

## Poetry.

## THANKSGIVING HYMN.

FOR PRESERVATION FROM PERILS ON THE SEA.

[We insert the following lines, if for no other reason, in consideration of the circumstances under which they were composed. The writer, a resident of New York, informs us that while at sea, on a summer trip to St John's, Nfld., his family at home used for him the hymn No. 222 (Hymns, Ancient and Modern) "For those in peril on the sea." One of the gentleman's daughters, believing praise for mercies received to be as certainly a Christian duty as supplication for mercies desired, requested him to supply a deficiency in the hymn-book by composing a suitable thanksgiving to be used in view of danger past. Hence the following stanzas, composed, as will be seen, in the same measure as the hymn already referred to.]

O God, who heard'st our prayer to Thee,  
"For those in peril on the sea,"  
And who didst bid the restless wave,  
And to our friends protection gave:  
To Thee alone we give the praise,  
And all our shouts of joy upraise.

And here with us, on bonded knee,  
These friends unite in praising Thee,  
They've seen Thy power o'er wind and wave,  
They know that Thou alone canst save.  
And now their voices loud they raise  
And sing, with us, glad hymns of praise.

Where'er they go, O may they ne'er  
Forget, O Lord, Thy loving care,  
Which, on the foaming billows bright,  
Protected them by day and night  
And may they yield their hearts to Thee  
Who sav'st alike on land and sea. Amen.

A. E. O.

## GO, DREAM NO MORE.

FAMELLA S. VINING.

Go, dream no more of a sun-bright sky  
With never a cloud to dim!  
Thou hast seen the storm in its robes of night,  
Thou hast felt the rush of the whirlwind's might,  
Thou hast shrunk from the lightning's arrowy flight,  
When the Spirit of Storms went by!

Go, dream no more of a crystal sea  
Where never a tempest sweeps!  
For thy riven bark on a surf-beat shore,—  
Where the wild wind shrieks and the billows roar—  
A shattered wreck to be launched no more,  
Will mock at thy dream and thee!

Go, dream no more of a fadeless flower  
With never a cankering blight!  
For the queenliest rose in thy garden-bod,  
The pride of the morn, ere the noon is fled,  
With the worm at its heart, withers cold and dead  
In the Spoiler's fearful power!

Go, dream no more! for the cloud will rise,  
And the tempest will sweep the sky;  
Yet grieve not thou, for beyond the strife,  
The storm, and the gloom with which earth is rife,  
Gleams out the light of immortal life,  
And the glow of unchanging skies!

At a recent meeting of the British Association at Edinburgh, a paper was read giving a history of the photographic post during the siege of Paris. It will be remembered that despatches to persons within the walls were reduced to microscopic proportions by means of photography, so that a large number could be sent by a single bird. These photographic despatches were rolled up in quills, and fastened to the tails of carrier pigeons. Every film reproduced sixteen folio pages of printed matter, and contained an average of three thousand despatches. The lightness of the materials enabled the French Government to put upon one pigeon eighteen films, or fifty-four thousand despatches, weighing altogether less than one gramme, or fifteen and a half grains. The whole of the official and private despatches carried by pigeons during the investment of Paris, numbered about one hundred and fifteen thousand, weighing in all about two grammes, or thirty-one grains; only one pigeon, therefore, would have been needed to carry these despatches. If the number of copies made were taken into account, it was stated that two million five hundred thousand despatches were sent in all.

Friendship is more firmly secured by lenity towards failing than by attachment to excellencies. The former is valued as a kindness which cannot be claimed, while the latter is exacted as payment of debt to merit.

## THE COMMISSION AGENT.

The commission agent is an old, familiar friend in every large town. Few men have more elastic characters. He is an ubiquitous genius, and may be seen pacing the rialto in thought and care, or met in the thoroughfare, eager and active, amidst the counting-houses of the city, keen and shrewd, at the junction corners wavering and anxious, in the hotels lively and gossiping, and, in the taverns, muddled and dissipating. You will find him in the rooms of the fashionable and the haunts of the vulgar—amidst the wealthy and among the poor. The agency business being a sort of refuge for the destitute respectable, its ranks are recruited and enlarged without bounds, by a motley crew of beings of every grade of mercantile experience, and its tendency to charitably shroud the poor genteel outcast, the refined educated pauper, the reduced intollient clerk, from the contumely of the world, by its patronising name, has the effect of bringing within its circle strange men, who, as commission agents, strut abroad with assumed dignity and natural insolence, to prey upon a too confiding public. As the vague answer, "in an office," is a safe reply to an unpleasant and inconvenient inquiry touching a person's social position, so "He's a commission agent," is an announcement which is intended to convey the unassailable fact of a man's decided means and respectability of position.

The representative commission agent is a man of much ability, patience, industry and activity. He is quick-witted, sharp-spoken, shrewd and gentlemanly. Independent of authority, he is wayward in his habits, uniformly irregular in his movements, his tendencies are cosmopolitan, his principles undefined. There is, sometimes, a levity in his manner which circumstances do not justify, and often a gravity of speech with which his heart does not accord. Still, whenever business is anything at all lively, the commission agent usually proves himself able to take advantage of the times, and moves inquiringly about the busy marts of the city, one of the useful spokes in the wheel of our commercial fortune.

The sole agent for a very marketable article has an ordinary existence, and, being well-known, calls for little remark. But the poor fellow who has "picked up" sundry commissions in the patent line, under the conviction that, if one fails another may succeed, has invariably a chequered, harassing time of it—a weary life. This is more especially the case when the agent is quite inexperienced in the agency business, besides being ignorant, as a matter of course, of the respective matters he has taken in hand to "work up." A new patent gas-burner, a unique invention, cheap as dirt, warranted to save 50 per cent. of your gas without reducing the light, must take well with an economising and discriminating public; a new patent composition for painting boilers, guaranteed to arrest the heat and save the consumption of coals one-half, is sure of a ready sale among the interested thousands; and the last and best patent animal food, invented with the view of keeping cattle and horses in fine condition upon a fourth of the usual allowance, certainly cannot fail to command a tremendous patronage. So it happens that, with such brilliant agencies as these, and others of equal promise and character, many anxious, earnest, and needy men essay to create an income and a position. The effort is in vain. Possessed of none of the necessary qualifications of the canvasser, which can rarely be acquired, the sensitive, sanguine agent tramps and wanders amid the surging crowd, glancing nervously about the likely places for the exercise of his energy, peering timidly into hopeful-looking places, and, by acute recollections of home and poverty, norving himself for the effort, spurring his rebellious heart to the repugnant task, which, however, upon the least rebuff sinks in despair, and the unfortunate agent shrinks away, abashed and sorrowful, into the heedless throng.

Access is so readily gained to the agency business—a boyless, furnitureless room and a patent connection sufficing—that characterless men seek, by its means, the opportunity of regaining an honourable position, penniless spendthrifts the means of acquiring a good income, unfortunate fathers a chance of feeding their children and keeping the wolf from the door—all sadly doomed to disappointment.

There is the cunning, unprincipled agent, who lives by his wits—a sort of commercial man on town. He is always dressed in proper style, never remarkable for superfluous disturbances, uniformly steady, and affable or contemptuous as occasion requires. His acknowledged agency may be a life and fire affair, but he relies principally upon hand-to-mouth transactions, picked up here and there during the day or week, from which he screws an honorarium for his trouble. He is not by any means fastidious or particular in respect to negotiations. All he looks for is the turn up of a respectable commission. He will take your life on account of the best office, and always supplement the offer with an intimation (confidentially conveyed to a score or two) that he has a few good things in hand which are exceptional in their advantages. He is never without having a special knowledge of the immediate existence of a sample of this or a remnant of that, which is confined

to himself under peculiar circumstances, but respecting which he has no objection to treat with a friend. Although he is familiar with a large number of people, he has still an unceasing desire to become acquainted with a new face, especially if a blank one. As an agent, in many things, he is peculiarly adapted to improve the information of innocent strangers, whom he can introduce into the mysteries of commercial matters with an intimacy and confidence peculiar to himself. And thus it is that this agent lives by his wits in our city.

Then there is the plodding, assiduous, crafty agent, who, having made a connection of some sort, thinks he sees his way to something better, but, devoid of integrity and the necessary sterling qualities, almost always flounders in the attempt.

The kind, agreeable agent, of the happy sort, is pretty numerous, and is a pleasant companion. He plays billiards and enjoys the game. He seems to do business without much effort, and is generally found a good-tempered, easy-going fellow.—*Liberal Review.*

One of the progressive industries of the time is the manufacture of articles of clothing and household use from paper. In China and Japan paper clothing has long been worn by the inhabitants, and so cheaply can it be produced that a serviceable paper coat costs only ten cents, while a whole suit of the same material is limited to twenty-five cents. Heretofore, paper has been worked up among civilized nations into collars, cuffs, frills and similar minor articles; but by a recent English invention, a really serviceable paper fabric has been prepared, from which table-cloths, napkins, handkerchiefs, pantaloons, curtains, shirts, petticoats, and other articles of dress, together with imitation blankets and bed furniture, lace and fringe, imitation leather, etc., can be made very cheaply. The substances used in preparing this fabric are both vegetable and animal, and comprise a mixture of wool, silk, flax, jute, hemp and cotton. Reduced to a fine pulp and bleached, and then felted by means of machinery, the material thus obtained produces a fabric of wonderful flexibility and strength, which can be sewed together, and with as strong a seam and as well as any cloth. The articles made from this mixture are said not only to be very serviceable, but to so resemble cloth, linen, or cotton, as to defy the closest scrutiny.

BE A MAN.—Foolish spending is the father of poverty. Do not be ashamed of hard work. Work for the best salary or wages you can get, but work for half price rather than be idle. Be your own master, and do not let society or fashion swallow up your individuality—hat, coat, and boots. Do not eat up or wear out all that you can earn. Compel your selfish body to spare something for profits saved. Be stingy to your own appetite, but merciful to others, and ask no help for yourself. See that you are not proud—or let your pride be of the right kind. Be too proud to give up without conquering every difficulty; too proud to wear a coat that you cannot afford to buy, too proud to be in company that you cannot keep up with in expenses; too proud to lie or steal, or cheat; too proud to be stingy.

## HINTS ON HOUSEKEEPING.

POTATO POULTICE.—Perhaps it is not generally known how much pleasanter and more agreeable, as well as efficacious, is a poultice made of potatoes than one made of bread. It keeps longer, can be reheated several times and does not wet the clothing. Peel, boil and mash the potatoes; enclose in a muslin bag, and apply to the affected part. To boil them in hot water has a very soothing effect, and enhances their virtue. A poultice made of boiled beans is by some thought to be better than potatoes, but both are worthy of a trial.

ICE.—The curative and relieving powers of ice are found more valuable year after year. Small pieces of ice swallowed whole will often check acute stomach inflammations, and will prevent nausea, if heat is applied outside at the same time. Pounded ice applied to the spine is said to cure sea-sickness. A bit of ice will help diphtheria and all other throat complaints. To become delightfully cool in summer, apply ice, wrapped in paper, to the back of the head for one moment.

STINGS OF INSECTS.—A remedy for the stings of wasps, bees, &c., that often proves effectual, is simply to hold a chest key or any hollow key over the place stung, press it hard into the flesh a minute or so, and when taken off the poison will be on the surface of the flesh and do no harm. A thimble with a tight top will do, but not quite so well.

CANROWAY SEEDS, finely pounded, with a small proportion of ginger and salt, spread upon bread and butter and eaten every day, especially early in the morning, and before going to bed, are successfully used in Germany as a remedy against hysterics.

TO MAKE stale bread fresh, put the loaf into a clean tin, and cover closely to exclude all water, and set into a steamer or kettle of boiling water for half an hour; then remove from the tin, and it will look like fresh bread, and be really almost equal to a new loaf.