

THE PLUCKED PASSMAN:

A SKETCH FROM NATURE.

I watched a student struggling for his life—
 Fate was too strong—he yielded in the strife.
 Remembrance sighs to think such things have been,
 And sadly photographs the tragic scene!
 He sat before Inquisitors: his eye
 Glared round the Hall in restless agony,
 Perused the ceiling, and anon recurred
 In vacant woe to that terrific word.
 He tried his nails—no inspiration there—
 With desperate clutch he ruffled up his hair,
 But all in vain! the text was Virgil's page,
 Crammed with conundrums by that hated sage,
 Whose herbs and horses, wondrous ploughs and bees,
 With hosts of unintelligible trees,
 Conspire to form a mystery sublime,
 The plague of Passmen to all future time.

The cool Inquisitor began to "hem!"
 Spectators tittered,—heartless brutes! to them
 The sight was comic,—but alas! to him
 The point for laughter seemed exceeding dim.
 He paused one moment, then in inmost breast
 His fervent vows thus silently addressed:
 "Spirit of Bohn! if e'er, with lecture nigh,
 "To aid, not thine, I weakly sought to fly,
 "Forsake me now; but, if I've ever shewn
 "On thee dependence, and on thee alone,
 "Oh! help me now in one gigantic 'do,'
 "And let me, let me fluke in safety through!
 "Is it a plough-tail, or a May-bug, or—
 "But no—'tis useless—I will guess no more—
 "Here goes! I'll risk the May-bug at a shot—
 "I think it's right!"—The Examiner thought not!—

BULLY FOR HALLAM!

We have all heard of *learned pigs*. DIOGENES the other day encountered a *literary bull* in a classical locality where he least expected to find it. It is a noble specimen of the *genus*, and is the property of HENRY HALLAM, the celebrated historian. The animal is constantly on exhibition in Mr. HALLAM'S "Section on Anatomy and Medicine during the 16th century," and may be recognized by the following label affixed to it:

"No one, as yet, had exhibited the structure of the *human kidneys*; Vesalius having examined *them only in dogs*." (P. 335, Vol. II. of Hallam's "Literature of Europe": Am. Ed.)

The *bull*, thus illuminated by the *bull's-eye* of DIOGENES, seems to throw into the shade all taurine rivals. Nemoean bulls, bulls of Bashan, and even Papal bulls, are nowhere. Strange to say, Mr. HALLAM, the breeder of this bull was NOT an Irishman.

FOULER PLAY.

When a *humptious* Professor was lately in this city, Diogenes paid a visit to that astute Philosopher. Hundreds and hundreds of gulls flocked to the phrenologist's *sanctum* and were duly plucked. Diogenes was a witness of many farcical scenes, and smiled cynically at the folly of mankind. The Professor was lavish in his advice to each "subject," as to the life-partner best suited to his tastes, temper, and general requirements. It was infinitely amusing to watch poor little Tomkins writhing with vexation, while the operator, in portraying the woman that he ought *not* to marry, described in detail the hair, features, height, and figure of Mrs. Tomkins. As this lady is bound to see the written particulars of her husband's "chart," won't little Tomkins catch it nicely?

"SPARE THE ROD AND SPOIL THE CHILD."

THERE is a report current in the English newspapers that flogging has been abolished in several of the Public Schools. If this statement be true, DIOGENES deeply regrets it, for he conscientiously believes that the *birch* is the *fundamental branch* of knowledge, most needed in all boys' schools. His advice on the subject of the education of the young has ever been—*stick* them to it. You *must cane* a boy occasionally, if you wish to make him *able*. The rod is a means to be applied to *an end*. These maxims will be found invaluable.

DIOGENES treats with cynical contempt the assertion that corporal punishment makes boys *dull and stupid*. Nay, more. He is content to refer this point to the boys themselves, who, one and all, are prepared to make affirmation that a moderate use of the cane invariably makes them *smart*.

A SLIGHT INCONGRUITY.

"Liners," as they are professionally called, whose duty it is to record Daring Robberies, Horrible Suicides, Cruel Impositions, Extensive Conflagrations, Brutal Assaults, Alarming Accidents, Ingenious Frauds, Enormous Gooseberries, *et hoc genus omne*, are naturally strong on their adjectives. Occasionally they employ epithets which are not quite the thing. The *Herald's* report of a recent fire in Aylmer Street stated that "*the firemen worked like fiends amidst the flames*," but not before it had extended to the adjoining building was the fire extinguished. It is due to the *cool* perseverance of the firemen that the flames did not extend to the adjoining block."

DIOGENES cannot help thinking that the term *cool*, as applied to "the firemen who worked like fiends amidst the flames," is a little out of place. It is an instance of what Mrs. Malaprop calls "a nice derangement of epitaphs."

AN ADDITION TO MODERN ENGLISH.

Diogenes learns from an American paper, that a young man named Whitehead, aged 21, has been sentenced to three years' imprisonment at Boston, for bigamy. The prisoner married his first wife in Buffalo four years ago; since that time up to his arrest, he has married two others, and was engaged to be married to a fourth.

Etymologically, and according to Blackstone, the word *bigamy* means "the offence of contracting a *second marriage* during the life of the husband or the wife." The term *bigamy*, then, is not strictly applicable to Mr. Whitehead's case; and *polygamy* is perhaps too strong an expression to be used in reference to one, who, after all, married *only three* wives. Diogenes ventures to coin a new word by way of compromise, and suggests that *Brigham*, derived from the first name of a famous Mormon, is a term well suited to all such marriages.

ADVICE TO A YOUNG OFFICER.

AIR: "Little Jack Horner."

Read, without scorning,
 Diogenes' warning,
 Don't go to a Ladies' Bazaar:
 They'll slip pink sugar-plums
 'Twixt your fingers and thumbs,
 And then say what a bad boy you are!

SEEING DOUBLE?

"METEOROLOGICAL DISPLAY.—Last night, or rather early this morning, the heavens were brilliant with *flying meteors* and *shooting stars*."—Montreal *Daily News*, November 14.

Light Taxes.—The U. S. tax on lucifer matches.