

# THE CATHOLIC.

QUOD SEMPER, QUOD UBIQUE, QUOD AB OMNIBUS CREDITUM EST.—WHAT ALWAYS, AND EVERY WHERE, AND BY ALL IS BELIEVED.

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## THE CATHOLIC

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THE VERY REVEREND WILLIAM F. MACDONALD, V. G.  
EDITOR.

Original.

### THE DISAPPOINTMENT AND CONSOLA- TION.

What melancholy gloom benights my soul ;  
As through the wilderness of thought she strays  
In mazy error lost ! While haunted close  
By fiercest sceptres of still crowding woes ;  
She knows not where to turn her frightened steps,  
Or seek for comfort, where nought but despair !

Yet once was I not wretched . Fortune too,  
Ere yet I woo'd the coy capricious dame,  
Once smil'd on me ; spontaneous smil'd and gave  
With lavish hand her choicest gifts uncrav'd.  
Then happiness was mine, if ought on Earth  
May happiness be deem'd : for yet not care,  
Corroding care, like canker worm, had fix'd  
On Youth's fast fading bloom ; and drank unscar'd  
The early spreading purple of her cheek :  
Nor life in turbid stream roll'd widdly on  
Its devious course ; but glided smooth and clear ;  
As gentle Fiddich ; kissing, ere it pass'd  
The flow'ry Margin of my fairy haunt ;  
Then sought the Spey adown his woolly vale.

O, for such peaceful scenes of rural bliss,  
As Nature then for me delightful spread,  
Amid my Caledonia's sheil'ring hills :  
Far from the tumult of the bustling world.  
The din of war, and discord's dire Alarms !

There other sounds delight, not wound the ear :  
For all was harmony combin'd, and each  
Was soothing : or the Plough Boy's whistle shrill,  
As o'er him carrols loud the soaring Lark :  
Or Shepherd's pipe ; or from the Mountain's side  
Th' incessant bleatings of his fleecy care ;  
Or low of herds at eve, as from their fields  
And flow'ry fare they homeward slow return,  
And bid us drain our meed, their milky store.

Nor less to me, reclin'd beneath the shade  
Of fragrant Birch, upon his daisied brink  
The brawling brook was pleasing : nor the hum  
Of busy Bee, from ev'ry silky Flower,  
That sips the nect'rous Dew, nor ceaseless buzz  
Of Insect nations, sporting on the wing,  
Nor foliage rustling in th' inconstant breeze.  
While high o'er head, amid the twinkling leaves,  
Conceal'd the Linnet sings, and louder Thrush.  
The Black Bird whistles from his thorny bow'r,  
Each Warbler sweet from bush or nodding spray  
Pours forth his little throat, and swells the strain  
Mellifluous. Oft between, the cooing Dove,  
Breathes her soft murmurs ; and her mellow note,  
The Cuckoo frequent sitting o'er the glade.

Nor yet, though harsh, ungrateful was the song  
Of Raven croaking from you ruin'd Tow'r  
On Keithack's height ; the warrior's once, but now  
The eagle soaring I. owler's safe retreat :  
Nor scream of how'ring Kite ; nor cawing hoarse  
Of Jackdaw ; nor, as round in dusky train  
They wheel their flight, the clamor of the Roobin

Close by yon mould'ring pile, at Midnight hour,  
The Moon beam streaming through the yawning roof ;  
The shatter'd casement, and the rifted Arch ;  
Oft have I musing stray'd ; well pleas'd to hear  
The Owl's lone Ditty, and the murr'ring sound  
Of Fiddich, fretting in his nightly course :  
All silent else, save where th' unfreq'ent blast  
Sighs in the grass, or shakes the whisp'ring Trees,  
As if in sleep respiring nature breath'd.

What sounds, by Art melodiously combin'd,  
What symphony, so soothing to the soul !  
And all this rural harmony was mine ;  
And more than bless'd the Ear : for I beheld  
In rapture Nature's ev'ry charm display'd ;  
And tasted all her free imparted sweets.  
Whether the genial Spring walks forth, to smooth  
The Wintry waste ; and bids her Liv'ry green,  
Embroider'd gay with Flow'rs of ev'ry hue,  
And varied beauteous form, breathing perfume  
Ambrosial sweet, before her steps be spread ;  
As hand in hand fast link'd with Mirth and Love  
She trips it lightly o'er the dewy Land :  
Or Summer's warmer Sun's gradual matures,  
Whatever her nursing hand had previous rear'd :  
Or Autumn from her lap profusely pours,  
Her mellow store ; and to th' industrious swain  
Smiling divides his Labour's annual boon :  
Or Winter's ruthless sway resumes the year.  
For Winter also pleas'd me, as he roll'd  
His vap'ry train along, and shook his snows  
In flaky show'r o'er all the whit'ning fields :  
Or bade the Tempest howl, th' tua'd my mind  
To solemn meditation. Nor, while snug  
Beside the blazing hearth, in studeous mood  
I turn'd the classic page ; or mark'd the lay  
The muse had latest sung ; or cheerful sat  
With Friends in varied converse, reck'd I ought  
The storm, without that rattl'd on my roof.  
Oft as I view'd, swept by the boistrous wing  
Of toiling blast, along the troubled sky,  
The snowy Deluge all o'erwhelming drive :  
Or, on my soft warm couch reclin'd secure  
Heard the dread Hurrican's nocturnal roar :  
My thoughts have turn'd to what must then endure,  
The luckless Mariner ; whose vessel frail,  
The sport of Winds and Waves, now from her course  
Flies devious far ; or, at that fatal hour,  
Perhaps is found'ring whelm'd beneath the deep :  
Or dash'd with thund'ring crash on rocks and shoals ,  
Or on such wilder'd wand'rer's piteous plight,  
As thou hast, Thomson, sung, has Fancy dwelt,  
With all that sympathy's delight, that's found  
In sad imagin'd scenes of other's woe.

To be Continued.

### THE SLAVE TRADE.

*Extent.*—My first proposition is, that upwards of 150,000 human beings are annually conveyed from Africa, across the Atlantic, and sold as slaves ;—and for the Mahomedan market 50,000 ; making a total of 200,000.

*Mode of obtaining Slaves.*—The whole, or the greater part of that immense continent is a field of warfare and desolation ; a wilderness in which the inhabitants are wolved to each other. Mr. Wilberforce, in his letter to his constituents in 1807, has described the mode in which slaves are usually obtained in Africa, and he quotes several passages from the work of the enterprising traveller, Mungo Park, bearing particularly on this subject.—Park says, “The king of Bambarra having declared

war against Kaarta, and dividing his army into small detachments, overran the country, and seized on the inhabitants before they had time to escape ; and in a few days the whole kingdom of Kaarta became a scene of desolation ; this attack was soon retaliated. Daisy the king of Kaarta, took with him 800 of his best men, and surprised in the night three large villages near Kooniakary, in which many of his traitorous subjects had taken up their residence ; all these, and indeed all the able men who fell into Daisy's hands were immediately put to death.” Mr. Wilberforce afterwards says : In another part of the country, we learn from the most respectable testimony, that a practice prevails, called “village breaking.” The village is attacked in the night ; if deemed needful to increase the confusion, it is set on fire, and the wretched inhabitants, as they are flying naked from the flames, are seized and carried into slavery.”

These depredations are far more commonly, perpetrated by the natives on each other, and on a larger or smaller scale, according to the power and number of the assailants, and the resort of the ships to the coast ; it prevails so generally as throughout the whole extent of Africa to render person and property utterly insecure. And in another place, “Every man who has acquired any considerable property, or who has a large family, the sale of which will produce a considerable profit, excites in the chieftain near whom he resides, the same longings which are called forth by the wild beast, by the exhibition of his proper prey ; and he himself lives in a continual state of terror and suspicion.”

A considerable period of time has indeed elapsed since these statements were made : but it clearly appears, that the system has obtained throughout the interior of Africa down to the present time,

Dupius, who was British Consul at Ashantee in 1820 narrates a speech of the king of Ashantee :—“Then my fetische made me strong, like my ancestors, and I killed Dinkara, and took his gold, and brought more than 20,000 slaves to Coomassy. Some of these people being bad men, I watched my stool in their blood for the fetische. But then, some were good people, and these, I sold or gave to my captains ; many, moreover, died because this country does not grow too much corn, like Sarene, and what can I do ? Unless I kill or sell them, they will grow strong and kill my people. Now you must tell my master (the king of England) that these slaves can work for him, if he wants 10,000 he can have them.

Denham relates the terms of an alliance between the Sheik of Bornou and the Sultan of Mandareo. This treaty of alliance was confirmed by the Sheik receiving in marriage the daughter of the Sultan, and the marriage portion was to be the produce of an immediate expedition into the Kerdy country, by the united forces of these allies. The results were as favorable as the most savage confederacy could have anticipated. Three thousand unfortunate wretches were dragged from their native wilds, and sold to perpetual slavery, while probably double that number were sacrificed to obtain them.

*Failure of Efforts to suppress the Slave Trade.*—It is but too manifest that the efforts already made for the suppression of the Slave Trade, have not accomplished their benevolent object. . . . Millions of money and multitudes of lives have been sacrificed ;