

THE SILK-LOOM WEAVER'S LAMENT.

BY MRS. EDWARD THOMAS.

I long to stretch me on the verdant grass,
And gaze in idleness on the summer-sky;
To see the happy clouds careering pass
In all their dear, unchartered liberty.

I long to scent the violet of the glade,
The fragrant hawthorn that the air regales;
To feel creation by that power was made
Whose seasonal beneficence ne'er fails;

To feel away from man—far, far away—
With thoughts as free as flowers, as unconfined,
With none to question whither I may stray,
The world—its artifice—left all behind.

Oh for one hour of such unshackled ease!
Thought too ecstatic for my toil-worn brain!
The children wretch alone, himself to please;
The galley slave freed from the galling chain.

To walk erect, with no one to control,
No hard task-master, brutal, to deride.
O liberty! still native to the soul!
O liberty! still man's ennobling pride!

We are born free; the beggar is born free—
Free as the noble—but alas! full soon
The grim, gaunt hand of dire necessity
Enfeters gen'rous nature's righteous boon.

My brow is burning and my brain's on fire:
How fiercely madd'ning is its flame intense!
Still, still I pant with the one fond desire,
'Till disappointment sickens every sense,

To breathe the air of heav'n the country yields,
The unpolluted air, that comes direct
From the clear skies, to fan the pleasant fields,
In floral loveliness profusely decked.

The tainted air blows here, but parches still,
With ague-chills, and fever nought abates.
Oh for the gushing of the rural rill,
To quench the thirst the heated town creates!

I've but one hope, and that is, when I die
The lovely green grass, ne'er my own in life,
Will mark the spot where I serenely lie,
With dear, refreshing, spring-tide coolness rise.

PLANTS DELETERIOUS IN CONFINED PLACES.—It is not sufficiently known by the admirers of flowers, that the agreeable perfume they emit, when in full bloom, is decidedly deleterious when diffused through close apartments, producing headache, giddiness and other affections of the brain. But it is only in confined rooms that such effects are produced. In the garden, when mingled with a wholesome and exhilarating atmosphere, amidst objects that awaken the most delightful sensations of our nature, those sweets are a part of our gratifications, and health is promoted in consequence of our enjoyment. Who has not felt the excitement of spring? of nature in that delightful season, rising from lethargy into beauty and vivacity, and spreading the sweets of the primrose and the violet for our gratification? Amidst the beauties of the flower-garden, these pleasures are condensed and refined; and the fragrance there hanging on the wings of the breeze, is not only pleasant but wholesome. Whatever increases our gratifications, so peculiarly unmixed with the bad passions of human nature, must surely tend to the improvement of mankind, and to the excitement of grateful feelings towards that beneficent Creator who has so bountifully supplied us with these luxuries.—[N.Y. Sun.]

VARIATIONS IN THE VALUE OF RAILWAY PROPERTY.—The fluctuations which take place in the value of railway property are often the subject of remark. In no other description of joint-stock shares do equally sudden and extensive changes occur. Most persons who have paid any attention to what is passing in the railway world are aware of the high prices of several of the leading lines, as compared with what they were in 1843. In that year

the Great Western shares of 80l. were as low as 11 premium; lately, they were 140. In the same year, the Great North of England 100l. shares were scarcely saleable at 40 discount; a few months ago they were 150 premium. The Midland Counties 100l. shares were, little more than two years since, at 35 discount; they were lately at 90 premium. But a greater increase than in either of the instances we have mentioned has taken place in the shares of the Dublin and Kingston Railway. Little more than 20 months ago the 100l. shares were selling at 75l., being 25 discount. Seven or eight weeks since they brought 250l., being 150 premium. But still greater than these have been the variations, considering the amount paid, which have taken place in the value of some of our new lines. The Gt. North, Pontefract, and Wakefield shares, on which a deposit of 2l. 10s. has been paid, and which remained stationary for many weeks at a premium of from 14l. to 16l. have recently mounted up to 40l. Even this sudden and extensive rise, however, is surpassed by that which lately took place in a new line which is scarcely known in this country. We allude to a Scotch line, called the Glasgow and Barrhead Railway. The shares in this line were selling, six or seven weeks ago, at 6l., including the deposit of 2l. 10s.; they rose in a very short time to 24l., and then as suddenly fell back to 17l.; but, strange to say, they again took a start, which has, we believe, no parallel in any description of joint-stock property. They bounded up in a few days from 17l. to 40l. Those who were fortunate holders, to any extent, of the scrip of this line, must have realized large fortunes in the brief space of a few weeks. A holder of 250 shares, at par, must have realized little short of 10,000l. by the transaction.—*Railway World.*

THE OBSCENE PROPERTIES OF THE VULTURE.—The above foul bird will devour, with a disgusting trait of greediness, the most putrid offal; and in almost all parts of the East, groups of them, from twenty to thirty, may be seen assembled together, fattening upon human and other animal corpses. So depraved, so vitiated, and so rotten is the constitutional system of the vulture, that its very feathers may be observed to molt from its wings at voluntary intervals, whilst it is in the act of gorging its prey; and there is one fact in relation to this repulsive bird which is perhaps not generally known; it is this, viz., that no animal whatever will prey upon the vulture, living or otherwise—not even the jackall or glutton, which are in the habit of burrowing into, and ransacking, the repositories of the dead, and indulging each a morbid appetite; yet these beasts will not approach the vulture, but will turn away from it with total abhorrence. Even the common flesh-fly (*musca putris*) will not lend its aid towards annihilating the volucrine nuisance under consideration, by inoculating the carcase of the bird with its consumid larvæ, but avoids coming into contact with this fetid mass; so that the vulture may be looked upon as the most obscene of all carnivorous scavengers, and can be viewed only in the light of a solitary outcast, singled out from the wide and varied university of animated nature.

PROLIFIC WHEAT.—In the harvest of 1840, Mr. C. Spring, of Soham, Cambridgeshire, gathered from one of his fields eighteen very fine ears of wheat (which were five, six, and seven set), the proceed of which filled a common wine-glass; the above was planted the following autumn, and produced one peck, which was again planted Nov. 3, 1841, and produced seven bushels and one peck; planted the same Nov. 2, 1842, the produce one hundred and eight bushels and two pecks; which was again planted in the autumn of 1843, and produced one thousand eight hundred and sixty-eight bushels. Thus the increase, from the eighteen ears in the short space of four years was the enormous quantity of four hundred and sixty-seven coombs.

A single root of potatoes, of the species called second early, was lately dug up by Mr. James Allen, gardener to Mrs. Dykes, of Dovenby Hall, to which no less than 110 potatoes were found attached.—*Cumberland Packet.*