

POETRY.

WHAT IS LIFE?

I asked a man of Sorrow and of tears,
Whose corrugated cheek proclaimed his years:
He mused awhile, and then distinctly said,
"Life is a burden—would that I were dead!"

I asked a Christian, who had early stray'd
From virtue's paths; this was the answer made—
"Life is a precious boon to mortals given,
Which if well spent, will be renewed in heaven."

I asked an Infidel, whose parting breath
Was faintly struggling with the tyrant Death:
"My life," he cried, "has hurried me down to hell,
I prized it not—and now it says Farewell."

I asked a youth, whose cheerfulness of mien,
Bespoke him happy in this active scene:
He told me 'twas "a Poet's golden dream."
And leaving me rushed forward with the stream.

I questioned Age; it heaved a heavy sigh,
Expressing volumes: this was its reply—
"Life is at best but a tempestuous sea,
That fast rolls onward to eternity."

I asked myself: a voice appeared to say—
"Beware you value it while you may;
Tis a rich gift thy God bestowed on thee;
Abuse it not—'twere better not to be."

BEAUTY, HOPE, LOVE AND MEMORY.

(From the Warbler.)

BEAUTY.

The lightning flashing through the sky,
Then fading from the sight;
A meteor bursting on our path;
As transient and as bright:

Oh! such is Beauty on the heart,
And such the doom it will share,
If no responsive inward charm
Hath stamp'd its image there!

HOPE.

The star that guides the wandering bark
Across the troubled main;
The one sweet lingering smile that breaks
The mourner's dream of pain,

Is like the ray of Hope shed around
Our dark prophetic fears,
Falling like sunshine on the heart
That's shadowed by our tears.

LOVE.

A form of light, whose fairy foot
Ne'er trod our darkened sphere—
(Nor, save in dreams,) whose radiant wings
Have never rested here—

The snow flake falling on the wave,
The twilight's fleeting glow:
These are its deepest traces here—
Its only track below!

MEMORY.

Like a dark cloud in Memory's power
O'er scenes which once were bright:
A spell whose momentary flash
But deepens still the night;

Like the soft evening dew that falls
Upon the sleeping flower—
Stealing the light of happier days—
Is memory's soothing power.

(From the Liverpool Albion, August 11.)

If one sect of Dissenters is more active than another in asserting and upholding the principles of religious liberty, that sect is the Unitarians. Yet, at the very commencement of the present session, when petitions for relief were getting up, a tacit insult was put on the Unitarians, whose co-operation, on a question on which religion was nowise concerned was declined by the orthodox dissenters. Their petitions to Parliament, were, for distinction sake stated to emanate from the "Trinitarian Protestant dissenters," as if the fact of their being believers in the doctrine of the Trinity could give them any claim on a just and impartial Legislature for the concession of rights to which even infidels if loyal and obedient subjects of the realm are entitled. The dissenters of Liverpool were guilty of this folly and of this intolerance, and in the very act of calling upon Parliament to remedy the effects of bigotry and injustice, showed too plainly that they themselves were under the dominion of the fell spirits of injustice and bigotry. These spirits the dissenters must exorcise. In their efforts to reach a common object they must throw religious differences and sectarian jealousies to the wind. They must unite as one man. Let them act thus, and neither the indifference of ministers nor the hostility of lords can prevent them from enjoying ere twelve months are expired, equality of civil rights.

EXPORT OF GOLD TO AMERICA.—We understand that the amount of sovereigns exported from the Port of Liverpool to that of New York is 380,000 or at most 400,000. From the port of London not more than 100,000 had been exported previous to the 4th instant. A considerable portion of this amount, would not, we believe have been exported, had advices from New York, by the packets of the 8th and 16th inst. been received in time to prevent the last shipments. The exchange was rising at New York and should the advices by the next packet show that it continued to rise, the export of coin, will for a time be checked.

On Saturday, 84,000 sovereigns were shipped on board the *United States* which sailed on that day for New York. It is calculated that 1,000,000 may be exported without causing any serious derangement in our circulation. Any export beyond that amount might produce embarrassment and difficulty in the money market. The total export, will not it is thought, exceed 800,000 sovereigns.

POOR-LAWS' AMENDMENT BILL.—This bill finally passed the Lords on Friday night, after another strenuous attempt by the Bishop of Exeter to strike out the bastardy clauses, which was defeated by a majority of 82 to 71. Subsequently, a clause framed by Lord Wharncliffe, but proposed for insertion by the Duke of Wellington, was agreed to: it will have the effect of making the father of a bastard child liable to the parish for the cost of its maintenance, till the age of seven years, the paternity being first established to the satisfaction of the Justices at the Quarter Sessions, by evidence corroborative of the statement of the mother. The Bishop of Exeter described this clause as a consummation of the iniquity of the bill.

The export of sovereigns from Europe to America has alarmed the money-changers of London. We shall not be surprised to hear that the American Republicans are frightened out of their senses, by the invasion of the European *Sovereigns*.

It is worthy of remark that while metallic money is pouring into America from Europe metallic money is returning from Africa to Europe; while gold is going out, copper is coming in. The chiefs on the Coast of Africa would seem to be getting rid of their spurious money at the very moment when the American President is replacing paper by gold.

CURIOUS QUESTION.—A question of rather a curious nature as regards the law of marriage has just been decided by the Tribunal Civil at Besancon. The plaintiff claimed to be separated from her husband on the ground that he was not the person whom they supposed him to be when she married him. The marriage of the parties took place in 1831, and shortly after that ceremony the plaintiff discovered that her husband was a liberated prisoner and that she had been deceived as to his name and family. The question to be decided therefore, was whether a person having married, and supposed to be in the enjoyment of his civil rights, but who was in fact degraded by a criminal judgement against him could prevent the marriage from being annulled, when the error was discovered. The plaintiff is a lady named Cecile Rosalie Demongeot, and the defendant M. Miran the late editor of the *Patriote Franco-Comtois*. The plaintiff founds her claim of separation on the ground that the law required free consent were there was an error as to person and morality (*erreur sur la personne morale*). The husband in his reply contended, that there had been no deceit or fraud on his part; that he had acquainted his wife's friends with all his affairs and that he had only concealed the fact of his having been condemned to five years imprisonment for an article inserted in the *Annales du Commerce* of which he had been the editor. The court decided that in order to procure a nullity of marriage, on the ground that there had been an error as to person, it was necessary to admit the existence of two persons, one whom the plaintiff intended to marry, and the other whom she had really married in error; that in this instance, the plaintiff had not in view any other person than the one whom she had married, and that as it appeared, she had been deceived in the conduct of her husband, and as to his name and family, but not as to his person, the court rejected her demand, and ordered her to pay the costs of the application.—*Gazette des Tribunaux*.

AMERICAN GOLD CURRENCY.—The accounts from New York fully bear out the anticipation of the great demand for gold, which is likely to follow the change in the relative value of the gold and silver coinage of the union. It is plain that General Jackson's government is achieving, and with a very rapid progress too, one of the greatest reforms in the currency, ever attempted by any country. It is admitted that a supply of specie and bullion has been already obtained from Europe of 20,000,000 dollars, or £4,000,000 sterling in value, and that a further very considerable supply will be wanted and will be obtained. The predilection here and in other parts of Europe, is so great, for investments in the local stock of the several States of the American union, that it finds purchasers to almost any extent that may be required; by the proper application of this power, bullion may in like manner be obtained, and the probable balance between bank-notes and specie, the great object of the President's policy, established throughout the United States. By our great monetary interests here the progress of the operation, cannot be watched with too much solicitude.

QUEEN DONNA MARIA.—Amongst the subjects to which the attention of the Cortes was to be primarily called, was that of the

marriage of the Queen. It would appear that an intrigue has already been set on foot for uniting her to the son of an influential duke, but this alliance with a native, which inconveniently complicates the relation of parties in Portugal, had been repudiated, and the duke of Leuchtenberg, the Empress's brother, (a nephew of the Emperor Napoleon,) even *malgre* the unwillingness of England, was understood to stand highest in the favour of the Queen herself, in the good wishes of her father. Donna Maria's hand, has it seems, been an object of much solicitation on the part of more than one princely aspirant. The session of the Cortes it is thought will last about three months.

The Portuguese Government is calling in paper money, and establishing a metallic currency.

Sir John Milley Doyle has been restored to his rank in the Portuguese service.

Mrs Butler, late Miss Fanny Kemble, has written an elaborate work upon the Americans as they now are, which is directly opposed to all the views and statements taken of this interesting people by Mrs Trollope.

It is said that the Bishop of Exeter has offered ordination to any Wesleyan preacher who will accept it.

Abbotsford the renowned seat of Sir Walter Scott, is advertised to be let furnished for three years with even the use of the library, containing many thousand volumes under certain restrictions.

It is related of Sir Walter Scott, that when in health, he never refused to see any one however humble who called upon him, and that he scarcely ever refused a letter which he did not answer with his own hand.

The Emperor Nicholas has, according to a statement in the official journals of Warsaw, upon allowing the Polish prisoners in Russia to marry, upon conditions that their children shall be brought up in the Greek religion. What a favour! Poor Poland.

According to the last census, the entire population of Greece amounts to only 811,185 souls. In that kingdom there are 116 towns, and 2,146 villages, exclusive of those of the isles of the archipelago, of which 33 only are inhabited.

A person of the name of Isaac Jeaks has taken out a patent for pulling boots off and on!

(From the Morning Courier and New-York Enquirer, Sept. 6.)

SPAIN.

(PRIVATE CORRESPONDENCE.)

Head Quarters of the Spanish Army of Operations,

LOGRONO, July 7, 1834.

On the evening of the 5th the General-in-Chief with his staff and the vanguard of the army entered the city. All the inhabitants en masse received us outside the gates, the air resounded with cries of viva Isabel II., viva General Rodil! Nothing could possibly exceed the enthusiasm of these faithful adherents to constitutional principles.—In every town and village of the beautiful and fertile province of La Rioja, we were received with every demonstration of joy.—The bells of the churches tolled on our approach, the civil authorities met the General at the entrance of each town—the balconies of every house were covered with curtains, old and young, all classes and sexes lined the streets and windows, and rent the air with their acclamations. At night the towns were illuminated, and till morning the inhabitants were singing patriotic songs and attending to the wants of the soldiers.—The deportment of the inhabitants of this province forms a striking contrast with that of the Castilians who received us with every mark of disapprobation, a sombre silence marked our entrance into every town in Castile, not a single person came out to meet us, no curtains were suspended from the balconies, nor was a single female to be seen. In fact Castile from one end to the other are declared Carlists, whilst in Rioja it would be difficult to find one. At Burgos two regiments under the command of Gen. Cordova marched in a different direction for the purpose of meeting Cuevillas who entered Castile at the head of 400 men. We expect him to join us here to-day. The remainder of this army marched in here yesterday evening in good health and fine spirits. Zumalacarreui with eleven battalions of infantry and 200 cavalry, has been within a league of this city till the day before yesterday. A party of his men entered a town only half a league from this yesterday and levied rations. He is supposed to have nearly 9000 men under his immediate command. The people of Navarre are more obstinate than ever, every man, woman and child in that province, are united in one common cause, and from what I can learn from the best informed people here, it will require a great policy as well as physical force to reduce them to obedience; hitherto I fear the Generals entrusted with the command of the army, despised too much the enemy with whom they had to contend. The discipline of regular troops is of little avail in a country covered with mountains almost inaccessible, intersected with defiles, and abounding in

precipices. General Rodil intends adopting a different plan of warfare. He is active and indefatigable, and I hope that he will be able to attain at length the desired object of restoring tranquillity to these unfortunate provinces. You may form some idea of the manner in which they are deceived by their leaders, when I assure you that they treat as a mockery the arrival of the army of Rodil, they say that Charles V., is coming to their assistance at the head of 40,000 men. This evening or to-morrow morning we march into Navarre in order to commence offensive operations; it is reported that Zumalacarreui has retired to the mountains in order to carry on a Guerilla warfare in which both him and his men are well experienced.

This town is completely fortified against the attacks of an irregular army unprovided with artillery, the Urban militia are quite sufficient for its defence; therefore, if all the towns of the revolted provinces were to be fortified in a similar manner, with field fortifications, so as to prevent their being surprised, the whole regular force might be employed in scouring the country in every direction, and thus prevent the enemy from receiving supplies from the people of the towns and villages, and then the war would soon be at an end. I shall feel much pleasure in forwarding by every opportunity, details of our operations. Gen. Rodil has ordered that no officer shall carry with him more than two shirts in a small portmanteau. I had nearly omitted to say, that about a league from the town of Haro we were joined by an English Colonel named Caradoc, he had a short conference with the General, and then returned to Victoria, escorted by a party of Lancers. I understand he is again to join our army. The object of his arrival is to us a mystery, and has excited among the officers many strange conjectures respecting his appearance among us at this moment.

EXTRAORDINARY DEVELOPMENT.—That great scourge the Cholera which is desolating our country, has brought to light a most extraordinary instance of political corruption. Among the recent victims to the Cholera at Huron, Ohio, was Charles Robinson Esq. a lawyer from the state of Vermont. After his death while his physician, and other respectable citizens of Huron, were taking an inventory of his effects, they discovered forty sheets of blank letter paper BEARING THE FRANK OF THE HON. MR PLUMMER, Member of Congress from Mississippi! They also found in his trunk POLITICAL LETTERS addressed to Mr Robinson, by various correspondents, all franked by the hon. Mr Plummer! It was ascertained that Mr Robinson before his death, had put in and taken out of the Post Office several letters, all bearing the same frank!

This providential exposure of official corruption, will startle the good people of this Republic! Here we find a political emissary from Vermont travelling through Ohio, with quires of letter paper franked by a member of Congress from Mississippi! How many more emissaries thus armed to defraud the Post Office there are prowling through the Union, is left for conjecture.

This most profligate abuse of the franking deserves, and we doubt not will receive, the early attention of Congress. Mr Plummer, who has thus prostituted his privilege is unworthy a seat in the House of Representatives.

THE RIOTERS.—We learn, says the Boston Post, from the Bulletin Board of the Mechanics' Reading-Room, that the Justices Court, at East Cambridge, was employed until 4 o'clock, p. m. yesterday, in the examination of Marvin Marcy, Jr. the son of a constable and tavern keeper, at East Cambridge. The evidence introduced on the part of the Government, implicates him very deeply in the burning of the Nunnery and the Bishop's Lodge. At the latter place he acted a very conspicuous part as a mock auctioneer, consigning to the flames the books belonging to the Bishop's Library, as fast as they were knocked off, until the whole were consumed. He was fully committed.—*New-York Gaz.* August 29.

We have been politely favoured with the following extract from a letter, written by the captain of an American ship, upon his leaving Canton, to a friend in this city:—

"The opening of the English trade will, I apprehend, be the first step towards revolutionizing China. The moral effect of such an event, not only with regard to China, but the whole eastern world, must be very great; and although I am not versed enough in political economy to pretend to divine the consequences, yet I cannot help looking forward to this new era with a great deal of interest. The prejudice of the Chinese are beginning to give way, under the conviction of their own senses, that strangers are at least equal to them in the arts as well as arms. Our manners are beginning to be copied by them—our language is studied; and, what is more important and singular, our religion is not only tolerated by the government, but anxiously enquired after by the mass of the people in the maritime provinces; and, notwithstanding what the enemies of missions may say, christianity is publicly preached by the Chinese themselves, within the very walls of Canton."—*N. Y. Gaz.* Sept. 9.