

The Weekly Observer.

BEING A CONTINUATION OF THE STAR:

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Office in HATFIELD'S Brick Building,
Market-square.

The Garland.

Composed in the Chapel of Ghosts, City of Funchal, Madeira.

And I shall be like this! This marble urn
Contains the inanimate dust of one
Who once could think, and act, and speak,
Perhaps could love, and had his love return'd.
O what a lesson does it teach to pride!
Ye monarchs of the world, who immolate
Thousands and tens of thousands at the shrine
Of mad ambition! leave your thrones, your state,
And for a moment gaze with me on this
Black senseless dust. Gaze with me and be wise.
The lover, and the fair one dearly loved,
All, all must come to this—Thou hast no tongue,
Yet wilt impart lessons that thou teach
To living man.—We toil for wealth and power,
We struggle to be foremost in the race
For earthly pomp, alas! and to what end?
A few short years pass o'er, what are we then?
Dust, that the meanest wretch (who arowhite bent
The knee in servile awe) may scatter to the wind.
Mute counsellor! I'll profit by thy sight.
May I so live, that when this youthful heart
That now beats high, shall be alike reduc'd,
And my immortal soul be call'd to meet
The Judge of heaven and earth, I may not beg
The mountains to fall on my wretched frame,
And hide me from the dreadful wrath of Him
Who was, and is, and shall be, God alone!
Eternally supreme. [Lilo. Kaleidoscope.]

TO A CITY PIGEON.

From the Tower, for 1831.
Sleep to my window, thou beautiful dove!
Thy daily visits have touch'd my love!
I watch thy coming, and list the note
That stirs so low in thy mellow throat,
And my joy is high,
To catch the glance of thy gentle eye.
Why dost thou sit on the heated eaves,
And forsake the wood with its freshen'd leaves?
Why dost thou haunt the sultry street,
When the paths of the forest are cool and sweet?
And canst thou bear
This noise of people—this breezeless air?
Thou alone of the feathered race,
Dost look unscar'd on the human face;
Thou alone, with a wing to flee,
Dost love with man in his haunts to be;
And the "gentle dove"
Has become a name for trust and love.
A holy gift is named, sweet bird!
Thou'rt named with childhood's earliest word;
Thou'rt linked with all that is fresh and wild
In the prisoned thoughts of the city child—
And thy even wings
Are its brightest image of moving things.
It is no light chance, 'thou art set apart
Witely by him who named thy heart—
To sit the love for the bright and fair,
That also were soiled in the crowded air;
I sometimes dream
Angelic rays from thy pinions stream.
Come, then, ever when day-light dawns,
The page I read, to my humble avow,
And wash thy breast in the hollow spot,
And murmur thy low, sweet music out,—
I hear and see
Lessons of heaven, sweet bird, in thee!

Miscellaneous.

"We endeavour by variety to adapt some things to one reader,
some to another, and a few perhaps to every taste."—Pliny.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

We have often felt surprise that those worthy persons who express so virtuous a horror of monopolies, should so seldom give the Bank of England the benefit of their disinterested attention. Whatever may be the delinquencies of the India Company—however the principle and constitution of Borough Corporations generally may sin against the notions of modern liberality, we undertake to assert that none of them, nor all put together, threaten the body politic with so many and great evils as those which may and do often flow from the Bank of England's almost unlimited power over the commercial affairs of this empire.

The Bank of England started into existence in 1694, as a counterpoise to the London Goldsmiths, who then ruled the roost of money matters. It was therefore the result of a sort of political necessity, and for many years its hold upon the public affections was not of a very strong kind—for we learn, from old records, that though its notes, compared with the current coin of the realm, were sometimes at a discount, they were more frequently at a premium.

The Bank early allied itself with the Executive of the State. By degrees it monopolized the right to issue notes. The power of creation which it thus possessed, threw Government, as it were, into its hands. It advanced loans, managed the pecuniary affairs of the State, and became the fountain-head and regulator of the currency of the country. The long war which arose out of the French Revolution, and the tremendous loan system, augmented its influence and consolidated its power; and it is now, to all intents and purposes, a State machine; an engine in the hands of Government, whose influence "has increased, is increasing, and ought to be diminished."

A few years ago, the Bank of England voluntarily surrendered that part of its charter which prohibited the formation of Joint-Stock Banks in England and Wales. This was done at the instance of Lord Liverpool's Ministry, who took their tone from the public feeling. The odious privilege of fencing off competition to a distance of sixty miles from the metropolis was retained; and the Directors are evidently anxious to repay themselves for the concession as to joint-stock establishments by the institution of Branch Banks in the principal towns. It is from these that we apprehend the greatest danger. They may be said to constitute the hundred arms of the previously overpowering political and commercial Briar-tree. They are feelers put out to ascertain the pulse of the provinces; and can easily be converted into talons of deadly grasp. It is by these that the Parent Institution becomes acquainted with the minutest information as to the trading and monied transactions of the great country towns. And in times of turmoil, and of Parliamentary election, the Government may thus be enabled to

exercise a control not at all to the promotion of the liberties of the people, or the commercial welfare of the country generally. We ground our premises on the obvious fact that the Bank of England is a state engine in the hands of Ministers: our conclusions, therefore, we submit, are in accordance with reason and the common course of events.—Leeds Intelligencer.

THE MARCH OF CRIME.

Whatever may be thought of "the march of intellect," concerning which we hear so much at the present day in the shape of cant or burlesque, there can be no doubt, unhappily, that "the march of crime" has of late been fearfully accelerated among us.—Wicksteed has assumed a more hideous aspect; while enormities unparalleled in the past history of human depravity, and which even beggar all the ghastly fictions ever imagined in its wildest mood, have been perpetrated either in this "intellectual" city or its immediate vicinity, and in the midst of a population previously supposed to be remarkable for its high state of moral and religious cultivation. It is little more than eighteen months since it was discovered that a couple of monsters had established a den of murder in the Northern Athens, and were carrying on a regular traffic in the produce of their human shambles. It is not eight months since the cold-blooded, fiend-like butcheries of Emond, perpetrated under circumstances of peculiar and unprecedented atrocity, froze the very blood in our veins, and made every man tremble for the safety of his own home. It was only on Monday last, that two incarnate demons were convicted, at the bar of the Justiciary Court, of a crime still more unnatural and inhuman than any of those to which we have just alluded—a crime, the very thought of which has so sickened the heart of every man who has one particle of human feeling in his nature, and which, in all its circumstances, is universally admitted to be without example or parallel in the criminal records of this or of any other country. To what cause or condition of society, then, are we to ascribe such appalling manifestations of human depravity? and how are we to account for the commission of such inconceivable atrocities in the bosom or immediate vicinity of a metropolis which plumes itself on account of its fancied superiority to the opinions of other nations, and considers itself not unjustly perhaps, as the most civilized portion of this civilized country? Poverty and misery are usually regarded as the main causes and chief stimulants of crime; and, in point of fact, offences are found to multiply in proportion as the inhabitants of a country are reduced below the point in the scale at which they are enabled to earn a comfortable livelihood, and as they gradually sink down to the condition of pauperism, and to the means of procuring the means of prolonging life and sustaining a more physical existence. But the offences which arise out of such a state of things are, for the most part, offences against property merely; and as the causes which produce them are often but temporary in their operation, their demeriting and demoralizing effects are checked and counteracted before the mind of the lower classes becomes thoroughly corrupted by familiarity with guilt, and prepared for the commission of great crimes. None of the diabolical atrocities to which we have alluded, however, appear to have been the progeny of poverty and misery. Burke and Hare organized a system of murder that they might sell the bodies of their victims; not to supply their physicians, but that they might procure a simple means for indulging their passions, and rioting in the most brutal debauchery. London beat out the brains of his sister-in-law and his niece, that he might satiate a deep, desperate, and determined revenge. Thomson and Dolie, in the mere diabolical weakness of wickedness, and with circumstances of brutally unequalled atrocity, destroyed the poor unhappy creature who had confided in them, and put herself under their protection, in a manner and with a brutal barbarity which astounded and appalled even those whose profession necessarily renders them familiar with example of almost every form of iniquity. All these crimes, therefore, have clearly been the immediate offspring of sheer wickedness and depravity alone; and they are consequently to be regarded as manifestations and evidences of the depth of that moral degradation into which a certain class of our people have fallen, and of the facility with which misery may be induced to commit any crime however horrible.

In fact some malignant principle appears to have been generated and become endemic among the class to which we have referred; and to have bred in them a bent out the brain of his sister-in-law and his niece, that he might satiate a deep, desperate, and determined revenge. Thomson and Dolie, in the mere diabolical weakness of wickedness, and with circumstances of brutally unequalled atrocity, destroyed the poor unhappy creature who had confided in them, and put herself under their protection, in a manner and with a brutal barbarity which astounded and appalled even those whose profession necessarily renders them familiar with example of almost every form of iniquity. All these crimes, therefore, have clearly been the immediate offspring of sheer wickedness and depravity alone; and they are consequently to be regarded as manifestations and evidences of the depth of that moral degradation into which a certain class of our people have fallen, and of the facility with which misery may be induced to commit any crime however horrible. In fact some malignant principle appears to have been generated and become endemic among the class to which we have referred; and to have bred in them a bent out the brain of his sister-in-law and his niece, that he might satiate a deep, desperate, and determined revenge. Thomson and Dolie, in the mere diabolical weakness of wickedness, and with circumstances of brutally unequalled atrocity, destroyed the poor unhappy creature who had confided in them, and put herself under their protection, in a manner and with a brutal barbarity which astounded and appalled even those whose profession necessarily renders them familiar with example of almost every form of iniquity. All these crimes, therefore, have clearly been the immediate offspring of sheer wickedness and depravity alone; and they are consequently to be regarded as manifestations and evidences of the depth of that moral degradation into which a certain class of our people have fallen, and of the facility with which misery may be induced to commit any crime however horrible.

LOSS OF THE BRIG RHODA, OF LIVERPOOL.—The following is an extract of a letter received by a most respectable mercantile house in this town, giving such particulars as the writer had been able to collect of this melancholy event:—"Some few days ago, five seamen made their appearance at Rio, and declared they belonged to the ship Rhoda, from Liverpool, bound to Valparaiso, and had been cast away on the 28th of April, 1830, near St. Catherine's Island. I immediately lost no time in ascertaining the particulars, which were related to me in the following manner, by McDonald, the carpenter. On the 25th of April, the Rhoda left St. Catherine's Island, after having obtained water and provisions. She held a true offing course until the 27th, when a severe gale, with a heavy sea, set in from the eastward. She still endeavoured to make the best weather of it, by trying to gain so much southing as possible, having a lee shore to contend with. On the 28th, the weather became more moderate, although very fresh, but as for the course she steered, the carpenter here could not give a clear account. The night approached, and at twelve o'clock, Captain George retired to rest, having been very much exhausted during the preceding days. It was the second-mate's watch, and, it appears, the

vessel's head lay west northwest, and the Captain desired to be called if she broke off any from that point. The brig was under double reefed topsails, and fore-topmast staysails close heeled. About half an hour, when all was still and silent, except the dashing of the restless waves, the officer on watch expressed to his few companions his fears, relative to the appearance of the waves, which impressed him with an idea of breakers. Short was their consultation, for the vessel struck—in a few moments her stern-post was washed to pieces. The captain flew like lightning on deck, and so did the passengers, consisting of four gentlemen and three women; with dismay and horror they viewed their approaching end. There was a child who slept in his mother's arms, and ere any intimation could be given, the berths were deluged with water; the mother became frantic, and even when all hopes were abandoned, the humane sailors screened her from the inclemency of the weather as well as they could. It was for a moment she was seen to implore Divine protection, when a spray carried them all off, except the Captain, Mr. Lloyd (son of Mr. Llewellyn Lloyd, of this town), and eight others. The captain ordered the rigging to the windward to be cut away, the masts fell overboard, and the cargo began to leave her under the lee-quarter; still Captain George appeared sanguine the wreck would be carried ashore. Under this delusion, they supported each other till daylight, when the carpenter assured him, as the deck was breaking up, it would be unsafe to remain any longer on the forecastle, and better trust at once to a plank. His reply was, 'then you would drown as once, carpenter.' Mr. Lloyd joined the carpenter, and although very much exhausted with cold, was preparing himself, when he fell down on his back, and a piece of timber on him; no assistance could be given, and the next spray carried him away. The carpenter and four others pushed off, on what loose timber they could get, and trusted themselves to the waves, so that, in a short time, the surge carried them high and dry on the beach. They still beheld the captain and a few more on the forecastle, waiting something in their hands; they were at a loss to render them any assistance; they would not be induced to leave, and in this suspense they remained until nine o'clock; but fate soon terminated their existence; a tremendous surge caught the forecastle in the trough of two seas, and carried it over, and thus all hopes vanished, for no vestige of them was seen again. At this juncture a heart-rending language came on the survivors; they wandered on the sands and beach unconscious of the exact situation they were in. Whilst endeavouring to pick up some means of subsistence from the wreck washed ashore, they beheld the lacerated remains of the woman and two passengers; still, under these trying circumstances, in their breasts feelings of humanity were not extinct; they excavated one general grave on the sand, which entombed all those who were washed on shore. They had now been twenty-eight hours opposite the wreck, and, giving one last farewell look for the remains of their late captain, they departed on towards the north, with the sad reflection that his whiteened bones would soon be mingled with the countless shells. It has been concluded, that the situation of the wreck would be about one hundred and twenty miles north of Rio Grande. The female passengers were Senora Marota, wife of General Rafael Marota, with her two infant daughters and servant.—Liv. paper.

THE TUILERIES AND OTHER FRENCH PALACES.—The Tuileries, which was one of the distinguished scenes of Parisian heroism during the late glorious revolution, has long been the Paris residence of the sovereigns of France, and is one of the most magnificent palaces in Europe. It is situated on the banks of the Seine, nearly in the centre of Paris, and its garden, which abounds with statues, is the most fashionable promenade of the metropolis. The palace was completed by Louis XIV., in 1684, at an enormous expense, every order of architecture being rendered subservient to its embellishment. The number and beauty of its columns attract universal admiration. The principal entrance is by a magnificent triumphal arch, erected by Napoleon in 1806. It is built of marble and is sixty feet wide, and forty-five feet high, each front decorated with four columns of the Corinthian order. The Tuileries, though a splendid residence for a sovereign, has no defensive works, and could neither hold out against the regular attack of a disciplined force, or what the event has proved to be, the still more overpowering force of an enthusiastic people.—The Palace of the Louvre, or Royal Museum adjoins the Tuileries on the east. It is the most ancient of all the royal palaces in Paris, and was formerly used as a country house by the Kings of France.—The court of the Louvre forms a square of one thousand six hundred feet in circumference. The celebrated gallery which connects the Louvre with the Tuileries was begun by Henry IV., and finished by Louis XIV. The state apartments, connected by this gallery, form a splendid range more than a quarter of a mile in length. The works of art, in sculpture and painting, contained in this palace, have long been the admiration of all foreigners, and the pride of the Parisians. The Palais Royal is the magnificent residence of the Duke of Orleans; but what is more generally included in the name is a little world, into which the great square of the palace was converted by the late Duke, and which has long been the abode of almost every thing in Paris that can inform the mind, gratify the taste, or corrupt the heart. Here numerous splendid booksellers' shops contain all the treasures of literature. Literary societies here hold their meetings, and lectures on the Belles Lettres, and on every branch of philosophy, are daily, almost hourly delivered. Here every species of luxury, whether in the works of art or gratification of the palate, invites to indulgence. Here

every game of skill and chance puts on its most alluring form, and too often succeeds in leading the unwary to ruin. The Palais Royal, too, is the favourite haunt alike of the highest and lowest classes of impures; and its square, in all times of public excitement, is the great resort of the most inquisitive and inflammable portion of the community. Hence the great importance attached to his possession during the heat of the late contest.

THE KING.—The theory of his Majesty appears to be, that an English Sovereign ought to show that he partakes of the freedom and corollary of those natural defenders of the country among whom he was brought up, to convince us by his cares for nothing but right reason, and for having every thing above-board; and this, if he does not make great mistakes indeed, is a notion that may conduce highly to our benefit, because its direct tendency is to make the many of more consequence than the few, and to sacrifice pretences to solid comfort. In short, we look upon the blunt and jovial Sovereign now upon the throne of these realms, as being an honest Englishman of the old school—a sort of royal representative, if we may so speak, of the beef and pudding and sincerity of the national character.—John Bull Sovereign. If we did not think at the same time that he looked good humoured at this part of his character himself, and was prepared to show that an Englishman will leave no victory unsurpassed, either of an old or new sort, either in the progress of sound drubbings or of sound sense, we could not hail him as we do; nor could we have acted as he had done.—London paper.

CHARACTER OF ALFRED.—In any age or country such a prince would be a prodigy.—Perhaps there is no example of any man who so happily combined the magnanimous with the mild virtues, who joined so much energy in war with so remarkable a cultivation of the useful and beautiful arts of peace, and whose versatile faculties were so happily inserted in their due place and measure as to support and secure each other, and give solidity and strength to the whole character. That such a miracle should occur in a barbarous age and nation; that study should be thus pursued in the midst of civil and foreign wars by a monarch who suffered almost incessantly from painful maladies; and that it should be so little encroached on by the duties of government as to leave him for ages the popular model for exact and watchful justice, are facts of so extraordinary a nature, that they may well excite those who have suspected that there are some exaggeration and suppression in the narrative of his reign. But Asser writes with the simplicity of an honest eye-witness. The Saxon Chronicle is a dry and undesigning compend. The Norman historians, who seem to have had his diaries and note-books in their hands, choose him as the glory of the land which was become their own. There is no subject on which unanimous tradition is so nearly sufficient evidence, as on the eminence of one man over others of the same condition. The bright image may long be held up before the national mind. This tradition, however paradoxical the assertion may appear, is in the case of Alfred rather supported than weakened by the fictitious which have sprung from it. Although it be an infirmity of every nation to ascribe their institutions to the contrivance of a man rather than to the slow action of time and circumstances, yet the selection of Alfred by the English people as the founder of all that was dear to them is surely the strongest proof of the deep impression left on the minds of all of his transcendent wisdom and virtues.—Juris, the division of the island into counties and hundreds, the device of frankpledge, the formation of the common or customary law itself, could have been mistakenly attributed to him by nothing less than general reverence. How singular must have been the administration of which the remembrance so long preserved for him the character of a lawgiver, to which the general enactments so little entitled him.

Had a stronger light been shed on his time, we would have undoubtedly discovered in him some of those characteristic peculiarities which, though always defects, and generally faults when they are not riches, yet belong to every human being, and distinguish him from his fellow-men. The disadvantage of being known to posterity by general commendation, instead of discriminating description, is common to Alfred with Marcus Aurelius. The character of both these ornaments of their station and their species seems not to melt into abstraction, and to be so much portraits of man as models of ideal perfection. Both furnish an useful example that study does not disqualify for administration in peace or for vigour in war, and that scrupulous virtue may be combined with vigorous policy. The lot of Alfred forbade him to rival the accomplishments of the imperial eagle. But he was pious without superstition; his humbler knowledge was imparted with more simplicity; his virtue was more natural; he had the glory to be the deliverer as well as the father of his country; and he escaped the unhappiness of suffering his authority to be employed in religious persecution.—Sir James Mackintosh's History of England.

A PATTERN FOR PARLIAMENT.—The Parliament which assembled in spring 1375 (Edward III.) complained of needless expense and oppressive taxation; they carried their scrutiny into every branch of administration; impeached the principal agents of the Duke of Lancaster; declared the necessity of adapting the administration to the demands of Parliament; expelled Lord Latimer from the King's councils, and deprived Lord Neville of his offices. Alice Kerres, a lady of the bedchamber to Philippa, to whom the dotting fondness of his Majesty had presented the jewels of her Royal Mistress, was

by name forbidden the court, under the pains of forfeiture and banishment, in pursuance of an ordinance made to prevent the influence of women in biasing the course of justice, and unduly obtaining graces from the King.—Ibid.

REVIVAL OF CIVILIZATION.—Gradually the night was seen to pass away; monarchs began to extend their power, and to perceive that it was their true interest to protect the people against the tyranny of the nobles, and to bring these last under obedience; the church used her extensive power for the same purpose; the people gradually acquired wealth; their towns were secured by charters and immunities granted by the crown or the feudal lord, and where the crown was feeble, voluntary associations secured them from the rapacity of the nobles. The latter acquired a relish for luxury; to obtain money they alienated their lands, and soon felt that they had transformed their obedient retainers into sturdy independent yeomen and citizens. The lamp of learning was relumed; the study of the scholastic theology and philosophy, and of the Roman law, sharpened men's intellects; travels into the East enlarged their knowledge of the earth; the use of the mariner's compass emboldened their navigation; gunpowder changed the face of war; paper, and at length the art of printing, gave a more rapid diffusion to knowledge; the taking of Constantinople scattered the learning of the Greeks over the West; schools and universities were numerous; men were become eager for knowledge; classical learning was, in Italy, cultivated with ardour, and a strong feeling of admiration for the institutions and philosophy of antiquity excited; the discourses and writings of Wickliffe, Huss, and their disciples, awakened beyond the Alps attention to the important topics of religion; the discovery of India and the New World filled men's minds with vague aspirations after adventure, conquest, wealth, and knowledge. A universal fermentation was going on. Such was the state of the European mind at the commencement of modern history. The political condition of Europe was chiefly that of extensive monarchies, internally tranquil, and ready to turn their entire forces against each other.—Dr. Lardner's Cyclopaedia—Outlines of History.

PRESENT STATE OF HISTORY.—In the south of Europe, as if for a warning to others to shun the evil, civil and religious despotism are still suffered by Providence to display their heinous forms; but in the New World, the incipient and chaotic state of freedom is travelling in the birth of a purer and more regular order of things. The "march sublime" of liberty is, we trust, not to be retarded for ages to come. England has led the way in the glorious career; and the last blemish which stained her fair fame, and afforded a topic of reproach to her enemies, has been removed, while her councils were directed by the warrior who so often had led her armies to victory. Eto perpetua.—Ibid.

WALKING.—Walking is the best possible exercise; habituate yourself to walk very far.—The Europeans value themselves on having subdued the horse to the uses of man, but I doubt whether we have not lost more than we have gained by the use of that animal. No one has occasioned so much the degeneracy of the human body. An Indian goes on foot nearly as far in a day, for a long journey, as an enfeebled White does on his horse; and he will tire the best horses. A little walk of half an hour in the morning, when you first rise, is advisable. It shakes off sleep, and produces other good effects in the animal economy.—Jefferson's Memoirs.

NO BAD RULE.—"I never come too late to a friend's dinner," says Boileau, "for I have observed, that when a company is waiting for a man, they make use of that time to load him with abuse."—Alcum.

PAY OF THE ARMY.—A comparative statement of the pay of the army in 1792 and 1829, has lately been published by order of Parliament. In the long interval between these years, the income of officers has experienced scarcely any alteration. The Colonel, Lieutenant Colonel, Major, Captain, Lieutenant, and other Subalterns, even of the Life Guards, had in 1792, pay and allowances quite as good as the present. The great alteration has been in the pay of the privates and non-commissioned officers of the infantry regiments. The Life Guards private has had about 25 per cent. added to his pay; the Horse Guards private somewhat less; the regular cavalry man has had an increase from 8d. to 1s. 3d.; but the infantry private enjoys just double what he had in 1792. His increase of pay adds not far from a million sterling to the public burthens. Widows' pensions have doubled since 1792. In that year the widow of the Lieutenant-Colonel received only £40; she is now entitled to £80. The pay of an able seaman has increased only from £1 4s. to £1 1s., per month, since 1792.

The whole of the French constituent body does not much exceed 80,000 persons; this comparatively small number, not much exceeding quadruple the electors of Westminster, returns members for 32,000,000 inhabitants; to be an elector for the smaller colleges it is necessary to pay £12 sterling to the state in direct taxes, and the qualification for a departmental elector is frequently £40 or £50. The votes of these electors are taken in more than 300 colleges or assemblies, in few of which the electors exceed 1,000, and in most of which they fall short of 500, and no popular addresses are permitted to influence their minds when met to give their suffrages.

Bonaparte frequently declared the Duke of Orleans to be the only member of the Bourbon family fit to fill the throne of France.

Ms. J. Mackintosh