

GLASTONBURY.—MACHINE FOR MAKING LATIN VERSES.—This machine, now exhibiting at the Egyptian Hall, is one which presents much interest to scientific engineers, although it does not afford much facility to the attainment of elegant Latin composition. Its operation resembles that of Brewster's kaleidoscope, which by very simple means, produces an endless succession of geometrical figures. As in the kaleidoscope, this machine is calculated to manufacture, in never-ending series, Latin hexameters, "at the rate of about a verse a minute, each verse being perfect in grammar, sense, and prosody." Previous to the manufacture of the verse, the letters are collected together, as a compositor arranges his types, the several letters being placed together in alphabetical order. In the interior of the machine is placed a species of kaleidoscope, which is set in motion by clock work, its rate of rotation being governed by a fly-wheel; on this kaleidoscope the letters of the alphabet are represented by figures, 1, 2, 3, &c., corresponding to a, b, c, up to the end of the alphabet; in this, to use the expression of the exhibitor, the verse is "conceived"—that is, the figures are combined in the same order as that under which the letters of the verse are to appear. In the side of the case certain probes are placed, which are made to dart forward to ascertain what are the combinations of the kaleidoscope; as soon as the probes strike on the figures, the corresponding letters are detached, and sent down to the places assigned to each in the verse to be made. The whole number of letters then slowly descend and pass by the aperture, at which the verse appears, those only remaining visible which are required to form the verse. After remaining visible for some time, the verse is decomposed, or, as a printer would say "distributed," and all the letters gathered up again, ready for use in their former alphabetical arrangement. The machine may be stopped at any time, or suffered to go on continually producing new verses, "each of which is original, having never been produced before, and never to be repeated again." The law which governs the operation of the machine is the law of the evolution by which, as in Babidge's machine, endless combination of a certain form are produced. The form of the verse produced is always the same. The verb always appears in one place, and is always of one form, while the prevalence of neuter plurals is strikingly evident. The inventor of this machine is a Mr. Clark, a native of Glastonbury, to whom the first idea of this versemaker was suggested by an old book, the work of one of the monks of Glastonbury Abbey.

POETICAL PROSE.—Eliza Cook, so well known to poetical readers, gives the following account of her youthful inspirations:—"I can only write from my heart, and that heart has been left from infancy to the mercy of its own intense impulses. My rhyiming tendency developed at a very early age; but the tones of judicious praise, or improving censure, never met my ear. The advantage of an enlightened, nay, even a common education, was denied me, lest knowledge should only serve to foster poetry, and make a sentimental fool of me. I was left, like a wild colt, on the fresh and boundless common of nature, to pick up a mouthful of truth where I could. The woods and forests became my tutors; the rippling stream, and bulrush sighing in the wind, whispered to me in sweet and gentle breathings; the silver stars in the measureless night-sky, and the bright flowers in my morning path, awoke my wonder, and opened the portals that led to the high and mysterious temple of thought. God and creation were before my eyes in all their glory, and, as an untaught child, I worshipped the Being who had endowed me with power to contemplate his works, and rejoice therein."

SEARCH AFTER HAPPINESS.—If you cannot be happy in one way, be happy in another; and this faculty of disposition wants but little aid from philosophy, for health and good humour are almost the whole affair. Many run about after felicity like an absent man seeking for his hat, while it is on his head or in his hand.—*Sharp.*

A correspondent of the *Mining Journal* calculates that during the next three years there will be 2,855,000 tons of iron wanted for railways.

STEAM FOR THE MILLION.—Some enterprising speculators, jealous of the success of the fourpenny fleet, have started an experimental squadron of twopenny steamers, which have been advertised as steam for the million; but as penny boats have since commenced running, we presume that "steam for the billion" will now be the cry of the company. If the mania for this kind of navigation increases, we don't know where the names are to be found for the various vessels that are being daily launched on the Bittersea Billows, to be tossed on the waves of Westminster, and find a haven at Hungerford. We have already had the flower-beds exhausted to provide titles for the *Da sy*, the *Primrose*, the *Pink*, and the *Daffydown-dilly*; but we are told the *Polyathus* is now upon the stocks, and the keel of the *Cro us* is already laid down in the Fulham Dockyards. The social relations have been used up by the iron boats, which rejoice in the titles of *Bridegrooms*, *Brides*, *Bachelors*, *Fathers and Sons of the Thames*, and the various shades of *Montlight*, *Day-light*, and *Twilight*, have been applied to other craft belonging to the same company. Entomology is now being resorted to, and the *Ant* and *Bee* were placed on the Adelphi station a few days ago to carry penny passengers. We have heard it whispered that geology is to supply another series of steamers, which will shortly come forth with the astounding names of *Megatherium*, *Dinothorium*, *Echtopsurus*, and *Anti-Megatherium*, for the purpose of taking people at the rate of three a penny from Lambeth Palace to the Temple.—*Punch.*

THE EYES OF INSECTS.—How wonderfully constructed is this beautiful organ of insect vision! How admirably adapted to the necessities of insects! The gaudy dragon fly, presiding, as he does, such a conspicuous tempting show of colours to the active swallow, eludes the feathered enemy by superior agility of flight. Mere agility, however, would avail nothing without the aid of powerful eyes. Accordingly, nature has given him somewhat more than twelve thousand, bright and piercing, some looking upwards, some downwards, some backwards, and some on either side. In the ants, there are fifty of these faces or eyes; in the horse-fly, four thousand; in butterflies, upwards of seventeen thousand three hundred and fifty-five have been counted—nay, in some col-opterous or scaly-winged insects, there have been numbers no less than twenty-eight thousand and eighty-eight.—*Polytechnic Review.*

GIGANTIC DONKEYS.—I must not omit to mention, in reference to that island, the gigantic donkeys we constantly met with, as the original breed comes from thence, where the largest are still to be found. Those seen about the streets of Valletta vary from thirteen to fourteen hands high. One was brought for us to look at the other day, bred at Gozo, full fourteen hands, although only three years old, and for which the owner asked two hundred dollars, or forty pounds. Its coat was beautifully soft and glossy; and, were it not for its shape and long ears, one would scarcely have imagined it to be related to the poor, degraded donkeys of our clime.—*Mrs. Griffith's Journey.*

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