

THE CONCEPTION-BAY MAN.

SELECT POETRY.

THE PRISONER'S DREAM.

"In prison, and ye came unto me."
 He lay within a narrow cell;
 The day's long, weary task was done;
 The ponderous key had locked him in,
 Till rose again the morning sun.
 And, through the narrow window bars,
 From his low couch along the floor,
 He gazed upon the distant stars,—
 The stars that shone for him no more.
 Then rose the calm and gentle moon,
 And streamed the lonely cell within;
 And visions, peaceful as her rays,
 Came to that dark abode of sin.
 He slept,—he dreamed; and memories
 Bright
 Came o'er him in that quiet sleep;
 His mother's form appeared that night,
 And spake low words that made him weep.
 And Memory, with her magic key,
 Unlocked her gems, forgotten long;
 The past returned, the loved and lost
 Restored, arose a magic throng.
 He dreamed a brighter home was his
 Than the dark, sinful home he lost;
 That love and joy were round him spread,
 Such joy as ne'er his path had crossed.
 He dreamed of glorious hopes of heaven;
 That life, once dark, all bright had grown;
 The narrow path he seemed to tread,
 The path that leadeth to the throne.
 He woke: no moonlight radiance streamed
 Across the dark, damp, dungeon-floor,
 And, like the shades of midnight, fell
 The shadows on his soul once more.
 Morn broke; and to the prisoner's side
 An angel in disguise there came;
 A woman who, with gentle voice,
 Read there the blessed Saviour's name.
 She spake of Him whose boundless love
 Bore human folly, sin, and woe;
 Who pleadeth still before the throne,
 For tempted, fallen ones below.
 He listened,—wept; there's hope for him,
 Though erring, wandering, stained with
 sin;
 For, at the ark, the outstretched arm
 Still takes repentant wanderers in.
 He seeks for mercy,—it is given;
 There's joy within the courts of heaven,—
 And peace and hope his spirit cheer:
 A sinner hath repented here.

MISCELLANEOUS.

HOW MURAT MET HIS FATE.

The sentence of the military commis-
 sion was read to him with due solemnity.
 He listened to it as he would have lis-
 tened to the cannon of another battle
 during his military life, equally without
 emotion or bravado. He neither asked
 for pardon, nor delay, nor for appeal.
 He advanced of his own accord towards
 the door, as if to accelerate the cata-
 strophe. The door opened on a narrow
 esplanade, lying between the towers of
 the castle and the outer walls. Twelve
 soldiers, with loaded muskets, awaiting
 him there. The narrow space did not
 permit them to stand at a sufficient dis-
 tance to deprive death of its horror.—
 Murat, in stepping over the threshold of
 his chamber, found himself face to face
 with them. He refused to let his eyes
 be bandaged, and looking at the soldiers
 with a firm and benevolent smile,
 "friends," said he, "do not make me
 suffer by taking bad aim. The narrow
 space naturally compels you almost to
 rest the muzzles of your muskets on my
 breast; do not tremble, do not strike
 me in the face—aim at the heart, here
 it is."
 As he spoke thus, he placed his right
 hand upon his coat, to indicate the
 position of his heart. In his left hand
 he held a small medallion, which con-
 tained in one focus of love, the image of
 his wife and of his four children, as if
 he thus wished to make them witnesses
 of his last hour, or to have their image

in his last look, as in his last thought.
 He fixed his eyes on this portrait, and
 received the death-blow without feeling
 it, absorbed in contemplation of all he
 loved upon earth! His body, pierced
 at so short a distance by twelve balls,
 fell with the arms open and his face to
 the earth, as if still embracing the king-
 dom he had once possessed, and which
 he had come to reconquer for his tomb.
 They threw his cloak upon the body,
 which was buried in the cathedral of
 Pizzo. Thus died the most chivalrous
 soldier of the imperial epoch; not the
 greatest, but the most heroic figure
 among the companions of the new
 Alexander.

A SAILOR'S STORY.

A young sailor, who had been roving
 round the world for several years, on return-
 ing to his house in this city was constantly
 and annoyingly lionized on account of his
 having had 'personal relations' with can-
 nibals, anacondas, whales, sharks, elephants
 tigers, pirates, and other creatures which
 inspire the untravelled mind with terror.—
 He hated, above all things to 'spin yarns,'
 but still he was constantly beset to do so.
 Being at a party one evening, where the
 guests were indulging in the narration of
 exceedingly tough stories, he was, as usual,
 importuned to 'spin them a yarn,' and
 finally, at the request of his father, he related
 the following harrowing tale, the circum-
 stances mentioned, in which he saw with
 his own eyes.
 'As one of the Panama steamers was
 leaving the harbour of Havana, in the
 summer of 1851,' said the young sailor, 'a
 beautiful widow lady, named Howard,
 was standing by the gunwale, on which her son,
 a little boy some four years old was sitting,
 playing on a sugar flageolet, which his fond
 mother had purchased for him in port, of an
 ingenious Spanish confectioner. The
 child was greatly delighted with the toy,
 and blew vigorously; while Mrs. Howard
 seemed to enjoy the little fellow's delight,
 as much as he enjoyed the flageolet. The
 transcendent beauty of the mother, the cir-
 cumstances mentioned, in which he saw with
 his own eyes.
 "The angelic loveliness of the child, rivetted every
 eye that observed them, and various were
 the speculations advanced as to their history.
 After some time a sailor shouted, a 'shark!
 —a shark,' and everybody crowded to see
 the huge creature that was swimming along-
 side the vessel. As the passengers were
 remarking upon the appearance of the shark,
 a shriek was suddenly heard—then a splash;
 and quick as lightning the ravenous monster
 darted upon his prey.
 "Little Tommy Howard had fallen from
 the gunwale, and the widowed mother was
 now childless.
 "Mrs. Howard, who had fainted, was
 carried below in a state of insensibility.
 "The shark still swam by the vessel's
 side. Some of the men determined, if pos-
 sible, to avenge little Tommy's death; and
 baiting a huge hook with a large piece of
 fresh beef, they cast it overboard.—Almost
 immediately the shark swallowed it; and
 fifty stalwart arms pulled lustily at the stout
 rope. He was an immense monster, and
 struggled violently. As soon as his nose
 was pulled well out of the water, a number
 of Californians began to practice pistol-
 shooting at his eyes. Their balls soon put
 a quiver upon him, and he was hauled
 lifeless and limp, on board. When his
 huge bulk had been stretched along the
 deck, it was proposed that he should be
 opened and the remains of the boy taken
 from his stomach and given Christian burial.
 The proposition was immediately acted
 upon, and soon the carcass was laid open;
 when to the utter astonishment of everybody,
 the boy was found snugly seated between the
 monster's ribs, playing his flageolet!
 The young sailor has not been annoyed
 since that evening, by requests to 'spin a
 yarn.'
 "I stand," said a Western stump orator,
 "on the broad platform of the principles of
 '98, and palsied be mine arm if I desert
 'em!" "You stand on nothing of the kind!"
 interrupted a little shoemaker in the crowd:
 "you stand in my boots that you never paid
 me for, and I want the money."

NOTICES.

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1845	29	1,020	242	18	4
1846	24	1,000	194	5	0
1846	33	2,900	480	15	0
1847	10	300	46	4	0
1848	23	100	14	8	2
1849	27	500	46	18	4

"This Company added about £90,000
 to its permanent capital, for the increased
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 tinctly shows that the Company has always
 acted upon the principle enunciated by one
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"The resources and balance-sheet of this
 great Company are, on the contrary,
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 evidence is thus given periodically of its
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Morning Herald, December 26, 1855.

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 be pronounced to be larger than any yet
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 Here is an office which yields a fairly ear-
 nest and wholesome reversionary bonus of 80
 per centum in its Life Branch, and in
 regard to fire operations, can make this
 very enviable boast, that it has exceeded
 the Fire business of all but two of the
 London Fire offices—viz.: the receipt of
 nearly £130,000 per year in Fire premi-
 ums alone—some of which ancient offices
 have been in existence for a century!—
 Equally successful and singular in both
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 ment may be said to present results equally
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 November 28, 1855.

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 half in advance.

VOL. I.

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SUMMARY OF

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