

Miscellaneous.

THE TIMES OF PRAYER.

Go, when the morning shineth,
Go, when the noon is bright,
Go, when the eve declineth,
Go, in the hush of night.

Go, with pure mind and feeling,
Fling earthly thought away,
And in thy chamber kneeling,
Do thou in secret pray.

Remember all who love thee,
All who are loved by thee,
Pray too, for those who hate thee,
If any such there be ;

Then for thyself in meekness,
A blessing humbly claim,
And link with each petition,
The great Redeemer's name.

Or, if 'tis e'er denied thee,
In solitude to pray,
Should holy thoughts come o'er thee,
When friends are round thy way,

E'en then the silent breathing
Of thy spirit rais'd above,
Will reach His throne of glory,
Who is Mercy, Truth, and Love !

THE FALLS OF NIAGARA.

BY THE REV. DR. HANNAH.

In his address to the Conference on his return to England, Dr. Hannah remarked,—“ We went along to the Suspension Bridge, a mile below the Falls of Niagara, a river which comes out of Lake Erie, calm and beautiful, an image of placidity, and which, having flowed twenty or twenty-three miles, swells into a gradual commotion of waters, in consequence of the shelving bed of the river descending layer after layer. These are the rapids, and they become more and more rapid until the scene is one of perfect confusion. At length the river, three miles across in that place, rolls against a large island—Goat Island—and on the one side flows past the American shore, and on the other, the Canadian side. At the Falls of Niagara, the river becomes narrowed to half a mile. He held that all true sublimity was calm, and the great Falls of Niagara were calm. They descended in calm majesty, the white foam ascending, and the beautiful circular rainbows floating around them. The body of water in the falls amounted to 670,000 tons per minute. He seemed still to hear that voice of solemn music which they created, like one of the great organ-pipes of the universe.”

ENGLISH TRAITS.

BY R. W. EMERSON.

Mr. Emerson visited England twice—first in 1833, and again in 1847. He travelled over the greater part of the country, and saw all classes of the people. He met Wordsworth, Coleridge, Carlyle, Rogers, Hallam, Macauley, Milnes, Milman, Barry Cornwall, Dickens, Thackeray, Tennyson, Leigh Hunt, D'Israeli, Helps, Wilkinson, Bailey, Kenyon, and Forster ; the younger poets Clough, Arnold, and Patmore ; and, among the men of science, Robert Brown, Owen, Sedgwick, Faraday, Buckland, Lyell, De la Beche, Hooker, Carpenter, Babbage, and Edward Forbes.—He also conversed with Miss Baillie, Lady Morgan, Mrs. Jameson, and Mrs. Somerville. His impressions of the English are very flattering, and somewhat extraordinary for an American, he says—

England is the best of actual nations. It is no ideal framework, it is an old pile built in different ages, with repairs, additions and make-shift ; but you see the poor best you have got. London is the epitome of our times, and the Rome of to-day. Broad-fronted board-bottomed Teutons, they stand in solid phalanx foursquare to the points of compass ; they constitute the modern world, they have earned their vantage-ground, and held it through ages of adverse possession. They are well marked and differing from other leading races. England is tender-hearted. Rome was not. England is not so public in its bias ; private life is its place of honor. * * * The English mind turns every abstraction it can receive into a portable utensil, or a working institution. Such is their tenacity, and such their practical turn, that

they hold all they gain. Hence we say, that only the English race can be trusted with freedom,—freedom which is double-edged and dangerous to any but the wise and robust. The English designate the kingdoms emulous of free institutions, as the sentimental nations. Their outline is not an outside varnish, but is thorough and secular in families and the race. They are oppressive with their temperament, and all the more that they are refined. I have sometimes seen them walk with my countrymen when I was forced to allow them every advantage, and their companions seemed bags of bones. * * * England has yielded more able men in five hundred years than any other nation ; and though we must not play Providence, and balance the changes of producing ten great men against the comfort of ten thousand mean men, yet retrospectively we may strike the balance, and prefer one Alfred, one Shakespeare, one Milton, one Sidney, one Raleigh, one Wellington, to a million foolish democrats. The American system is more democratic, more humane ; yet the American people do not yield better or more able men, or more inventions, or books, or benefits than the English. Congress is not wiser or better than Parliament.—*N. Y. Com. Adv.*

POVERTY THE ALLY OF GENIUS.

Homer was a beggar ; Plutus turned a mill ; Terence was a slave ; Boethius died in jail ; Paul Borghese had fourteen trades, yet starved with them all ; Tasso was often distressed for a few shillings ; Camoens, the writer of the “ Lusiad,” ended his days in an almshouse ; and Vaugelas left his body to the surgeons to pay his debts. In England, Bacon lived a life of meanness and distress ; Sir Walter Raleigh died on the scaffold ; Spencer died in want ; Milton sold his copyright of “ Paradise Lost,” for £15, and died in obscurity ; Otway perished of hunger ; Lee died in the streets ; Dryden lived in poverty and distress ; Steele was in perpetual war with the bailiffs ; Goldsmith's “ Vicar of Wakefield ” was sold for a trifle, to save him from the grasp of the law ; Richard Savage died in Bristol for a debt of eight pounds ; Butler lived in penury and died poor ; Chatterton, the child of genius and misfortune, destroyed himself.

HUMANIZING EFFECT OF CLEANLINESS.

A neat, clean, fresh-aired, sweet, cheerful, well-arranged and well-situated house, exercises a moral as well as a physical influence over its inmates, and makes the members of a family peaceable and considerate of the feelings and happiness of each other ; the connection is obvious between the state of mind thus produced, and habits of respect for others, and for those higher duties and obligations which no law can enforce. On the contrary, a filthy, squalid, noxious dwelling, rendered still more wretched by its noisome site, and in which none of the decencies of life can be observed, contributes to make its unfortunate inhabitants selfish, sensual, and regardless of the feelings of each other ; the constant indulgence of such passions renders them reckless and brutal, and the transition is natural to propensities and habits incompatible with respect for the property of others, or for the laws.

Educational Intelligence.

EDINBURGH CHAIR OF LOGIC.

In the University of Edinburgh a great interest has been felt in the filling of the Chair, vacant by the demise of the distinguished Logician, Sir William Hamilton, it may gratify some to learn the proceedings connected with the election of his successor. The following is from a supplement of the *Edinburgh Advertiser*, of the 15th July :—

To-day (Tuesday) the Town Council of Edinburgh met at twelve o'clock, and proceeded to fill up the Chair of Logic and Metaphysics, vacant by the death of Sir William Hamilton. The Council Hall was crowded to excess long before the hour of meeting.

The Lord Provost proposed Professor Fraser ; who was seconded by Councillor Stephenson.

Baillie Kay proposed Professor Ferrier, seconded by Dr. Sibbald.

Dr. Renton proposed Professor Scott, seconded by the Dean of Guild.

On the roll being called, there voted for Professor Ferrier, 12 ; for Professor Fraser, 11 ; and for Professor Scott, 8.

The name of Professor Scott was then struck off, and the vote again taken, with the following result :—

For Professor Fraser 17

For Professor Ferrier 14

Professor Fraser was accordingly declared duly elected to the vacant Chair, amidst great applause.

Professor Ferrier is the author of a well-known metaphysical work, which has lately evoked some severe criticisms on account of the German