

THE GUARDIAN.

"HOLD FAST THAT WHICH IS GOOD."

VOLUME II.

HALIFAX, N. S. WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 1840.

NUMBER 46.

POETRY.

I AM WEARY.

I am weary of straying—O fain would I rest,
To that far distant land of the pure and the blest,
Where sin can no longer her blandishments spread,
And tears and temptations for ever are fled.

I am weary of hoping—where hope is untrue,
As fair, but as fleeting, as morning's bright dew:
A long for that land whose blest promise alone,
As as changeless and sure as eternity's throne.

I am weary of sighing—o'er sorrows of earth,
O'er joy's glowing visions, that fade at their birth;
O'er the pangs of the loved, that we cannot assuage,
O'er the blightings of youth, and the weakness of age.

I am weary of loving—what passes away—
The sweetest, the dearest, alas may not stay!
A long for that land where those partings are o'er,
And death and the tomb can divide hearts no more.

I am weary, my Saviour! of grieving thy love;
O! when shall I rest in thy presence above:
I am weary—but O, let me never repine,
While thy word, and thy love, and thy promise is mine.
Episcopal Recorder.

MISCELLANY.

EGYPTIAN SCHOOLS.

Schools are very numerous, not only in the metropolis, but in every large town; and there is one at least in every considerable village. Almost every mosque, *sebeel* (or public fountain), and *hhod* (or drinking place for cattle) in the metropolis has a *koottab* (for school) attached to it, in which children are instructed for a very trifling expence: the sheikh or *fick'ee* (the master of the school), receiving from the parent of the pupil half a piaster (about five farthings of our money), or something more or less, every Thursday. The master of a school attached to a mosque or other public buildings in Cairo, also generally receives yearly a *turboosh*, a piece of white muslin for a turban, a piece of linen, and a pair of shoes; and each boy receives, at the same time, a linen skull cap, four or five cubits of cotton cloth, and perhaps half a piece (ten or twelve cubits) of linen, and a pair of shoes, and, in some cases, half a piaster or a piaster. These presents are supplied by funds bequeathed to the school, and are given in the month of *Ram'adan*. The boys attend only during the hours of instruction, and then return to their homes. The lessons are generally written upon tablets of wood, painted white; and when one lesson is learnt, the tablet is washed, and another is written. They also practise writing upon the same tablet. The schoolmaster and his pupils sit upon the ground, and each boy has his tablet in his hands, or a copy of the Koran, or one of its thirty sections, on a little kind of desk of palm sticks. All who are learning to read, recite their lessons aloud, at the same time rocking their heads and bodies incessantly backwards and forwards; which practice is observed by almost all persons in reading the Koran, being thought to assist the memory. The noise may be imagined. The boys first learn the letters of the alphabet; next, the vowel-points and other orthographical marks; and then the numerical value of each letter of the alphabet. Previously to this third stage of the pupil's progress, it is customary for the master to ornament the tablet with black and red ink, and green paint, and to write upon it the letters of the alphabet, in the order of their respective numerical values, and convey it to the father, who returns it with a piaster or two placed upon it. The like is also done, at several subsequent stages of the boy's progress, as when he begins to learn the Koran, and six or seven times as he proceeds in learning the sacred book, each time the next lesson being written on the tablet. When he has become acquainted with the numerical values of the letters, the master writes for him some simple words, as the names of men, then the ninety nine names or epithets of God; next the *fat'hhah* (or opening chapter of the Koran) is written upon his tablet, and he reads it repeatedly, until he has perfectly committed it to memory. He then proceeds to learn the other chapters of the Koran: after the first chapter, he learns the last; then the last but one; next the last but two; and so on, in inverted order, ending with the second, as the chapters in general successively decrease in length, from the second to the last inclusively. It is

seldom that the master of a school teaches writing, and few boys learn to write, unless destined for some employment, which absolutely requires that they should do so, in which latter case they are generally taught the art of writing, and likewise arithmetic, by a *akabbanee*, who is a person employed to weigh goods in a market or bazaar with a steelyard. Those who are to devote themselves to religion, or any of the learned professions, mostly pursue a regular course of study in the great mosque *El-Az'har*.—*Lane's Modern Egyptians.*

SCIENCE IN EGYPT.

Mehemet is becoming quite a savan in his old age, or rather, he manifests a wonderful readiness to aid in scientific researches. The learned men in Europe have instituted an extensive plan of magnetic observations, to be taken in different parts of the earth every two hours for three years to come. It was deemed important to erect an observatory in Egypt, and application was made to Mehemet for permission to build. He immediately ordered one to be built at his own expence, appointed a Frenchman in his employ to superintend the observations, and requested the English Royal Society to send such instruments as they pleased, for which he would pay when received. He seems disposed to keep pace with other governments in the promotion of science.

A CHINESE MAP OF THE WORLD.

It is two feet wide by three and a half high, and is almost covered with China! In the left hand corner, at the top, is a sea, three inches square, in which are delineated as small islands, Europe, England, France, Holland, Portugal and Africa. Holland, is as large as all the rest, and Africa is not so big as the end of one's little finger! The northern frontier is Russia, very large. The left corner, at the bottom, is occupied by "the western ocean," as it is called, containing the Malay peninsula, pretty well defined. Along the bottom are *Camboja*, *Cochin China*, &c. represented as moderate-sized islands, and on the right is *Formosa*, larger than all the rest put together. Various other countries are shown as small islands. I should have given an engraving of this curious map, but that a true reduction to the size of a page would have left out most of these countries altogether. The surrounding ocean is represented as huge waves, with smooth passages, or highways branching off to the different countries, or islands, as they represent them. They suppose that ships which keep along these highways go safely; but if they, through ignorance or stress of weather, diverge, they soon get among these awful billows, and are lost!—*Malcom's Travels.*

SOUTH AMERICA.

The population of South America, is of a very heterogeneous character. The highest and most aristocratic class of it, is descended from the original invaders, or marauders, who took over with them European mistresses, or wives. The next grade, or caste, is that descended from mixed Portuguese, and Indian or African ancestors: then comes a sort of dubious race, claiming descent from a European male parent, but with very equivocal pretensions to it: your mulatto, of decidedly African cast, follows next: and last of all comes poor *Sambo* himself, from Congo. But the greatest dons are your real Europeans, men who, having given up a wine shop at *Oporto*, or abandoned a counter at *Lisbon*, are converted into *fadalgos* in *Brazil*, and consider all classes of mixed blood, as the dust beneath their feet. The hostility between the natives of the mother country and creoles is so bitter, that it is no uncommon thing to see a European father, endeavouring to coerce his American born son, into all the degradation of bondage. What is worse, the Europeans, having always been comparatively few in number, appear to have acted, from the first conquest of the country, on that intuitive and constitutional fear, which has at last proved to be well founded, that their own offspring would one day rise up against them, and wrest from their fathers the soil which these obtained by conquest, and the others possess by inheritance. The population of *Rio* is as various in hue as it is jarring in principle. Of about one hundred thousand inhabitants, the amount of the population when I was there, at least fifty thousand were negroes; twenty thousand mulattoes, one, two, or three casts removed from black; of native born subjects, descended from European parents, there were about twenty thousand; and of foreigners and Portuguese, who had

migrated from home, about ten thousand. The European, and especially the Englishman, when he first lands amid so motley a family, is struck with the desperate inequality which exists between the black man and the white. The negro, in a state of almost complete nudity, does the work of a horse; and he carries home the earnings of the day to his heartless master, who, in return, feeds him with *farinha* and *banana*, and drills him to hard labour, by means of the thong or of the cane. Then, so great is the preponderance of the coloured population over the white, that in the streets you can scarcely believe you are not in a colony of blacks and mulattoes—their misery, their filth, their nakedness, their disease, their howlings as they work, the pitiless rigour with which they are treated, and the premature death to which they are too often doomed,—are all things which, on an Englishman's first arrival, alternately chill his heart with horror, and melt it with compassion. Yet so fatal is the influence of habit, so invariable in its workings is the familiarising process of association, by which we come at length to contemplate even misery with indifference, provided it be always before us, that ere I had been three months at *Rio*, my susceptibilities became blunted, and my impressions upon first landing, were almost worn from my mind.—*Robertson's Letters on Paraguay.*

NEWSPAPERS.

A return has been laid before the House of Commons of the number of stamps issued to newspapers in London and the country, from the year ending Oct. 10, 1836, to Oct. 10, 1839 together with the number of papers, and the amount of stamp and advertisement duty. It appears from these that the greatest increase has taken place in the English provincial press. In the year ending Oct. 10, 1836, the total number published was 194, the stamps issued, 8,535,396, and the amount of duty 113,804*l.* In 1839 the numbers were, 240 newspapers, 20,187,780 stamps, considerably more than double the amount in 1836, and the duty 83,528*l.* The advertisement duty paid by the provincial papers has also increased considerably—the total amount in 1836, being 43,007*l.* In the London papers, during the same period the number of advertisements had increased from 539, 908 to 633 490, the duty being in the respective years 41,235*l.* and 48,511*l.* The number of papers of all sorts had increased from 19,241,640 to 29,352,283, and the amount of duty had fallen from 256,556*l.* to 121,883*l.* In Scotch papers, there has also been a considerable increase; the number of stamps issued in 1836 being 2,654,438, and in 1839, 4 014 894, producing a duty of 10 044*l.* while in 1836 it was 35,392*l.* The advertisement duty had increased from 10,609*l.* to 13,737*l.* In the Irish papers the increase is very trifling, the total number of stamps issued in 1836 being 5,144,682, and in 1839, 5,622,124, The advertisement duty had increased from 8,395*l.* to 9,438*l.* It thus appears that the increase of the circulation of newspapers in these three years, has been in the following proportions:—Irish 10 per cent; Scotch 14 per cent; London 53 per cent; and Provincial 137 per cent. The increase altogether has been 54 millions of copies, which would bring in a revenue of 15,000*l.* a year for paper duty, supposing that the newspapers remained of the original size, but most of them have been greatly enlarged; so that the increase in the paper duty for newspapers alone may be safely reckoned at 25,000*l.* a year. The increase on the advertisement duty has been 20,000*l.*

GAMBLING.

Games of mere chance with dice, or with cards, or other things, if money is won or lost merely by play, have been viewed by all soberminded men as a most pernicious pleasure; and very severe laws have been enacted to prevent, or to punish public gambling, even in respect of the nobility and gentry.—One of the articles of the apprentice's indenture expressly forbids the practice, under the penalty of losing the freedom of the city. Gambling is an offence, from its consequences, of a very grievous nature against God, your employers, and yourselves. It is a sad waste of time, and is a source of distraction to the mind. It leads people to become connected with swindlers of every description, and it promotes idleness, theft, and sensuality of all sorts, as it generally associates itself with the most profligate habits. One person can only gain as another loses: and therefore deceit, and evil tempers, and bad expressions, are constantly occasioned by the pestilent practice of