POETRY.

A LEAF THAT REMINDS OF THEE.

From "Handy Andy" No. 6.

Copied from The Mark Lane Express).

How sweet is the hour we give,
When fancy may wander free,
To the friends who in memory live!—
For then I remember thee!
Then, wing'd like the dove from the ark,
My heart, o'er a stormy sea,
Brings back to my lonely bark,
A leaf that reminds of thee!

But still does the sky look dark,
The waters still deep and wide;
Oh! when may my lonely bark
In peace on the shore abide?
But through the future far,
Dark though my course may be,
Thou art my guiding star!
My heart will turn to thee!

When I see thy friends I smile;
I sigh when I hear thy name;
But they cannot tell the while
Whence the smile or the sadness came.
Vainly the world may deem
The cause of my sighs they know;
The breeze that ruffles the stream,
Knows not the depth below.

ON THE DEATH OF A YOUNG LADY.

Oh! she was too good for this world of care,
Where flourish rank weeds and droop fair flowers,
And her spirit has soar'd far away;
She was like the first dawn of a bright summer's morning,
Ere it bursts into beautiful day!

She was like the blush of the budding rose
Ere into the ripen'd flower it blows;
Or like the sweet blossom of May,
Which blooms premature for the cloudy day,
And fades into early decay!

Her thoughts were too pure and her soul too bright
For this vale of dark phantoms and shapes of night;
She perished in early bloom!
And the buds of beauty with dew are mourning
On her hallow'd and silent tomb.

ALCESTES.

CURE OF HYDRAPHOBIA.

The Austrian Government have published the following notification of remedy in case of Hydraphobia:—

"Whenever a person has been bitten by a dog, the under surface of the tongue is examined, and the sublingnal veins are generally found to be considerably swollen. They are opened, and the blood allowed to flow until it stops itself. The patient is then ordered to take 25 grains of gentiana crociatica. This is the strongest dose, but it should be varied according to the age and constitution of the patient and the intensity of the disease. It should be cut up into small pieces, and pounded in a martar with water, until a clear solution is obtained. It should be taken during nine days successively, before breakfast in the morning. At the same time the bite should be treated in the following manner. If the patient has only been recently bitten, the wound should be washed with spirits of rosemary, and then dressed with a plaster composed of two portions of flour and rye and one portion of the wood of the Juniper tree, finely pulvelised, with a sufficient quantity of brandy to bring it to the consistence of a thick paste. If the wound be deep and dangerous, then equal portions of the two first substances may be taken. If the hydraphobia has already assumed a violent aspect, the patient must be incased in a straight waistcoat, in order to prevent him from doing mischief either to himself or others. The above remedy must be applied, taking 30 grains of the root of gentiana crociatica, instead of 25 grains. It will occasionally be found necessary to resort to force to induce the patient to swallow the medicine. At the expiration of three hours the dose must be repeated. Should the patient not come to his senses after the second dose, an entire root must be placed in his mouth with great precaution. The patient will chew it with avidity, and if he swallow the remainder of it, it may be looked upon as a favourable symptom. The veins should not be opened unless the patients are tranquil, or have partially or entirely recovered their senses. As soon as the blood has ceased to flow, some broth should be given to the patient, who will then fall into a deep sleep, in which state he will remain for eight or ten hours. During this sleep, a glutinous mucus will collect in the mouth, which is very important, indeed essential, should be removed."—*English paper.*

The following extracts from "A Lecture by Mr. Smith of Deanston, on Drainage," delivered at the Bristol meeting, we consider highly deserving the attention of our farmers:—

"After apologising for the alteration of the time of lecturing, Mr. Smith proceeded:

"I need not, before such an audience, say that to the agriculturist the dryness of land is of great importance—that, in fact, the dry condition of the soil is the foundation of all good husbandry. It is beneficial in the first place, to the working of the soil; it is beneficial also to the after-growth of the plants, and there is scarcely any labour connected with agriculture which is not facilitated by the dryness of the soil. If we look on the face of nature we may gather instruction on this subject; for if we find a tree stronger than his neighbour, we shall find that there the soil is deep and in a dry condition. If we see a stronger and darker-coloured herbage growing on the hill side, there the soil will again be found deep, and in a dry condition. There is not one of the various soils on the surface of the United Kingdom, which will not be much improved by being placed in a dry condition, if they are not so by nature. I would say that even on a subsoil of gravel or sand the introduction of the thorough drain system would be beneficial; but as there is only a small portion of that sort of soil in this country, the greater part being super-imposed upon a wet soil, it becomes of the very first importance to the progress of improvement in agriculture, that means be taken to render the condition of the soil dry. Many attempts have been made with that view, but they have generally failed, in consequence of not having been done on a proper principle. The first system introduced into this country, was to excavate deep drains, for the purpose of catching the water that rose from below in the form of spring water. These were, to a certain extent, effectual, and no doubt removed a great deal of the difficulty which agriculturists had to contend with, on land partially wet and partially dry; but until the introduction of the thorough drain system, there was not the power of draining land, on whatever subsoil resting, and rendering it thoroughly and completely dry.—The purpose of this lecture is to illustrate, first, the principle on which this system acts; then, to show the advantages which would arise to the agriculturist in carrying on the different processes with respect to the various crops; and then to explain the modes employed to render this drainage effective, both as to the cutting of them, and to the preservation of the openings made for the escape of the water. * * *

It is the suggestion of scientific gentlemen who have turned their attention to the subject of agricultural chemistry, that the rain in falling from the atmosphere absorbs a considerable quantity of ammonia; and if there is any affinity in the soil for ammonia, if the soil wants ammonia, the affinity will extract the ammonia from the water, the ammonia remaining in the soil for the nourishment of plants. It is also known, that where artificial manure is put into the soil, some of the fibrous parts of it will be carried away with the water, and be carried down to the region to which it belongs; and although not so near the surface as it was before, it is near enough for the plants to reach it when they put down their roots.

A very peculiar change takes place in any subsoil—it does not matter what composed of—after it is ploughed. This change begins to take place immediately, and the soil gradually goes from the state in which it was before to that of a mould. If you examine a soil which has become mould, it is of a very peculiar structure It appears as if all the particles were connected together, and it seems to have some sort of attractive property by gathering together in that way. Vacuities for the air are thus formed, and there is a great tendency to absorb and retain as much moisture as is useful to the plant. If it is filled entirely with moisture it is injurious to the plant, but if there is a certain quantity it becomes beneficial; and when a great depth of soil is attained, there is great advantage indeed, in anticipation of either a wet season or a dry one. In a wet season the water flows away, leaving the soil in a dry state; but in consequence of the mouldering state in which the soil is, it is very retentive of moisture, and there is a great magazine of water preserved in soil for a dry season. Being covered by the active soil, the drought may penetrate a few inches, but in consequence of the lower part of the soil being covered with this upper statum, it is defended from the extreme action of the rain, and a very dry atmosphere. Consequently, it will be found that in soil so treated and converted into this mouldy condition, in very dry seasons sufficient quantity of moisture will be retained for the use of the plants, which will grow vigorously when land in the same neighbourhood is completely dry.

A notion has prevailed with some people, that it is possible to drain land too much. I do not think so, from the very fact that the mould becomes an excellent magazine for the retention of moisture. A circumstance took place in regard to this in my own district, in 1826, a very dry season. In that year there was such a long period of dry weather, that the pond was dried up, and there was a great deficiency of crops. I had a field which had been treated in the way I have explained, and I had a crop of hay on it. The hay in the country round was very poor indeed, producing not above half a crop. On this field, which I had deepened to 16 inches, I had a very splendid crop. A proprietor of land in the neighbourhood, one of the old school, resisted to the utmost of his conviction, with regard to the result of thorough draining and subsoil ploughing. A person occasionally employed by me was also engaged in doing work for him. He had asked about this hay, and the old gentleman was rather puzzled at the state of the