

POETRY.

[FOR THE BEE.]

MINDEN.

The sun had set on the battle plain,
And the hoarse night wind was sighing;
A dismal requiem o'er the slain,
Where warriors brave lay dying.

And there a female form was seen,
Where earth's last tie had bound her;
No torch she held—but the lurid gleam
Of lightning quivered round her.

Her eye was sunk—her cheek was pale—
Her men betokened sorrow—
But thank you that, where thousands wail,
Her heart relief could borrow.

Was there relief in moans that rose,
From mangled forms beside her,
The mingled groans and dying throes,
Of the wat horse and his rider?

Alas! she courted—sought it not—
Her fondest hopes must wither—
All else on earth was now forgo,
Save that which brought her hither.

She heeded not the frowning skies,
The threatening voice of Heaven—
She heeded not the frightful cries
Of souls that died unshriven.

She heeded not the dismal tones
Of mountain wolves so savage;
As they gnawed the flesh from human bones
And growl'd amid their ravage.

One only fear absorbed her breast—
"Where was her absent lover?"
She trembled lest, where thousands rest,
His form she might discover.

And as the lightnings lurid gleam
Along Heaven's concave trembled;
The mangled forms beneath were seen,
In ghastly heaps assembled.

Their eyes half closed—their lips all pale—
Their clotted locks so grey—
The blood and dust upon their mail;—
Was this a field of glory?

She paus'd—to view a heap of dead,
O'er the deep scarred faces bended;
Where the purple streams profusely bled,
Conceal'd the forms they blended.

She search'd—there was no face that met
Her eye of recognition,
'Mid gallant sons, whose death had set
A curse on man's ambition.

But a hand rose o'er that heap of dead,
That bore her last love token;
"O Heav'n! 'tis he!"—'twas all she said—
For her widow'd heart was broken. A

MISCELLANY.

BALLOONS.

In No. 14, we introduced an article on Aërostation, copied from a London paper by the Miramichi Glenner. At the time, we were afraid to venture any remarks, being under the apprehension that it might be a piece of waggery, played off upon the gullibility of the credulous. Since then, however, our fears have been removed, and it now appears certain, that in a very short space of time, we may expect to hear of the result of this aerial scheme.

It is not we believe very generally known, that the European E. Society have adopted the new principle of Dr. Weinholf in navigating their vessel. We wish that all manner of success may attend them,—and that their fond hopes may not vanish in the air, like those of their predecessors. The following extract will explain the subject a little further: Eborac.

PROJECTED AERIAL VOYAGE FROM LONDON TO PARIS IN SIX HOURS.

It will be in the recollection of most of our readers that the last year several scientific individuals, who had formed themselves into a Society at Paris, projected opening an aerial communication between that capital and London: and after numerous experiments, so convinced were they of the practicability of the undertaking, that they named a day on which they would start on their first voyage.

On the day announced all Paris went to witness the departure of the intrepid aeronauts, but, alas! the hopes of the projectors were doomed to be blighted, for the machine being overcharged with gas, burst with a loud noise, just as it was on the point of leaving terra firma.

Since that period nothing had been heard of the projectors until within the last month, when it was rumoured that they had arrived in England, and had taken premises in the neighbourhood of Kensington, for the purpose of renewing their experiments. The report has proved correct. On Saturday last a large board was erected across the top of the Victoria road, nearly opposite the avenue leading to Kensington Palace, on which was the following inscription:—"European Aeronautical Society. —First Aerial Ship.—The Eagle, 160 feet high, and 40 feet wide, mounted by a crew of seventeen persons, and constructed for establishing a direct line of communication between the several capitals of Europe. The first experiment of this new system of aerial navigation will be made from London to Paris, and back again."

Yesterday we were favoured by Count Lennox, the President of the Society, with a view of the stupendous machine, which is at present only partly filled with rarified atmospheric air. The Balloon is of a cylindrical form each end terminating in a cone, and has very much the appearance of an enormous whale. When filled it is of the dimensions stated on the board, and contains about 7,000 feet of gas. It is made of lawn, of which material upwards of 2,400 yards were consumed in its manufacture, and it is covered by a thick netting. The car or packet boat, as it is termed, is 75 feet long, seven feet high, and the cabin or centre is about six feet wide. It is made of wood, enclosed in a very strong netting to prevent any of the passengers from falling out. To the balloon are to be attached four wings, two on each side, which are to be moved by a rotatory motion, caused by the motion of a wheel, &c., worked in the centre of the cabin, each wing consisting of 80 flaps, each about two feet six inches long, and nine inches wide, made of oiled lawn, strained over cane.

We understand the experimental ascensions will commence in about a fortnight, and the projectors anticipate starting on their first voyage about the latter end of July, or beginning of August, on which occasion the balloon will be filled with pure hydrogen gas, or coal gas purified in the dock-yard.

Although Solomon has said "there is nothing new under the sun," still we pretty particularly guess, as brother Jonathan would have it, it would be something new to see a machine like the present descend from the regions of "Boundless space," and after landing a

number of passengers, for the conductor to call out "London, London! the first ship going sir!" and then, when their time is up, mount again into ether, to soar through the heavens back to the place from whence it started.

It is intended to exhibit it at the Dock-yard, commencing to-morrow morning, at one shilling each person; and the Duke of Sussex has signified to the president, through Lord Charles Churchill, his intention of visiting the exhibition in a few days, and of entering his name as a member of the Society. Several noblemen, members of scientific societies, have already been admitted to a private view.—*English Paper.*

HALLEY'S COMET.—This Comet now arrests the attention of the astronomical world.—It is making its way in its elliptical orbit towards the sun, and also the earth. It is now in the neighbourhood of Jupiter, but as yet invisible even to a good telescope. I expect this comet will be seen by assisted vision in July and August, and become visible to the naked eye in September. It will be nearest to the earth about the 5th or 6th of October, and in its perihelion, or nearest point to the sun, about the 4th of November. It may be expected to be a splendid object from the end of September to the middle of October. Its revolution is about 76 years—was last seen in 1759—having been observed also in 1682. When the comet is nearest the sun it will be about an equal distance with Venus from that luminary—and when at its greatest distance from the sun it will be almost twice as far off as the Georgium Sidus.—*Plymouth (Eng.) Gazette, June 13th.*

BEAUTIFUL CHEMICAL EXPERIMENT.—Aqua-fortis and the air which we breathe are made of the same materials. Linen, and sugar, and spirits of wine are so much alike in their chemical composition that an old shirt can be converted into its own weight in sugar, and the sugar into spirits of wine. Water is made of two substances, one which is the cause of almost all combustion or burning, and the other will burn with more rapidity than almost anything in nature. The famous Peruvian bark, so much used for strengthening stomachs, and the poisonous principle of opium, are formed of the same materials.

THE CROWN OF THORNS.—There still exists a plant in Palestine, known among Botanists by the name of the "Thorn of Christ," supposed to be the shrub which afforded the crown worn by the Saviour at his crucifixion. It has many sharp prickles well adapted to give pain, and as the leaves greatly resemble those of ivy, it is not improbable that the enemies of the Messiah chose it from its similarity to a plant with which emperors and generals were accustomed to be crowned; and thence that there might be calumny, insult, and derision, meditated in the very act of punishment.

"Why in such a hurry?" enquired a person of his neighbour not long since, who was "going ahead" at the rate of six knots an hour. "Sir, I have just bought a new bonnet for my wife, and want to get home before the fashion changes."

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FOR THE BEE.

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