

[For the Journal of the Times.]

VALHALLA'S CHIEF.*

BY KATIE.

Joy reigns in Valhalla's hall to-day—
Loud rings the summoning call:
Go forth! go forth thro' the bright land of life—
GIVE ye a warning to all.
King Death on his pale horse sallied out,
And Odin's hall echoed shout after shout.

By the side of a tiny cot he stands—
The infant is passing fair;
One sweep of his sable wing, and the child
Lays withered and blighted there.
The frail little soul gone, is free from strife,
And he enters its name in the book of life.

Clear is the light in yon maiden's blue eye—
Her cheek with fever is flushed;
Valhalla's dead chieftain beckons her forth,
And her throbbing heart is hushed.
She has gone, from a world of care and sin,
Where none but the righteous can enter in.

An old man sleeps sound in his easy chair—
Lines of care are upon his brow;
But a child-like suite plays around his lips:
He's thinking of by-gones now.
His every thought to the past is given—
Still he sleeps and dreams, then wakes in heaven.

A cheerful adieu the sailor-boy gave
To his mother tender and fair;
But the waves roll over his manly form,
And sport in his clustering hair.
Well knew Odin's king no hand could save,
So he heaped for the boy a coral grave.

Ho of the dancing plums rode forth—
High thoughts fill his warlike breast;
Death pauses an instant before his steel,
His form the green turf has press'd.
Ho has heard and obeyed the chieftain's call—
There are warrior's needed in Odin's hall.

* Valhalla, or the Palace of Odin, supposed by the ancients to be the residence of the King of Terrors. (See "Mallet's Northern Antiquities.")

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EDITORIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND INDORSEMENT.

WHAT can be more wearing, harassing, and perplexing to the human frame than an editorial life! Surely there is no class of men under the sun that has so much responsibility, perform so much real hard work, and yet, as a general thing, receive so small a compensa-

tion for their services as editors. Go where you will, you will find them a hard-working set of men—busy early and late—for an editor's work is never done. He must visit places of amusement, public lectures and meetings, take notes of the proceedings and glean new ideas, from which he must sift the chaff and condense the wheat into a readable paragraph. Then what a heap of exchanges he is obliged to read—labor enough for half-a-dozen men—to say nothing of the new books and writing reviews; and yet, with all this reading he must never be weary, never pause to look back; but, on the contrary, he must look ahead, be ever ready to write upon any and every subject demanded by the public, without stopping to consider his own ease and comfort. What slave is so subject as the one whose thoughts, even, are not his own, and who labors day and night incessantly to please a master whom no one can please. Even the sleep of one tied to the press, though generally but of a few hours duration, is not refreshing,—he thinks while in his sleep, and thoughts unbidden crowd his over-worked brain; and, when he should be lost to the world in slumber, he hears a faint cry echoing in his ear of—"copy."

Some people are so ignorant as to suppose that an editor is responsible for everything that appears in his paper, whether it be extracted or compiled news, advertisements, communications or editorial matter. It is certainly wrong in the extreme to suppose that an editor can indorse everything he prints; though in the main he is and ought to be held responsible for what appears in his paper; and, moreover, he could not reasonably be expected to expend time and money to hunt up evidence to prove the truth of all the reports, items and news that reach him. For should he attempt to do this, news would not be news, and general intelligence not worth reading by the time he would be able to print it in its certified form.

But there should be some dividing line between what is and what is not, indorsed by the editor of a newspaper. The "we" should have a space allotted to itself, so that the reader might know the difference between an editorial item and an advertisement.

Every journal must in some measure be a daguerrotype of its conductor's idiosyncrasies, and it will be no difficult matter to discern the character of the man from the character of his paper. If the man who conducts a public newspaper sinks below his profession, and mistakes blackguardism for smartness, and puts no period to his vulgarities and abuses, and thinks by so doing he will be esteemed and respected by respectable men, leave him to his glory. Of such it is not our purpose now to speak. Rightly conducted, the press has a great mission to perform. It is the great educator of the masses and of

many who are taught by no other teacher; and, besides, it is its office and duty to be a daily counsellor; to improve the public taste; to disseminate knowledge, wisdom, and furnish intellectual food for the understanding. Scarcely any one can read a respectable paper without learning something he would have deemed it a loss not to have known. Nor is newspaper literature of the present day without its value in a literary point of view.

"We do not hesitate to say," the New York Tribune well remarks, "that the best writing now in England or America, is in its newspapers, and not in books. The style is bolder, freer, fresher, and less diffusive in the one than in the other. There is less verbiage, less unnecessary expression on what should be taken for granted, which disfigures more or less nearly every popular treatise. Journalism gets at facts without indirection, and throws out generalization and theories on them, which are afterwards paraded in books as original. In the materials of law it is more suggestive than the law-makers. In the extent of its powers to do good, a newspaper is equal often to five hundred or five thousand ordinary lecturers or declaimers."

Perhaps the reason why literary, labor, and more especially newspaper writing, is undervalued, is, that the brain is silent in its movements and makes no clang as it performs its multifarious duties. If the brain made as much noise as a thrashing machine, or, if an author or writer could be concealed within such a machine, so arranged that newspapers, facts, dictionaries and encyclopedias could be thrown in for him to digest and incorporate into essays and reviews, and paragraphs could be formed by a wooden instead of a living hand, then there would be a high value set upon the expression of thought because the machinery would seem to indicate that it cost something.

The editorial profession is a noble one if rightly understood and followed with a laudable ambition to serve the best interests of society; to dispense knowledge and justice; to open the eyes of the bigoted; to encourage the development of the useful, beautiful, and the good that is in the community. No editor can please every one, therefore it is useless for him to attempt it. Do as well as he may he will have his detractors and calumniators. Let him, therefore, have fixed principles of justice on which to think and act, ever bearing in mind that on him rests a great responsibility. And, too, let him indorse only such facts as he knows to be true, for, by so doing, he ennobles his calling and gives his journal a character and a name. Finally, if an editor has done his duty through life, he has been a useful member of society—he can then give a goodly account of his stewardship, and look back upon a life well spent.

INFLUENCE OF DISEASED TEETH UPON OTHER ORGANS OF THE SYSTEM.

THE bad effects of a diseased and unclean mouth upon the general health, are of more serious consequence than most people are aware. There are constant effluvia, from the decayed and diseased matter in the mouth