

The Provincial Wesleyan.

Poetry.

The Song of the Rain.

Lo! the long slender spears how they quiver
and flash;
Where the clouds send their cavalry down;
Rank and file by the million the rain-leaves dash
Over mountain and river and town;
Thick the battle drops fall—but they drip not in
blood;
The trophy to war is the green fresh bud;
Oh, the rain, the plentiful rain!

The pastures lie baked, and the furrow is bare;
The wells they wamt empty and dry;
But a rushing of water is heard in the air;
And a rainbow leaps out in the sky.
Hark!—the heavy drops pelting the sycamore
Leave a path;

How they wash the wide pavement and sweep
from the eaves;
Oh, the rain, the plentiful rain!

See, the weaver thrown wide his own swinging
pane,

The kind drops dance on the floor,

And his wife's fingers her flower-pot to drink the
sweet rain.

On the steps by her half open doors,
At the time on the twilight, far over his head,
Smiles their poor crippled lad on his hospital
bed.

Oh, the rain, the plentiful rain!

And away, far from men, where high mountains
tower,

The little green mosses rejoice,

And the burl-headed hederas to the shower,

And the hill-currents lift up their voice;

And the pools in the hollows mimic the flight
Of the rain, as their thousand points dash up in
light;

Oh, the rain, the plentiful rain!

And deep in the fir wood below, near the plain

A single thrush pipes all and sweet,

How day of clear shining will come after rain.

Waving meadows and thick-growing wheat;

So the voice of Hope sings at the heart of our
fears,

Of the harvest that springs from a great nation's

tears:

Oh, the rain, the plentiful rain!

—London Spectator.

Miscellaneous.

From Correspondence of the London Times.
Eruption of Vesuvius.

Naples May 27.

The Resina guide now informed us for the first time that lava without end was flowing through the valley of the "Aero del Camino," and that the ordinary path to ascend the cone to the crater was cut off, and he brought us forward over a path seldom travelled, and of a most difficult nature; we, however, proceeded, the cloud of smoke-increasing as we went, on all sides; we had to part with our horses and proceed on foot, and had not gone over three four hundred yards from where we left the horses when we came up to an enormous mass of lava, and now became aware we were in the immediate neighborhood of a considered eruption; our progress was made the greater indeed, and we pressed forward, and presently arrived at a wonderful scene. The entire of the lower part of the great oval of Vesuvius appeared on fire, and thick masses of smoke were thrown up, mixed with red-hot stones and flakes of lava; traveling over a more rugged way of old lava, we made our way up to the point whence the stones, lava, and smoke seemed to rise in greatest quantities, and we arrived on a rise just over the greatest fissure.

It is difficult to explain our feelings on beholding this wonderful and unexpected sight; we had found several guides, and from them we learned that at about nine o'clock A. M., that morning, a number of small craters and fissures had suddenly opened, and lava had commenced pouring out.

It was now nearly six o'clock, and we went quite close up to the large crater, which we were enabled to do, by the steeply rising and strong down the valley, and thus we got within eight or ten yards of the next open crater; from this we counted five or six distinct fountains of fire, the largest putting forth volumes of smoke, stones, and lava; from another a lateral fountain of burning matter was ejected; and from all lava and smoke poured forth in greater or less quantities, the whole torrent of lava uniting into a regular stream of red, burning liquid, pouring down the inclined side of the valley.

We remained here, observing this wonderful sight for over an hour, then determined to ascend to the top of the great cone. After some difficulty by a path seldom travelled, and at last to the top, where we arrived to see the first break of daylight.

It was now sufficiently dark to see accurately the traces of fire from all the fissures we had left, and standing on a projecting piece of lava, the entire cone lay at our feet; the eruption evidently was on the increase, and axes upon axes seemed putting forth in fire. The stream of burning lava now in the twilight became visible, and rolled along at a rapid rate to the base of the cone, up to the very sides of the Monte Somma. We were perfectly amazed at the sight no pencil could portray so portentous a scene.

Our guide now led us to descend; the lava was running exactly toward the path close to Monte Somma, on which we had travelled, and it was quite evident that the smoke which was blown down the valley toward the sea world, in the event of a change of wind, leave our path of return in a most impassable condition. We, therefore, hastened to descend the cone as well as we could, the conflagration leading us a pantomime as difficult and dangerous, up to our ankles immersed with large lumps of old lava. Every moment we were in fear of stumbling headlong down the precipitous descent. We, however, got safe to the bottom of the cone, and having to pass the narrow space between the burning lava and Monte Somma, which here presents a face of perpendicular rock, perfectly inaccessible, and we became quite aware the torrent of lava might intercept our passage totally; we could not possibly get up the side of Monte Somma.

I must confess I felt here com derably nervous, when I saw the double danger of the lava stopping our path, and that of a strong wind, which would certainly have smothered us in an instant; and we pressed on over the rugged road, we saw the eruption increasing momentarily.

In one place the lava was rolling down the valley in an enormous burning wave, perfectly red-hot, and only a few yards from us, and at our point of exit we had no little or no room to turn; and, although the sight was one of wonder I never expected to witness, yet we were obliged to pass along snarly for our departure through the fiery gales, and when we did arrive at the point of exit, not ten feet remained between the side

passed the orders, not without feeling, I must say, exceedingly uncomfortable from the great heat and the near approach of this fearful burning mass, and having passed, we rested to see the wonderful sight, now rapidly increasing.

The guides do not seem to know exactly what to make of this eruption. They all seem to agree it will increase greatly, perhaps extend all over the lower valley, and the rate it was going it would not be long covering a vast district. There has been a flow of lava since 1855, and the upper mountain was very quiet for some time, and this was during a period not to exceed two years; but the lower part could not be less than five or six feet high, and came rolling along at the rate of five or six feet in a minute, and the united stream of red matter could not be under eight or ten yards wide, and this ran like a very rapid river, till it was impeded by the old lava lying on the side of the valley.

Naples. May 31.

Since Saturday the eruption has proceeded with constantly-increasing violence, and has presented at night a more and more magnificent spectacle. In my last letter I mentioned that there issued from the great basin of fire in the Atrio a single stream of lava, which, after a tortuous course, was descending the declivity of the mountain. This stream has continued its course, varying in breadth according to the accidents of the ground, and seems now to direct itself to a point between Portici and Torre del Greco, but much nearer the latter than the former. It approaches close to the scattered farm houses which lie above the towns at the foot of the mountain, and which are still to be seen, but destined to disappear.

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