

POETRY.

From Blackwoods Magazine, for October.

THE AGES.

A THOUSAND years—a thousand years !  
 So long a time has worn away,  
 And o'er the hardening earth appears  
 Green pastures mixed with rocks of grey;  
 And there huge monsters roll and feed,  
 Each frame a mass of sullen life;  
 Through slimy wastes and woods of reeds  
 They crawl, and tramp, and bleed in strife.

A thousand years—a thousand years !  
 And o'er the wide and grassy plain,  
 A human form the prospect cheers,  
 The new-sprung lord of earth's domain.  
 Half-clad in skins he builds a cell,  
 Where wife and child create a home;  
 He looks to Heaven with thoughts that swell,  
 And owns a Might beyond the dome.

A thousand years—a thousand years !  
 And lo ! a city and a realm;  
 Its weighty pile a temple rears,  
 And walls are bright with sword and helm :  
 Each man is lost amid a crowd;  
 Each power unknown now bears a name,  
 And laws, and rites, and songs are loud;  
 And myriads hail their monarch's fame.

A thousand years—a thousand years !  
 And now beside the rolling sea,  
 Where many a sailor nimbly steers,  
 The eager tribes are bold and free.  
 The graceful shrine adorns the hill;  
 The square of council spreads below;  
 Their theatres a people fill;  
 And list to thought's divinest flow.

A thousand years—a thousand years !  
 We live amid a sterner land,  
 Where laws ordain'd by ancient seers,  
 Have train'd the spirit of command;  
 There pride and policy and war,  
 With haughty fronts are gazing slow,  
 And, bound at their triumphal car,  
 O'ermaster'd kinge to darkness go.

A thousand years—a thousand years !  
 And chivalry and faith are strong;  
 And through devotion's sorrowing tears,  
 Is seen high help for earthly wrong.  
 Far gleams the cross with sunny light;  
 Beneath a dim cathedral arch;  
 'Tis raised, the burgher Staff of Right,  
 And heads the stately feudal march.

A thousand years—how swift the chain  
 That drags along our slight to-day !  
 Before that sound returns again  
 The present will have stream'd away,  
 And all our World of busy strength  
 Will dwell in calmer halls of Time,  
 And then with joy will own at length,  
 Its course is fix'd its end sublime.

MISCELLANY.

UTILITY OF SIMPLE BEVERAGES.

THE introduction of tea and coffee has led to the most wonderful change that ever took place in the diet of modern civilised nations—a change highly important both in a physical and a moral point of view.

Food is taken for two purposes—to nourish and sustain the body, and to refresh, stimulate, or exhilarate the animal spirits. Solids, generally speaking, afford much more nourishment than liquids, but it is worthy of remark, that the refreshing or exhilarating substances, with some trifling exceptions are all liquids. The

body may be supported in vigour upon many different kinds of aliment, and the business of society carried on almost equally well, whether men live on fish, flesh, or fowl; or corn, pulse, or nutritious roots; or a mixture of all these together. Considered as a social being, it is of little consequence what man eats; but it is of great consequence what he drinks. Upon the nature of the refreshing and stimulating beverage consumed, depends the nature of the animal spirits; and this, in its turn, has a powerful influence upon the sensations, the mental activity, the feelings, the temper—in a word, upon the social and moral character of the individual. Previous to the introduction of tea and coffee, fermented liquors of some species—wine, ale, beer, or cider—were the drinks universally used by persons of both sexes, for the purpose of exhilaration. Every body has heard of Queen Elizabeth's maids of honour breakfasting upon beef steaks and ale. Now, the quality of all these liquors arises from the portion of alcohol they contain; and hence the vivacity of spirits they excite, is, merely a lower species of intoxication. Three evils necessarily attend the habitual use of such a beverage. First, that, even when used in moderation, it generally confuses the brain as much as it quickens its activity; secondly, that a little thoughtlessness, or want of controul, leads to inebriety; and, thirdly, that when the excitement has subsided, a proportional depression of spirits follows, while the sensibility of the system is impaired, and in course of time worn out, by the constantly recurring action of the alcoholic stimulus. Let us suppose, that, when these drinks were in universal use as articles of food, and when statesmen, lawyers, and merchants, were no doubt seen with muddy heads in a forenoon, any one had discovered a species of wine or ale which had the refreshing and exhilarating effects required, without confusing the brain or leading to intoxication, would not such a man have merited a statue from the conservators of the peace in every town and country of the empire? Now, this is exactly what the introduction of tea and coffee has accomplished. These beverages have the admirable advantage of affording stimulus, without producing intoxication, or any of its evil consequences. To the weary and exhausted, they are beyond measure refreshing. They give activity to the intellect, without confusing the head, &c. being followed by that annoying depression which impels the drinker of ale or spirits to deep, and more frequent potations, till he ends in sottishness and stupidity. To the studious they are invaluable; and they are perfectly adapted to the use of females, which ale or wine never can be. They render the spirits elastic, the fancy "nimble and forgetive;" and hence they greatly aid the flow of rational and cheerful conversation, and promote courtesy, amenity of manners, serenity of temper, and social habits. The excitement of wine, ale, or spirits, even if it were as pure in its nature, never stops at a proper pitch. The drinker of liquor has hardly become gay or animated, when a glass or two additional carries him to the stage of boisterous jollity, which is too often followed by beastly inebriety. Then his carousals are succeeded by a woeful flatness. He is listless, torpid, unsocial, perhaps crabbed and sulky, till he is again on the road to intoxication. Take half a dozen men even who are not drunkards, and observe what a difference there is in their conversation, in point of propriety, piquancy, and easy cheerfulness, in the two hours after a coffee breakfast, and the two hours after a dinner, at which they have been enjoying wine or spirits merely in moderation. Lovers of tea or coffee are in fact, rarely drinkers; and hence the use of these beverages have benefitted both manners and morals.

LONDON SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION.

We have the report of this society which was presented at its Anniversary in May. It was established in 1803, and its objects are to encourage the promotion of religious education, to improve the methods of

instruction, to promote the establishment of schools, and to supply "books and stationery" for the Sunday Schools at reduced prices. The Union has a fund to assist in the building of suitable rooms for Sunday Schools. The amount appropriated for this purpose last year was about twelve hundred dollars. It employed but one agent, who visited about eighteen counties, delivering public addresses to children, teachers, and parents. To encourage the use of libraries, the Union offered collections of books at very reduced prices, and supplied in this manner 164 schools. It was ascertained that of the 27,633 scholars in the schools thus supplied, 14,469 were able to read the Scriptures.

In the city of London the Union has 4 auxiliaries, comprising 566 schools, 8,370 teachers, and 82,740 scholars.

The sales at the depository amounted to \$40,000. The Society depends chiefly on the Religious Tract Society for its supply of library books. The only publications of its own during the year were, a Mtp. Lectures delivered at the request of the Union, and the "Normal School Manual."

In the appendix to the report of the London Sunday School Union are tables of the returns of the state of education in the several counties of England and Wales, made to Parliament in 1833. The result is as follows—the average being adapted to the population of 1831.

Totals of England, Totals of Wales, Grand Totals,	Population in 1831.		Total of Daily Schools of every description.		Average to Population.		Total of Sunday Schools of every Denomination.		Average to Population.	
	Schools	Scholars.	Schools	Scholars.	Schools	Scholars.	Schools	Scholars.	Schools	Scholars.
13,091,005	13,897,187	37,542	122,137	1 in 106	14,928	137,571	1 in 97	431	23	
806,182	38,971	1,429	54,810	1 in 144	1,890	178,171	1 in 44	83		
			127,697	123	16,827	154,880	7	2464		

In the above summary, infant-schools, and preparatory schools of every description, are included under the head of daily schools, together with colleges, (except those at Oxford and Cambridge,) grammar, boarding, and proprietary schools, with national and British schools, &c.

The large returns from some of the counties in Wales, of scholars in Sunday-schools, is accounted for by the fact that many are adults, or beyond the age of fifteen years; as, for example, in Merionethshire, the scholars returned in Sunday schools are 13,800, whereas the number of children between five and fifteen years, in the population, even in 1831, according to the usual calculation of 24 per cent. (viz. 35,315 souls) would be only 8,472, leaving a surplus for adults of 5,328.

AGENTS FOR THE BEE.

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- Miramichi—Mr. H. C. D. CARMAN.
- St. John, N. B.—Mr. A. R. TRURO.
- Halifax—Messrs. A. & W. MCKINLAY.
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