

POETRY.

ADVANTAGES OF AFFLICTION.

BY THOMAS MOORE.

*O Thou, who dry'st the mourner's tear,
How dark this world would be,
If, when bereaved and wounded here,
We could not fly to thee!*

*The friends, who in our sunshine live,
When winter comes, are flown;
And he who has but tears to give,
Must weep these tears alone.*

*But thou wilt heal that broken heart,
Which, like the plants, that throw
Their fragrance from the wounded part,
Breathes sweetness out of wo.*

*When joy no longer soothes or cheers,
And e'en the hope, that thro'w
A moment's sparkle o'er our tears,
Is dimmed and vanquished too.—*

*Oh, who would bear life's stormy doom,
Did not thy wing of love
Come brightly wafting through the gloom
Our peace branch from above!*

*Then, sorrow, touched by thee, grows bright,
With more enraptured ray,
As darkness shows us worlds of light
We never saw by day.*

VARIETIES.

PARABLE.—Now a thing was secretly brought to me, and mine ear received a little thereof. Will you allow yours to receive it, reader?

A certain man went down from Sobriety to Intemperance, and fell among retailers: who by means of strong drink, stripped him of his money, and property, and character, and health, and half his days, more or less, and departed, leaving him as it were half dead. And by chance there came down a certain Anti-temperance man that way, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. And likewise a Moderate drinker came where he was, and looked on him, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Temperance-man, as he journeyed, came where he was, and when he saw him he had compassion upon him and went to him and wept over him, and he besought him with tears to abandon the practice that had brought so much distress and wretchedness upon him. And he took him and set him upon his own beast, (the name of that beast is Total Abstinence,) and carried him to his family, and took care of him. And on the morrow he offered up two prayers for him and departed. Which now of all these, thinkest thou, was a neighbor unto

him that fell among retailers? Here is a hard-drinking, moderate-drinking, retailing, anti-temperance, and temperance man. Which think you the most preferable? May God enable you to make a wise choice. —*Christian Index.*

STAGE COACH TRAVELLING.—It is difficult to determine the exact period at which a stage coach first appeared upon the road, but it seems to be pretty well ascertained that in 1662 there were but 6, and one of the wise men of those days, John Crossell, of the Charter House, tried his best to write them down. It was supposed he had the countenance of the country gentlemen, who were afraid if their wives could get easily and cheaply conveyed to London, they might not settle so well afterwards to their domestic duties at the Hall or the Grange. But to go back only ninety years. In 1742, the Oxford stage coach left London at 7 o'clock in the morning, and reached Uxbridge at mid-day. It arrived at High Wycomb at 5 in the evening, where it rested for the night, and proceeded at the same rate for the seat of learning, on the morrow. Here then were ten hours consumed each day in travelling twenty-seven miles, and nearly two days in performing what is now done with the greatest of ease under six hours. Well born coachmen prevail on the road. A gentleman connected with the first families in Wales, and whose father long represented his native country in Parliament, horsed and drove one side of the ground, between London and Brighton, with Mr Stevenson (who had been a Cambridge University graduate) and Mr. Charles Jones, brother of Sir Thomas Tyrw Jones, has now a coach on the Brighton road, called the Pearl, which he drives himself. The late Mr. Stevenson, mentioned above, (for he no longer exists) became a coachman by profession; and it is only justice to his memory to admit that though cut off in the flower of his youth, he had arrived at perfection in his art. His education and early habits however, had not been lost upon him; his demeanor was always that of a gentleman, and it may be fairly said of him, that he introduced the phenomenon of refinement into a stage coach. At a certain change of horses on the road, a silver sandwich box was handed to his passengers by his servant, accompanied by the offer of a glass of sherry to such as were inclined. [Quarterly Review.

UNWISE MEN.—The angry man—who set his own house on fire in order that he may burn it at of his neighbor. The envious man—who cannot enjoy life because others do. The robber—who, for the consideration of a few dollars, gives the world liberty to hang him. The hypochondriac—whose highest happiness consists in render-

ing himself miserable. The jealous man—who poisons his own banquet, and then eats of it. The miser—who starves himself to death, in order that his heir might feast. The slanderer—who tells tales for the sake of giving his enemy an opportunity to prove him a liar.

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Halifax, July, 183

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