

GLEANNINGS.

SAGACITY OF THE HORSE.—The horse possesses the faculty of finding his way home from a considerable distance. Some dozen years have rolled over my head since I met my friend, Mr. Robert Gill, of Richmond, Yorkshire, at the little town of Bowes, where we mounted each a pony for the purpose of proceeding to Weardale, intending to shoot on the Durham moors the following day, (the 12th of August.) There being no direct main road, in our progress we traversed a considerable quantity of moorland, threaded a number of lanes, and, at length, after much inquiry, at twilight found ourselves on the border of an extensive common, intersected by numerous sheep-walks, over which, however, it was necessary for us to pass. The night did not become so dark but we were enabled to discern the summit of a mountain, (pointed out to us by a shepherd,) which served as a beacon to guide our way. We reached our quarters at twelve o'clock. After spending a week in Weardale, and among the mountains which surrounded it, we began to retrace our steps. Strangers to the way, whenever we were in doubt I strongly advised leaving the decision to our ponies, and they did not deceive us in a single instance. However, upon one occasion, two lanes were presented, the ponies leaned to the left, when my friend insisted they must be wrong. We, therefore, compelled the animals to take the right, which they did very unwillingly. After proceeding half a mile, we discovered our mistake; we returned, and did not afterwards oppose the will of our little sagacious nags. These animals had never been in this part of the country at any prior period; but, having once proceeded, for something more than thirty miles, through a very intricate country, having crossed moorlands, numerous intersected with sheep-walks, they were enabled, unerringly, to find their way back, and that without the least difficulty. The dog possesses this faculty in still greater perfection; indeed, it may be said to be general amongst quadrupeds, in which respect they are superior to man.—*Physiological Observations on Mental Susceptibility, by T. B. Johnson.*

THE MERMAID.—Notwithstanding the numerous statements so often advanced, by various authors and travellers, as to the real existence of the Mermaid, we have as yet had no authentic proof—that is, no specimen, either living or dead, have as yet been publicly exhibited in England. Doubtless, this creation of the poet's brain owes its origin to the following quotation from Scripture; but with this addition, that the poets and herald-painters added the comb and looking-glass, without giving the world the least information where these sea-maids could possibly, in the deep, procure such essential requisites to a lady's toilette.

In the third and fourth verses of the fifth chapter of Samuel I, it says,—

“And when they of Ashdod rose early in the morning, behold, Dagon was fallen upon his face to the earth before the ark of the Lord. And they took Dagon, and set him in his place again.”

“And when they arose early on the morrow morning, behold, Dagon was fallen upon his face to the ground before the ark of the Lord; and the head of Dagon, and both the palms of his hands, were cut off upon the threshold; only the stump (or fishy part) was left to him.”

The essential part of the word *Dagon*, (*Dag*.) means a fish, in Hebrew. It was a tutelary deity of the Philistines; and, notwithstanding the numerous discussions about the form, sex, and identity of this idol, it is the general opinion it was represented half-human, and half-fish; that is, with a human bust, and a fish-like termination. This *Dagon* of the Scriptures seems to have been represented of the male sex; whereas the ancient writers, as well as on the medals of the Philistine towns, represent the idol worshipped by the Philistines as a female of the human part. Diodorus relates, that near the city of Askelon, in Syria, there was a deep lake, abounding with fish, near which stood a temple dedicated to a famous goddess, called by the Syrians, *Decerto*, (the Syriac name for this fish-idol.) She had the head and face of a woman, but the rest of the body was that of a fish. Lucian also states, that he had seen this idol represented in Phœnicia, (Philistia,) as a woman, with the lower part half-fish. In Sir William Ouseley's *Miscellaneous Plates* (xxi.) there is, as copied from a Babylonian cylinder, a representation of a bearded personage, fish from the waist downward. The reader will find further remarks on this *Dagon* among the crudite notes in the *Pictorial Bible*, No. 34.

EXTRAORDINARY BLIND MAN.—Forbes, in his *Oriental Memoirs*, vol. 1, p. 3, says—“A certain blind man, well known in Dhuboy, died during my residence there. Among various talents, he could generally discover hidden treasure, whether buried in the earth, or concealed under water; and possessed the faculty of diving and continuing a long time in the element, without inconvenience. As he never commenced a search without stipulating for one-third of the value restored, he had, by this occupation, maintained an aged father, a wife, and several children. A goldsmith having a quarrel with his wife, she, in revenge, took her husband's plate and jewels, and threw them into a well, but which was uncertain. This blind man was applied to, he stipulating to receive one-third of the value for his trouble. After a search, he found the treasure at the bottom of a well. The gold-

smith objected afterwards to pay the blind man, who appealed to the court of adawlet, who decreed him one-third of the property.”

ANATOMY.—Professor Carlisle, in one of his Lectures on Anatomy, observed, that the deeper mankind dive into anatomy, the more intricate and perplexing it appears. How the mind influences and operates upon the muscles, said he, is still unknown. If it be advanced, that it is by the aid of electricity, then what power directs that electricity? Nature has here set up a barrier against the frail inquiries of human nature. The wonderful mechanism of the body can only be ascribed to the wisdom of one great cause.

TWO GOLDEN REASONS WHY NATIONS SHOULD NOT GO TO WAR.—1. The interest of all nations being in harmony with each other, every measure tending to lessen production in one nation, tends also to lessen the reward of both labourer and capitalist in every other nation; and every nation that tends to increase it, tends to increase the reward of the labourer and capitalist in every other nation.

2. It is, therefore, the interest of all, that universal peace should prevail, whereby the waste of population and of capital should be arrested, and that the only strife among nations should be, to determine which should make the most rapid advances in those peaceful arts which tend to increase the comforts and enjoyments of the human race.—*Carey's Principles of Political Economy.*

VERIFICATION OF AN ANCIENT PROVERB.—The following prophecy is said to have been delivered by a British bard, in the time of William the Norman, and preserved by some of the monkish annalists, viz:—“That no more than three monarchs, in direct succession, should ever again reign over these kingdoms, without some violent interruption:”

- 1 William the Norman,
- 2 William Rufus,
- 3 Henry the First,

Interrupted by the usurpation of Stephen.

- 1 Henry the Second,
- 2 Edward the First,
- 3 Edward the Second,

Interrupted by the abdication and murder of Edward the Second.

- 1 Edward the Third,
- 2 Richard the Second,

Interrupted by the deposition of that monarch.

- 1 Henry the Fourth,
- 2 Henry the Fifth,
- 3 Henry the Sixth,

Interrupted by the restoration of the house of York.

- 1 Edward the Fourth,
- 2 Edward the Fifth,
- 3 Richard the Third,

Interrupted by the usurpation of Henry Richmond.

- 1 Henry the Seventh,
- 2 Henry the Eighth,
- 3 Edward the Sixth,

Interrupted by the election of lady Jane Grey.

- 1 Mary,
- 2 Elizabeth,

A foreign king (James, of Scotland,) called in to assume the crown.

- 1 James the First,
- 2 Charles the First,

Interrupted by the deposition of that monarch, and the establishment of another form of government in the person of Oliver Cromwell.

- 1 Charles the Second,
- 2 James the Second,

Interrupted by the abdication of that king, and the election of a foreigner.

- 1 William the Third,
- 2 Anne,

Interrupted by the parliamentary appointment of a foreigner.

- 1 George the First,
- 2 George the Second,
- 3 George the Third,

Interrupted by the unfortunate incapacity of that sovereign, and a parliamentary appointment for exercising the sovereignty in the person of the prince regent.

- 1 George the Fourth,
- 2 William the Fourth,
- 3 Victoria the First,

Whom may God bless: but what is to be the next interruption?—*Liverpool Courier.*

INNATE APPETITES.—Sir George McKenzie, in his *Phrenological Essays*, mentions the following curious fact, witnessed by Sir James Hall. He had been engaged in making some experiments on hatching eggs by artificial heat, and on one occasion observed in one of his boxes, a chicken in the act of breaking from its confinement. It happened that just as the creature was getting out of its shell, a spider began to run along the box, when the chicken darted forward, seized and swallowed it.

BONE MANURE.—In consequence of the extensive introduction of this new species of manure into our highly-improved system of agriculture, thousands of acres that would have been doomed to nearly total barrenness have been brought under the most promising cultivation. As yet the supply has not kept pace with the demand. It will somewhat surprise our readers that in the county of Fofar alone, 153,000 bushels of bones were used last year—a quantity which 3s. per bushel, would cost, as nearly as may be, £23,000! This great supply came from Russia. But, for reasons not precisely known, the Russian government has issued an ukase whereby bones to be exported must, after the 1st

of January next, pay a duty so high, that it is almost certain the supply from that country will be wholly cut off.—*Edinburgh Observer.*

A CURIOUS FACT.—An organist, not without some celebrity in his day (Jeremiah Clark was his name,) being hopelessly in love with a very beautiful lady, far above his station in life, determined upon suicide, and walked into the field to accomplish his purpose. Coming to a retired spot where there was a convenient pond surrounded with equally convenient trees, he hesitated which to prefer, whether to choose a dry death or a watery one; perhaps he had never heard of the old riddle concerning *Ælia Lælia Crispis*, which no *Œdipus* has yet solved. But that he might not continue like an ass between two bundles of hay in the sophism, or Mahomet's coffin in the fable, he tossed a half penny in the air to decide whether he should hang or drown himself, and the half penny struck edgeways in the dirt. The most determined infidel would, at a moment, have felt that this was more than accident. Clark, as may well be supposed, went home again; but the salutary impression did not remain upon his poor disordered mind, and he shot himself soon afterwards.

SUICIDE BY A DOG.—Mr. Burnell Ward, druggist, of England-street, Hull, had a favourite little dog, and a few days since for some infringement of good breeding of which it had been guilty, gave the animal a slight kick. The dog, being unaccustomed to receive such treatment from its master, it is to be presumed, took the punishment to heart; for it immediately travelled off to the foreshore of the Humber, opposite Belle Vue-terrace, and was observed by some men, who were at work near Mr. Medley's slip, to walk into the water with great deliberation, and drown itself! We confess we were at first somewhat incredulous as to the correctness of this story, but on inquiry we have found it to be strictly true.—*Hull Times.*

SINGULAR DISCOVERY.—The following singular discovery, was made a short time since, in the Blaen-y-nant lead-mine, situated near Mold, Flintshire:—At the end of one of the levels, the workmen were surprised by an immense rush of water suddenly bursting in upon them. After three days the water totally disappeared; and, on proceeding to the place, they found an opening of about four inches in diameter. Having enlarged the aperture, so as to admit of their passing through, they discovered the bed of a subterranean river, which probably affords the principal supply to St. Winifred's Well, at Holywell, from which it is distant about twelve miles. In exploring the stream, which was shallow, they discovered, on both sides of it, several large caverns, from the roofs and sides of which were suspended numerous beautiful specimens of white spar, or stalactites.

HOOR-GLASS IN CHURCHES.—In a curious brass frame attached to the pulpit, and shown in the engraving, is an hour-glass,—an appendage which was common in churches during parts of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, in order to remind the preacher of the flight of time, but is now seldom met with. So early as 1564, we find this entry in an old churchwarden's book, belonging to St. Katherine's Christ Church, Aldgate:—“Paid for an hour-glass, that hangeth by the pulpit when the preacher doth make a sermon, that he may know how the hour passeth away,—one shilling;” and in the same book, among the bequests in 1616, is mentioned “an hour-glass with a frame of Iron to stand in.” At the church of St. Dunstan in the West, too, there was a large hour-glass in a silver frame; of which latter, when the instrument was taken to pieces in 1723, two heads were made for the parish staves.

JOHNSONIAN PUNS.—“Do you really believe, Doctor Johnson,” said a Lichfield lady, “in the dead walking after death?” “Madam,” said Johnson, “I have no doubt on the subject: I have heard the Dead March in Saul.” “You really believe, then, Doctor, in ghosts?” “Madam,” said Johnson, “I think appearances are in their favour. The Doctor was notoriously very superstitious. The same lady once asked him—“if he ever felt any presentiment at a winding sheet in the candle?” Madam,” said Johnson, “if a mould candle, it doubtless indicates death, and that somebody will go out like a snuff; but whether at Hampton Wick or in Greece must depend upon the graves.”

Dr. Johnson was not comfortable in the Hebrides. “Pray, Doctor, how did you sleep?” inquired a benevolent Scotch hostess, who was so extremely hospitable that some hundreds always occupied the same bed. “Madam,” said Johnson, “I had not a wink the whole night long: sleep seemed to flee from my eyelids, and to bug from all the rest of my body.”—*Hood's Own.*

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