

POETRY.

"THE POET'S WIFE."

I saw her in her father's halls,
Amid the fairy scene;
The banners on our ancient walls
Were decked with laurel green;
The beautiful—the brave—the fair—
The grave—the gay—the young,
Did to my father's hall repair,
When I was twenty one.
And in that crowd one lovely crest
Prominently shone;
All eyes upon her seemed to rest,
All hearts her beauty own.
I saw her tread the mazy dance,
The envy of each eye;
I gazed upon her till by chance
The beauteous maid drew nigh.
When in a voice so sweet, so clear,
Greeting she gaveto me;
'Twas rapture to my soul to hear
Those tones of melody.
She sang—it seemed as though a spell
Did o'er my senses steal;
Oh! that a poet's pen might tell
What none but poets feel!
I listened with a new delight
That voice—its magic thrill!
Touched every nerve, and in night's dream
I heard—I heard it still.
Her song upon my slumbers broke;
It fell upon my ear,
Like sounds in sweetest accents spoke—
It seemed to hover near.
That lovely face and fairy form,
Now clear me through the day,
And o'er me from light till morn,
Their bright and beauteous ray.
And years have passed—and mine has been
A gay unclouded life;
For she who shared that splendid scene,
Is now the Poet's wife!

LAND BREEZE BETWEEN THE TROPICS.

"The forests of Brazil are filled with aromatic plants whose germinations are often wafted many leagues to sea."
To the Elysian borne pilgrim
Alone on the seas,
How sweet comes the perfume
Of land with the breeze!
'Tis the breath of a summer
Eternal in spring;
The faintest fragrance
Of sun-gladdened zephyr!
These wanderings of sweetness,
How welcome they are!
That tell of a country,
Unseen and afar;
Like the morning they advent
Aye ushers a smile;
And the rovers' heart dances
In joyance the while,
To cheer his lone vigil
At midnight they tell
Of meadow and mountain,
Of forest and dell—
Till his eye o'er the ocean
Forgetful to roam,
And he walks in his slumber
The fields of his home.
Thus oft on life's billow,
With dark tempest driven,
The voyager faces
The breathings of Heaven!
The past and the present
Remembering no more,
He greets in his vision
The world that's before.

ROBBERY AT ST. JAMES'S PALACE.

For some length of time past various articles of plate, table linen, and other articles, belonging to his Majesty at St. James's palace have disappeared by degrees, and although every endeavour has been used, the thief could not be discovered. The mysterious manner in which the property went, could not for a length of time be discovered; but the police, who have within the last few days been most indefatigable in their exertions, have at last gained a clue by which there is no doubt the delinquent will be brought to justice. A female was taken into custody a few days ago and underwent a long examination at Queen-square police office on suspicion of having been concerned in these robberies. It appeared from the evidence of William Clifton police constable B, that he was sent by his inspector to search for a man named Hill who, it was understood lodged at 2, Cottage place Sloane Street. He inquired at the house, and was informed by the landlady that she had not seen him for some days, but that he had left some of his things with her and she had put them altogether in a room by themselves. He asked her to look at them, which she complied with instantly. He found two handsome cut decanters and other articles together with seven pawnbrokers' duplicates for plate and table linen, pledged at different shops. The name and address of the person who pledged the property were on the duplicates, and he imme-

diately proceeded to the address of the prisoner at Brompton. He questioned her if she knew a person of the name of Hill, which she at once admitted, and said he lodged at her house but had gone away in her debt. On showing her the duplicates she admitted also that she had pledged the articles for Hill, when he was too ill to leave his bed. He then told her it was his duty to take her into custody.

A shopman to Mr Ravenor pawnbroker at Brompton, produced a pair of silver wine labels, on which were engraved his Majesty's arms, which were pledged at their shop for five shillings on the 13th of June by the prisoner. On questioning her about the labels she said, they had been made a present to a Mr Hill, for his good conduct whilst in his Majesty's household, and that he had sent her to pledge them.

Charles Bond, shopman to Mr Kimber, pawnbroker at Knightsbridge, produced a silver chain and a pair of silver gilt wine labels, which had been pledged at two different times at their shop in June last.

Mr Gregorie—Should you know the person who pledged them?
Witness—I don't think I should.

Mr Gregorie—Did the prisoner pledge them?
Witness—I do not recollect who it was.

John Jewers stated, that he was one of the yeomen of the silver pantry, in his Majesty's household. The wine labels produced were the property of his Majesty.

Mr Gregorie—Do you know when they were missed?
Witness—I cannot exactly say.

Clifton here produced some glass cloths marked with his Majesty's arms, which were found amongst Hill's things.

Zacchens Heale stated that he was yeoman in the ewery department in his Majesty's household. The glass cloths produced were the property of his Majesty. The table linen was under his care, and he had the giving of it out to the table decorators. He had missed a large quantity of similar glass cloths and also various other sorts of table linen belonging to his Majesty.

John Goring, a shopman to Messrs. Rundell and Bridge, examined the wine labels produced, and said that they were of their workmanship. They had made such labels for his Majesty, but he could not positively swear they were the same as they had made labels of a similar pattern for others.

Clifton said that he had not had time to get all the property found. At one pawnbroker's there was a very handsome damask table cloth with his Majesty's arms wove in the cloth.

Mr Gregorie asked the prisoner what answer she had to make to the charge.

The prisoner said that about three months ago Hill called at her house. She had never seen him before, but she had a bill in the window and he wanted to look at her lodgings. He took the back parlour, and agreed to pay her 2s. 6d. per week. He represented himself to her as the head decorator at St. James's palace. He had not lodged with her many days, before he was taken extremely ill with a gathering in his throat and was attended by Dr Anderson of Brompton. He was very short of money at this time, and said he must be forced to send to Windsor for £5 and requested her to pledge the things for him, telling her they were given to him for his good conduct at St. James's Palace. A short time ago he left her 27s. in her debt for his lodging, and she had never seen him since.

Mr Gregorie—Whose house is it you live in?
Prisoner—My own house; it was settled upon me on my marriage.

In answer to further questions she said she pledged the articles for Hill out of humanity, seeing him so very ill and in want of some little necessities; she had not the most remote idea they were stolen.

One of his Majesty's household here said there was a man named Hill who occasionally assisted in decorating the tables at the Palace. He did not belong to the household but was a kind of extra servant on particular occasions. He had not seen him lately.

The husband of the prisoner was called in and interrogated by Mr Gregorie and he gave a similar statement to that of his wife.

Mr Gregorie said that after the investigation that he was happy to say there was nothing to affect the prisoner's character: her statement was straightforward, and he believed her quite innocent; he should not detain her longer and she was discharged. If however Hill was taken into custody she would be a very necessary witness, and he should require her attendance at the office to give evidence.

The prisoner said she should be ready to come forward at any time.

Mr Gregorie gave directions to the police to use every exertion to apprehend Hill, and for the last few days the most searching inquiries have been made after him in every direction.

Since the above examination a strict enquiry has been instituted at the Palace, and property to a much larger amount than could be imagined has been found to be missing.

Yesterday morning William Hill the person alluded to in the above proceedings, was brought up in custody by Mr Inspector

Bannister, and placed at the bar before Mr Gregorie charged with stealing plate and other articles the property of his Majesty. The prisoner was taken at his lodgings in Princes court Pimlico, in bed.

Joseph Ewer identified the prisoner as being employed on particular occasions as an assistant table decorator at the Palace and as the person alluded to in the first investigation.

Mr Gregorie asked him if he wished to wish to say any thing at present, as he must remand him until all the witnesses could be in attendance.

The prisoner said he had nothing to say, and he was remanded accordingly.

NEW STATUE OF CANNING IN WESTMINSTER ABBEY.

This statue, executed in marble, by Chantrey, out of the proceeds of a subscription set on foot and maintained some years ago by the friends and admirers of the deceased statesman, has lately been placed upon its pedestal in Westminster Abbey, it stands in the north transept, surrounded by the cumbersome and crumbling monuments of the olden time; and by the newness and purity of its material, but still more by the simple dignity of its design, presents a marked and in some respects a harsh and displeasing contrast to the pompous and time-honoured (i. e. stained and mutilated) elevations in the neighbourhood. This observation forcibly applies to the Newcastle family on the right and left, one of which is nearly as big as a moderate sized house and rich in architectural ornaments and devices, carved in many coloured marbles of great rarity. The statue of Mr Canning in front of one of the pillars which support the roof of the transept on the eastern side. It is upon a modest circular pedestal of dove-colored marble. The face looks towards the organ loft. The folds of which are sustained by either arm crossed over the chest. The attitude is that of an orator in the act of addressing with calmness and deliberation a public assembly the head is thrown back the left leg somewhat advanced. In the right hand is a scroll of paper, and at his feet are two thick volumes which may be "Hansard's Debates," or "Ridgeway's Collection of State papers," as the reader's or spectator's fancy may suggest. Mr Chantrey would seem to have borrowed the original idea of the attitude and character of the figure from Sir Thomas Lawrence's very happy portrait of Mr Canning, exhibited by the Royal Academy eight or ten years ago. The statue is in all respects worthy the fame of the great sculptor—There is no stiffness or formality; but all is easy, natural and graceful, and above all it is like the man.

To produce a resemblance, is after all the master secret of the art. Mr Chantrey has done this, and in doing it, has avoided that heaviness and vulgarity so plainly conspicuous in another statue of the same subject not a hundred miles from the Abbey. We cannot compliment the committee on taste, upon the selection of the spot upon which they have planted this production. They were probably limited in their choice of situations: but an erect statue should have a central position, and if possible stand alone. Underneath the pavement of the north transept are the vaults which contain the ashes of Fox, Pitt, Grattan, Londonderry, and lastly of Canning. Facing the statue which is the subject of this notice, are the monuments of Lord Chatham and Lord Mansfield—the latter by Flaxman, representing the judge seated upon the bench of justice. The following which seems to be a very humble imitation of Mr Canning's splendid composition for the Pitt monument in Guildhall is the

INSCRIPTION.

"George Canning, born on the 11th April 1779. Died 8th August, 1827. Endowed with a rare combination of talents, an eminent statesman, an accomplished scholar, an orator surpassed by none, he united the most brilliant and lofty qualities of mind with the warmest affections of the heart.—Raised by his own merit he successively filled important offices in the state and finally became the first minister of the crown. In the full enjoyment of his sovereign's favour and of the confidence of the people, he was prematurely cut off when pursuing a wise and enlarged course of policy, which had for its object the prosperity and greatness of his country, while it comprehended the welfare and command the admiration of foreign nations. This monument was erected by his friends and countrymen."

FRIVOLOUS LEGISLATION.—"What a good man Mr — is! he would put a stop to that horrid drunkenness." "What a good man Mr — is! he would put a stop to that barbarous duelling." "What a good man Mr — is! he would put a stop to that filthy smoking." "What a good man Alderman — is! he would put a stop to omnibuses and great broad wheel wagons." "What a good man Mr — is! he would put a stop to the eating of unripe plums, and the swallowing of cherry stones." There are a thousand things which it would

be most desirable "to put a stop to," if the balance of evil did not lie on the side of the attempt at prevention. It needs no ghost to tell us that all excesses are bad, but are the uses to be abolished because they may exceed temperance? The poor labourers drink too much—a law then against liquor. The rich citizens eat too much—a law then against turtle and venison, prohibit made dishes, allow no drawn gravies, forbid soups and let not mutton broth exceed a certain strength. Look at the gouty legs, the bloated faces, and the red noses about town. See the number of clubs; smell the steam of the kitchens; observe the deaths by apoplexy—assume an increase of gormandizing, and appoint a committee to inquire into it.—Why does not the world dine on a mutton chop? Nature requires no more—Make it penal to put more than one sort of meat on the table. Enact that the viands shall not be eat at the premises, for when men dine together, they indulge more freely in eating and drinking. Limit the breeding of sheep and oxen, so as to fix the supply proportionally to absolute wants, and short of the excesses of luxury. Let chickens be only sold by apothecaries to sick people. Teach children to abhor pastry and desserts. Impose heavy penalties on any nobleman, gentleman rich merchant or other who is detected with a full stomach. Any man who can walk lightly and actively after dinner should be punished. Any sign of heaviness should like to stammering, or reeling of the topor warrant the imposition of a penalty. But it may be said gormandizing is not attended with the ill effects of drinking, yet it has its mischiefs; for some men eat away large estates, as others drink away small earnings; and farther we see it in acts of Parliament the vexations which pudding headed men inflict after dinner. In all the meddling it is easy to trace the class which legislates. If laws were made by the poor, we should have committees sitting to enquire into the increase of gallantry and gaming, and all the proficiencies of fashion. However desirable it may be that there should be less intoxication we believe that on the whole the vice is on the decline, and that the people are becoming more sober in exact proportion to their advancement in civilization.

SPIRIT DRINKING AND THE TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.—At a meeting lately held in the vestry-room of the St Clement Danes, London, Mr Prout, the perfumer, residing in Piquet-street, brought forward a motion for a Parliamentary inquiry into the cause of the increase of drunkenness, which he said prevailed among the lower classes. He observed that the Temperance Society consisted of 76,500 persons, nearly the whole of whom he presumed were spirit drinkers before they became members. If each of those persons consumed three ounces of spirits per day, it would appear that the whole 76,500 persons drank in the course of the year, 9,150,915 ounces of spirits, or 910,865 gallons. The Temperance Society might say that that was not a fair calculation. He would therefore suppose that 50,000 of the persons he had before mentioned, consumed two ounces of spirits per day, that would amount to 317,340 gallons; and the other 26,500 consumed half-a-pint per day, that would amount to 593,125 gallons; amounting to nearly the same amount of gallons he had before stated. Mr Wakely said that an inquiry into the cause of drunkenness had occupied the attention of medical men for ages, but none of them had decided that it was a disease. He considered that drunkenness proceeded from a want of propriety of mind originating in ignorance, and to remove it, he recommended the abolition of the taxes on knowledge. He did not consider that spirit drinking did as much mischief as physicking, an opinion which was supported by several eminent medical men who had stated that medicines, and particularly patent medicines which were sold by Mr Prout did more mischief than all the gin shops in the metropolis.

GIGANTIC THISTLE.—There is now growing in the garden of Mr Benjamin Archbell at Healough near Tadcaster, a holly thistle which has attained the astonishing height of seven feet six inches. It has one hundred and one heads, and measures twenty one feet in circumference.

RECIPROCIITY AND FREE TRADE.—The following is a literal copy of a billet sent by a clerk of a parish in Warwickshire to a neighbouring friend of the same calling:

"Dere John—Will you bury my wife, and ill bury your ony uthur day when you want me I shall be very happy any time, i ham youre to be obliget

W. Turner.

LARGE MUSHROOM.—A mushroom of the following gigantic dimensions was plucked on Thursday last, from a pasture field at Sutton Hall. Circumference two feet five inches and a half, breadth nine and a quarter inches, length of stem eight and a half inches, circumference of stem five and a half inches.

LITERATURE.—The progress of literature, that is to say the perfecting of the art of thinking and expressing ourselves, is necessary for the establishment and preservation of liberty.