

in diameter, which weighs only five grains, and a lady's entire dress, with sleeves, but without seam, which M. Habenstreet has presented to the Queen of Bavaria, by whom it has been worn (above another dress) on several occasions. The instinct of these caterpillars, leads them to construct above themselves a covering of extreme fineness, but, nevertheless, firm enough to be almost impenetrable by air; and M. Habenstreet taking advantage of this circumstance, makes them work on a suspended paper model, and in any direction he pleases, by merely touching the limits which ought not to be passed, with oil, for which the animals have such a repugnance, that they will not come in contact with it. Each caterpillar produces about half an inch square of the fabric. The manner of their weaving has no analogy to *ours*; with us the threads are interwoven, whereas these caterpillar-weavers place their threads one above the other, and glue them together by means of a gummy composition, which they extrude along with the threads. Although the fabrics hitherto produced, have been so remarkable for their fineness, M. Habenstreet says, that he can make them of any thickness he desires, by making his caterpillars pass repeatedly over the same plane. The expense of the manufacture is another point strongly in its favour, a shawl of an ell square, costing only eight francs.—*London Mechanics' Magazine.*

ORIGIN OF POETRY.

THE origin of poetry is thus accounted for, in the EDDA, the sacred book of the Scandinavians:—

"The gods formed *Cuaser*, who traversed the earth, teaching wisdom to men. He was treacherously slain by two dwarfs, who, mixing honey with his blood, composed a liquor that renders all who drink of it poets. These dwarfs having incurred the resentment of a certain giant, were exposed by him upon a rock,

surrounded on all sides with the sea. They gave for their ransom the said liquor, which the giant delivered to his daughter *Gunloda*. The precious potion was eagerly sought for by the gods; but how were they to come at it? *Odin*, in the shape of a worm crept through a crevice into the cavern where the liquor was concealed. Then, resuming his natural shape, and obtaining *Gunloda's* consent to take three draughts, he sucked up the whole; and, transforming himself into an eagle, fled away to *Asgard*. The giant, who was a magician, flew with all speed after *Odin*, and came up with him near the gate of *Asgard*. The gods issued out of their palaces to assist their master; and presented to him all the pitchers they could lay hands on, which he instantly filled with the precious liquor; but in the hurry of discharging his load, *Odin* poured only part of the liquor through his beak, the rest being emitted through a less pure vent. The former is bestowed by the gods upon good poets, to inspire them with divine enthusiasm. The latter, which is in much greater plenty, is bestowed liberally on all who apply for it; by which means the world is pestered with an endless quantity of wretched verses."

PETER'S WIFE'S MOTHER.

A COUNTRY parson for five successive Sundays preached from the same text, the beginning of which was, "And Peter's wife's mother lay sick of a fever." The parson one day passing by the church heard the bell tolling, and being ignorant of the cause, asked a lad who was going by at the same time, why the bell was tolling. "Whoy," says he, "I doant know but as how it may be Peter's wife's mother, for she's been sick of a fever the last five weeks."

INSTANCE OF MEMORY.

IT is stated, that *Josef del Castillo*, a Spaniard, who was frequently employed by Philip II. in matters of great importance, in which he ac-