

P O E T R Y .

THE FUNERAL AT SEA.

DEEP mists hung over the mariner's grave,
When the holy funeral rite was read,
And every breath on the dark blue wave,
Seemed hushed, to hallow the friendless dead.

And heavily heaved on the gloomy sea,
The ship that sheltered that homeless one
As though his funeral-hour should be,
When the winds were still and the waves were gone

And there he lay in his coarse, cold shroud,—
And strangers were round the coffinless;
Not a kinsman was seen among that crowd,—
Not an eye to weep nor a lip to bless.

No sound from the church's passing bell
Was echoed along the pathless deep;
The hearts that were far away, to tell
Where the mariner lies in his lasting sleep.

Not a whisper then lingered upon the air,—
O'er his body, one moment, his mossmates bent;
But the plunging sound of the dead was there.
And the ocean is now his Monument!

Bu' many a sigh and many a tear,
Shall be breathed and shed in the hours to come,—
When the widow and fatherless shall hear
How he died, far, far, from his happy home!

M I S C E L L A N Y .

THE METAMORPHOSIS,
AN INDIAN SKETCH.

We had been attending a feast given at the lodge of the Iotan chief, and were returning through the town, towards the little eminence on which the white canvass of our tents, was fluttering in the wind. As we passed one of the lodges, we observed a group of females in front of it, busily engaged in exposing to the heat of the sun a large quantity of shelled corn. This was done by scattering it upon a buffalo-skin tent, spread upon the ground for the purpose. One squaw attracted our attention, from her gigantic height; most of the Indian females being under, rather than above the middle size. As we approached her, there was a masculine coarseness in her features which rendered her hideously ugly, and formed a contrast highly in favour of the group around her. We afterwards learned that this strange being, though now clad in the garb of a female, and performing the most menial of their offices, was in reality a man, and had once ranked among the proudest and highest braves of the Otoo nation.

The cause of the change was this. He had been for several weeks absent upon a war expedition against his usual enemies, the Osages. At a little before sunset, on a fine afternoon a band of Indians was seen coming over the hills towards the Otoo village. It was a troop of war-worn warriors. They counted less than when they started, but their tale of scalps, and their fierce brows when they spoke of the death of their comrades, told that those comrades had not been unavenged. In front of them strode the stately form of the brave. He was wearied with fatigue and fasting; and without staying to receive the greetings of his fellow-townsmen, he hastened to his lodge, and threw himself upon one of the bearskins which form an Indian bed, and there he remained for the night. In the morning he arose from his couch, but he was an altered man. A change fearful and threatening, had come over him. His eye was quenched; his proud step wavered; and his haughty frame seemed almost sinking beneath the weight of some heavy calamity.

He collected his family around him. He

told them that the Great Spirit had visited him in a dream, and had told him that he had now reached the zenith of his reputation; that no voice had more weight at the council fire; that no arm was heavier in battle. The divine visitant concluded by commanding that he should henceforth relinquish all claim to the rank of a warrior, and assume the dress and avocations of a female. The group around him, heard him in sorrow; for they prided themselves on his high and warlike name, and looked up to him as the defender of their hearths. But none attempted to dissuade him from his determination, for they listened to the communications of the deity with a reverence equal to his own.

After speaking with his own family, he made known his intention to the nation. They heard him gravely, and sadly; but they too assented to the correctness of his resolution. He then returned to his lodge, and took down his bow from the place which it had occupied, and, snapping it in two, threw the fragments into the fire, and buried the tomahawk and rifle which had often served him in battle. Having finished this, he washed the war paint from his face, and drew the proud eagle's plume from the scalp lock. From that hour he ceased to be numbered among the warriors of the nation. He spoke not of battle, he took no part in the councils of the tribe; and no longer raised his voice in the wild war-whoop. He had relinquished all that he had formerly gloried in, for the lowly and servile duties of a female. He knew that his allotted course was marked out for him; that his future life was destined to be one of toil and degradation; but he had fixed his resolution, and he pursued his course with unwavering firmness. Years had elapsed since he commenced his life of penance. His face was seamed with wrinkles; his frame was yielding to decrepitude; and his ever-scowling eye now plainly showed that the finer feelings of his nature had been choked by the bitter passions of his heart. His name was scarcely mentioned; and the remembrance of his chivalrous character was as a dream in the minds of his fellows. He was neglected and scorned by those who had once looked up to him with love and admiration. He had the misery of seeing others fill the places which he once filled, and of knowing that however exalted he once might have been, and however they might have respected his motives, that he was now looked upon as one of the lowest of the nation.

A REAL ONE.—As we were entering the front door of our office on Monday noon, we saw an image of a human being placed exactly in our path-way, just within the door. It had been placed in a chair, and as it resembled in some degree, the figure which a tobacconist places in front of his shop, we thought for a moment that some of our waggish boys during their noonning, had been hauling a piece of sculpture of that kind through the gutters, and we proposed a lecture to them; but on approaching the article nearer, we discovered by several senses, that the material was what had been a human being; but long steeping in alcoholic compositions had, not exactly petrified, but completely stunted, the thing; and the creature that had once been the companion of gentlemen, was so rusty so completely bedaubed that a well fed hog would have squeaked him out of the sty. We thought it a duty, however, as we caused him to be swept out of the office, to say one word of censure to the boys who were laughing at it, that they ought not to ridicule any man drunk or sober. One of the lads turned up his nose in a most expressive twist, at our remark.—'Do you call that a man? a man indeed! if that is a man, I am glad that I am a boy.' And then they placed the thing upon its legs, and ran it off the square.

It was the common lot of a man whose health hold out against drunkenness.—U. S. Gaz.

A young preacher who was holding forth in a country congregation, with rather more show in the opinion of some, than substance; after discussing certain heads in his way, informed his audience that he would conclude with a few reflections. An old man who seemed not highly gratified, gave a significant shrug of his shoulders, and said in a low tone of voice, 'Ye need na fash, there will be plenty of reflections, I so warn ye, though ye dinna make ony yersel.'—L. Mirror.

DUELLING.—At a late duel in Kentucky, the parties discharged their pistols without effect; whereupon one of the seconds interfered, and proposed that the combatants should shake hands. To this the other second objected as unnecessary: "For" said he, "their hands have been shaking this half hour."

CONSUMPTION OF STAPLE ARTICLES IN ENGLAND.—The following is an accurate estimate of the home consumption of England in the great staple articles of commerce and manufactures.—Of wheat, fifteen million quarters are annually consumed in Great Britain; Of malt, twenty-five million bushels are annually used in breweries and distilleries in the United Kingdom, and there are forty-six thousand acres under cultivation with hops. Of meat, about one million two hundred and fifty head of cattle, sheep, and pigs, are sold during the year in Smithfield market alone, which is probably about a tenth of the consumption of the whole kingdom. The quantity of tea consumed in the United Kingdom, is about thirty million pounds annually. Of sugar, nearly four million hundred-weights, and of coffee about twenty million pounds are annually consumed. Of soap, one hundred and fourteen million pounds are consumed; and of caudles, about a hundred and seventeen million pounds. Of clothing we annually manufacture about two hundred million pounds of cotton wool, which produces twelve hundred million yards of calico, and various other cotton fabrics, and of these we export about a third, so that eight hundred million yards remain for home consumption, being about thirty-two yards annually for each person: the woolen manufacture, consumes about thirty million pounds of wool.—Quarterly Journal of Agriculture.

TREMENDOUS GALE OF WIND.—A lady passenger in the steam-packet plying between Dover and Calais, gave the following account of a dreadful storm she had encountered on the passage:—"In spite of the most earnest solicitations to the contrary, in which the Captain eagerly joined, I firmly persisted in remaining upon deck, although the tempest had now increased to such a tremendous hurricane that it was not without great difficulty that I could—hold up my parasol."

LABEL.—Count Mazarin kept a complete collection of the labels written against him: it amounted to forty-six quarto volumes.

Quills are the pinions of one goose, and are often used in spreading the opinions of another.

The Cod according to Leuenhoeck's, annually spawns nine millions of eggs.

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