L. AT CAPE COAST, WESTERN AFRICA.—We have been furnished with the following extract from a letter of the Rev. Thomas Freeman, Wesleyan Missionary at Cape Coast, containing the announcement of this calamitous event. The sympathy of a large portion of the public, as well as of her immediate friends, will be awakened by the circumstances of the death of this talented and estimable lady:—"Cape Coast Town, Oct. 16th, 1838.—Here I would gladly close my letter, but, alas, alas! I feel it my painful duty to record the awfully sudden death of Mrs. McLean,—not occasioned by any sickness peculiar to this climate, (her general health having been very good from the day she landed until yesterday morning,) when she was found dead in her room, lying close to the door, having in her hand a bottle which had contained Prussic acid, a portion of which she had taken, (as was proved by the surgeon,) the remainder being spilt on the floor. She had been seen, a short time before, in apparent good health and spirits. A letter was found, which she had written to a friend in Scotland, dated the same morning, in which she expresses herself as satisfied and pleased with Cape Coast and its inhabitants, and as finding every thing here much better than she had expected. (She told me the same eight or ten days ago, or thereabouts.) On the body being thus found, a jury was immediately summoned, composed of the European merchants of the town, (I was not among them,) and the nature of the evidence given was such as they considered would authorize them to give a verdict to the following effect:—"It is thought that she was seized with spasms in the stomach, (with which she was often troubled, being subject to them,) and took an over dose of prussic acid, as she was found dead on the floor of her bed-room close to the door, with the small bottle in her hand. It is supposed she was suddenly seized, and putting the bottle to her mouth, took an over-dose which killed her."—Mr. McLean had been very ill with the same complaint, (the spasms) while she only felt them for a short time at once, not enough to make her ill. Indeed, whenever I have seen her, (which was often) she always appeared in high health and spirits. We all deeply deplore the event. She was a person of an amiable disposition. To me she was very kind, especially during my late illness, in sending me any little thing (such as dried fruits, &c.) which I stood in need of. I fondly hoped she would have been spared; for though her literary pursuits would most probably have hindered her from paying much attention to our poor degraded Fantee females, yet even the mere presence of an European lady is of vast importance in this place. I have dwelt longer than I ought, perhaps, on this melancholy catastrophe, because I feared lest it should operate injuriously on the minds of any Missionaries, or their wives, whom the committee may intend to send to this station."

*The spasms are by no means peculiar to this climate; the only complaints which are peculiar and dangerous here, are the fever and dysentery. Epidemics are scarcely known at Cape Coast.

A PRACTICAL CONCLUSION.—Mr. Chick, an excellent artisan, sent out by the London Mis. Soc. in 1821, was the first European smith who settled in the interior of Madagascar; and to him the natives of Ankova are specially indebted for their improvement in the art of working in iron. He reached the capital in 1822, and fixed his residence at Amparita, where he erected his shop, and fitted it up in the European style, as far as circumstances would admit. Mr. Chick was himself a powerful man; and the tools, the bellows, the anvil and the large sledge hammer which he used, filled the natives with the greatest astonishment. The report of his great strength soon reached the palace; and shortly after he began his work, the king, with a number of his officers, paid him a visit. Mr. Chick's boys were at work at an anvil of a middling size. A spare one, of considerable weight, was standing on the floor in another part of the shop; and the king, after looking about with admiration for some time, told his

officers to lift the anvil which was standing on the floor; each in his turn put forth his utmost strength, but could not raise it from the ground. "What!" said the king, "are you all conquered? Let me try." His majesty then laid hold of it with all his might, and tried to raise it from the ground, but with no better success than all his officers. Aoka izay (said the king,) itelao mba atao ny anaha ankehitriny—"Enough; let the white man try now." Mr. Chick then lifted the anvil to a considerable height from the ground, to the great surprise of all present; and it is singular to notice the first impression which this evidence of the superior strength of the Englishman produced on the minds of the king and his suite; they all concurred in declaring that it would be dangerous to fight with such men.—[Ellis's History of Madagascar.

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BY ALEXANDER W. McLEOD.

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