

## POETRY.

## THE COMMON LOT.

ONCE in the flight of ages past,  
There lived a man;—and who was he?  
—Mortal! how'er thy lot be cast,  
That man resembled thee.

Unknown the region of his birth,  
The land in which he died unknown  
His name has perished from the earth,  
This truth survives alone:

That joy and grief, and hope and fear,  
Alternate triumphed in his breast:  
His bliss and woe,—a smile, a tear!  
—Oblivion hides the rest.

The bounding pulse, the languid limb,  
The changeful spirit's rise and fall;  
We know that these were felt by him,  
For these are felt by all.

He suffered,—but his pangs are o'er  
Enjoyed,—but his delights are fled;  
Had friends,—his friends are now no more;  
Had foes,—his foes are dead.

He loved,—but whom he loved, the grave  
Hath lost in its unconscious womb:  
O she was fair,—but nought could save  
Her beauty from the tomb.

He saw whatever thou hast seen;  
Encountered all that troubles thee;  
He was—whatever thou hast been,  
He is—what thou shalt be.

The rolling seasons, day and night,  
Sun, moon, and stars, the earth and main,  
Erewhile his portion, life and light,  
To him exist in vain.

The clouds and sunbeams, o'er his eye  
That once their shades and glory threw,  
Have left in yonder silent sky  
No vestige where they flew.

The annals of the human race,  
Their runs since the world began,  
Of him afford no other trace  
Than this,—THERE LIV'D A MAN!

## MISCELLANY.

## AMUSEMENTS OF THE TURKS.

The amusements of this people are adapted to their character, and are of a very limited nature. They have no public games or spectacles,—none of those means of diversion which are found amongst other nations; dramatic representations are quite unknown to them. Occasionally, indeed, the Sultan regales his subjects with the exhibition of the *Djerid*, or Turkish tournament, and some other entertainments in the open air; and large crowds of people usually assemble to avail themselves of his bounty. Dr Madden witnessed one of these displays, which was made in honour of the birth of an imperial infant; and he says that he never before beheld so imposing a spectacle as was exhibited by the immense assemblage of people then collected. Upwards of sixty thousand persons of both sexes, in all the varieties of Eastern costume, were seated on the sloping sides of a natural amphitheatre; while above, sat the Sultan, magnificently appareled, surrounded by his black and white slaves in glittering attire. Hundreds of horsemen galloped to and fro on the plain below, hurling the *djerid*, (a short stick) at random; now assailing the nearest to them, now in pursuit of the disarmed. The dexterity of the combatants in avoiding these weapons, is very great; and had it not been so on the occasion spoken of

by Dr Madden, he says that many lives must have been lost, and as it was, he saw one horseman led off with his eye severely injured, and another crushed under a horse. These accidents, however never interfered with the sports, which followed in the regular succession. After the *djerid* came the wrestlers, naked to the waist, and smeared with oil. They prostrated themselves several times before the Sultan, performed a number of very clumsy feats, and then proceeded to exhibit their skill. Their address lay in seizing one another by the hips; and he who had the most strength, lifted his adversary off his legs, and then flinging him to the earth, fell with all his force upon him. Music relieved the tedium between the rounds, several of which occurred before any serious mischief was sustained. At last, one poor fellow was dreadfully maimed—for life indeed,—and was carried off the field with great applause. Bear-fighting was next attempted; but the animal produced was not in a fighting mood, and the dogs growled at him in vain. "The departure of the pacific bear," says our authority, "terminated these brutal sports, and every one, except the friends of the dead man, and the two wounded, appeared to go away delighted beyond measure. All the amusements of this people are of the same cruel character."

Their social recreations are few. "It is difficult," says a writer of the last century, "to give a just account of the manner in which Turks, men and women, spend their time when at home. Some of the former are undoubtedly studious, though most of them seem busied about money affairs, and their personal interest. When they are disposed to enjoy some relaxation or amusement among themselves, the diversions are story-telling, quaint jokes, chess, and draughts, and not unfrequently dancers and musicians, who play in different parts of the town for employment."

The diversions of "story-telling or quaint jokes," are not of a very intellectual description; the chief source of delight is a species of low ribaldry, and if none of the company is sufficiently facetious to entertain the rest with the required share, the task is left to some dependant Greek, Armenian or Jew. The performer takes his place in the middle of the room, upon his knees, and there tells his story or repeats his joke; while the grave Turk smokes his pipe in the corner of the sofa, and comes out now and then with a smile or a dry laugh. It would be well, however, were their diversions on these occasions confined to the mere repeating of jokes; for it appears that they are sometimes accompanied by practical illustrations of the most barbarous kind. The same recent traveller whom we have quoted above, speaks of some which he saw played off at a Turkish feast, upon the person of a buffoon, who was well paid for suffering them. "It was," he says "the poor fellow's trade, and he bore the marks of its dreadful nature upon his scarred visage."

The buffoon was sent out of the room, and during his absence, a pipe was charged with gunpowder, over which a little tobacco was spread; he was then called in, and the pipe presented to him. Of course, he had scarcely lighted it and given a single puff when the powder exploded, and drove the tube against the palate of his mouth with great violence; the sight excited only a roar of merriment in those around. The next "amusement" was still more cruel. A plate was filled with flour, and in this were stuck twenty pieces of lighted candle. The buffoon and a companion of his were made to kneel in the centre of the room opposite to each other; and with their teeth they laid hold of the edges of the plate. At a given signal, they were to blow the flour in

each other's face, across the candles, and he who gave the quickest blast, would escape the volume of smoke and flame which the ignited particles of flour sent forth. The fellow who sustained the first injury, had the good fortune to escape unscorched; he completely singed the bald head of his companion, and burned the upper part of his face and brows severely.

There was another shout of savage laughter while the unfortunate man was smearing oil over his features to allay the pain. "I saw preparations," says the writer for further feats of Turkish humour, but I was thoroughly disgusted, and gladly left the house.

AN AFFAIR OF HONOR A SOVEREIGN CURE FOR THE DROPSY.—An intelligent traveller informs us, that some time since, a Dr B. of Alexandria, on the Red River, challenged a Mr M. an attorney, who at the time was labouring under abdominal dropsy. They met in the province of Texas, and M. was shot through the stomach. The dropsical matter was discharged, and the bowels from the inflammation excited by the wound, adhering to the peritonæum, a permanent cure was accomplished. The parties became friends, and the attorney still remains grateful to the Doctor for this gratuitous surgical operation. We know of no law against shedding water, though there is one against blood.—If our medical colleges approve of this mode it is to be hoped that the candidates for M. D. will be carefully examined as to their skill in this novel mode of operation.

The Law Magazine relates an anecdote of Sergeant Davy, a distinguished lawyer in the time of Lord Mansfield—that being once called to account by his brethren on the western circuit, for disgracing the profession by accepting silver from a client, he replied—"I took silver because I could not get gold; but I took every sixpence the fellow had in the world—and I hope you don't call that disgracing the profession."

LADIES' SLEEVES.—It appears by late London papers that the large sleeves of ladies' dresses have gone entirely out of fashion. The sleeves are now small, and banded in three or four places—presenting what the dress-makers call *bouffants*. This is important, but the shop-keepers have been wise—what is lost in the dimensions of the sleeves, is amply gained in the enlarged capacities of the skirt.

A gentleman seeing a person who was reading *Gulliver's Travels*, poring over an atlas, and seemingly disconcerted by some want of success, asked whether he could assist him in finding what he wanted—"I do not know," was the reply, "for I have been looking for two hours throughout latitudes and longitudes, and cannot discover Lilliput anywhere."

An old lady reading an account of the death of a venerable and distinguished lawyer, who was said to be the "father of the Philadelphia bar," exclaimed, "poor man! he had a dreadful noisy set of children!"

There are published in the British Empire, 202 Liberal journals, 163 Conservative, and 13 Neutrals.

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