

The Weekly Observer.

BEING A CONTINUATION OF THE STAR.

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THE GARLAND.

BAPTISM.
Thou know'st, my boy, while we lowly are kneeling
Before the sole Refuge where sinners can flee,
For thee is the sigh of solicitude stealing,
The voice of devotion is rising for thee.
Sweet bud, in thy beauty and innocence swelling!
Believing, yet trembling, we come to receive
A promise, a covert of safety, repelling
The blast of the moon and the blast of the ere.
The bosom where now thou recliest may yield thee
A shelter, a rest, through thine infancy's span;
But all unavailing and helpless to shield thee
From ills that must darken the pathway of man.
The sun is before thee, the pang and the sorrow,
The breath of the syren, the voice of the roe,
The crime of to-day, the despair of to-morrow,
And all that can sever the soul from its God.
Thou smilest, my babe, on the stream that is stealing
Like dew o'er the rose of thy innocent face:
Oh! thus may the Saviour, his mercy revealing,
Thy Spirit refresh with the waters of grace!
And thus, unceasing and meek as we view thee,
Receive thou theunction that comes from above,
And welcome thy Lord, if he deign to renew thee
An heir of his kingdom, a child of his love.
Now, triumph and honour, thanksgiving and blessing
To Him who was slain that the sinner might live!
The gift of his grace, which we joy in possessing,
He died to receive, and receives but to give.
This armour of proof we are girding around thee;
—For he had been wounded and fallen in the fray,
And oh, may the helmet of salvation have crown'd thee
A glory and guard through life's perilous way.

THE MISCELLANEOUS.

QUADRILLING.
At the London Court of Requests, Mr. Nicholas Tobbs appeared before the Commissioners upon a summons to show cause why he refused or neglected to pay the sum of £1. 17. 6, being the balance of an account alleged to be due from him to Miss Julia Slattery, of which account the following is a true copy, as it was handed into Court on behalf of the plaintiff:—

“Mr. Tobbs to Miss Slattery,
1259 January to June six months
in Strachan for Miss Tobbs 6 0 0
Deduct cash and od thing 4 2 6
Balance still due 1 17 6

The Court, taking the singular orthography of Miss Slattery's account into consideration, asked her what kind of “instruction” she had given Miss Tobbs?

“On dear!” said Miss Slattery—“finishing instruction of course. I am peculiar sorry to say that Miss Tobbs' education has been neglected shameful thro' the perspicuity of her father, Mr. Tobbs here; and by her mama's desire I gave her the *cou de grace*.”

The Court: That was finishing her with a vengeance! You don't mean to say you kill'd her?
“Heavens above! what an horrible idea!” shrieked Miss Slattery. “No kill her! Oh dear! No indeed, I never *questiculated* such a thing.”

The Court: Then what do you mean, Madam, by saying you had given her the *cou de grace*?”

“Why, of course, I gave her the grace!” replied Miss Slattery. “All the grace she has got from me; for Miss Tobbs, poor thing! had been so shamefully put about that she noo nothing. But by my superior intuitions, and being herself extreme seditious in learning, she is now fit for any company, for I have given her a grace in the hearing herself in the *ka-drille*; (query, *quadrille*!) and in the *resuscitation* of her *finger*; and so.”

The Court: Well, Mr. Tobbs, you bear what the lady says—and perhaps you understand her better than we do. What have you to say why she should not order you to pay the claim?”

Mr. Tobbs: Why, I've got to say as this: Who employed she to be meddling and making with my darter?

Miss Slattery: Who employed me; I was not employed—I was engaged, Mr. Tobbs; and as I was engaged by your wife, who has more sense in her thumb-nail than you have in your whole body—Tobbs!

Mr. Tobbs: Very good, and now your worship's I'll just take and tell you all about it.—My wife says to me, Tobbs, says she, what do you think? I don't know, says I. Why, says she, there's a nice old lady up in Mr. Davis's two pair front, wot's took a notion to our Bridget—that's my darter, your worship. Well, says I, and what of that? for I keeps a *coalshed*, your worship, and does a trifle in salt fish and green grocery besides. Why, says my wife, says she, you know, Tobbs, Bridget's a big wench now; and if you'll let the old lady finish her up a bit in dancing and pannyforting, she'll take it out in coals and wedgetybles; says my wife to me—just so. And with that, I says my wife, says I, Shut your potato trap, Mrs. Tobbs, says I; and you mind your business, and let Bridget mind the shop; for I'll have no such tithery-humming and gallivanting, I can and do assure you, Mrs. Tobbs, says I. No, but Tobbs, says she. Don't Tobbs me, says I; I'll have no more words about it—and with that I thought it was all dropped; till one morning as I was getting out of bed, I sees my wife's pocket hanging out from under her end of the bolster, and out of the slit of the pocket this here note were sticking:—[Note handed into court and read by the clerk:]

“Miss J. Slattery's compliments to Mrs. and Miss Tobbs, and requests the honor of their company to a *quadrille party* on Friday evening.”
Mr. Tobbs, in continuation: Blow me! your worship, if you mightn't have knocked me down with a feather, you might indeed. So I crumples up the note, and I drops it into my wife's mouth—for she has got an ugly knack of sleeping with her mouth wide open, you'll understand; and I whips on my things, and down stairs I creeps, leaving her fast asleep with the note in her mouth; and off I goes to market to buy my green stuff and six sacks of white-eye potatoes—

Here the court cut short Mr. Tobbs' narrative, by peremptorily ordering him to state why he objected to pay.

“Why, because I laid a *sembargo* upon it!” replied Mr. Tobbs. “I sent her word, time after time, if she quadrilled my Bridget I wouldn't be answerable; I quarrelled with Mrs. Tobbs; and I were everlasting blowing up Bridget. But what can one do agen three women? It were all of no use; say what I would, do what I could, my coals, cash, and turnips, were *clandestinated* out of my house to pay for the quadrilling, and I verily believe they'd have drilled me into a *quod*, if I had not put a stop to it by packing Bridget off to her uncle's at Northampton.”

Evidence was then called to prove that he had repeatedly given Miss Slattery notice that he would not be answerable; and of course she was nonsuited.—London paper.

[From the Life of Manie Whitch.]

THE BUCKSKIN BREKERS.—“Well, speaking about buckskins, I'll tell ye a good story about that.”

“Ye see, ye ken,” said Thomas, “that the Bread-bane Peachler, a wizen Highland Buckkie, were put into camp at Ploverrow haka.”
“At that time, as I was observing, the butcher didn't supply a company of companies, according to the terms of a contract, drawn up before honorable witness, between him and the purchaser; but the soldiers got beef-money along with their pay; with which said mancey, given them ye observe, in terms of the statute, to buy, purchase, and provide, the said beef, twice a-week or oftener, as it might happen an orderly officer making inspection of the camp-kettles regularly every forenoon at 1 o'clock or thereabouts.”

“So, as ye'll pay attention to observe, there was a private in Capt. McTavish's company, the second to the left of the centre, of the name of Duncan MacAlpine, a wee, hardy, black aviced, inn-knee'd creature, remarkable for azeething that I ever heard tell of, except being reported of having shotten a gauger in Badenought, or thereabouts; and for having a desperate red nose, the effects, ye observe, of drinking spiritous liquors; ye observe, I daur say, the effects of drinking malt speerits.”

“Well, week after week passed ower, and better passed ower, Duncan played off his tricks, like another Herman Boaz, the slight-o-hand juggler, him that suspectet to be in league and paction with the de'il. But ye'll hear.”

“So when all were watching beside the camp-kettles, some stirring them with spurtles, or parritch-sticks, or forks, or whatever was necessary, the orderly officer made a point and practice of regularly coming bye, about the chap of one past meridian, as I observed to ye before, to make inspection of what ilka ane had warded his pay on, and what he had got simmering in the hot water for his dinner.”

“So, on the day concerning which I am about to speak, it fell out as usual, that he happened to be making his rounds, halting a moment or two may be, before ilka pot; the man that had the charge thereof, by way of stirring like, clapping down his lang fork, and bringing up the piece of meat, or whatever he happened to be making kail of, to let the inspector see whether it was lamb, pork, beef, mutton, or veal. For, ye observe, the purpose of the officer making the inspection, was to see that they laid out their pay-money conform to military regulation; and not to fylling their stomachs, and ruining bath sowl and body, by throwing it away on whiskey—as but ower money, that aibins should hap keaned better, have done but too often.”

“Ye see the officer, Lovetennat Todrick, I believ they called him, had made an observance about Duncan's kettle; so, when he came to him, Duncan was sitting in the louse side of a dyke, with his red nose, and a pipe in his cheek, on a big staid, glowing frae him suthier way, and as I was saying, when he came up to him he said, “Weel, Duncan MacAlpine, what have ye in your kettle the day man?”

“And Duncan, rinning down his lang fork, answering in his ain Highland bregue way—“Please your honor, just my auld favorite dish, tripe.”

“Deed, Duncan,” said Lovetennat Todrick, “or whatever they ca'd him, ‘it is an auld favorite sorely, for I have never seen ye have ony thing else for your dinner, man.’”

“Every man to his taste, please your honor,” answered Duncan MacAlpine; “and ilka ane please her main sell,—hauling up a screen half a yard lang. ‘Ilka man to his taste, please your honor, Lovetennat Todrick.’”

“Veratrous,” said Lovetennat Todrick, “but lift it out a'thegither on that dish, till I get my spees on; for never since I was born, did I ever see before, belted tripe with buttons and button-holes tuffill!”

“Buttons and button-holes!” quo' Duncan MacAlpine. “Look again, wi' yere spees; for yere surely wrang, Lovetennat Todrick!”

“Buttons and button-holes!” and “deed I am surely right, Duncan,” answered the Lovetennat Todrick, taking his spees deliberately off the brig of his nose, and faulding them together, as he put them first into his morocco case, and aye into his pocket. “Howsoever, Duncan MacAlpine, I'll pass ye ower for this time, gif ye take my warning, and for the future, ware your pay-money on wholesome butcher's meat, like a Christian, and no be trying to delude your ain stomach, and your officer's een, by hoodling up, on a fork, such a heathenish mak-up for a dish, as the leg of a pair of buckskin breeches!”

MANUFACTURE OF CUTLERY.

The number of hands through which a common table knife passes in its formation is worthy of being known to all who use them. The bar steel is heated in the forge by the maker, and he and the striker reduce it in a few minutes into the shape of a knife. He then beats a bar of iron and welds it to the steel so as to form

the tang of the blade which goes into the handle. All this is done with the simplest tools and contrivances. A few strokes of the hammer, in connexion with some trifling moulds and measures, attached to the anvil, perfect in two or three minutes the blade and its tang or shank. Two men, the maker and striker, produce about 9 blades in an hour, or 7½ doz. per day. The rough blade thus produced then passes through the hands of the filer, who files the blade into form by means of a pattern in hard steel. It then goes to the haffers to be haffed in ivory, horn, &c. as may be required; it next proceeds to the finisher, and is then packed for sale or exportation. In this progression every table-knife, pocket-knife, or pen-knife, passes step by step through no less than sixteen hands, involving at least 144 separate stages of workmanship in the production of a single pen-knife. The prices vary from 2. 6d. per dozen knives and forks, to £10. In the manufacture of a razor, it proceeds through a dozen hands; but it is afterwards submitted to a process of grinding, by which the concavity is perfected, and the fine edge produced. They are made from 1s. per dozen to 20s. per razor, in which last the handle is valued at 16s. 6d. Scissors, in like manner, are made by hand, and every pair passes through sixteen or seventeen hands, including fifty or sixty operations, before they are ready for sale. Common scissors are cast, and when riveted, are sold as low as 4s. 6d. per gross! Small pocket knives, too, are cast, both in blades and handles, and sold at 6s. per gross, or a half-penny each! These low articles are exported in vast quantities to all parts of the world. Snuffers and trays are also articles of extensive production, and the latter are ornamented with landscapes, etched by a Sheffield artist, on a resinous varnish, and finished by being dipped in diluted nitric acid for a few seconds or minutes.—Sir R. Phillip's Personal Tour—Account of Sheffield.

MONT BLANC.—The most interesting night of the late season of the Royal Institution, was the lecture or narrative, given by Dr. Clarke of his ascent of Mont Blanc in 1825. Dr. Clarke led his audience from Geneva to the summit, detailing the enterprise, which, however, he considers not by any means so dangerous as has been represented. At 9,000 feet above the level of the Mediterranean the air becomes extremely rarified, and the sky exhibits a blue-black appearance. He does not consider it at all safe for persons to attempt the ascent, having a tendency to apoplexy, for at the height of 15,000 feet above the level of the sea, the extremely rarified state of the air, as well as the almost unbearable oppression of the sun's rays, though surrounded with snow, would increase that tendency to an alarming extent. So oppressive is the sun, that on sitting down in the shade he was asleep instantly. The passage, just above the Grande Plateau (a surface of ice and snow, many acres in extent, 10,000 feet above the level of the sea) is a point of great difficulty. This chink is about seven feet wide and of immeasurable depth. To get over it the guides first proceed to render the passage more easy. He cautions travellers to pay implicit attention to guides, as the accident in 1822, when three persons sunk into the caverns of snow, was occasioned by this want of caution. It is appalling, said Dr. Clarke, to be carried over an abyss of unknown depth, slung upon cords and drawn over. On arriving at the summit of Mont Blanc the toils are amply repaid. Language cannot depict the scene before the traveller. The eye wanders over immeasurable space. The sky appears to recede, and the vision possesses double power. The Alpine scenery here is awfully grand, and the alternate thaw and freezing (for when the sun is down it freezes rapidly) produces the most grotesque figures. The only living creature found on the summit of Mont Blanc is a small white butterfly (the *anomia*), which flies over the snow. The chemist found 10,000 feet above the level of the sea; Mont Blanc is 15,500 feet above the Mediterranean. Specimens were exhibited of the composition of all the mountains round Mont Blanc. Periodically an immense quantity of snow falls down from the summit of the Mont, enough, as the guide said, to crush all Europe like flies. “On throwing stones down the precipices, thousands of feet deep, the traveller feels an almost irresistible desire to throw himself after them!”—Monthly Magazine.

INTERESTING DISCOVERIES IN SOUTH AMERICA.—In the month of December, 1827, a planter discovered in a field at a short distance from Monte Video, a sort of tomb stone, upon which strange, and to him unknown, signs were engraven. He caused this stone, which covered a small excavation formed with masonry, to be raised, in which he found two exceedingly ancient swords, a helmet, and shield, which had suffered much from rust, and earthen amphoras of large capacity. The planter caused these objects, together with the tomb stone, to be removed to Monte Video, where, in spite of the ravages of time, and the little care taken of the stone, fragments of Greek words could be easily made out, read, and supplied, which, when translated, are to the following purpose:—“During the dominion of Alexander, the son of Philip, king of Macedonia, in the 63d Olympiad, Ptolemaios.” It was impossible to decipher the rest. On the handle of one of the swords was the portrait of a man, supposed to be Alexander; on the helmet there is sculptured work that must have been executed by the most exquisite skill, representing Achilles dragging the corpse of Hector round the walls of Troy, (like the Fabula Heca, the bas-relief of stucco found in the ruins of the Via Appia at Frattocchia, belonging to the Princess of Colonna, which describes all the principal scenes in the Iliad and Odyssey.) It is quite clear, from the discovery of this kind of monumental altar, that

a contemporary of Aristotle has dug up the soil of Brazil and La Plata. It is conjectured that this Ptolemaios was the commander of Alexander's fleet; which is supposed to have been overtaken by a storm in the great ocean, as the ancients called it, and driven on the coast of Brazil, where it erected the above mentioned monument, to preserve the memory of the voyage to so distant a country. At all events, this discovery furnishes a fact deserving the attention of antiquarians.—Journal des Voyages et Archives Geographiques.

CHEMISTRY.—“It is owing to the progress which chemistry has made of late years, that so many important improvements have been introduced into all our manufactures. As the science advances, many new manufactures, of which we have no idea at present, will start into existence. The time may come when sugar, starch, and gum and many similar substances, may be manufactured by uniting their constituents, as soap is made at present. Resin, fat, wax, albumen, and glue, may, hereafter, be made artificially.”

“In short, the progress of chemistry seems undoubted. Could we suppose it brought to perfection, how different would the state of society become! Mankind would be in some measure independent of climate and season: every thing might be produced in every possible situation. A familiar example will serve as an illustration.”

“Before the middle of the last century, the business of bleaching was in the hands of the Dutch. The Scotch manufacturers were in the habit of sending their goods to Holland, and they received them back after an interval of about nine months. About the year 1760, Dr. Home of Edinburgh proposed to substitute sulphuric acid for the sour milk which had been hitherto used by Dutch bleachers. The suggestion was acted upon, and the consequence was, the immediate reduction of the time of bleaching from nine months to three. About the end of the last century, chlorine began to be substituted for exposure to the sun on the grass; and this substitution, after much laborious investigation, has been brought to a state of perfection. The most extensive bleaching houses in Glasgow are now situated in narrow lanes, where neither sun or grass is to be met with; and it is no uncommon thing to receive unbleached goods on the morning of one day, and to return them bleached and ready for the market on the evening of the next!”—Edinburgh Review.

EFFECT OF HEATED AIR OF COMBUSTION.—Since we last noticed, says the Glasgow Chronicle, the application of heated air to blast furnaces, experiments with it have been steadily prosecuted at the Clyde Iron Works, and the result is highly satisfactory. It is completely ascertained, by these experiments, that iron is melted by heated air with three-fourths of the quantity of coals required when cold air, that is, air not artificially heated, is employed for that purpose; while the produce of the furnace in iron is, at the same time, greatly increased. All the furnaces at the Clyde Iron Works are now blown with it. At these works, the air before it is thrown into the blast furnace, is heated to 220 degrees Fahrenheit, in cast iron vessels placed on furnaces, similar to those of steam engine boilers. It is expected that a higher temperature than 220 deg. will be productive of a proportionally increased effect.—But this is still the subject of experiment. It is calculated that this improvement will accomplish a saving in the cost of the iron smelt in Great Britain, to at least £200,000 a year. The fact that heated air is better adapted than cold air, to promote combustion, is now incontrovertibly established by experiment.

LONGEVITY.—From the facts furnished us by history, as well as daily observation, there are strong reasons for believing, that longevity is, in a great measure, hereditary; and that healthy long-lived parents would very generally transmit the same to their offspring, were it not for the common neglect of the rules of health, which so evidently tends to the abbreviation of human life. Whence is it, but from this cause, that of all the children born in large cities, particularly those of Europe, nearly one-half die in early infancy? To what else can we attribute this extraordinary mortality? So astonishing a proportion of premature deaths is a circumstance unheard of among savage nations, or among the young of other animals!

In the earliest ages, we are informed, that human life was protracted to a very extraordinary length; but low few in these latter times arrive at the period which nature appears evidently to have marked, as the limit of man's earthly existence.

Man seems designed to rise with the sun, and to spend a large portion of his time in the open air; to insure his body to robust exercises, and the inclemency of the seasons; and to support himself upon plain and simple food, taken at such intervals as the calls of appetite indicate. But how completely has art defeated the kind intentions of the great Creator; and by enslaving man to all the blandishments of sense, left him an easy victim to his own folly and caprice.

To compare the results presented by our artificial modes of life with those indicated by nature, selecting the examples even from the longest lived upon the list, would afford a very striking contrast, and present one of the strongest reasons why instances of longevity are so very rare, amid the refinements and luxury of a large city.—Journal of Health.

A VILLAGE LIGHTED BY NATURAL GAS.—The village of Fredonia, in the western part of the State of New-York, presents this singular phenomenon. It was detained there a day in October of last year, and had an opportunity of examining it at leisure. The village is forty miles from Buffalo, and about two from Lake

Erie; a small but rapid stream called the Canadaway passes through it, and after turning several mills discharges itself into the lake below; near the mouth is a small harbor with a light house. While removing an old mill which stood partly over this stream in Fredonia, three years since, some bubbles were observed to break frequently from the water, and on trial, were found to be inflammable. A company was formed, and a hole, an inch and a half in diameter, being bored through the rock, a soft fetid limestone, the gas left its natural channel and ascended through this. A gasometer was then constructed, with a small house for its protection, and pipes being laid, the gas is conveyed through the whole village. One hundred lights are fed from it more or less, at an expense of one dollar and a half yearly for each. The flame is large, but not so strong or brilliant as that from gas in our cities: it is however in high favor with the inhabitants. The gasometer I found on measurement, collected eighty eight cubic feet in twelve hours during the day; but the man who has charge of it told me that more might be procured with a larger apparatus.—Silliman's Journal.

DESTRUCTION OF VERMIN IN SHIPS, BY STEAM.—By letters from India, it appears that the application of steam has been found wonderfully efficacious in cleansing ships from vermin, and especially the white ant. A steam boat (the Comet) was placed alongside a merchant vessel, and steam from its boiler conveyed by a very simple system of pipes, into the hold of the latter, the apertures to which were closed as well as they could be. The operation was continued for several hours, and there is reason to believe that it was effectual, and will prove a valuable process in the navy. Besides the direct object of cleansing the ship, another advantage accrued, from the discovery of every leaky place existing, by the oozing of the water through them, in which way leaks were made manifest, that could not be found out otherwise. The expense is said to be very moderate; and it is further stated to be the only process at present known, not even excepting sinking, which effectually destroys the white ant.—Quar. Journal.

SPLENDID ENTERTAINMENT AT CONSTANTINOPLE.—Constantinople, Oct. 11, 1829.—This day, at his country seat, Levend Chiftlik, situate about five miles from the Capital, on the Therapia road, an elegant feast was given by Ali Effendi, the Silticar or Sweet Bearer to the Sultan, to His Excellency Sir Robert Gordon, Admiral Sir Pulteney Malcolm, and several distinguished Officers of the Royal Navy.

The repast was sumptuous in the extreme; every delicacy in abundance, and it will appear almost incredible, that one hundred and ten dishes were successively served up to a company of only seventeen in number. Yet the Turks are a temperate nation!

Dinner was announced shortly after the arrival of the party; and the distinguished host, after having presided some time at the head of his table, withdrew to an adjoining apartment. During this interval, to honour his guests, it was so contrived that the liqueur defendu (of the choicest quality) was introduced, and copious libations poured out to the healths of the Sultan and our own beloved Monarch.

After dinner the Silticar again joined the party, and taking his seat between His Excellency Sir R. Gordon and the Admiral, conversed with them familiarly on various subjects. The office of interpreting devolved on L. W. McCarthy, Esq. M. D., Physician to the Seraglio, and G. Hood, Esq. Dragoon to the British Legation.

In the course of the evening there was a display of fire-works in the court-yard of the Chiftlik, and the band of the Sultan's Guards, chiefly Turks, executed, tolerably well, several pieces of Italian music.

As a finale, were produced, sweetmeats of various kinds, coffee, magnificent pipes studded with diamonds: in fact, nothing was wanting in the shape of Oriental luxury.

The greatest cordiality kept the company together until a late hour, when His Excellency the Ambassador and party retired to the British palace in Pera. Shortly after their arrival, and conformably with Eastern custom, they were joined by Dr. McCarthy, with valuable presents from the Silticar, by whom he was also deputed to return thanks for the honour of their company on that day.—London Morning Post.

At an anniversary meeting of the London Sunday School Union, the Rev. S. Kilpin remarked, that in estimating some children on the subject, “They will be done on earth as it is in heaven,” the following were the questions and answers: “What is to be done? The will of God. Where is it to be done? On earth. How is it to be done? As it is in heaven. How do you think the angels do the will of God in heaven; as they are our pattern? The first replied, “They do it immediately.” The second, “They do it actively.” The third, “They do it unselfishly.” Here a pause ensued, and no other child appeared to have any answer; but after some time, a little girl arose and said, “Why, sir, they do it without asking any question.”

EXCERPTS.

When a friend is carried to his grave, we at once find excuses for every weakness, and palliations of every fault; we recollect a thousand endearments, which before glided off our minds without impression, a thousand favors unrepaid, a thousand duties unperformed, and wish, vainly wish for his return; not so much that we may receive, as that we may bestow happiness, and recompense that kindness which before we never understood.—Dr. Johnson.

WISDOM.—There are two things in which men in other things win enough, do usually miscarry; in putting off the making of their wills and their repentance till it be too late.—Tillotson's Sermons.

WHILST the poor man groined on the bed of sickness, whilst the unfortunate languish in the horrors of a dungeon, or the hoary head of age lifts up a feeble eye to thee for pity—O how earnest thou not in superfluous enjoyments, regardless of their wants, unfeeling of their woes!—Economy of Human Life.

PHYSIC.—What contributed most to bring Esculapian into vogue as a physician, was, his lucky meeting a man that his friends were going to inter, in whom he found some remains of life, and whom he restored to perfect health.—Rollin.

Mr. J. MacArthur