

## POETRY.

## LINES COMPOSED AT MIDNIGHT.

I cannot close my weary eyes,  
From yonder bed such sounds arise,  
And banish sweet repose;  
Then let me to beguile the time,  
Accompany with tuneful rhyme,  
My neighbour's tuneful nose.

All is at rest about the house,  
Not e'en the scratching of a mouse  
Is heard amidst the gloom;  
Nought save the sounds that struggle out  
From that unintermitting snout,  
And echo through the room.

What sweet amusement this to note  
From that incorrigible throat  
What various noises pour;  
In loud smooth breathings now they gush,  
And now the mingled discords rush  
In one tremendous roar.

Oh, horrid sound!—'Tis sooner far  
List to a three-string'd crack'd guitar,  
By tuneless mortal play'd;  
Or warbling in the lofty gutter  
I'd sooner hear a tom-cat utter  
His tender serenade.

Worse than the voice of fish-wife Nell,  
Worse than the dust-man's jangling bell,  
Worse than knife-grinder's wheel;  
Worse than a score bag-pipers playing,  
Worse than a score jackasses braying,  
Is that discordant peal.

Grant, oh, ye Gods! if e'er I wed,  
I may not lay my aching head  
Beside a snoring wife;  
No—rather let me live, unless'd  
With all the joys that lend a zest  
To matrimonial life.

But hark! a pause!—the noise has ceas'd!  
Though but, I fear, with power increas'd  
Soon to renew the strain;  
Then let me e'er it re-commence,  
Strive to knit up my weary sense  
In slumber's flowery chain.

## PERSIAN DESCRIPTION OF ENGLAND.

A summary account of the kingdoms of Ingilterrah, called Ingreez: and the appointment of Captain John Malcolm to the embassy of Iran, by Marquis Lord Wellesley, Governor of Hindustan, agreeably to the command of the King of Ingreez; and various other matters.

The kingdom of Ingilterrah (*i. e.* England) is composed of two great islands, and divided into three kingdoms: its length is 380 English miles, and its greatest breadth 300: it is completely surrounded by the sea. This country contains excellent pasturage and beautiful meadows; fine wood is also produced there. The water is abundant, and the mines of various kinds. The inhabitants are robust; the horses delicately formed and swift; game is very plentiful; and the quantity of wood and coals is immense. The people are opulent; it possesses excellent emporia for commerce, where the most costly stuffs and merchandise are met with, and become the objects of purchase and sale. They make, in great quantities, all sorts of watches, military arms, engines, penknives, silk and woollen cloths of an excellent and beautiful workmanship. The English are high-minded and magnanimous; skilful, sagacious, and intelligent; and their noblemen, honoured and esteemed, are possessed of good faith and sincerity. Their power at sea exceeds that of all Europe. The capital of Ingilterrah is named London, a city of great extent and delightfully built; that part which is called the city contains solid edifices, great inns, (of court,) academies, highly-ornamented churches, and beautiful school-houses. The royal palace of Ingilterrah is called Parliament, which is the place of assembly for the counsellors of the realm. The river Tameez flows through the midst of the city: there are three bridges constructed over it. The kingdom is divided into fifty-two iylets, or counties. In short, when the sovereignty of this kingdom came to a lion-subduing woman, Lizabet (*i. e.* Elizabeth) by name, the people of Ingilterrah, during her days, greatly increased in power. This woman, who was exceedingly intelligent, politic, and subject-protecting, fought at sea against Filip Shah, king of Aspaniol (*i. e.* Spain); and, though this Filip collected many ships, immense stores, and experienced soldiers, he suffered a great defeat, and the nation of Ingilterrah attained great power and might on the face of the ocean. In her days the Compania, which is the title of those who superintend the affairs of Hindustan, was appointed \* \* \* ; and the commencement of their power in Hindustan was as follows:—The people of France, as well as of Ingilterrah, had taken possession of some forts and towns on the eastern shores of the Peninsula of India, and also obtained the supreme power in some islands adjacent to each other's possessions, and exercised in those places, by their respective strength, uncontrolled authority and dominion. At a subsequent period, when disorder and confusion arose in the French government, several battles were fought between the French and English nations; and the latter, being possessed of greater force

by sea in the regions and places under their jurisdiction, they expelled the French from the forts and towns along the coast of India, seized their various territories, and remained sole and absolute masters in those countries. By degrees they extended their dominion and authority, and, partly by war and partly by treaty, imposed tribute on the sovereigns and rulers of India; whilst other Indian princes, influenced by their own interests, formed alliances with them, so that their power and dignity reached the highest elevation. The western side of the Peninsula of India was governed by Tippoo Sultan, a powerful and mighty prince; and his kingdom, which was called Mysore, in beauty and organization like the spring, was managed with perfect order and well-regulated splendour. The English people fought against him several times; at last, in the year of the Messiah 1802, Tippoo Shah was slain, and all the realms which had been under his government fell into the hands of the English troops, so that they obtained an increase of power and dignity beyond all limits. At the present date the provinces belonging to the English in Hindustan are more numerous and extensive than the countries they possess in Aroopa (*i. e.* Europe) and the island of Ireland, (Ireland,) which was under their sway before these events; therefore, we may truly say they have added kingdoms to their kingdom. Their Indian possessions are divided into three governments: the first, that of Calcutta or Bengal, extends along the course of the river Ganges; the second, that of Madras, along the Coromandel coast; the last is that of Bombay. The English state has not introduced any innovations into India, but remains occupied in the administration and regulation of affairs, the maintenance of all descriptions of troops and the expenses of naval armaments for India belonging to the Compania, which is settled in Ingilterrah. The Compania has entered into partnership, alliance, and friendship with the nation, \* \* \* under their own responsibility. The supreme direction of affairs, the movement of the troops, the internal regulation, administration, and arrangements, all depend on the king; the disbursements, changes, and all other matters connected with the country rest with the Compania, who also, in an eminent degree, derive great profits and advantages from the commerce of Hindustan. In short, soon after the death of Lizabet, James the First became king.—At present Jarge the Third possesses the sovereign power: he has reigned fifty years over this kingdom, and proceeded in the paths of equity and justice. From ancient times until the present period the bond of union and friendship has firmly subsisted between the states of Iran and Ingreez, and there has always been an uninterrupted succession of envoys and ambassadors. This year, therefore, Marquis Lord Wellesley, who had lately been appointed to the splendid rank of vizir, and the office of governor-general, selected, by order of the King of Ingreez, as an envoy to Iran, Captain Jan Malcolm Bahadur. Marquis Wellesley's origin is from the kingdom of Ireland; he is one of the nobles of that country, and of ancient lineage. In the first instance, he was one of the counsellors of the English realm: on account of his skill in affairs, his integrity, innate talents, bravery, and unbounded liberality, (which exceeds all description,) sagacity, and penetration, he was nominated to the government of Hindustan, on which kingdom he conferred the greatest lustre by his intelligence, experience, undaunted bravery, generosity, and energy: he possessed consummate policy and dauntless intrepidity to so high a degree, that, although, on his appointment to the vizirship, there existed an obstinate war between the empires of Ingreez, Roos, (*i. e.* Russia), and Franska, (France), and the states allied with these powers, yet, through Divine grace, joined to his eminent loyalty and sagacious foresight, not the smallest symptom of weakness appeared throughout the empire of Ingreez. Captain Jan Malcolm Bahadur, on account of his innate abilities, experience, bravery, liberality, and prudence, was admitted to the intimate confidence of Marquis Lord Wellesley, and was at first sent by him, along with his brother Lord Wellington, to the Dekkan and Nagpore, where he fought and obtained the victory. He was afterwards detached with Lake Behadur into Hindustan, where he fought a severe battle with General Perron, originally a native of Franska, but engaged in the service of the Marhattas. He defeated General Perron, and set at liberty one of the kings of Hindustan, a lineal descendant from Timur Gur Khan, who was a prisoner in the hands of the Marhattas. This action greatly increased the name and celebrity of Malcolm, who was afterwards appointed envoy to Iran.

## SELECTIONS.

MIND.—What is mind? Aye, there's the rub.—The origin of all things—the fountain light of all our day—the matter-light of all our seeing—substance invisible, without which the visible were not. Nay, it is the only actual thing in the universe. Mind is the only being in the universe with the reality of which we are actually acquainted, and every thing else which appears to be, is

but a manifestation of its eternal activity. We are mind! The mind is the man. Only because of its reality other things are real; modifications as they are of its being—products of its actuality. In its eternal activity it proceeds forth and impresses on the chaos of disjointed things, its own forms and order of arrangement. It is idle to talk of any cause beside mind; the mind is the only cause of all things—the only motive power.

OPTICAL WONDERS.—People laugh at the story of Argus with a hundred eyes; but what was even Argus to some insects? The cornea of insects seems cut into a number of little planes or facets, like the facets of a diamond, presenting the appearance of network; and each of these faces is supposed to possess the power and properties of an eye. Lewenhock counted in the cornea of a beetle, 3181 of the facets, of a horse-fly 8,000, and of the gray-drone fly 1,400.

POLITICAL FEELING IN THE TYROL.—I wish I were able to present the reader with the portrait of an old peasant as I addressed this question to him. We were walking up a steep mountain path; he stopped,—faced round,—leant upon his rod,—and in almost a whisper said, 'Sir, you are an Englishman; I say to you, what I would not say to every one; I carried a rifle, and used it too; but in a bad cause. Hofer was a hero,—Speckbacher, whom I followed, was a hero; Haspinger was a hero; but they were all three fools. Our balls were all spent in defence of Austria: and let me tell you, this arm can carry a rifle yet,—but not for Austria.'—'But,' said I, 'if not under the government of Austria, under what government would the Tyrol place itself?' 'Under the government of the Tyroleans,' said he; 'Switzerland is free,—and respected; and your government has recognized its republic; have we shown less ardour in defence of our privileges than the Swiss? but no matter; our turn is at hand.'—*Ingil's Tyrol.*

PRACTICAL MEN AND THEORISTS.—The character of Neckar, compared with that of Turgot, seems to furnish the means of determining the question as to the relative merits of "practical men" and "theorists." The cry has hitherto generally been of the practical men, as they term themselves, against the theorists, by which they mean the philosophers. In Turgot and Neckar is an example of two men, one a theorist, the other a practical man, called to perform the office of statesmen in extremely critical times.—Turgot was a man whose previous life had been devoted to the ennobling pursuits of literature and philosophy; and, more especially, to the comprehension of those enlarged views which have for their immediate object the moral and political advancement of mankind; to the study, to use his own expressive words, of "the science of public happiness." Neckar was a successful tradesman, a man who had realized a large fortune as a banker in Paris; he was, in one word, a man of "detail." Unaccustomed and unequal to the comprehension of grand principles, although liberal and, there is reason to believe, upright, he possessed not, to use the language of Sir James Mackintosh, (*Vindicia Gallica*, p. 30. edit. 1791.) "that erect and intrepid spirit, those enlarged and original views, which adapt themselves to the new combinations of circumstances, and sway in the great convulsions of human affairs. Accustomed to the tranquil accuracy of commerce, or the elegant amusements of literature, he was called on to ride in the whirlwind, and direct the storm." Dr. Adam Smith, who on such subjects will be now pretty generally acknowledged to be good authority—"always held," observes Sir James Mackintosh, in a note to the above passage, "this opinion of Neckar, whom he had known intimately when a banker in Paris. He predicted the fall of his fame when his talents should be brought to the test; and always emphatically said, 'he is but a man of detail.' At a time, adds Sir James, when the commercial abilities of Mr. Eden, the present Lord Auckland, were the theme of profuse eulogy, Dr. Smith characterized him in the same words. Living instances might be mentioned, similar to the cases of Turgot and Neckar, in which the philosopher when taken from his generalizations and placed at the desk of the practical man, proved himself an able, accurate, perfect man of business; and the "practical man," when taken from the details of his counting-house or his money-shop and placed in the bureau of the statesman, became a wretched driveller, generally blundering, and when right, counteracting any good that might have been done, by the miserable "bit by bit" manner in which he did not. A more striking instance could not be named, than the manner in which those persons who long governed England to their own profit and the loss and disgrace of the rest of the country opposed the grand measures of Napoleon. "He," to use the expressive words of a writer (supposed to be Lord Brougham—*omnia si sic*) in the 25th No. of the Edinburgh Review, art. 14, "singles out the vital part of his whole adversary and the point of it which is most exposed. In that vulnerable heart he plants his dagger; and he knows full well, that the remotest limb will quiver with the shock. He sends forth his host, in the plenitude of its array, to sweep over the

interjacent regions, and to pour itself in one grand, deep, but contracted, and therefore irresistible torrent, into the centre of the strength of Europe. Here,—as near Berlin and Vienna as he can, he fights his battle; and while you are menacing the western department—or landing and re-embarking in Italy—or capitulating in Holland—or idling in Portugal and Egypt—or butchering your friends in the North—or burying your own men, and planting the slave-trade in the West Indies—he is playing that great game which must place in his hands the sweep of all those small stakes for which you are pretending to throw."

THE BLACK DEATH IN THE XIV. CENTURY.—It was reported to Pope Clement, at Avignon, that, throughout the East, probably with the exception of China, 23,840,000 people had fallen victims to the plague. Merchants, whose earnings and possessions were unbounded, coldly and willingly renounced their earthly goods. They carried their treasures to monasteries and churches, and laid them at the foot of the altar; but gold had no charms for the monks, for it brought them death. They shut their gates; yet still it was cast to them over the convent walls. People would brook no impediment to the last pious work to which they were driven by despair. When the plague ceased, men thought they were still wandering among the dead, so appalling was the living aspect of the survivors, in consequence of the anxiety they had undergone, and the unavoidable infection of the air. Many other cities probably presented a similar appearance, and it is ascertained that a great number of small country towns and villages which have been estimated, and not too highly, at 200,000, were bereft of all their inhabitants.—In many places in France not more than two out of twenty of the inhabitants were left alive, and the capital felt the fury of the plague alike in the palace and in the cot.—The churchyards were soon unable to contain the dead, and many houses, left without inhabitants, fell to ruin. In Avignon, the Pope found it necessary to consecrate the Rhone, that bodies might be thrown in the river without delay, as the churchyards would no longer hold them; so, likewise, in all populous cities, extraordinary measures were adopted in order speedily to dispose of the dead. In Vienna, where, for some time, 1200 inhabitants died daily, the interment of corpses in the churchyards and within the churches was forthwith prohibited; and the dead were then arranged in layers, by thousands, in six large pits outside the city, as had already been done in Cairo and Paris.—In many places, it was rumoured that plague patients were buried alive, as may sometimes happen through senseless alarm and indecent haste; and thus the horror of the distressed people was every where increased.—In Erfurt, after the churchyards were filled, 12,000 corpses were thrown into eleven great pits; and the like might, more or less exactly, be stated with respect to all the larger cities. Funeral ceremonies, the last consolation of the survivors, were every where impracticable. In Padua, after the cessation of the plague, two-thirds of the inhabitants were wanting; and in Florence it was prohibited to publish the numbers of the dead and to toll the bells at their funerals, in order that the living might not abandon themselves to despair.—*Translated from the German, by Dr. Babington.*

NEW PRINTING MACHINE.—Mr. J. Kitchen, of the *Newcastle Journal*, has invented a printing press, which bids fair to revolutionize this department of the arts. It bears no analogy, even in appearance, to any machine for the purpose hitherto known.—The form can be fixed in its place in a single moment, and will, when adjusted, remain stationary until the work is finished. Complete facilities are given for regulating the power, and the quantity of ink, and for over-laying or obtaining register. The same machine will be equally applicable for the smallest job or the largest sheet; it will be perfectly under controul, and only require one man during the process of printing; or where great speed is required and the work is heavy, a man and a fly-boy, whilst it can be sold for the same price as the common press. Mr. Kitchen is now engaged in the application to his invention of a clock-work movement, so that the machine may keep a register of its own work, and thus act as a check upon waste of paper and idleness in the absence of the employer or overseer.

Samuel Boyce is the name of a very unfortunate gentleman of merit, who was known to the world some time about the close of the last century. Dr. Johnston used occasionally to beg for him, and once that he had received a guinea, bought some roast beef and port wine for poor Boyce. The moment that the latter sat down to eat, he commenced a serious quarrel with the doctor because he had not also added some mushrooms or catsup!

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