The Weekly Observer.

BEING A CONTINUATION OF THE STAR:

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SAINT JOHN, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1830. Vol. III. No. 24.

The Garland.

THE DEAD FATHER.

BY THE REV. B LITTLE.

Come hither, child, and kneel
In prayer, above thy father's lifeless form—
He loved thee well in sunshine and in storm,
Through days of we and weal;
His blessings on thy head no more are given,
As once they came like gentle dews of heav'n.

Look on that palid face!
Its wonted smiles are calmly resting there,
Unbroken by the deep drawn lines of care—
Sorrow hath left no trace
Of furrowed bitterness upon the meek
And still expression of that blanched cheek.

Thou scarce canst feel thy loss,
Or know the chilling cares that have begun
To shadow thy bright pathway, gentle one!
Many a withering cross
May in thy guileless bosom plant its sting,
And to thy hopes a poisoned chalice bring.

How sad the fireside hearth!
His manly form shall never—never more
Darken the threshold of our cottage door;
Nor the full sound of mirth
Go up in gladness to the whited wall;
For death has entered with his funeral pall.

A chair is vacant now!
A cheerful eye, and a contented face,
Have left, for aye, their wonted dwelling place;
And we must bow!
Blessing's gone! a noble form is riven,
To darken this cold earth and gladden heaven.

HYMN.

BY THE LATE BISHOP HEBER.

I prais'd the Earth, in beauty seen
With garlands gay of various green;
I prais'd the Sea, whose ample field
Shone glorious as a silver shield;
And Earth and Ocean seem'd to say,
"Our beauties are but for a day!"

I prais'd the Sun, whose chariot roll'd
On wheels of amber and of gold;
I prais'd the Moon, whose softer eye
Gleam'd sweetly through the summer sky;
And Moon and Sun in answer said
"Our days of light are numbered!"

O God! O Good beyond compare!
If thus thy meaner works are fair!
If thus thy bounties gild the span
Of ruin'd earth and sinful man,
How glorious must the mansions be
Where thy redeem'd shall dwell with thee!

PEARLS.

BY MISS M. A. BROWNE.

Why should I tell of the diamond's blaze?
Why should I sing of the sapphire's rays?
Ye are purer, and fairer, and dearer to me—
Gems of the ocean, pearls of the sea!

There are feelings of all that is sweet and mild,
Dreams that are pure as the dreams of a child,
Many an innocent holy thought,
By gazing on you, to my bosom brought.

I love to behold you, fairy pearls,
When ye wreath around rich raven curls—
I love to see you when some neck
Almost as white as yourselves ye deck.

I think, in looking on you, of the wave
That birth to your simple beauty gave;
I think of the rolling waters that sweep
Over your brethren of the deep;

And I think of the crimson coral cells,
Where first ye lay in your native shells;
And I dream of the Nereid's fabled song,
That floats those sparry halls among.

I remember the venturous diver who first
Beheld you amidst the sea weeds nurs'd,
And snatched you eagerly away,
To smile again at the smiling day.

And I think of the tranquil, tranquil sea,
When the stars were burning steadily,
As if they were looking the clear wave through,
To see if their glances could rest on you.

And there are better thoughts than these,
That rise when I see you, pearls of the seas!
Ye are like pure spirits that dwell through life
Unharmed amidst its care and strife.

And there's a hand that shall bear them away,
At last, to the light of a cloudless day,
And treasure them more than ocean gems,
And set them in heavenly diadems!

MISCELLANEA.

Gravity.—Happiness is a great treasure, and why should not a man keep it to himself? What propriety, or what decency, is there in a man's poking the pertness of his contented cheerfulness into the face of every one he meets? It is exceedingly vulgar, if an individual be ever so rich, that he should jingle his money in the audience of all the world.—Gravity can never be called impertinence; it does not obtrude itself upon the attention, but it rather courts inobservation, and forms a species of personal retirement. It is a little sentry-box, in which a man shuts himself up and keeps himself to himself. If an individual is laughing and grinning in society, you seem to be under the necessity of asking him what he is laughing at. If a man comes smiling into a room, and looking gaily and cheerfully around him, you are under a kind of necessity of taking some notice of him. He forcibly quarters himself upon your sympathy, and so far he is a troublesome fellow, and he is a disturbance to the train of your thoughts. Whereas a grave man is as good a companion as a man fast asleep. He does not take your attention or thoughts away from yourself. You may speak to him if you like, but you are not compelled to it; you are quite at liberty, and Englishmen love liberty; therefore they love gravity, and cultivate it with much diligence and most distinguished success. Moreover, every one loves the reputation for wisdom, and how is it to be had, save and except by wise sayings or by wise looks? And which is easiest, to look like a wise man or talk like a wise man? The argument is in favour of looks, at least ten to one.—We should approve gravity in others for its convenience to ourselves, and we should cultivate it in ourselves not only for its convenience to others, but for its accommodation to ourselves. It becomes a species of panoply, defending ourselves from attacks that might disturb or discompose us. Get into a Paddington coach, or a Richmond steamer, without the armour of gravity, and ten to one some impertinent fellow will attack you with "Fine day, Sir." But look grave, keep your lips properly compressed, as if they were not to be opened for a trifle, preserve the perpendicularity of the spine, cock up your nose, and turn up your eyes, or knit your brows, and look round about you as if wondering how you came into such a vulgar conveyance, and then you may travel from Dan to Beersheba without a question. By the proper bearing and right management of gravity, you hold the power of speech and silence in your own keeping: and if you choose to condescend to say, "Fine day, Sir," you enjoy the reputation of condescension. Gravity is like the shell of a live oyster, it may occasionally relax and gape a little for convenience, but if any thing offensive comes near, it can forthwith close itself with a most exquisite pertinacity, and if need be, can pinch the fingers of the impertinent.

Gravity is so complete an essential of the English character, that if a man be seen walking in the streets with a smile upon his face, and the outward symptoms of gaiety in his looks the odds are, that he is a foreigner. But if he be an Englishman, it is more than ten to one that he is half crazy. Now what is the cause of this gravity? Why are the English people so exceedingly grave? What is the philosophy of the thing? says a Frenchman. Nay, Monsieur, excuse us, if you please? the *onus probandi* lies with you. What is the philosophy of pour vivacity? We are the rule, you are the exception. Explain, if you please, your most unconscionable levity, the everlasting activity of your limbs, the ready relaxibility of your muscles, the courteous flexibility of your spine, the aspen-leaf motion of your tongue, and the hilarious crowing of your lungs. You do not learn all this from any thing in nature. The animals that live around you are all exceedingly grave. There is no giggling in a pig-sty, there are no shruggings of shoulders and gesticulations among your horned cattle; your sheep are grave, your horses are grave, your asses are grave; all as grave as any Englishman. Look at your poultry, your geese, your chickens, and your turkeys; all of them are perfectly serious and grave. You may talk about the lively song of the lark; but look at the owl—there is gravity enough in that bird of wisdom to make up for the levity of a whole sky-full of larks. Every thing is in favour of gravity; we have the majority on our side; cows, sheep, asses, horses, dogs, cats, pigs, ducks, geese, *cum multis aliis*, keep us in countenance. Besides, if we wish to give any account of your pre-eminent gravity, we might quote for illustration our insular situation, and our consequent familiarity with fish. They are the gravest of all animals, and the quietest withal. True, they may now and then make a frolic leap out of the water; but then they are like Englishmen at a carnival—they are out of their element. What can be graver than a cod's head and shoulders? What are you laughing at, Monsieur?—*London Atlas.*

Population of Large Towns.—Now that an Act of Parliament is passed for taking a new Census, various conjectures have been formed as to which of the large towns has increased most in population since the last Census. The following taken from one of Dr. Cleland's Statistical Works, shows the amount of population in the large Towns in 1821:—

THREE OF THE LARGEST TOWNS IN	
England—London, 1,274,800; Manchester, 133,788; Liverpool, 118,972	1,527,500
Wales—Swansea, 10,007; Carmarthen, 8,906; Holywell, 8,309	27,222
Scotland—Glasgow, 147,043; Edinburgh, 138,235; Paisley, 47,003	332,921
Ireland—Dublin, 156,276; Cork, 100,535; Limerick, 66,012	352,853
France—Paris, 720,000; Lyons, 115,000; Marseilles, 102,000	937,000
Isle of Man—Douglas	6,054
Island of Guernsey—Port St. Peter	11,173
Island of Jersey—Town and Parish of Saint Helier	10,118

Diseased Sheep.—The quantity of sheep affected with the rot in the West of England is unparallelled. In Scotland, too, the disease has become very prevalent. Formerly the mutton from the Highlands was probably the best in the world. All that is fed on the cultivated land now is diseased. In order to prove the correctness of the opinion that the flook and poisonous herbage was really the cause of the disorder, a gentleman, who has an estate a short distance from Glasgow who sent the worst mutton that came to Glasgow market seven years ago, finding the butchers would not buy his sheep, he set to work and under-drained the fields; fallowed, pared, and burned, according as the soil would admit of it; used various composts of lime and salt, and sowed pure clover and grass seed. His sheep are now the best that come to Glasgow market, which enhances the value of his property at least two-thirds—a noble example for the kingdom at large.—*World.*

Organic Defects.—Professor Rudolphi, in a memoir read before the Berlin Academy of Sciences, remarks, that the intermarriage of parties who labour under defective organs is not a matter of such little moment as many apprehend. "It fell under our observation," says he, "that here, in Berlin, a deaf person having married a person who could hear, the male offspring of this marriage are all deaf and dumb, while the females have their hearing perfect.—It has been also communicated from North America, that, in one family, several members for various generations have been struck with blindness at a certain age.—Block mentions, that, in the family of a Berliner, a severing of the iris and a central cataract are hereditary; and I am acquainted with a girl, who is one of the youngest of that family, and is afflicted with these evils in both eyes. Indeed, we may observe the absence of the black pigment of the eye in more animals than the white mouse and rabbit.—*Athenæum.*

From the Philadelphia Journal of Health.

FALSE ATTITUDES.

The false postures and attitudes, taken by young persons at school, or when engaged in some particular trade or labor, often become a cause of distorted spine and other deformities—a state to be deplored in all, but more especially pitiable in the female sex. In the remarks which we propose making on the causes, prevention, and hygeinic treatment of these deformities, we shall content ourselves with the arguments and illustrations in the work of Surgeon Duffin,* to which we have already directed the attention of our readers, and which we again recommend to the attentive perusal of all parents, guardians, and instructors, on whose knowledge of this matter much will depend, before professional assistance is invoked.

For the better understanding of the subject by our readers, we shall premise a few particulars respecting the structure of the parts more immediately affected in spinal distortion. We cannot of course, be expected, in this place, to speak with professional or technical precision; but while endeavouring to be plain, we hope to be accurate; at least enough so for hygeinic purposes.

The back bone is a pillar, built of twenty-four short cylindrical bones, called vertebræ, piled one upon another, and extended from the large solid bones that support the body, when sitting erect, to the lowest part of the head. We say nothing for the present of the projections from the vertebræ, but proceed to remark that the body, as the centre-part is called, does not directly touch the one above, or the one below it—there intervenes a strong elastic substance of considerable thickness, which is girt round by a powerful ligamentous band. This substance, called technically intervertebral, retains the two vertebræ to which it belongs, continually together; and though, strictly speaking, it prevents all immediate motion of one bone of the spine upon another, permits of the most extensive motion of the whole column of bones taken conjointly, by means of the great elastic power of which it is possessed.—To which ever side the body inclines, this substance readily yields, and returns in a moment to its proper position, by a very powerful spring, when the weight of the body and force of the muscular contraction cease to operate. As this substance is continually yielding under pressure during the day, a person of ordinary stature, will often be found considerably taller in the morning, than at night. In old age, the body is shorter than in youth, from the greater condensation of this substance; and its inclination forwards, in persons advanced in years, depends upon the yielding of this compressible substance to the weight of the superincumbent structure. Hence, any undue inclination to either side, during life, if frequent, constant, or protracted, will cause a certain diminution in the thickness of this substance on the side to which the body inclines, accompanied by a proportionate rising of the same, on the opposite side, and will in the course of time produce permanent distortion of the whole column of bones. This effect will be more easily produced during childhood, when the bones are in a state of growth, the ligaments more yielding, and the intervertebral substance, peculiarly soft. "A tumour on the head or jaw," remarks Mr. Charles Bell, "which makes a child carry the head to one side, or constant stooping, such as is used by a girl in working at the tambour, or the carrying of a weakly child always on one arm by a negligent or awkward nurse, will cause in time a fixed and irremediable distortion."

The moving power of the vertebræ, or back bone, consists in several layers of muscles. On each side of the spine is felt a mass or cushion of flesh, the muscles of which are attached to various projections from the individual bones, (vertebræ) By the joint and concurrent action of these muscular masses, the vertical position is maintained; and according as one or other side, or a particular portion of either, contracts, the body is bent in that direction.—The muscles on the front part of the body bend it forward, when they are called into contraction by volition.

Now it must be very obvious, that by a long voluntary contraction of the muscles on one side of the back bone, as when we lean in that direction for a length of time, in writing or drawing at a desk, or when engaged at some particular handicraft employment, they acquire, eventually, a diseased habit. They become in a measure permanently contracted—while those on the opposite side, from being in a state of rest, become weaker than natural, and are unable to draw the spine to their side, and to restore the vertical position. The effect of this posture is, as already said, to compress the intervertebral elastic substance on the side towards which the body leans, and finally to render it firmer and thiner, than on the opposite side. There is then formed a lateral curvature, which becomes fixed spinal distortion, and a raising of the shoulder on the same side with the prominence of the spine.

The natural consequence of sitting long in the same posture, is an attempt to rest the muscles by leaning a little, to one or other side; and hence a risk of deformity in young persons, who are kept too long a time in school, of acquiring a permanently false attitude, and of suffering from spinal deformity. The risk will be increased, if the person be of a feeble and sickly habit of body and allowed to sit long in such a position as to throw up one of the shoulders and the ribs of the same side.

* The Influence of Modern Physical Education of Females, in producing and confirming Deformity of the Spine. New-York, Charles G. Francis, 1830.

Surgical Recovery of an Eye.—M. Maunoir, Professor of Surgery at Geneva, having performed the operation for cataract, by extraction, upon a man of 82 years of age, weakened by an operation for hernia which he had endured six weeks before, perceived to his regret that although the pupil remained beautifully black and perfectly intact, the anterior and posterior chambers of the eye were not replenished, the cornea became sunk and wrinkled, a few bubbles of air penetrated the anterior chamber, and the patient had no vision. Without yielding to the first melancholy impression, the operator, by a happy presence of mind, conceived the hopes of filling the cavity: he sent immediately for some distilled water, warmed it, placed the patient on his back, and filled the external orbit of the eye with water, opened the eye-lid, and raised the flap of the cornea. The water then penetrated into all the accessible cavities, the folds of the cornea disappeared, and its convexity was restored. Having kept the eye shut for some minutes, he then directed the patient to open it, and found it in the most satisfactory condition; the patient distinguished all the objects presented to him as well as after the most successful operation. A slight pain was felt after the introduction of the water, which went off after a short time. From that time the eye healed without difficulty, and when opened a week after the operation, it was free from swelling and inflammation; the cornea was perfectly united, but the pupil was a little obscure, the sight feeble, and the patient complained that he did not see so well as immediately after the operation. But six days after the bandage was removed the shade of the pupil was much diminished, the sight grew stronger, from day to day, and no doubt was entertained that the patient would soon be able to read common print.—*Journal Royal Institution.*

Provisions of Creatures for their Young.—It is very pleasing to observe the provisions that are made by creatures for the security, and in many cases, comfort of their young; we see the land-birds collect a variety of materials; and where requisite, of warm substances, to shelter their broods. Others require no such provisions. The water-birds provide down from their bodies to line their nests; vegetable matters would soon become damp, but this plumage contracts little moisture and hence the eggs are kept dry in humid situations.—The stop, or nest of a rabbit is a very conspicuous instance of maternal care, the mother, plucking off nearly all the hair and fur from her stomach, and mingling it with short dry grass, forms a mass of materials for the comfort of her young ones, securing them in it with great art, and visiting them with the utmost vigilance and caution. The insect weaves up the hair of its skin to form a covering, a web of cotton or of silk impervious to the contingencies of the weather—all tending to the security and well-being of its young: manifesting the deep and settled affection for its offspring impressed by the creator upon the parent, in whatever grade or state it may be placed; for even the sea monsters draw out the breast."—*Journal of a Naturalist.*

Anamalized Bread and Biscuits.—We stated some time ago that a large quantity (400,000) of biscuits, anamalized with gelatine, had been sent to Algiers for the use of the French troops, in Paris. A French Paper now informs us that the experiment answered throughly, and that the discovery is likely to prove of great value, not only to the army and navy, but in domestic economy, generally, as animal food in the ordinary way may, with the use of anamalized biscuits, be dispensed with. The composition of the biscuit is as follows:—Flour 325 parts; dry animal matter obtained from meat and bones by pressure and evaporation, 10 parts; water, 100 to 120 parts. Two ordinary sized biscuits form a soldier's ration. They are said to be equal in nutrition to one quart of good soup, with a proportionate quantity of bread.

Life.—"Years and hours are no certain measures of the duration of life. A long life is that in which we live every hour, and feel that we do so. It is a life made up of vivid, rapid, and varied sensations, the parents of lasting impressions, and of prolific combinations of ideas; a life in which the feelings are preserved fresh by past associations, and the fancy exercised by a quick succession of images; a life which, whether it makes us feel the blessings or the burdens of existence, still gives the full consciousness that we do 'live, breathe, and have a being.' All that is not this, is nothing,—or at best, the raw material of life, unworked and unenjoyed: it is the charcoal and oyster shell, substantially identical with the diamond and the pearl, but wanting in the lustre and polish which confer on them their rarity and value."—*Lady Morgan.*

Coming out of his pulpit, some of his friends went to shake hands, and tell him what a sweet sermon he had delivered. "Aye," said he, "you need not remind me of that: the devil told me of it before I was out of the pulpit."—*Southey's Life of Bunyan.*

Wealth incompatible with Skill.—Few young men of agreeable persey Conversation turned out great artists sier to look in the glass than canvas shine like a lucid prim'd Hats; talking, Sir Joshua us do.—forming, to should sew up his on hand, a good Aslove of distinctive sold at a small advance and if a man was

FISH: 2 tons Log Wood, &c. &c.
7th December. W. P. SCOTT.

By the Lord of the Isles, and other late Arrivals from Europe, the Subscribers have Received—

A CENTRAL ASSORTMENT OF

DRY GOODS,

Suitable for the Season.

—ALSO—

Best Yellow Soap, Mould Candles, Brandy, Geneva, Rose and Cut Nails, Ship Chandlery, &c. &c.

—ON HAND—

200 Tons White Pine TIMBER.

THOMAS MILLIDGE & CO.

16th November, *Peters' Wharf.*

☞ *NOTICE.*

THE Co-Partnership of DAVID HATFIELD & SON, will be dissolved, by mutual consent, on the first day of May next. All Persons having demands or unsettled Accounts, are requested to present the same for adjustment; and all Persons indebted, will make immediate payment.

DAVID HATFIELD.
PETER HATFIELD.

☞ The Business will on the 1st of May, be assumed by P. HATFIELD, who also proposes transacting the Business of an *AUCTION and COMMISSION MERCHANT*, and solicits the patronage of his Friends and the Public. St. John, November 30, 1830.

TO LET, from 1st of May, the Store in Ward-street, adjoining the premises of G. D. Robinson, Esq.

Nov. 30. D. HATFIELD & SON.

TIMBER---for Sale.

300 TONS White and Red PINE, and BIRCH TIMBER—For Sale by J. & R. KINNEAR.

TIMBER, for Sale.

TWO CARGOES, *White Pine, Red Pine and Birch*, with broken Stowage saleable, &c. Apply to GEORGE BALL.

November 30.

W. REYNOLDS, BOOKSELLER & STATIONER, SAINT JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK.

Is just received from London and Glasgow,

A NEW assortment of BLANK BOOKS of all sizes and bindings; Greek, Latin, French, and English School Books;—Children's Primers and Toy Books, in great variety;—PLAYING CARDS; Charts; Nautical Almanacks, 1831; Annuals; Blassis's Art of Dancing; Annals of the French Revolution of 1830; Card Racks, Skreens, and other Fancy Articles; fine Cutlery.—A Catalogue of Books and Miscellaneous Articles will shortly be published.

Empty Trunks, from 2 feet to 2 feet 6 inches long. ON HAND:

A few tubs of excellent BUTTER, and half a ton of prime Annapolis CHEESE, for family use.

23d November.

COMMISSARIAT,
St. John, N. B. November 12, 1830.

Notice to Half Pay Officers, to Widows of Officers, and Out-Pensioners of Chelsea Hospital.

WHEREAS His Majesty's Government has directed, that the Military Year in future should coincide with the Calendar year, It is hereby notified to those Persons in this Province, who have heretofore attested their affidavits, half yearly, are now required to attest them on or after the 1st day of January, and on or after the 1st day of July, in each year; and those Persons who have attested their Affidavits Quarterly, are now required to attest them on or after the 1st day of January, the 1st day of April, the 1st day of July, and the 1st day of October, in each year—as neither *Half Pay, Widows' Pensions, Compassionate Allowance*, nor *Chelsea Pensions*, will be issued from this Office unless these directions are complied with.

CABLES, ANCHORS, &c.

Just received by the Subscriber, and for sale low for Cash or a moderate credit:

1 CHAIN CABLE, 1¼ inch, 105 fathoms;
1 Chain do. 1⅛ inch, 105 fathoms;
1 Chain ANCHOR—17 cwt.;
1 Skiff or Pinnace BOAT—British built, Copper fastened;
1 Double and Single Purchase WINCH;
1 CAMBOOSE;
2 Double JACK SCREWS;
5 Crates Crockery Ware—well assorted.

Dec. 11. JOHN ROBERTSON.

of various kinds for sale at this Office