

There are some such liberties of a poetical nature. Enthusiasts will make free. Read the following parts of Moravian hymns, upon their favourite subjects—wounds, nail-prints, &c. :—

"How bright appeareth the wound's-star
In heaven's firmament from far!
And round the happy places
Of the true Wound's church here below,
In at each window they shine so,
Directly on our faces.

Dear race of grace,
Sing thou hymns on
Four holes of crimson
And side pierced :

Bundle this of all the blessed."

Again, on other favourite subjects :—

"What is now to children the dearest things here?
To be the Lamb's lambskins and chickens most dear ;
Such lambskins are nourished with food which is best :
Such chickens sit safely and warm in the nest."

And—

"And when Satan at an hour
Comes our chickens to devour,
Let the children's angels say,
'These are Christ's chicks—go thy way.'"

And there is a hymn to be found in the *Gospel Magazine* for August, 1808, called the Believer's Marriage to Christ, which cannot be repeated.

The elder Wesley had a clerk, who was a whig, like his master, and a poet also, of a very original kind. "One Sunday, immediately after sermon, he said, with an audible voice, 'Let us sing, to the praise and glory of God, a hymn, of my own composing.'" It was short and sweet, and ran thus :—

King William is come home, come home,
King William home is come ;
Therefore, let us together sing
The hymn that's call'd Te D'um.

NEWSPAPERS AMONG THE ROMANS.

It appears from Suetonius that a species of journal, or newspaper, was first used among the Romans during the government of Julius Cæsar, who ordered that the acts and harangues of the senators should be copied out and published, as our parliamentary debates are printed, for the benefit of the public, at the present day. These publications were called, in Rome, *diurna acta*, (*vide Suetonium in vita Cæsaris*.) This practice was continued till the time of Augustus, who discontinued it.—*Vide Suetonium in vita Augusti*.

The custom was, however, resumed in the reign of Tiberius, and Tacitus mentions Junius Rusticus as the person appointed by that prince to write out the "*acta diurna*."

Fuit in Senatu Junius Rusticus, componendis patrum *actis* delectus a Cæsare.—*Tacit Annal.* b. 5, c. 4.

"There was in the senate one Junius Rusticus, who was appointed by Cæsar to register the proceedings of that body."

After this period, the *acta* communicated more extensive information, and announced the proceedings of the courts of justice, public assemblies, births, marriages, funerals, &c., and were in many respects extremely similar to our newspapers. It is impossible to doubt this, from the very clear manner in which Tacitus speaks on this subject.—*Annal.* b. 13, c. 31 :—

Nerone secundum, L. Pisone consulibus, pauca memoriâ digna evenere, nisi cui libeat, laudandis fundamentis et trabibus, quis molem amphitheatri apud campum martis Cæsar extruxerat, volumina implere ; cum ex dignitate Populi

Romani repertum sit res illustres annalibus, *talia diurnis urbis actis mandare.*

"In this year, (810) in the second consulate of Nero, whose colleague was L. Piso, nothing occurred worthy of record, except an author would fill his volumes with a description of the foundations and pillars of an amphitheatre which the emperor built in the Campus Martius ; but things of this kind are fitter to be inserted in the daily papers of the city, than in annals where the dignity of the Roman people allow nothing to be recorded but events of importance."

Also see Tacitus Annals. b. 13, c. 24.—*Nox pro fortuna pomarium auctum : et quos tum Claudius terminos posuerit, facile cognito, et publicis actis perscriptum.*

"Afterwards, the size of the city increased with its fortunes ; and with regard to the boundaries fixed by Claudius, they are easily ascertained, being recorded in the public *acta*."

Also, b. 16, c. 22.—*Diurna populi Romani per provincias, per exercitus, curatius leguntur, ut noseatur, quid Thrasea non fecerit.*

"The journals of the Roman people are carefully collected, &c. &c., that it may be known what neglect Thrasea has been guilty of."

THE MISER'S PRAYER.

Oh! Lord, thou knowest that I have nine houses in the city of London, and likewise that I have lately purchased an estate in fee-simple, in the county of Essex ; I beseech thee to preserve the two counties of Middlesex and Essex from fire and earthquakes ; and as I have a mortgage in Hertfordshire, I beg of thee likewise to have an eye of compassion on that county ; and for the rest of the counties in England, thou may'st deal with them as thou art pleased.

Oh! Lord, enable the banks to answer all their bills, and make all my debtors *good men*. Give a prosperous voyage and return to the Mermaid sloop, which I have insured ; and as thou hast said that the days of the wicked shall be but short, I trust in thee that thou wilt not forget thy promise, as I have purchased an estate in reversion, which will be mine on the death of that most wicked and profligate young man, Sir J. L. Keep our friends from sinking, and grant that there may be no sinking funds. Keep *my* son Caleb out of evil company, and gaming-houses ; and preserve me from thieves and house-breakers ; and make all my servants so honest and faithful, that they may attend to my interest only, and never cheat me out of my property, night nor day. Amen.

FASHIONABLE RELIGION.

A French gentleman, equally tenacious of his character for gallantry and devotion, went to hear mass at the chapel of a favourite saint at Paris ; when he came there, he found repairs were doing in the building which prevented the celebration. To shew that he had not been defective in his duty and attentions, he pulled out a richly decorated pocket-book, and walking with great gravity and many genuflections up the aisle, very carefully placed a card of his name upon the principal altar.

Fuller says, that some impute the bald and threadbare style of the schoolmen to a design, that no vermin of equivocation should be hid under the nap of their words.

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