

THE CONCEPTION-BAY MAN.

SELECT POETRY.

ATHEISM.

BY MRS L. H. SIGOURNEY.

"The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God."—PS. XIV. 1.

"No God, no God!" the simple flower
That on the wild is found,
Shrinks as it drinks its cup of dew,
And trembles at the sound;
"No God!" astonished echo cries
From out her cavern hoar,
And every wandering bird that flies
Reproves the Atheist's lore.

The solemn forest lifts its head,
The Almighty to proclaim;
The brooklet on her crystal bed,
Doth leap to praise his name;
High sweeps the deep and vengeful sea,
Along its billowy track,
And red Vesuvius opens its mouth,
To hurl the falsehood back.

The palm-tree, with its princely crest—
The cocoa's leafy shade—
The bread-fruit bending to its load,
In yon far island glade—
The winged seeds, borne by the winds,
The roving sparrows feed—
The melon of the desert sands—
Confute the scorner's creed.

"No God!" with indignation high
The fervent sun is stirred,
And the pale moon turns paler still,
At such an impious word;
And from their burning thrones, the stars,
Look down with angry eye,
That thus a worm of dust should mock
Eternal Majesty!

A REGRET.

Thou wert the fairest creature,
That ever walked the earth;
And beauty lit each feature,
And told thy matchless worth.
Thou wert too fair a treasure,
For this unloving world;
Each thought was like a pleasure,
With Heaven's white glory perled!

I saw thy brightness dying,
Thy life draw to its close;
And paleness on thee lying,
Like moonlight on a rose!
And death seemed proud to kiss thee,
Thy precious life he stole;
In earthly form we miss thee,
But Heaven has won thy soul!

Thy smile about me lingers,
Unto the present hour;
And death's relentless fingers,
Had only partial power.
Thy body was the shadow,
That hid thy spirit's glow,
The immortal sprang to Heaven,
The mortal lies below!

The shadow has forever,
From thy pure spirit gone;
The two were made to sever,
And God has taken one!
The earth thy form has taken,
Thy lips are mute and cold
Thy looks are all forsaken,
And I seem growing old!

'Twas well perchance thy history,
On earth was quickly o'er;
Life's problems or death's mystery,
Will pain thy heart no more!
Yet why should I feel sorrowed?
The body only dies;
And Heaven has only borrowed,
What God has made to rise!

EXTRACT FROM A SPIRITED ARTICLE FROM THE (LONDON CANADIAN NEWS), PUBLISHED BY MESSRS. ALGAR & STREET. April 30.

The colonies are confided to the care of successive members of cabinets who never saw a piece of British territory out of the United Kingdom, and however able and clever he may be as an administrator, can possess no sufficient knowledge of the wants, the feelings, and sympathies of the inhabitants.

This question of representation of the British colonies in the Imperial Legislature is one which, sooner or later, must be dealt with by the Government if they are anxious to retain the loyalty and attachment of the colonists to the mother country. The case of British North America has been most forcibly put before the public in a recent address of Judge Haliburton, delivered at Glasgow, "In North America," he says, "there are five colonies, covering a space larger than all Europe, unconnected among themselves, and unconnected with England: with five separate jurisdictions, five separate tariffs, five different currencies, and five different codes of law; with no common bond of union and no common interest; with no power to prevent the aggression of strangers, or of one on the other,—no voice in the regulation of their trade their intercourse with each other, with foreign powers,

or with England." These five different colonies, so completely ignored by the Government at home are peopled by more than three millions of inhabitants; they occupy a seaboard greater in extent than a line from Liverpool to New York, their coast is navigated by more than six thousand ships, and among their hardy and enterprising population are to be found a million of men capable of bearing arms, and it rests with our Government at home whether those arms shall be used for or against Imperial authority. Under the existing disjointed system these colonies are of far less value to the country, than they would be if brought into more united action, and in closer connection with the mother-country. Judge Haliburton illustrates the anomalous position in which the North American colonies are placed, and the astounding adherence to routine at home, by a fact which, unless coming from so high an authority, could scarcely be considered as credible. An offer was he says, made during the late war, to raise two regiments in Canada, to be commanded by colonial officers—but to be like others, under the command of the General-in-chief, whoever it may be. "The offer was returned from London unanswered it had been addressed to the wrong office." And yet at this very moment we were carrying on a system of recruiting in the United States which almost involved us in hostilities with that power, and produced a most unpleasant diplomatic rupture; we were actively engaged in embodying German, Italian and Swiss legions, and we subsidised a Sardinian army to assist us in operations against the enemy. From the many millions of colonial subjects, not a company, a troop, or a file was raised to aid us in the struggle. There may be deep motives of state policy in all this, which the multitude are unable to comprehend; but there is also one result from it, which the colonies are rapidly beginning to appreciate, and that is, that the position which they occupy is not such as is fitting to free men or worthy of the dignity of British subjects. They begin to perceive that the position which they occupy among the nations of the world is an undefined and unintelligible one, and the American colonist finds that "he is neither Scotch, Irish, nor British; he is neither a native, nor a foreigner, an American, nor an Englishman; he is neither fish nor flesh. He is less than a Yankee skipper for he has his consul, and less than a Haytian nigger, for he has his black ambassador. He has no nationality at all—he is nobody.

Fully sensible of their position, the more intelligent of the people of British North America have looked around for a remedy for a state of things alike injurious to the material interests of the mother country and of the colonies, and derogatory to the character of British subjects. They perceive that several courses are open to them. Adjoining them is a powerful neighbour who regards it as his destiny to rule the whole American continent. The United States are desirous that these fine provinces should be incorporated with them; they hold out the promise that the Canadas and the other colonies could return a hundred members to the Congress at Washington, that their rights and interests would be protected and not bartered away by treaties in which no reciprocal advantages were gained, that they or their children would be eligible to fill the highest offices of state, and that they would take rank and position among the nations of the world. But an innate feeling of loyalty and devotion to the old country, a deep seated affection for the name of a British subject, and a reverence for old institutions, have been proof against the blandishments and seductions of Yankee promises. The North American colonies will be British as long as the mother country will permit them with a due regard to feelings of self-respect, to continue to bear that name. Others again, considering the disjointed character of the governments of Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Prince Edward's Island, and New Britain on the Hudson's Bay territory, look forward with hopeful confidence to the time when a federal union of these colonies shall place upon a footing of uniformity the laws affecting their commerce and local institutions, and uniting altogether in one bond of unity, form a powerful confederation which shall serve as a counterpoise to the growing power of the United States.

Such a federal Assembly it is that they are anxious to see represented in the Imperial Parliament by delegates chosen from among themselves, and who should pay an undivided and exclusive attention to all matters affecting the rights, the privileges, and the interests of the united colonies. A third party contemplates complete incorporation with Great Britain, that they should form part of a really united kingdom, should send their fair proportion of members to the British Parliament and that they should be able to establish a humble rivalry on the American continent between this "United Kingdom" and the already powerful "United States." There is a fourth alternative—Independence—it was attempted to be acted on a few years since, and the results were by no means satisfactory either to the colonies or to the Home Government. Of all the plans suggested that which is most in accordance with the theory of the British Constitution, most congenial to the feelings of Englishmen, is that which would admit of the representa-

tion of the colonies in the British House of Parliament. Politicians and statesmen may see difficulties in the way, but if a Government would be popular at home and respected in the colonies, they would do well to consider and provide for these difficulties; and when the question of Parliamentary Reform is really put forward in a tangible shape, let it include some provision for the representation of our colonial empire in the Great British House of Commons.—Patriot.

(From the Glasgow Weekly Guardian)

The intelligence of the ratification of a treaty of peace between Great Britain and Persia unfortunately has not reached the latter country in time to prevent another conflict and a further effusion of blood. On the 26th of March, Mohammerah was captured by the British under Sir James Outram. The loss of the Persians was 200 killed and wounded besides seventeen guns and much ammunition. It is stated that the tidings of the treaty of peace had been sent on from Bagdad to the seat of war on the 27th of March, but the collision occurred the day before the intelligence was despatched. Mohammerah is situated at the junction of the Karoon river with the Tigris; and the banks of the Karoon form an easy road between Mohammerah and the city of Suser, a place of some importance in the neighbourhood of the ancient Susa. A subsequent despatch conveys the information of another success achieved by a portion of the expedition which had been detached for a separate movement upon Ahwaz, which had returned to Mohammerah on the 4th of April, reporting that the large Persian army had returned from their position and retreated towards Dizful, although the British troops on this service were only 400 strong. The enemy left behind one gun and extensive military stores.

Praiseworthy Conduct.—Some twenty years ago, Mr. Donald Mc Dougall, of the Clan Tartan Warehouse, Inverness, became unfortunate, and compounded with his creditors for something like 7s. in the pound, when he procured an honourable discharge in full of all claims. He had never lost sight, however, of his obligations, and at length saw his way to make full restitution to all concerned, when he paid every individual to whom he had been indebted 20s. in the pound. Upwards of £4000 he recently remitted to Glasgow for this most laudable purpose; and as it is alike creditable to the recipients and the truly honest man referred to, we have great pleasure in chronicling the fact that his creditors in this city resolved unanimously to appropriate 10 per cent. of the amount raised for the purpose of testifying, by the presentation of a handsome service of plate, their high appreciation of Mr. Mc Dougall's conduct. A large party of gentlemen—merchants in the home trade—asssembled accordingly, on Thursday afternoon, in Carrick's Royal Hotel, George Square, when Mr. Mc Dougall was entertained at a sumptuous dinner, and presented, amidst the most enthusiastic applause with the testimonial so highly merited. The duties of the chair and vice-chair were ably discharged by Sir James Campbell of Stracathro and by ex-Bailie John Gilmour.

THE BRITISH AND FRENCH ELECTIONS.

France is on the eve of a general election of members of the Legislative Chamber. The *Journal des Debats* this week holds up to the admiration of the public the recent example of Great Britain—"the interesting spectacle of a free people who transact their affairs amidst the greatest political excitement, without any one in the three kingdoms, or on the Continent, apprehending the slightest injury to social order, or interruption to the regular march of government." We have, indeed, abundant reason to congratulate ourselves as a nation on the peaceful progress and results of the late general election; for with the exception of certain significant recalcitrations of the Roman Catholic electors in Ireland against the obtrusive interference of their bishops and priests, and the riot in Kidderminster, which is to be feared, had its origin in the unhappy alienation of the lower from the upper classes, the late contest passed over with unparalleled tranquillity. The extensive change in the personnel and in the old party alliance, of the House of Commons shows also how little after all the constituency of our free country can be controlled by undue influence, in whatever quarter exercised. A general election is undoubtedly one of the things we manage better in the United Kingdom than they do in France. In eulogising England for the love of social order which moderates the political fervour of a contested election, the Paris journal, by a too expressive silence, reproaches France for a Government which is merely tolerated, because it secures protection by enforcing peace, and which the French may fear or respect, but cannot possibly regard with patriotic affection and confidence. The public opinion of the departments likewise oozes out in the provincial journals, in guarded expressions of dissatisfaction with a make-believe privilege which is in reality denied to them. Government is sending down its own candidates to be returned by the departments, and these the electors know they must take "for better or worse." They very naturally begin to think (writes the Paris corres-

pondent of the *Times*) that as order and tranquillity are now, as the Government itself boasts, generally and solidly established, no danger can result from the relaxation of excessive restraint, and a more extensive toleration to the citizens in the exercise of their electoral rights. The basis of the great and durable structure has long been laid; the edifice, we are told, is every day acquiring more strength; but the people feel that the liberty which the Emperor long ago promised should crown the summit, is still to be waited for.

Government is not unaware of the growing discontent of the people; but instead of showing any disposition to conciliate popular opinion by timely concession, the Ministry are just now making more than usually strenuous efforts to secure a majority. With a view to this end they are effectually gagging the press, and all its attempts to stimulate and direct free public opinion are at once stifled under the censorship. How long is this to endure? With all our hopes of the Emperor Napoleon, we cannot help regarding this tenacious adherence to arbitrary power as a sad and portentous fact, indicative either that the present ruler of France is determined to govern in right of his own will alone, or what is more probable, that France has learned nothing from the stern discipline of the past, and is as unfit to be entrusted with the privilege of self-government under the Emperor Napoleon as she was under Louis Blanc, Ledru Rollin, and the rest of the fraternal and democratic Republicans. Louis Napoleon cannot trust himself or he cannot trust his people. Either alternative is to France an unmitigated misfortune, and to Europe a perennial source of disquiet and danger.

Extract of a letter from Canada West, date 6th May 1857.

"A novel event is to take place in London in the course of a few days—nothing less than the Election of a Bishop. For the first time in the history of the English Church, the Sovereign has waived the right of nomination and transferred it to the people: a striking instance of the liberality of the Home Government, and of their determination to allow the Colonists to settle their own affairs—from the establishment of a Cod Fishery to the appointment of their Ecclesiastical Rulers.

SPAIN.

OPENING OF THE CORTES.

MADRID, Friday.
The Spanish Cortes have been opened. The Royal Speech was read by Narvaez. The Speech congratulates the Cortes upon a reconciliation with the Holy See, and amicable relations with Russia. It expressed a hope that diplomatic relations with Mexico will be speedily resumed.

DIED AT HIS POST.—The *Joliet* (Illinois) Democrat says:—"A sad, but beautiful and touching scene, was witnessed at the accident of the Du Page-bridge. On the morning after the accident the slow tolling of a bell was heard. On looking to see whence it came, it was discovered to proceed from the engine, as it lay submerged in the water. The waves, as they foamed and surged over the sunken engine, swayed the bell, which alone, with the smoke-pipe, appeared above water, and caused it to give a slow tolling sound. When the engine was raised from the water the engine was found in a standing posture, with his stiff, cold, icy, hand firmly grasping the throttle-valve, as though amid the thick darkness he had discovered the perilous condition of the train, and had sprung to avert the ruin. But it was too late; the engine and train, with their precious freight of life and property, went down, and during the dreary night the engine-bell and the mad rushing waters rang out a solemn requiem for the dead! It is probable that had not the freight train gone down as it did, the passenger train from Chicago, due two hours later, and loaded with sleeping passengers, would itself have taken the fatal plunge."

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