

# The Standard,

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## POETRY.

(FOR THE STANDARD)

### LAMENT OF THE SICILIAN FISHERMAN.

BY THE REV. M. A. WALLACE, S. E. C.

I LIVE—ah! I live—yes—but now I know not—  
By the loves of my youth, by my kindred, forgot!  
What boots it that earth now is spacious and fair,  
When the cliff is the only "sweet home" I have there.

On heaven and on thee, Rod! my solace depends,  
Ye are my dear prospects, I've no other friends,  
And here on the bleak rock I live but to grieve  
Whether shines the bright morn, or declines the grey eve.

Oft, as lightly it floats on the wings of the gale,  
I fancy the halcyon attends to my wail,  
While the lizard peeps forth from his darksome recess,  
And views me as one whom it wished to address.

At that season when darkness lies brooding around,  
The caverns below with deep murmurs resound,  
And, save the wild song of the night's lonely bird,  
The voice of the ocean is all that is heard.

Then, pensive, I stray 'mid the silence of night,  
No gleam in my path but the moon's dusky light,  
And I roll a wild eye o'er the wide welkin far,  
'Till, at last, I behold my tyrannical star.

Alas! it was all by my father foretold,  
And the blood left his cheek, and his members waxed cold.  
For I, mid the gloom of an eclipse was born,  
And the notes of the owl announced the dark morn.

If e'er, thro' the dull hours of woe, I was cheered;  
When, haply, one ray of sweet hope had appear'd,  
That joy was but like the quick flash of the sky,  
Which tells to the soul of the thunder that's nigh.

A boat, and a line, and a fair little cat,  
Once numbered the blessings that gladdened my lot,  
Then many a heart of affection I knew,  
And sweetly the day o'er my young spirit flew.

If later than usual delayed my light skiff,  
I could see from afar Clora perched on the cliff,  
As if she would lull the wild tempests to sleep,  
Or invoke in my aid all the powers of the deep.

When, from sea on the soft breeze of eve I would come,  
Sweet voices would mingle to welcome me home,  
While, placed at the sight, gentle Clora would smile,  
And, in silent delight, hang around me the while.

But, as vanishes day in the shadows of night,  
Thus passed this fair season of love and delight;  
All—that was mine in one wild night had flown,  
And at morn I was found on the bare rock, alone.

Alas! when I think of that moment of dread,  
I sigh from my soul,—tears of anguish I shed,  
The brightest day seems like a winter of gloom,  
And hope but arises beyond the cold tomb!

\* Founded on an ancient legend  
December 11, 1848.

FROM ST. THOMAS.—A letter from St. Thomas of Nov. 10, to the New York Evening Post, contains the following:—

The harbor is guarded by quarantine boats to keep out the cholera. It is very sickly here at present—there are from 15 to 18 deaths daily.

A number of planters have died, of late with grief and a broken heart: not so much on account of the loss of property since the emancipation, as the ingratitude and cruelty of their people—many of whom are aged, infirm, sick, and entirely dependent on their former masters. Their daily food, clothing,

dwelling, a doctor, medicine, and finally a coffin, grave and burial, come out of the poor master. This, together with the prospect of a good crop, and nobody to gather it, has proved most disastrous to a number of planters, especially the more aged and wealthy.

### DRAWING A WIFE BY LOT.

The Moravians are accustomed to restore to the lot, for the settlement of certain difficult questions which sometimes occur among them. It is always done, however, in a solemn manner and with prayer. The Rev. Mr. M., who was for many years the highly esteemed pastor of the Moravian Church in New York city, when a young man was stationed among the tribes of Indians at the West as a missionary. After labouring there for many years in a state of "single blessedness," he, like other missionaries desired a companion. But he was attached to no one, and could fix his mind upon no one, to be his "better half." Still some one he must have, for he experienced a painful sense of loneliness, isolated as he was from all civilized society. He therefore left for a few weeks his rude untamed charge and went on a journey in search of a wife.

He directed his course, as young ministers do at the present day when engaged in the same pursuit, to a female seminary. He went to Bethlehem in Pennsylvania, where there was a female academy, under the direction of his own denomination. It is frequently, though improperly, termed the Moravian nunnery. He here made known his errand to those who had the oversight of the institute—to those who were the proper ones to address upon the subject. They informed him that there were in the seminary several young ladies of suitable age, character, literary and religious attainments, to be the companion of a missionary. But he knew them not. He was attached to none of them, and had no particular choice. What was to be done? It was certainly a very peculiar case. It was proposed, therefore, that the interesting though difficult question be settled according to their custom in like cases made and provided, by lot. Accordingly the names of all the female candidates for the contemplated honor and happiness were placed in some appropriate vessel, and then with great gravity one was drawn out. The name written upon the successful ticket was Bethia L.

The young missionary was satisfied. But will the young lady consent? Aye, that's the question. When Bethia was informed of the liberty which had been taken with her name, and of the result, she was up to her elbows in suds—a pretty plight for young lady to be in, to receive a matrimony offer! However, she got through her washing, considered the question, gave an affirmative answer, was married, and returned with him to the rustic home among the untutored Indians of the West. The match proved eminently happy.

Bethia was a very tall girl. When joking with her companions, she said that she would never marry a man who was not as tall as herself. After her engagement the girls were solicitous to know whether she was about to adhere to her resolution. They were both accordingly measured, and he was found to be a few inches the tallest. In the course of a few years, an interesting young family were seen in that rustic home, than whom very few have risen higher on earth. The above facts were received from an aged member of the Moravian church, who was intimately acquainted with the couple, and had repeatedly heard them relate the circumstances of their marriage with great good humour.

There are many residents of New York who will not be at a loss to fill the blank after the letter M. in the commencement of the above article, and there are many who remember the amicable couple alluded to.—N.Y. Com. Adv.

### ASTRONOMICAL TELEGRAPH.—Among the

many uses to which the Magnetic Telegraph can be applied with advantage, one of much importance, in a scientific point of view, is the determination of longitude. It has already begun to be used for this purpose.

Last summer, the observatories at Cambridge and New York were connected and astronomical signals passed between those two places.—The signals consisted of seconds of time struck by the operator at one observatory in unison with the beat of a chronometer, at the other; and in the observation of stars by a transit instrument, striking a dot as the star passed each wire. These signals were passed both ways for a number of nights and furnished data for very exact computation.

Another use, from which we may anticipate much advantage, is that of announcing the commencement of gales and storms at distant places—which may prevent vessels sailing while a storm is raging in their path; and will enable philosophers to get at facts to ascertain the philosophy of storms. Indeed, we can as yet form but a very limited estimate of the changes which will be made by means of this discovery of Professor Morse. *Portland Empire.*

CHARLESTON, Dec. 4th.—DISASTER AND LOSS OF LIFE.—The steamer Columbus from Philadelphia for this port, on Sunday last, ran down and sunk the schooner Missouri, near Edinon. There were 6 seamen on board, 5 of whom perished.

SHIP BURNED AT SEA.—Abstract of the log of the British bark Blakely, Capt. Trotter, arrived at this port yesterday, from Cardiff, (Wales).—Nov. 18th, (civil time) at 5 P. M., discovered a ship on fire bearing E. N. E. Bore up for her at 8 P. M., made all sail, passed round her, tacked and stood across her stern. Found it to be the wreck of a large vessel burnt to the water's edge. No appearance of any of her crew, boats, or spars. Kept showing lights and beating and going round her several times.—Capt. Trotter and Mr. Allies, the first officer, took her to be a steamship.—*Journal of Commerce.*

His Holiness the Pope has presented the city of New York with six historical medals, as an acknowledgment of the good feeling exhibited toward him by our citizens.—*Id.*

THOMAS DEVIN REILLY.—The New-York Tribune announces the arrival of this Irish gentleman at that port, for whose arrest a reward of £300 was offered by the British government.

A Bibulous Anecdote Gough tells that he was once riding with a driver on a stage-coach near Rochester: he had taken a "drop too much" and consequently was unable to retain his seat and fell overboard into the sand. The coach stopped, of course, for the gentleman(?) to regain his seat. He soon gathered up when the following colloquy ensued:

"Well, driver, (hic) we've had quite a turn (hic) over, haint we?"  
"No, we have not turned over at all."  
"I say (hic) we have."  
"No, you are mistaken, you only fell off."  
"I say we (hic) have—I'll leave it to the corn (hic) pany. Haven't we (hic) had a turn (hic) over, gentlemen?"  
Being assured they had not, "Well driver," (hic) said he, "if I'd known that, (hic), I wouldn't a got out."

COTTON CULTURE IN AFRICA.—A most important movement has been made at Natal, in Africa, in promotion of the cultivation of cotton. A company established for the purpose, have just completed the purchase of 52000 acre, at the upset price of two shillings per acre, and the conditions imposed by the crown were that immigrants should be introduced, in which case the whole purchase money will be laid out in the formation roads, &c. We are informed likewise, that a body of German settlers at Natal had given a very high price for some land, being satisfied of its capabilities for cotton growing.