

WAITING.

One more unfortunate
Victim of Fate,
Striving, in vain to get
In at the gate;
Inclined to his sad tale
A listening ear,
Give him some bread and meat,
Likewise some beer.

Sadly we wonder if
He has a mother,
Father, wife, children, or
Sister or brother?
He has not one of these,
He's all alone,
None to wear mourning for
Him when he's gone.

No shoe on this foot, on
That one no stocking,
Coat all in tatters, hat
Awfully shocking;
Water his face has not
Felt for so long,
That the grime to it now
Seems to belong.

Like a ship, tempest-toss'd,
He to and fro
Through the land wanders,
Waiting to go:—
Waiting to go where he
Will never more
Hear profane language,
Nor wait at the door.

Forth comes the farmer's man,
Out of the gate,
Sturdy, strong-limbed, and re-
Moriless as Fate;
Seizes him by his coat-
Collar and turns him,
Takes his foot and in-
Dignantly spurns him.

Slowly he moves away,
Thinking with sorrow,
Of the sad lot of the
Tramp who to-morrow,
Like him, unfortunate,
Driven by Fate,
Vainly an entrance will
Seek at that gate.

Halifax, 22nd June.

C. D. R.

ODDS AND ENDS.

"Let the righteous smite me friendly, and reprove me; it shall be oil upon the head; let not my head refuse it."

If, in distaste to the general distortion of all facts and circumstances to party ends, I wrote that of which my friend—whose judgment I respect—implies condemnation, I have no hesitation in saying that I regret having so written.

I do not see the Halifax dailies regularly, and have not happened to see the rejoinder my friend mentions.

Apropos of the cold disparagement of his theory by the hierarchy of Astronomy which General Drayson describes in his work on the "Last Glacial Epoch," a striking instance of the same supercilious resentment of the presumption which suggests a novel possibility occurred in the case of the discovery of Neptune.

The problem, as every one knows, was from the perturbation of inner planets, otherwise unaccountable, to determine the distance, mass, and position of an outer planet hitherto unknown. The problem was one of such difficulty that all save two shrank from the attempt to solve it. These were, Adams, then a young man preparing to take his degree at Cambridge, and Leverrier, his senior in years, possessed of far more complete information of the facts of the case, and of far more abundant leisure to deal with it.

Adams first completed his work. He estimated the place of the as yet unseen planet, and announced it to the Astronomer Royal (I am quoting largely tho' not verbatim from Mr. Proctor) and to Challis, the head of the Cambridge Observatory. Between these two observatory chiefs the planet might have been at once discovered. But Professor Airy seemed to imagine that a mare's nest had been found. He put some questions intended to be posing (just the treatment to which General Drayson found himself subjected) which Adams was not eager to answer. Challis was more zealous, and did all he could be expected to do, especially when we remember that he quickly learned that the Astronomer Royal had small faith in the superior mathematical power of his young contemporary. It is surprising to know that Challis actually saw the planet twice, and each time marked its place. Nothing, it should seem, could lose England the credit of the greatest astronomical feat since Newton. But the Astronomer Royal had challenged ill-fortune for his country, and it came.

It was in Sept., 1845, that Adams communicated to Challis the place of the disturbing planet, and in October he had forwarded the information to Prof. Airy.

In June, 1846, or fully *eight months* after Adams' first intelligence, Leverrier assigned, to use Challis' words, "very nearly the same longitude for the probable position as Adams had arrived at." And even then Leverrier's information was less complete than that which Adams had given, for Adams stated the form and position of the orbit, the mass, and the

mean distance of the hypothetical planet, whereas Leverrier "gave no results," says Challis, "respecting orbit or mass."

Shortly, the Astronomer Royal began to think that possibly Adams might after all be right. But it was now too late. For the Berlin astronomer, six weeks after Challis had secured two observations of the planet, detected it from Leverrier's announced place.

Of course as soon as Challis, Sir John Marshall, and others, announced what Adams had really effected, Arago, and other French astronomers abused the great young Englishman as an interloper, as tho' it were incredible that the country of Newton should produce the equal of Leverrier.

There are errors affecting the greatness of a nation which seem to be of the nature of the unpardonable sin. It is as impossible to forgive the insolent and self-complacent supineness of the Astronomer Royal, as the blundering stupidity of Lord Palmerston with regard to the Suez Canal, or the floundering of Mr. Gladstone's policy in Egypt.

Turning over the pages of the work of Mr. Proctor from which I have been summarising, I light by chance on a passage which, notwithstanding one's habitual respect for scientific statements, certainly seems, on the face of it, a little startling. It is this: "In this way" (viz., by the application of the spectroscopic) "Dr Huggins discovered that the star Sirius is travelling from us at the rate of more than twenty miles per second."

Twenty miles per second means 630,720,000 per annum.

The mean distance of Neptune is 2,850,000,000.

Five years' recession at the above rate would amount to the distance of 3,153,600,000, or about three hundred millions of miles beyond the mean distance of Neptune.

Now at the distance of Neptune our sun is reduced to the aspect of a very large and bright star, and altho' Sirius is moderately computed at twelve times the diameter of the sun, with double the brightness of surface (if that is possible, of which there are doubts), it is difficult to imagine that even that stupendous bulk and brilliancy would continue to retain its position as the brightest star in the heavens at a rate of recession which would increase its distance every five years by a greater space than that between Neptune and the sun.

For I believe Sirius has been so reckoned for at least 3000 years, during which, supposing the motion to have continued the same, the "King of Suns," as Mr. Proctor calls him, would have increased his distance from us by one billion, eight hundred and ninety-two thousand, one hundred and sixty millions of miles, a distance, one would suppose, sufficient to diminish the lustre and apparent magnitude of any conceivable body.

To put it in another way. If Sirius is (roughly speaking) cf, say, twelve times the diameter of the sun, and the sun appears, at the distance of Neptune, only as a large and bright star, and if five years' recession at 20 miles per second, covers a distance considerably in excess of that of Neptune, then a period of sixty years or so would reduce Sirius to the same appearance. But as the recession may be supposed to have gone on for 3000 years, at least, since Sirius was known as the brightest star in the heavens, it would seem almost impossible but that his lustre must have suffered greater diminution than has been apparent.

Straws show which way the wind blows. The Union Jack has been usually thought good enough for Regimental Colors (I am not speaking technically with regard to the distinction between Queen's and Regimental Colors) for British and Canadian troops, but we find the ladies of Montreal presenting to the 65th a *white* banner richly embroidered with gold (presumably the fleur-de-lys) bearing the motto, "Dieu et Patrie," and on the reverse side a sacred heart, and the inscription "Adveniat regnum tuum."

The impudence of Lord Salisbury and his following in insisting on a liberal support from the outgoing party is sublime. For the whole of Mr. Gladstone's last term of power, the Tories have put in practice every form of obstruction, and have heaped on their opponents, and on Mr. Gladstone in particular, a virulent personal abuse which has redounded to their own discredit and disgrace. The meanness of the appeal only corresponds to the insolence of the bluster which preceded it. Much as I deplore the weakness of Mr. Gladstone's foreign policy, he has more brains and a higher conscience in his little finger than the whole Conservative crew put together have in their heads or hearts.

"FRANC-TIREUR."

EDUCATING SERVANTS.

One of the most sensible and practical charities is the Kitchen Garden, where young girls of the poorer classes are taught the proper methods of service in refined households. Several benevolent young ladies connected with Sunday-schools in our fashionable churches have set apart certain hours of the week to give this eminently useful instruction to the mission scholars in their charge. The children are taught how to wait on the table, place and clear away the dishes neatly and with dispatch, answer a call at the door, the proper way to usher in a visitor, or repel a beggar or tramp. Also plain and staple articles of cooking are in the list of useful knowledge, one most beneficial feature of this teaching being that the young ladies themselves must become proficient in these branches, though to them it may prove to be an accomplishment only. Should schools of this kind become more numerous and on a larger scale, with endowed scholarships if possible, the perplexing servant problem might in this way be solved and intelligent service become a matter of pride and an exelling in proficiency. Nursing has become a profession, and the necessity for good servants being more extensive, why may not more encouragement be given to the kitchen gardens with most gratifying results to both classes employed?—*Item.*