



From the *Taken*, for 1837.

### THE MOTHERS JEWEL.

Jewel most precious thy mother to deck,  
Clinging so fast by the chain on my neck,  
Locking thy little white fingers to hold  
Closer and closer the circlets of gold—  
Stronger than these are the links that confine  
De'er my fond bosom this treasure of mine!  
Gift from thy maker, so pure and so dear,  
Almost I hold thee with trembling and fear.

Whence is this gladness so holy and now,  
Felt as I clasp thee, or have thee in view?  
What is the noose that slips over my mind,  
Drawing it back if I leave thee behind?  
Soft is the bondage, but strong is the knot—  
O! when the mother her babe has forgot,  
Ceasing from joy in so sacred a trust,  
Dark should'er eye be, and closed for the dust.

Spirit immortal with light from above,  
Over this now-opened fountain of love,  
Forth from my heart as it gushes so free,  
Sparkling, and playing, and leaping to thee,  
Painting the Rainbow of hope till they seem  
Brighter than reason—too true for a dream!  
What shall I call thee? My glory? My sun?  
Thee I cannot name thee, thou beautiful one!

'Rilliant celestial' so priceless is worth,  
How shall I keep thee unspotted from earth?  
How shall I save thee from ruin by crime,  
Dimmed not by sorrow, untarnished by time?  
Who from the thief and the robber who stray  
Over life's path, shall I hide thee away?  
Purer is the setting but richer the gem,  
Oh! thou'lt be coveted—sought for by them!

I must devote thee to ONE who is pure.  
Touched by whose brightness thine own will be sure.  
Borne in his bosom, no vapour can dim,  
Nothing can win, or can pluck thee from him.  
Seamless and holy the garments he folds  
Over his jewels that closely he holds.  
Hence unto him be my little one given!  
Yea, for of such is the kingdom of Heaven!

Letter from Sir J. Herschel read at the  
British Association for the advancement of  
Science at Bristol, August 21.

“*FELHAUSEN*, Cape of Good Hope,  
June 13th, 1836.

“By your last, which only reached me  
yesterday, (though dated on the 16 of March.)  
I learn that the meeting of the British  
Association will take place early in August.  
Had it been in September, it might have  
been practicable for me to have drawn up,  
(not without difficulty) somewhat of a  
detailed report of my proceedings here. As  
it is, however, nothing short of a miracle  
could enable me to do so in time for your  
meeting. The fact is, since our arrival here,  
I have been so entirely occupied with the  
mechanical processes of observations, and the  
actual cutting and carrying of my harvest,  
that I have not had any time to thresh it out  
for consumption; or, to drop figure, I have  
got a monstrous collection of rough observa-  
tions, but hardly a figure reduced. So much  
as this, however, I may say, that I have

swept over all, or nearly all that part of the  
heavens, which is incisable, or hardly visible  
in England, except just in the immediate  
vicinity of the pole (a most barren region,)  
and (favoured by a season of almost unin-  
terrupted clear sky, and a definition and  
tranquility of the stars under great apertures  
and magnifying powers which I want  
language to express,) have amassed a large  
collection of nebulae and double stars of all  
classes, orders and degrees. Of some of the  
most remarkable objects which have occurred  
to me I have sent a brief list to Schumacher,  
who may probably have inserted them in his  
*Astronomical Journal*; I can here only find  
time or room for a few general remarks.

“The general aspect of the southern  
circumpolar region, including in that expres-  
sion 60 or 70 deg. of S. P. D. is in a high  
degree rich and magnificent, owing to the  
superior brilliancy and larger development of  
the Milky Way, which from the constellation  
of Orion to that of Antinous, is in a blaze  
of light, strangely interrupted, however,  
with vacant and almost starless patches,  
especially in Scorpio, near Centauri and the  
cross; while to the north it fades away pale  
and dim, and is in comparison hardly  
traceable. I think it is impossible to view  
this splendid zone, with the astonishingly  
rich and evenly-distributed fringe of stars of  
the third and fourth magnitudes, which form  
a broad skirt to its southern border, like a  
vast curtain,—without an impression amount-  
ing to a conviction, that the Milky Way is  
not a mere stratum, but an annulus, or at  
least, that our system is placed within one of  
the poorer and almost vacant parts of its  
general mass, and that eccentrically, so as to  
be much nearer to the parts about the cross,  
than to that diametrically opposed to it.

“The two Magellanick clouds, *Nubecula*  
*Major* and *Minor*, are very extraordinary  
objects. The greater is a congeries of stars,  
clusters of irregular form, globular clusters  
and nebulae, of various magnitudes and de-  
grees of condensation, among which is  
interspersed a large portion of irresolvable  
nebulae, which may be, and probably is, star-  
dust, but which the powers of the twenty feet  
telescope show only as a general illumination  
of the field to view, forming a bright ground  
on which the other objects are scattered. Some  
of the objects in it are of very singular  
and incomprehensible forms; the chief one  
especially (30 Doradus), which consists of  
a number of loops, united in a kind of un-  
clear centre or knot, like a bunch of ribbons  
disposed in what is called a true lover's knot.  
There is no part of the heavens where so  
many nebulae and clusters are crowded into  
so small a space as this 'cloud.' 'The  
*Nubecula Junior*' is a much less striking  
object. It abounds more in irresolvable  
nebulous light, but the nebulae and clusters  
in it are fewer and fainter, though immedi-  
ately joining to it is one of the richest and  
most magnificent globular clusters in the

hemisphere (47 Toucani). It is somewhat  
singular that this nebula is placed a full  
hour too late in Right Ascension in all maps  
and catalogues, probably owing to a misprint  
or other similar cause of error, in the autho-  
rities employed to construct them.

“The great nebulae in Orion and Argi  
are, however, by far the most surprising  
objects this hemisphere presents. The former  
appears to much greater advantage than in  
our latitudes, and presents many appendages,  
branches, and convolutions, which are not  
discernible in its low situation in Europe.  
The latter is an object sui generis, and which,  
without a figure, it would be useless to  
attempt a description of. I should mention  
that I have spared, and shall continue to  
spare no pains to procure correct drawings  
of these and the other southern nebulae. I  
cannot trace in Argi, as seen in the twenty  
feet, any resemblance to the figures published  
of it; though in the seven feet equatorial  
(furnished with a five inch achromatich  
object glass) some leading features of those  
figures may be recognized. It is of immense  
extent, and crowded with stars, to which the  
nebulae form a brilliant back-ground.

“The planetary nebulae of the southern  
circumpolar sky are numerous (for the class  
of objects) and highly characteristic. I have  
discovered no less than five, quite as sharply  
terminated in their discs as planets, and of  
uniform light. Indeed, the first on which I  
fell was so perfectly planetary in its appear-  
ance, that it was not until several observations  
of it at the Royal Observatory, by Mr.  
Maclean, had annihilated all supposition of  
its motion, that I could relinquish the  
exciting idea that I had really found a new  
member of our own system, revolving in an  
orbit more inclined than Pallas.

“You may form some idea of this, as  
regards clearness of sky, from what was told  
me by our provisional governor, Colonel  
Bell,—viz. that out of forty-two successive  
days, he had only three times been disap-  
pointed in finding Venus, with the naked  
eye, in broad sunshine (at 3 A. M.). I read  
with ease, a few nights ago, the most involved  
parts of a lady's closely crossed letter by the  
light of an eclipsed moon, then near the  
zenith—(certainly the eclipse was not a  
great one).”

### STATIONARY, &c.

The Subscriber offers for sale on reasonable  
terms:

**WRITING PAPER** of all kinds,  
Drawing and colored Paper.

BLANK BOOKS, various sizes.

SCHOOL BOOKS of all kinds, and  
a variety of cheap Historical and  
other works, Children's Books.

Slates, Penknives, &c.

ALSO. 100 reams Printing Demy  
Paper; Wrapping do of various sizes, and  
a large assortment of Blank Cards.

November 4.

J. MUNRO.