

# The Weekly Observer.

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## The Garland.

**THE SUM OF LIFE.**  
Searcher of Gold, whose days and nights  
All waste away in anxious care,  
Estranged from all of life's delights,  
Unclear in all that is most fair,  
Who sailest not with easy glide,  
But delvest in the depths of tide,  
And strugglest in the foam,  
O come and view this land of graves,  
Death's northern sea of frozen waves,  
And mark these out thy home.  
Lover of Woman, whose sad heart  
Wastes like a fountain in the sun,  
Whose most where most its pain does start,  
Dies by the light of life's upper part,  
Come to the land of graves—far here  
Are beauty's smile, and beauty's tear,  
Gathered in holy trust,  
Here slumber forms as fair as those  
Whose cheeks now living shame the rose,  
Their glory turned to dust.  
Lover of Fame, whose foolish thought  
Stalls onward in the name of Time,  
Tell me—what goodness hath it brought,  
Atoning for that restless crime?  
The spirit-mansion desolate,  
And open to the storms of fate,  
The absent soul in fear,  
Bring home thy thoughts, and come with me,  
And see where all thy pride must be—  
Searcher of Fame—look here!

The warrior—thou with snowy plume,  
That goest to the bugle's call,  
Come and look down—this lonely tomb  
Shall hold thee and thy glories all—  
The hanging brow, the manly frame,  
The daring deeds, the standing fame,  
The trophies but for death,  
The millions who have tolled like thee  
Are stayed and here they sleep. And see—  
Does glory lend them breath?  
J. O. ROCKWELL.

## THE TRUMPET.

The Trumpet's voice hath roused the land,  
Light up the beacon pyre,  
A hundred hills have seen the brand,  
And waved the sign of fire!  
A hundred banners to the breeze  
Their gorgeous folds have cast,  
And, hark! what a peal of music rings  
A king of war went past!  
The chief is arming at his hall,  
The peasant by his hearth;  
The mourner hears the thrilling call,  
And rises from the earth;  
The mother on her first-born son  
Looks with a boding eye;  
They come not back, though all be won,  
Whose young hearts leap so high,  
The bard hath ceased his song, and bound  
The falchion to his side;  
E'en for the marriage list crowned,  
The lover quits his bride!  
And all this haste, and change, and fear,  
By earthly claims spread,  
How will it be when kingdoms hear  
The blast that wakes the dead? F. H.

## MISCELLANEA.

"We endeavour by variety to adapt some things to one reader, some to another, and a few perhaps to every taste."—Pliny.

## THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

(From Sir James Mackintosh's History of England.)  
It appears from documents still extant, that about twelve parliaments, of which knights, citizens and burgesses were members, were held by Edward, who, in spite of his prejudices against De Montfort's innovations, discovered the policy of employing them to render his ambitious projects acceptable to the people, and to involve his nobility in the odium of his political crimes.  
It is very uncertain when the regular division of two houses occurred. At first it should seem, from the various proportions of a subsidy contributed by different orders, and that each of the three estates taxed their order separately. In France the orders appear to have generally acted distinctly from each other. In Sweden and the Tyrol, where there seems to have been a fourth estate of free boors, each was distinct from the other. In Scotland, the parliament voted as one body; in which it may be doubted whether the commissioners for shires were not considered, in rank at least, as a species of fourth estate. It was not till the next reign that the knights of the shire began regularly to form one body with the citizens and burgesses, sitting in a separate house from that which was jointly occupied by the spiritual and temporal lords. The circumstances which possibly produced this arrangement have already been hinted at as much as the limits of an historical compendium will allow. The consequence which sprang from it may be numbered among the most important and beneficial in the annals of mankind, and are almost equally observable as the decisive example how little tangible consequences are placed beyond the reach of human foresight. It seems probable, that all those who held land by military service from the crown were distinguished from other freemen; and the charter of John requires them to be summoned to the great council with as much regularity, though not with so strictly a courtesy, as the freemen. In process of time they were collected into a body which in some measure corresponded with the inferior nobility of the continental countries. The charters and another ancient statute, by prohibiting guardians from disposing of their wards by wedlock with persons of inferior condition, seem to imply the existence of a body of freemen in England, with whom the military tenants could no more intermarry without degradation than the earls and barons themselves. But when the surges, thus severed as a lower estate by the prohibition of marriage, were long united in the same chamber with the potentates of our modern gentry, engaged like them in taxation, and with them deriving power from representation, they received a lustre and vigour from those more exalted associates, which corresponding bodies in no other country had the like means of attaining. The influence of this junction, at first in promoting the power of the commons, and afterwards in contributing to the cautious exercise of that power, as well as in giving a liberal structure and spirit to the whole frame of the community, entitles it to be regarded as an singularly important occurrence. The sons of earls and barons sought an elective seat by the side of those lesser nobility, since called gentry, some of whom had before touched them closely in importance. The highest lord, whose wedlock with the daughter of a military tenant was not deemed a disparagement, continued to contract such alliances. On the other hand, the knights must have gradually felt an abatement of their contempt for the gentry, and the gentry, whose representatives shared, equally with themselves, the exercise of the highest functions of the state. This co-operation and equality slowly effected the broad distinction between the two bodies, whose junction raised up a formidable House of Commons, receiving dignity from the ties which bound one part of them to its former exclusive possessors, and deriving a spirit and energy from popular elections, which the institution even in its infancy, could alone bestow. Such a House of Commons were raised, not only by their legal power, but by their moral influence. It would have been but ill to possess the power of the purse, if their arms had not been strong enough to grasp and to hold it. The third estate in some other countries had the like authority at an earlier period; but being composed solely of the immature and slighted representatives of the industrious interests, they had no place in general estimation to wield their priv-

ileges with effect. The whole of the class hitherto distinguished were, in the continental countries, inseparably mingled with their own immediate superiors, the barons, and kept asunder from the third estate by boundaries of estate as impassable as if the latter body had not been called to any share of political power.  
The principle of birth continued to lie at the foundation of the body of gentry, and lent to every newly-received candidate some portion of a feeling which is so much mingled with the moralities of education, with the means of generosity, and with lasting exemption from previous and dispensable toil, that, except where it is counteracted by jealousy, it never can fall, with or without the aid of legal privileges, to be an agreeable object of contemplation, whether in our own possession or in that of others. But in the course of ages the body gradually opened their arms to receive among them all men of liberal education and condition. It became a species of voluntary aristocracy, which, after some silent trial, adopted every man who appeared to be distinguished from the multitude. It was bestowed by neither kings nor laws; and it was only to be withdrawn silently, on strong appearances that the delicacies and refinements of honour, which were imparted when the rank was granted, had been disregarded by some of its possessors. One of its last and most important results was an unbroken chain of connexion extending from the steps of the throne to the lowest limits of liberal education. It would be easy to multiply examples of gentlemen of moderate fortune whose affluence and refinement had been nearly to the opposite points. Distant as the extremes were, the intermediate degrees short, and made without effort. Every accurate observer may easily convince himself how much all the parts of the chain are fastened together by links more in number and strength than would be at first thought probable.  
The natural serenity of this intermixture of interests and attachments to the quiet and harmony of the community, is too obvious to need illustration. Hence in a great measure came to pass that the fiercest civil dissensions of after-times were not between orders, but between parties each of whom contained in itself a portion of every order, checking the tendency of each other to extremes, and affording inducements to moderation as well as channels of compromise. Hence, perhaps, also that extraordinary union of the principles of stability and advancement which has enabled the British constitution to pass unbroken through so great an extent of time and place; to control an absolute monarchy in India; and, after political separation, to witness its laws and institutions flourishing among the North American democracies. Nothing short of an union of the most seemingly discordant classes, linked together by ties too deep for common observation, could fit it to be a bond of union between the most ancient times of which we have an account, and the most remote futurity which our imagination can anticipate.

**THE HISTORY OF THE NETHERLANDS.** By Thomas Colley Grattan. Forming Vol. X. of Dr. Lardner's Cyclopaedia. Lon. 1830.  
Considered merely in a physiological point of view, and placing aside altogether its political details, the history of the Netherlands presents important materials for consideration. In the earliest accounts we can obtain of Holland, we find it described as one vast marsh, so subjected to inundations of the ocean as to produce perpetual uncertainty whether it could be said to form a part of the Continent or the Sea.—The soil, with the slight exception of the uplands stretching towards France, was humid, sterile, unhealthy, and unproductive. The earth was so spongy and loose, that whole forests were swept away by the tempests and the waters. The people, of course, were affected by the character of their habitation; they were poor, scattered, and uncivilized; living chiefly upon the creatures of the deep, and maintaining a double warfare against the elements and their own fellows. Thus struggling through sufferings for which there is hardly a parallel, the people of the lower plains became a hardy race, and as they felt not the want of those enjoyments which are essential to nations more favoured by Providence, they were better enabled to endure that toil of centuries that has at last changed the whole face of the country, and covered it with golden fields and luxuriant vegetation. Never did nature place such impediments in the way of a labouring population; and never was such perseverance developed in surmounting them. Had the people been content to slave in their mines, which appeared to present the most convenient resource in a land nearly uninhabitable, we should not have had the example of the best system of agriculture probably in the world, which is now in operation in the fertile valleys of Holland. But the desperation of their circumstances—their isolation—balanced choice between living on unproductive flats, and risking life by attempting to introduce tillage—were all so many motives to the almost hopeless project of draining the land, and fencing out the invading deep. PLINY describes their ancient situation very graphically in a few eloquent words:—"When the sea rises, they appear like navigators; when it retires, they seem as though they had been shipwrecked!" It was no wonder they tried to improve their condition.—They had been schooled to the fearful privations of the task. No other class of men would have dared it: to them it was no daring but the involuntary and indifferent consequence of necessity. The benefits that Europe has reaped from their indomitable spirit are—the settlement of a free nation, in the room of a depressed race; the useful precedent of a happy and prosperous rural population; and the establishment of an easy intercourse between France and Prussia, and from the border of Germany to the ocean.

Mr. GRATTAN has executed his history, which was much required, in a manner highly creditable to his talents. He has been laborious and judicious in research, and has brought out a great mass of materials into a clear and impartial narrative. If he want force of expression—a deficiency with which even his lighter works are chargeable—he is not liable to the more serious objection of rearing a superstructure of lofty words upon a scanty foundation. History may well afford to be related with simplicity. Its charm consists in perspicuity. It is a direct narrative addressed to the understanding, and should not be sacrificed either to the indolence or imagination of the writer. The volume is remarkable for a smooth harmony of style that lingers pleasantly on the ear. It never soars into unregulated flights, nor sinks into weakness. But

the principal point for examination is the fidelity of its state ments. Here we have good reason for congratulating the author upon the result of his toil. The various fortunes of a country that has occupied no small space in the most interesting politics of Europe, are faithfully, and even vividly described. The characters of the leaders and statesmen belonging to, or connected indirectly with, the history of the Netherlands, are well portrayed; and the occasional reflections to which events give rise in the progress of the work, if not distinguished by much strength, are, at all events, just and useful.

**DESPOTISM ON THE DECLINE.**—"A greater power," observes the *Morning Herald*, "than that of NAPOLEON is now abroad." It is the power of mind operating the freedom of man. The universal revolution that is now spreading securely over Europe has none of the characteristics of sudden inspiration and tumultuary excess. The cause is deep, and have been long producing their inevitable results. When they are accomplished, it will be found that the wisdom of the regenerators is equal to their courage. There is no republican violence—no mad theory—no sparkling delusion—no appeal to passion—no exorbitant popular demand; the aspect of the Continent is that of calm determination. The signal passes silently from individual to individual, and when all is prepared, nations will rise as a single man. The manifesto of the Spanish patriots is a document of remarkable strength, truth, and consistency. It exhibits a spirit of intrepidity that must succeed, or ultimately lay the country in ruins. Even FERDINAND begins to waver, and meditates concessions. There is literally a panic among the kings. Austria trembles for her Italian dependencies. She anticipates the civil war, by filling Milan and Venice with armed bodies. The little states, whose merchant sons were kings, may yet outgrow the tyranny of military rule, and once more flourish as the depositaries of arts and commerce. The KING of Prussia reproaches the exiled BOURBON, and is shaken in his designs on the freedom of Belgium. The infatuated MUZZI brings up the cortège of troubled monarchs, and may, in all probability, be the first to sink before the advance of rational liberty. All this is well to contemplate, for it is not sicklied over with bad prospects or false sentiments. And in what a position does it place the whole of Europe? What a sight is it in history to witness a resurrection of millions over the face of countries that have been for centuries the graves of freedom! It is not arrogating too much to say, that the beacon was first kindled on our own white cliffs, and that the wronged of all other nations have lighted their torches in its flames. Consult the map of Europe. See what a speck England is in the outspreading ocean; then turn to the vast Continent, instinct with reform, and reflect upon this fact, which will above all other considerations impress upon the mind the value of civil privileges, that the spirit so busily at work abroad was caught up and fostered in this little island. We know no argument so forcible to show the supremacy of the moral over the physical power.—Atlas.

**STATE OF EUROPE.**  
Let Austria look to Italy—there is not a province there, not one, whose inhabitants are not "Schavi—si—na schivi ognis frementi."  
There is not a province whose best and wisest men are not at this hour plotting against their *Tedescan* tyrants. Let her look to Hungary, where to this hour she has not been able to introduce her police, nor to put down that National Diet which has summoned up resolution, from time to time, to talk of the independence of the Magyars. Let her turn to Bohemia, so cruelly, so ignominiously degraded; or her Polish provinces, shorn to the quick of every vestige of freedom. Will Prussia move? Let her think of her violated pledges—of her discontented subjects on the Rhine—of her Poland—for she shared in that most flagitious of public robberies. Will Russia interfere? Is not Constantine Vicerey of Poland? Ask any one of the thousand wandering Poles who traverse Europe, and his heart will leap at the idea of Russia's engaging in a war against the liberties of France; visions of hope crowd instantly upon him, and the names of Kosciuszko and Poniatowski, flash upon his mind. The pillage of Finland is not forgotten—not that of the Caucasian provinces—nor the great plunderings from the time of Catherine downwards. Retribution visits governments as well as individuals, and Russia has frightful arrears. Spain and Portugal are on the verge of insurrection; and the Low Countries have already spoken out.—Come what will, the people must henceforward be reckoned for something in the arrangements of Europe. The profligate policy which transferred them like stocks and stones from one ruler to another is receiving its recompense.—Globe.

**LIVERPOOL AND MANCHESTER.**  
In 1760, 2,560 vessels paid dock duties at Liverpool; in 1824, 10,000; and in 1829, 11,383.—In 1760, the population of Liverpool was 26,000; in 1824, 135,000; the population of Manchester being in 1760, 22,000; in 1824, 135,000.—In 1783, 8 bags of cotton were imported into Liverpool from America; in 1824, 109,670 bags, and in 1829, 640,993.—The first steam-engine was set up in Manchester in 1790; in 1824 there were 200 steam engines here;—in 1814 there was not one power loom in Manchester; in 1824 there were 30,000;—in 1824 the average quantity of raw and manufactured goods transmitted between the two towns was 1000 tons daily, and it now amounts to 1300 tons; about 1000 of which pass from

Liverpool to Manchester, and 300 from Manchester to Liverpool.—*Liverpool Mercury.*

**CANAL AND RAIL-ROAD PROPERTY.**—A capital of at least thirty millions sterling is invested in canal property in Great Britain, and in rail-roads, little short of fifteen millions. These are large sums, but never was money better laid out; though it is probable that the progress of improvement in the rail-road may long render that species of investment less profitable than it will ultimately become. Many persons anticipate that canal property is in danger of speedy deterioration. This, perhaps, will be found to be an error. A water well vessel in the question of a narrow channel;—we will not say that it is a better investment than the canal shares, but it is a more certain one, and it is more valuable. Let a man invest a sum of money in the shares of the Manchester and Liverpool rail-road, at the present price, and invest the same sum in the shares of either the Grand Junction, the Birmingham, or the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, at their present market price, and five years hence, he will find that the canal shares have not only yielded him the most income during that period, but that the capital itself has increased in value. We have already stated at the grounds of this conclusion—rail-roads are only in their infancy; as they improve, the expense of frequent change and wear and tear will be great; while, at no distant time hence, we shall see the locks of canals better adapted to their purposes, and more power will unquestionably become available to canal navigation, thus combining speed with cheapness. Let not the holders of canal property be alarmed by appearances.—*Leeds Intelligencer.*

**TREMENDOUS FLOOD.**—The village of Largo, in Fife, was visited on Thursday morning by a most tremendous flood. There is a small stream of water that runs through the back part of the village, and which has its source from Largo Law, the course of which through the village has been covered in, and had been found until that morning sufficient to admit all the water; but in consequence of the rain it was swollen into such a tremendous body of water, that it swept every thing before it. A gap of 120 feet wide was made in the hospital wall. The windows of the hospital next gave way, and the lower part of the house was filled with water. One poor old woman and her daughter, named Greig, had nearly been drowned; the door of their room being shut, the poor creatures, who had just got out of bed, were instantly up to the neck in water. When the door was opened, the daughter was found supporting her mother's head above the water. The hospital, although a very old building, is of great strength, and stood the shock, dividing the flood right and left. On the right lay the garden (which contains upwards of an acre,) at the bottom stands the gardener's house, into the back door of which the water paid an unwelcome visit, forcing itself through the front door, and carrying with it furniture, clothing, and every thing that came in its way. The left division of the flood was equally destructive in its course, making way through two walls, one of which was the south wall of the hospital garden, equal in height and strength to the north wall. The two branches met again at the front of the gardener's house, and by this junction its strength was renewed; wheelbarrows, large logs of timber, household furniture, sheaves of corn, &c. were to be seen carried away by the merciless flood. Excepting throwing down every obstacle that came in its way, nothing serious took place between the village and the sea, which is but a short distance. A woman's foot slipping, she dropped her child in the water, but it was saved. No lives were lost. Every house, every field, in the flood's course is more or less injured. A lad, servant to Mr. Duff, inkeeper, Nether Largo, was drowned on Thursday, by obstinately persisting in taking his master's horse to the water, contrary to Mr. Duff's express orders. The heavy rain on Thursday last has been productive of considerable damage to the crops on the low grounds. The water of Dighty and its tributary streams was swollen to a greater height than for many years past, but no great loss was sustained in that district. The destruction of crops on the Isla, however, has been great. An extensive reservoir lately formed at Pitcr, in an elevated situation, swept away on Friday morning, and the water swept every thing before it for a considerable distance. The soil, crops, a number of valuable trees, and even a small bridge, were carried before the resistless torrent. The damage sustained by the honourable proprietor will be very great. Scott's Coronation Pavilion, at the Craig, Dundee, was completely denuded of its covering, which was torn to tatters, and the whole glories of this superficial fabric were reduced to a sorry pass. It was a striking reverse of fortune to see the empresses of the drama of the preceding evening reduced to the necessity of patching old sails, in order to repair the disaster. The brig *Scotia*, Morrison, from Danzig to London, with wheat, struck on the Ellow-end Bank, at the mouth of the Tay, about two o'clock on Tuesday morning, and in less than an hour became a complete wreck. Part of the crew came to the Tay Light-house at four o'clock, when the melancholy intelligence that the vessel was a wreck, and that Captain Morrison and three of the crew had perished.—*Dundee Courier.*

**SINGULAR CASE.—LOCKED-JAW CURED.**—The treatment of Tetanus has hitherto been a "forlorn-hope" in the practice of medicine; we have heard of some cases of cure, but on enquiry it has generally been found that the symptoms were not, as the faculty would say, confirmed, or the reports by no means authentic. We have now, however, the plea-

sure of stating to the public that this distressing, indeed awful disease, has been treated in our city with complete success. A poor man, named Kenny, lately received an injury which produced confirmed lock-jaw, for which he was removed to the Wellesley Hospital, and placed under the advice of Surgeon O'Beirne, who has, we believe, devoted much attention to the nature and treatment of the disease. The learned gentleman adopted a practice which, if not quite new, has not hitherto been successfully employed, and has now completed a cure of the poor patient. Tobacco was the principal remedy, and was chiefly used in the form of enema.—*Dublin Morning Register.*

**SLAVE-TRADE.**—To Dominic Soto, a Dominican, the confessor of Charles V., and the oracle of the Council of Trent, belongs the signal honour of being the first writer who condemned the African slave-trade. "It is affirmed," says he, "that the unhappy Ethiopians are by fraud or force carried away and sold as slaves. If this is true, neither those who have taken them, nor those who purchased them, nor those who had them in bondage, can ever have a quiet conscience till they emancipate them, even if no compensation should be obtained."—*Soto de Justicia et Jure.*

**Both Chain Pumps are choked below.**—A ship's pump has lately been invented, the handle of which, though worked with the greatest ease, throws out at every movement five gallons of water; so that, supposing only 30 strokes to be made in a minute, the astonishing quantity of 9000 gallons, or nearly 170 hogshheads, may be pumped out of a vessel in an hour.

**A DARK DAY IN QUEBEC.**—At Quebec, the morning of the 28th of October, 1830, was singularly obscure. It was dark to such a degree that many persons just awakening from slumber, prolonged by the darkness, thought the day was merely dawning. From the north-west to the north there extended a broad belt of pale yellow light having its upper outline curved as that of the Aurora Borealis usually is—that is comfortable to the convexity of the earth. This luminous band differed in position from the Aurora in having less extension towards the East and more towards the West, and in consisting of a steady instead of a coruscating light. The atmosphere all round was of such obscurity as to render that light, for contrast, the more vivid. When in three quarters of an hour the ascendancy of the sun had prevailed, it was perceived that an enormous mass of dense clouds was on the ground, but it could not be determined through such a shroud, in which of Howard's classes of atmospheric vapour this phenomenon belonged. It will be inquired what was the cause of so unusual an appearance. Mariners of long experience do not remember the occurrence of an equal darkness in the district. We do not pretend to explain the circumstances, our object being merely to record the fact.—*Star.*

**CHRISTIAN-TREE BARK.**—It is stated in the French scientific periodicals, that this bark contains twice as much of the tanning principle as that of oak, about four tenths as much colouring matter as logwood. With iron it forms an intensely black and durable ink. Its colouring matter has a stronger affinity than smalt for wool, and is not affected by air or light.

**MAN-OF-WAR.**—*Politeness.*—The following dialogue between the Lord Mayor and a gentleman whose title is not so easily indicated, occurred recently. A man was taken by a policeman in *faugethief*, that is, with a bagfull of brown pelissecloth, in his fangs.  
The Lord Mayor—"Prisoner, where did you get this cloth?"  
The prisoner made a low bow to the Lord Mayor, and said, "My Lord, may I most respectfully beg that you will be so condescending as not to insist on my giving an answer to that question? I have a particular objection to say any thing on the subject now."  
The Lord Mayor—"Oh, certainly, I shall not ask you to say any thing you do not wish to say; but it was my duty, when you were found carrying cloth that does not belong to you, to ask where you got it."  
Prisoner—"My Lord, I repeat my request. In a few days, I assure you, I shall be able to account for this *consarn*, but I cannot now.—I hope your lordship will be so good as to excuse me. The communication shall be made in a day or two. May I hope for your lordship's indulgence?" The Lord Mayor, who was struck with the overbearing politeness of the prisoner, turned to him and said, "Oh, by all means, Sir. Pray on what day would it be convenient to you to make the communication you speak of?"  
Prisoner—"Why, my Lord, I shall leave that to you."  
The Lord Mayor—"Oh, by no means; you must appoint the time yourself. Perhaps the latter end of the week would answer your convenience?"  
Prisoner—"I thank your lordship exceedingly. That will exactly do."  
The Lord Mayor—"I am, I assure you, very happy to hear it. Pray, what day shall we name?"  
Prisoner—"Why, Friday, my Lord; suppose your lordship will be so good as to say Friday."  
The Lord Mayor—"By all means, Sir. Forester attend Mr. Stevens to you know where, and across many him back here on Friday next, at twelve o'clock precisely."  
What a gratification to be sent to jail by such a magistrate!  
Otway Care was last week drawn in a *Leicester*, in his carriage, by *fauces*. The prisoner was quite delighted with the exhibition.

Mr. J. Robinson