

Poetry's Corner.

THE FLOWER SEED.

"If a man die, shall he live again?"—Job. xiv.

"Charley, my dear, in the early spring, When I made my garden bed, You laughed at my doing so strange a thing As planting seeds that were dead.

And you were sure I never should see The leaves come bursting out; For O, you thought, how strange it would be If all those seeds should sprout.

I told you to wait till the gentle dew, The sunshine, and the shower. Had shown us all that they could do To draw from the seed the flower.

And don't you remember, after a while, I wished you to come and see My garden bed, and you asked with a smile, Where all those seeds could be?

I told you then, that every seed Contained a living power, Which, from the dry envelope freed, Would soon produce a flower.

And often since then you have watched my flowers, While growing, you knew not how; But a garden stranger than these bright bowers Invites our attention now."

And the mother led her thoughtless son To a gloomy burial ground; And there, as they thoughtfully wandered on, A newly-made grave they found.

Flowers were growing around the tomb, The rose and the scented brier; And they seemed to say, by their bright bloom, That a mother's love was there.

"O, Willie's grave is a beautiful place Now the flowers are all in bloom;" And when he raised his innocent face It had lost its gathered gloom.

"But the fairest flower, my Charley, dear, That plant has ever given, Will spring from the seed now buried here, And bloom in the bowers of heaven.

The harvest-day will surely appear, When this seed will burst the sod, And free from all that could mar it here Shine forth by the throne of God."

Teachings of Nature.—(Ep. Reorder.)

HISTORICAL SKETCHES.

LORD NELSON.—Horatio Nelson, one of the most distinguished of those who have upheld the honour of their country upon the dangerous ocean, was the son of a country clergyman; and was born in the parsonage-house of Burnham-Thorpe, Norfolk, on the 29th Sept. 1758. His health was very poor and his bodily strength much reduced by the ague, a disease from which he suffered a good deal; so that he seemed quite unfit to encounter the hardships and privations of a sailor's life. But he was possessed of great spirit and resolution, of which he gave proofs while a boy; and having expressed a desire to go to sea with his uncle who was just then placed in command of the "Raisonnable" of 64 guns, his father, having no hope of providing for him better, did not oppose his son's wish, and young Nelson left his home at the early age of 12 years to take his chance on board a man of war. He felt the change of scene at first very sensibly; and no doubt had many a heart-ache and secret longing for the comfortable home he had left so young: however, he soon got reconciled to his new career, and became very much attached to his profession. After his uncle's ship was paid off, Nelson volunteered to accompany an expedition which was fitting out for a voyage of discovery towards the North Pole, and behaved with much courage and forethought during the perilous navigation which they experienced. On his return he made a voyage to the East Indies, where he remained nearly eighteen months, until his constitution was completely impaired by the climate which is so fatal to Europeans; he was obliged to return home quite broken down for the time in health, though buoyed up by anticipations of future glory and renown. He did not remain long idle: on the 8th of April 1777 he passed his examination as Lieutenant, and on the 11th of June 1779 became a Post Captain, although not yet twenty one years of age. Space does not permit a minute detail of all the events which marked the career of Nelson: it was one of great activity and devotion to the service of his country; and he took so prominent a part in the stirring events of those days that his name is inseparably and honourably connected with the naval triumphs of Great Britain in the eighteenth century. A list of the actions where he was engaged and distinguished himself will perhaps give some idea of the amount of work which he got through. From Honduras, where he destroyed some forts of the Spaniards, he was sent to the North Seas and remained the winter; then he came to Quebec and from here to New York. At this time he met Prince William Henry, afterwards William the 4th, who was serving in the navy, and who became his firm friend. The description which he gave of Nelson's appearance is amusing. "He appeared the meekest boy of a Captain I had ever seen; dressed in a full laced uniform, an old fashioned waistcoat with long flaps, and his lank unpowdered hair tied in a stiff Hessian tail of extraordinary length; making altogether so remarkable a figure that," said the Prince, "I had never seen anything like it before, nor could I

imagine who he was nor what he had come about. But his address and conversation were irresistibly pleasing; and when he spoke on professional subjects, it was with an enthusiasm that showed he was no common being." After this he was for a long time on the West India station. At the sieges of Bastia and Calvi in Corsica; in many engagements with single ships of the enemy; in the memorable action off Cape St. Vincent for which he was made Rear-Admiral and received the order of the Bath; at Teneriffe where he lost his right arm; at Aboukir, for which victory he was created Baron Nelson of the Nile; at Copenhagen; and, besides numerous others, finally at the battle of Trafalgar, Nelson distinguished himself not less by his courage and decision in action than by his humanity to the conquered. Trafalgar was his closing scene and, according to man's judgment, it was an honourable termination of a life devoted to his country. Upon this occasion, when the English fleet of 27 sail of the line and 4 frigates were bearing down to attack the combined French and Spanish fleets of 33 sail of the line and 7 frigates, Nelson made the memorable signal "England expects every man to do his duty." The result of the action was decisive: the enemy's fleet was completely destroyed, but Nelson received a mortal wound and died in about three hours afterward. His body was taken to England, where a public funeral was ordered, and a monument erected; and every honour which his country could bestow was conferred on his family: Lord Nelson was married early in life, but his domestic happiness was destroyed and a sad cloud is thrown over his private character by an unfortunate attachment for Lady Hamilton which caused a separation from his wife. He left no children, and his rank and honours descended to his brother.

SIR WALTER RALEIGH was the fourth son of Walter Raleigh, Esq., of Fardel, Devonshire, and was born in 1552. When about 16 years old, he went to Oriel College, Oxford, but left it the next year and embarked for France to assist the Queen of Navarre in defending the Protestants. Here he continued five or six years. Subsequently he served in Holland also, and in Ireland. Upon his return from the latter country, he succeeded in attracting the notice of Queen Elizabeth by the following piece of gallantry. The Queen being impeded in her walk by a muddy part of the road, Raleigh took off his new cloak and spread it over the puddle as a carpet for her majesty to tread on. He was admitted to court and employed by Her Majesty upon several occasions. Some years afterwards, he planned an expedition to North America, and in 1584 fitted out two ships at his own expense, and discovered a country to which was given the name of Virginia, out of compliment to the Queen. The next year he established a colony there from which tobacco was first imported into England and in 1595 he conquered Guiana in South America from the Spaniards. At the death of Queen Elizabeth in 1603 Raleigh lost the favour which he had hitherto enjoyed; he was brought to trial for a plot against King James, although there was no proof whatever to support the charge; and was condemned. But his sentence was changed to imprisonment in the Tower, where he remained 16 years, during which period he wrote many valuable works. In 1618, after returning from another expedition against Guiana, he was imprisoned again and beheaded in consequence of his former condemnation, as it was reported, but more probably to please the Spaniards who found him so determined an enemy. He was a man of unquestioned talents, extensive knowledge, and strict honour.

CAPTAIN COOK.—James Cook, one of the most eminent of modern navigators, was born at Marton in Yorkshire on 27th Oct. 1728. His father was in a very humble station, and James, being one of nine children, was only sent to school by the kindness of his father's employer. After a few years of instruction in the common branches of an English education, the youth was first bound as an apprentice to a shopkeeper near Whitby; but, in consequence of some disagreement, the indentures were cancelled and he became an apprentice to some gentlemen who had vessels in the coal-trade. Thus, contrary to the original intention of his friends, did he enter a profession in which he made himself afterwards so distinguished, while at the same time he did so much for the improvement of geography and science in general. How often do we see instances of a similar kind, where an over-ruling Providence, by closing up one avenue, causes the mind of man to be directed unto another channel where his abilities and inclination have full scope to display themselves! After serving the coal-mERCHANTS, for several years, he entered the navy, and the commander of his ship being acute enough to discover the abilities of Cook, he was promoted to be master of the Mercury, which was one of the English fleet at the siege of Quebec in 1759. He continued serving on different stations with much credit to himself until the year 1767, when he fairly commenced his career as a discoverer. A scientific expedition was despatched at this time by the Royal Society of London to the island of Otaheite in the

Pacific Ocean, and the command of the vessel, the Endeavour, was given to Cook, who now received the commission of a lieutenant in the navy. After accomplishing at Otaheite the particular objects for which they were sent, Cook traced the eastern coast of New Holland, which he called New South Wales, from the 38th degree of latitude to its northern extremity; he proved that it was separated from New Guinea, by sailing his ship through the straits, which after his vessel, he named Endeavour Straits. He also visited New Zealand, and ascertained that it was divided by a strait which he called by his own name. He discovered likewise a number of islands which he designated the Society Islands. Upon the return of the expedition to England in 1771, Cook was promoted to be commander in the navy, and general satisfaction was expressed with the successful issue of the enterprise. In the course of the following year, he sailed upon another voyage of discovery in H. M. Ship Resolution accompanied by the Adventure, and made many valuable additions to his former researches, while so excellent were his arrangements to preserve the health and comfort of those under his command, that he lost but one man by disease during the expedition. Having communicated his plans to the Royal Society, he was elected a Fellow of that scientific body and received the Copleian gold medal, while Government showed their approbation of his services by promoting him to the rank of Post Captain. In 1776 Captain Cook sailed on his last voyage in the same vessel, the Resolution. His particular instruction upon this occasion was to examine the north west coast of America, for the purpose of ascertaining if there was a passage through it to the Atlantic Ocean, and, if unsuccessful, to endeavour to pass through the Frozen Ocean round Asia or America. Although this part of their instructions was not accomplished, the voyage was very successful in other respects; several new islands, the Sandwich Islands among the number, were discovered, and a great addition made to geographical knowledge. But the death of Captain Cook was a melancholy accompaniment of their triumph. While at Owhyhee, one of the Sandwich group, a quarrel occurred between the natives and the English, and their commander was slain on the 14th of Feb. 1779. The highest public honours were paid to his memory, not only at home but by foreigners; and Government bestowed pensions on his widow and three sons. In addition to personal intrepidity and resolution, his humanity and equanimity of temper were remarkable, and accompanied by frank and agreeable manners and excellence of private character.

THE EVIL OF JAUNTING-CARS.

Mr. Falcon's next inquiry was about the Irish jaunting-cars. "Travel by the jaunting-cars," said Moore, "by all means; but let me give you the same advice that Archbishop Whately is said to have given to Earl De Grey. Always secure the box-seat; the advantage is that you see all around you, and both sides of the landscape; otherwise you only observe the side upon which you happen to be seated, and that is the reason why the people in Ireland have such a habit of taking one-sided views. There is the Whig-side of the country, and the Tory-side;—if you sit on the Whig-side, you can't see the Tory-side, and if you sit on the Tory-side, you can't see the Whig-side;—do you sit in the middle, and take one impartial survey; see both sides. You will find the rule a good one, both in the figure and the letter."—The Falcon Figure.

PRINCIPLES ABOVE RULES.

From Sermons to a Country Congregation, by the Rev. Augustus Wm. Hare.

A rule which has been drawn up for any particular purpose, may be likened to a loaf of bread; a principle, on the other hand, is like a handful of wheat. Every rule that is worth anything must be taken from a principle, just as a loaf of bread is made of wheat. For the wants and uses of the moment a rule is more serviceable than a principle; just as when a man is hungry, bread is more welcome than wheat. For bread is wheat ready prepared for the sake of satisfying hunger: we have only to take and eat it. Hence, for a hungry man a crust of bread is better and handier than so much unground wheat. Yet will anybody say on this account that bread is a better thing than wheat? Suppose a man were going to some far country, where no corn grows, which would he take with him, bread or wheat? Suppose a sailor were thrown, with his family, on a desert island, which would he wish for, bread or wheat? Assuredly a single handful of wheat would be a greater God-send to the poor cast-away than a whole ship-load of bread. Why so? Because he could plant the wheat, and could not plant the bread. The bread after a time would get mouldy and be spoilt. The wheat, if it were sown, and proper care were taken of it, would grow, and flourish, and spread until large fields were covered with it: and generation after generation might be fed by the produce of the single handful. This is the great advantage which wheat

has over bread. Bread may feed us for the moment, but when once eaten, it is gone for ever. Wheat, on the contrary, will bear seed; it will increase and multiply; after one crop has had its day, and been reaped, and stored in the barn, and consumed, another crop, provided seed be preserved, will spring up; and so long as the earth itself lasts, so long will corn last also. Thus too is it with rules and principles. A rule is like a loaf of bread. It is a ready, handy application of a principle; a principle made up for immediate use. By rules we govern or rule children. We say to them, "Do this," or "Don't do that:" because it is easy for them to understand a plain order; but it is not always easy to make them understand the principle or reason of it. When the child however comes to be a man, he puts away childish things. He wants a new set of rules adapted to his new state; for the rules of childhood he has outgrown, so that they no longer fit him. The rules which belong to one stage of life, are many of them ill-suited to other stages of life. In like manner the rules which belong to one class of men or to one people, or to one age of the world, may not suit another class of men, or another people, or another age of the world. Hence different ages and different nations require different rules.

THE IMPENITENT, WITHOUT EXCUSE.

From the same.

But some say, "If this be so, if we are naturally so given to evil, it cannot be our fault if we do wrong. It is our misfortune: we cannot help it; and God will never blame or punish us for not being better than he made us. You might as well blame a sick person for dying, as blame a man for sinning, if his nature is so corrupt and evil." No doubt it would be very hard,—I have spoken a bold word; but St. Paul speaks as bold a one,—it would be very hard and unjust to punish men for what they cannot help. It would be very unjust to blame a sick man for dying, provided there were no physicians. But in a country where there are plenty of physicians, and the sick have only to send for them—if in such a country a sick man is obstinate, and will not send for a physician, and will not take the means of being made well, he is to blame; and if he dies, he is guilty of his own death. Suppose now that the physician does not wait to be sent for, that he comes of his own accord to the sick man's bedside, that he brings a medicine of rare herbs in his hand, and says to the sick man, "My friend, I heard you were very ill; and so I am come to see you. You certainly are very sick indeed, worse than you are aware of; for the fever gives you false spirits. Your disease is the leprosy; but it is a kind of leprosy which, instead of breaking out openly, burns and dries up the inside. However, I have brought you a medicine, which will cure you, if you will take it. It is a medicine of rare herbs that comes from the Indies; and I have paid a great price for it. I cannot bear to see a fellow-creature so near death, without helping him. Never mind your poverty; I want no payment. I will give you the medicine freely, with all my heart, if you will only take it." But the sick man refuses to take it. He does not like its look; or he tastes it, and finds it bitter, and will not swallow it; or he believes a neighbour, who tells him not to trust the physician, and that a glass of good wine is worth all the physic in the world. He will not take the physic; he drinks the wine instead; and the next morning he dies. Who is to blame? My brethren, this is our case. We have this leprosy. We cannot cure ourselves. But Jesus Christ is come to us, the great physician of the soul.

MISINTERPRETATION AS FATAL AS ABRIGATION.

He that would usurp an absolute lordship and tyranny over the people, need not put himself to the trouble and difficulty of abrogating and annulling the laws made to maintain the common liberty; for he may frustrate their intent, and compass his own design as well, if he can get the power and authority to interpret them as he pleases, and to have his interpretations and additions stand for laws; if he can rule his people by his laws, and his laws by his lawyers. So the Church of Rome, to establish her tyranny over men's consciences, needed not either to abolish or corrupt the holy Scriptures, the pillars and supporters of Christian liberty. But the more expedite way, and therefore the more likely to be the successful, was to gain the opinion and esteem of being the public and authorized interpreter of them, and the authority of adding to them what doctrine she pleased, under the title of traditions or definitions. For, by this means, she might both serve herself of all those clauses of Scripture which might be drawn, to cast a favourable countenance upon her ambitious pretences, which had the Scriptures been abolished, she could not have done; and yet to be secure enough of having neither her power limited, nor her corruptions and abuses reformed by them, this being once settled in the minds of men, that unwritten doctrines, if proposed by her, were to be received with equal reverence to those that were written; and that the sense of Scriptures was not that which it seemed to reason and understanding to be, but that which the

Church of Rome should declare it, seem that never so unreasonable and incongruous.—Chillingworth.

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