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MOSES IN MIDIAN.

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From the Fountain for 1847.

Why art thou here, amid the streams and rocks,
Oh foster-son of Egypt,—rear'd in all
The luxury of courts?—Was there no nerve
Of strong ambition in thy secret soul
Twining bright visions round a future throne?
Didst never think 'twere sweet to be a king?
Or that her hand who drew thee from the Nile,
Fill'd with compassion for the babe that wept,
Might to its other bounties, add—a crown?

Yet well thou seem'st content with rural charms,
Nor wears thy brow a trace of hope deferr'd
Or bootless expectation. Thy young heart's
Requited love,—and the free intercourse
With Nature, in her beauty and repose,
Give thee full solace.

And when twilight grey
Lureth thy lambs afold, or twinkling stars
Look from their chambers on the crystal founts
With tender eye, perchance thy hand doth sweep
The solitary lyre, weaving in hues
Of sable, and of gold, *his* wondrous fate
Who drank so deep of renown and of joy—
The man of Uz. For Poesy doth well
With pastoral musing, and the pure response
Of birds and brooks. And he, who feeleth that
Æolean thrill within him, hath no need
Of fame's shrill trump, and shrinketh from the gong
Of the great, pompous world.

Spake not the voice
Of Midian's gushing waters to thine ear,
Prelusive of the honors and the toils
Decreed for thee? Came there no darkened dream
Of desert wanderings?—of a manna-fed
And murmuring host?—of thine own burden'd lot,
Bearing alone the cumbrance and the strife
Of mutinous spirits, when the wrath of Heaven
Burn'd fierce among them, and avenging Earth,
Opening her mouth, prepared their living tomb?

Ah! linger still, amid the quiet groves;
And to green pastures, fed by sparkling rills,
Lead on, with gentle crook, thy docile sheep,
While yet thou may'st. With holy Nature make
Close fellowship, and list the still, small voice
Of Inspiration, stealing o'er thy soul
In lonely thoughts—so shall it gather strength
To do the bidding of Omnipotence,
And walk on Sinai, face to face, with God.

CURIOSITIES OF SCIENCE.

(From the New York Evangelist.)

The following passage is from an address recently delivered by Professor Mapes, before the Mechanics' Institute of New York.

I mention the following facts only in the hope of showing you, that there is a pleasure in studying the sciences, and when we come to Natural History, we shall find the study of that still more amusing. The animal and vegetable worlds are well worthy of observation. Probably you all know what is meant by a *cycloid*. If we make a spot on the periphery of a wheel travelling on a plane, the figure which that spot describes is a cycloid. Now, there is no figure in which a body can be moved with so much velocity and such regularity of speed, not even the straight line. Mathematicians discovered this not many years ago; but nature's God taught it to the eagle before mathematics were invented. When the eagle pounces upon his prey, he describes the figure of a cycloid.

A globe placed in water, or in air, in moving, meets with resistance, and its velocity will be retarded. If you alter the globe to the form of an egg, there will be less resistance. And then there is a form called the solid of least resistance, which mathematicians studied for many years to discover; and when they had discovered it, they found they had the form of a fish's head! Nature had "rigged out" the fish into just such a figure.

The feathers of birds, and each particular part of them, are arranged at such an angle as to be most efficient in assisting flight. The human eye has a mirror on which objects are reflected, and a nerve by which these reflections are conveyed to the brain, and thus we are enabled to take an interest in the objects which pass before the eye. Now, when the eye is too convex, we use one kind of glasses to correct the fault; and if it be not convex enough, or if we wish to look at objects at a different distance, we use glasses of entirely another description.

But as birds cannot get spectacles, Providence has given them a method of supplying the deficiency. They have the power of contracting the eye, of making it more convex, so as to see the specks which float in the atmosphere, and catch them for food; and also of flattening the eye, to see a great distance, and observe whether any vulture or other enemy is threatening to destroy them. In addition to this they have a film, or coating, which can be suddenly thrown down over the eye to protect it; because at the velocity with which they fly, and with the delicate texture of their eye, the least speck of dust would act upon it as a penknife thrust into the human eye. This film is to protect the eye, and the same thing exists to some extent, in the eye of the horse. The horse has a large eye, very liable to take dust. This coating in the horse's eye is called the haw, or third eyelid. and if you will watch closely, you may see it descend and return with electric velocity. It clears away the dust, and protects the eye from injury. If the eye should catch cold, the haw hardens and projects, and ignorant persons cut it off and thus destroy this safeguard.

You all know, if you take a pound of iron, and make of it a rod a foot long, what weight it will support. But if it be a hollow rod, it will support a weight many times greater than before. Nature seems to have taken advantage of this also, long before mathematicians had discovered it, and all the bones of animals are hollow. The bones of birds are large, because they must be strong to move their large wings with sufficient velocity; but they must also be light, in order to float easily upon the air. Birds also illustrate another fact in natural philosophy. If you take a bag, make it air-tight, and put it under water, it will support a large weight, say an hundred pounds. But twist it, or diminish the air in it, and it will support no such weight. Now, a bird has such an air bag. When he wishes to descend, he compresses it at will, and falls rapidly; when he would rise, he increases it, and floats with ease. He also has the power of forcing air into the hollow parts of the body, and thus to assist his flight. The same thing may be observed in fishes. They also have an air bag to enable them to rise or sink in the water till they find their temperature. If they wish to rise, they increase it; if they wish to sink, they compress it, and down they go. Sometimes the fish, in sinking, makes too strong an effort to compress it; then down he goes to the bottom, and there remains for the rest of his life. Flounders and some other fish, have no air-bag; and so they are never found floating on the surface, but must always be caught at the bottom.

In this way are the principles of science applied to almost every