

From the Metropolitan for April.

ENGLAND! ENGLAND!

By RICHARD HOWITT.

England, England, glorious name,
Home of freedom, star of fame;
Light o'er ocean widely sent,
Empress of the element;
Gorgeous sea-encircled gem,
Of the world bright diadem;
Nation nations to command,
Who but points admiring hand
To thee, to thee, our own dear land!

Wisdom spake, and thou hadst birth,
Throne and sceptre of the earth;
Heaven's own beacon in the deeps,
Eye of soul that never sleeps;
Altar of the world, whose fire
Brightly burns, nor may expire:
Built in adamant, to stand,
God is in thee, heart and hand,
England, England, glorious land!

THE MARINER'S DREAM;

ON THE STORM-DEMON.

Loud roars the blast
O'er the foam-crested ocean;
The mad waves are dancing
In hurried commotion;
The water-spout bursts,—
Its dark column uprearing,
Like a spirit of death
O'er the billows careering!
The heavens are all flame;
The black cloud's rent asunder;
The Storm-Demon comes
In his chariot of thunder!

Spirits,—dark spirits,—
His summons obeying,
Now trooping around him,
Their homage are paying.
Mark! mark! how they laugh
As the tempest is telling
His triumph aloft,
To the wild music swelling!
"Up, spirits! away!
O'er the flame-crested ocean,"
The Storm-Demon cries,
"Wake your wildest commotion!"

Now, shrouded in weeds,
From their watery pillows,
Ghosts of drowned mariners
Float o'er the billows!
The phantom-ship bounds,
The loud tempest defying,
Crowding sail, and away
O'er the mad waters flying!
The pale, ghastly crew,—
How their eyes roll with wonder!
And wild is their shriek
As they plunge mid the thunder!

Bentley's for April.

From the French of J. A. Poyssoulet, M. D.

BRIMSTONE-HILL, AT GUADALOUPE.

THE island of Guadaloupe is not the only one of the American Antilles that has volcanoes and mines of brimstone; few are without them; they are found in Martinico, Dominica, St. Christopher, St. Lucia, etc. The mountain on which Mr. P. made his observations is called La Soufriere, or Brimstone-hill, because it contains ores of sulphur, and its summit constantly emits smoke, and sometimes flames. It is very high, and forms a kind of truncated cone. It rises above the chain of mountains that occupy the centre of the island and run through all its length from north to south. In ascending this conical mountain, it is soon observed that the woods differ in kind; the trees are smaller, and, at the top, are mere shrubs. Having arrived at the spring-head of the river of Galleons, south of the Brimstone-hill, the waters were so hot as not to be borne. The neighbouring ground smokes, and is full of brown earth like the dross of iron. In other places the earth is red, and even dyes the fingers; but these earths are tasteless. Near these three boiling hot springs are some others that are lukewarm, and some very cold. They put some eggs into the hot ones, and they were boiled in three minutes, and hard in seven.

Having passed this mountain of the three rivers, and the valleys between it and the Brimstone-hill, they began to ascend the latter. They were about an hour and a half getting up to the height of 500 feet, when they reached the gulf at the place whence the smoke issues, which is about twenty-five toises in breadth. Here nothing but sulphur and calcined earth are to be seen; the ground is full of crevices, which emit smoke or vapours; these cracks are deep, and you hear the sulphur boil. Its vapours rising yield very fine chemical flowers, or a pure and refined sulphur; and on the clinks or funnels the spirit of sulphur runs down like fair water. They continued climbing to the top of the mountain, keeping to the east, or windward. When at the summit, they discovered another gulf or funnel, opened some years since,

which only emitted smoke. The top of the mountain is a very uneven plain, covered with heaps of burnt and calcined earth, of various sizes. In the middle of this flat is a very deep abyss or precipice. It is said there was once a great earthquake in this island, and the Brimstone-hill took fire, and vomited ashes on all sides, and this mountain cleft asunder; when probably, this abyss or precipice opened. The mountain having split, cast forth ashes and sulphureous matter all around, and from that time no earthquake has been felt in the island. This abyss in the middle of the flat is behind two crags or points that rise above the mountains, and on the north side answers to the great cleft, which goes down above a thousand feet perpendicular, and penetrates above an hundred paces into the flat, and is more than twenty feet broad; so that in this place the mountain is fairly split from the top to the base of the cone.

Any quantity of brimstone might be fetched from this mountain, even in ship-loads. Bright yellow brimstone, with a greenish cast, might be gathered round the vent-holes of the burning gulf, with large quantities of fine natural flowers, or very pure sulphur. What passes in the mountain may be called a natural analysis, or distillation. The brimstone takes fire in the centre of the earth, as in chemical operations, when the mixture of spirits of nitre and oil of turpentine suddenly produces a heat and flame. In like manner, an oily and sulphureous exhalation inflames and sends forth fires which have been mistaken for falling stars. The flowers rise with the acid spirit, which being condensed by the cool air, falls in drops.

One of the party having thrust his cane too far into a funnel, and not being able to pull it out again, used the blade of his sword to recover it. In an instant the hilt was quite wet, the water dropping off; and on drawing it out, the blade was extremely hot.—*Philosophical Transactions.*

From the Court Journal.

THE MIRROR OF FEMALE GRACES.

EDUCATION.

It is unjust and dangerous to hold out false lights to young persons; for, finding that their guides have in one respect designedly led them astray, they may be led likewise to reject as untrue all else they have been taught; and so nothing but disappointment, error, and rebellion, can be the consequence.

Let girls, advancing to womanhood, be told the true state of the world with which they are to mingle. Let them know its real opinions on the subjects connected with themselves as women, companions, friends, relatives. Hide not from them what society thinks and expects on all these matters; but fail not to show them, at the same time, where the fashions of the day would lead them wrong; where the laws of heaven and man's approving (though not always submitting) reason, would keep them aright.

Let religion and morality be the foundation of the female character. The artist may then adorn the structure without any danger to its safety. When a girl is instructed on the great purposes of her existence; that she is an immortal being, as well as a mortal woman; you may, without fearing ill impressions, show her, that as we admire the beauty of the rose, as well as esteem its medicinal power, so her personal charms will be dear in the eyes of him whose heart is occupied by the graces of her yet more estimable mind. We may safely teach a well-educated girl that virtue ought to wear an inviting aspect; that it is due to her excellence to decorate her comely apparel. But we must never cease to remember that it is virtue we seek to adorn. It must not be a merely beautiful form; for that, if it possess not the charm of intelligence, the bond of rational tenderness, is a frame without a soul; a statue, which we look on and admire, pass away and forget it. We must impress upon the yet ingenuous maid, that while beauty attracts, its influence is transient, unless it presents itself as the harbinger of that good sense and principle which can alone secure the affection of a husband, the esteem of friends, and the respect of the world. Show her that regularity of features and symmetry of form are not essentials in the composition of the woman whom the wise man would select as the partner of his life. Seek, as an example, some one of your less fair acquaintance, whose sweet disposition, gentle manners, and winning deportment, render her the delight of her kindred, the dear solace of her husband. Show your young and lovely pupil what use this amiable woman has made of her few talents; and then call on her to cultivate her more extraordinary endowments to the glory of her Creator, the honour of her parents, and to the maintenance of her own happiness in both worlds. To do this, requires that her aims should be virtuous, and the means she employs to reach them, of the same nature.

DRESS.

When innocence left the world, astonished man blushed at his own and his partner's nakedness, and coverings were invented. For many an age the twisted foliage of trees, and the skins of beasts, were the only garments which clothed our ancestors. Decoration was unknown, excepting the wild flower, plucked from the luxuriant shrub, the shell from the beach, or the berry off the

tree. Nature was then unsophisticated; and the lover needed no other attraction to his bride's embrace, than the peach-bloom on her cheek, the downcast softness of her consenting eye.

In after times, when Avarice ploughed the earth and Ambition bestrode it, the gem and the silken fleece, the various products of the loom, and the Tyrian mystery of dyes, all united to give embellishment to beauty, and splendour to majesty of mien. But even at that period, when the east and south laid their decorating riches at the feet of women, we see, by the sculpture yet remaining to us, that the dames of Greece (the then exemplars of the world) were true to the simple laws of just taste. The amply folding robe, cast round the harmonious form! the modest clasp and zone on the bosom; the braided hair, or the veiled head; these were the fashions alike of the wife of a Phocion and the mistress of an Alcibiades. A chastened taste ruled at their toilets; and from that hour to this, the forms and modes of Greece have been those of the poet, the sculptor, and the painter.

Rome, queen of the world! the proud dictatress to Athenian and Spartan dames, disdained not to array herself in their dignified attire; and the statues of her virgins, her matrons, and her empresses, show, in every portico of her ancient streets, the graceful fashions of her Grecian province.

The irruption of the Goths and Vandals made it needful for women to assume a more repulsive garb. The flowing robe, the easy shape, the soft, unfettered hair, gave place to skirts, shortened for flight or contest—to the hardened vest, and head buckled in gold or silver.

Thence, by a natural descent, have we the iron bodice, stiff farthingale, and spiral coiffure of the middle ages. The courts of Charlemagne, of our Edwards, Henries, and Elizabeth, all exhibit the figures of women as if in a state of siege. Such lines of circunvallation and outworks—such impregnable bulwarks of whalebone, wood, and steel; such impassable mazes of gold, silver, silk, and furbelows, met a man's view, that, before he had time to guess it was a woman that he saw, she had passed from his sight; and he only formed a vague wish on the subject, by hearing, from an interested father or brother, that the moving castle was one of the softer sex.

When the arts of sculpture and painting, in their fine specimens, from the chisels of Greece and the pencils of Italy, were brought into England, taste began to mould the dress of our female youth after their more graceful fashion. The health-destroying bodice was laid aside—brocades and whalebone disappeared: and the easy shape and flowing drapery again resumed the rights of nature and of grace.

Thus, for a short time, did the Graces indeed preside at the toilet of British beauty. But a strange caprice seems now to have dislodged these gentle handmaids. We see immodesty on one side, unveiling the too redundant bosom; on the other, deformity, once more drawing the steeled bodice upon the bruised ribs. Here stands affectation, distorting the form into a thousand unnatural shapes—and there, ill taste, loading it with grotesque ornaments, gathered (and mingled confusedly) from Grecian and Roman models, from Egypt, China, Turkey, and Hindostan. All nations are ransacked to equip a modern fine lady—and, after all, she may perhaps strike a cotemporary beau as a fine lady, but no son of nature could, at a glance, possibly find out that she meant to represent an elegant woman.

DEPORTMENT.

To preserve the health of the human form is the first object of consideration. With its health, we necessarily maintain its symmetry and improve its beauty.

The foundation of a just proportion in all parts must be laid in infancy. A light dress, which gives freedom to the functions of life and action, is the best adapted to permit unobstructed growth; for thence the young fibres, uninterrupted by obstacles of art will shoot harmoniously into the form which nature drew. The garb of childhood should in all respects be easy: not to impede its movements by ligatures on the chest, the loins, the legs, or arms. By this liberty we shall see the muscles of the limbs gradually assume the fine swell and insertion which only unconstrained exercise can produce; the shape will sway gracefully on the firmly poised waist; the chest will rise in noble and healthy expanse; and the human figure will start forward at the blooming age of youth, maturing into the full perfection of unsophisticated nature.

The lovely form of woman thus educated, or rather, thus left to the true bias of its original mould, puts on a variety of interesting characters. In one youthful figure, we see the lineaments of a wood-nymph; a form slight and elastic in all its parts. The shape, "small by degrees and beautifully less, from the soft bosom to the slender waist!" a foot, light as that of her whose flying step scarcely brushed the "unbending corn;" and limbs, whose agile grace moved in gay harmony with the turns of her swan-like neck and sparkling eyes.

Another fair one appears with the chastened dignity of a vestal. Her proportions are of a less aerial outline. As she draws near, we perceive that the contour of her figure is on a broader, a less flexible scale, than that of her more ethereal sister. Euphrosyne speaks in the one, Melpomene in the other.