

For the Pearl.

TO THE DELINEATOR OF THE NATIVE FLOWERS OF NOVA-SCOTIA.

Her name shall be marked—in the language of flowers,
Acadia shall bloom for the maid!
Who well skill'd in the art, has devoted her hours,
To work, hitherto unassayed.

And tho' "many a flower—and many a gem,"
Have blush'd—and have sparkled unseen,
The dirge of oblivion belongs not to them,
•They are known, on the heath or the green.

And Maria, thy footsteps have followed them close,
Thine eye has discovered their bed;
Thy hand has depicted—or fragile or gross,
From the root, to the "beautiful-head."

And we hail thee their queen—our sweet flow'rets of May
Will seek thee—when early they bloom;
With smiles will they open their face to the day
For thou hast averted their doom.

We boast not of Holly, or Missletoe, here,
But thy "Virgin's Bower" plant is as fair,
It will gladden the season, will blend with the cheer,
And the blessings of Scotia declare.

Accept then this carol—'tis simple but true,
'Tis not offered on flattery's shrine;
May the beauties of nature, still flourish for you,
And your art, still those beauties combine.

Halifax, December 19th.

M.

THE EAGLE.

The eagle has always been reckoned the king of birds, whether on account of the superiority of his strength, the terror he inspires into so many other animals on whom he preys, his natural fierceness, or the rapidity and elevation of his flight. It is said that this bird will live a century, and that he increases in bulk till his death.

Naturalists have remarked, that the eagle has a very quick threatening eye, a little sunk in the head, and protected by the prominency of the forehead, which a little resembles an eye brow; under which is a very hard and bony ledge, composed of several bony substances joined and placed one above another like scales. The tongue does not terminate in a point, like that of other birds, but is cartilaginous, and almost square at the end; and at its root are two hard points, like the iron point of an arrow. The stomach shows the voracity of the eagle; for when thoroughly inflated it is two inches in diameter. The bones are very hard, and have little marrow in them. The eagle's blood is thick and fibrous; the bill sharp and corrosive.

So great is the eagle's voracity, that he ravages all the neighboring country for his support.—Hence it is that there are seldom two eagles to be found in the same quarter. Not contented with preying on the larger birds, such as hens, geese, and cranes, the eagle frequently lifts from the ground and carries off kids, lambs, rabbits, hares, &c. All other birds, except the swan, which often resists him with success, are extremely afraid of the eagle; at his cry they tremble and quake. Various of these particulars in the natural history of the eagle are mentioned in the book of Job. 'Doth the eagle mount up at thy command, and make his nest on high? She dwelleth and abideth on the rock, upon the crag of the rock, and the strong place. From thence she seeketh the prey, and her eyes behold afar off.'

Sharpness of sight is a quality of the eagle which sets him above all other birds: and he seems to be sensible of that advantage; and to preserve it in his species, as soon as his young begin to have strength, he turns them towards the sun, and makes them fix their eyes upon it. To teach his young one to fly, he flutters round his nest in various ways. Afterwards he takes them upon his back in such a manner, that the fowler cannot hurt the young, without piercing the body of the old one. In the middle of his course he darts from under them in order to prove them; and if he perceives that they cannot as yet support themselves alone but are in danger of falling, with the rapidity of an arrow he again darts below them, and receives them between his wings. The eagle is the only bird into which nature has instilled this kind of instinct, which the scripture has chosen as a most expressive symbol of the tenderness with which God protected his people in the wilderness. 'Ye have seen,' says Jehovah, 'what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on Eagle's wings, and brought you unto myself.' And says Moses in the song, 'As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings; so the Lord alone did lead him.'

One reason why the eagles can look steadfastly in the face of the sun, and support his severest rays, is, because they have two eyelids; one with which they shut their eyes entirely; the other which is thinner, they draw over them when they look upon any luminous object, which renders the glare of light much more supportable. Every ten years his feathers become very heavy, and less proper for flight. He then makes his utmost effort, and approaches nearer to the sun than usual; and after being excessively heated by

his flight, with the greatest velocity he plunges into the sea; his feathers then fall off, and new ones supply their place, which soon restore him to his pristine strength. To this circumstance the psalmist alludes, when he says, 'Thy youth is renewed as the eagle's.' And to the total loss of his feathers the prophet refers when he says, 'Make thee bald, and poll thee for thy delicate children, enlarge thy baldness, as the eagle.'

As the eagle flies most swiftly, especially when hungry, or when pursuing his prey, we find, that, in scripture, the rapidity of time, and the uncertainty of worldly riches, are compared to the eagle's flight. 'My days,' says Job, 'are passed away as the eagle that hasteth to the prey.'—And says the wise man, 'Riches certainly make themselves wings, they fly away as an eagle, towards heaven.'

Job says of the eagle, 'Where the slain are, there is she.' The language of Job is to be taken in a literal sense? for though the common sort of eagles don't eat carrion, there is a particular species which does; all of them feed on raw flesh though not indifferently of all sorts, nor that of any creature which dies of itself, but such only as is fresh and lately killed. But our Saviour speaks in an allegorical manner, when he says, 'Whosoever the carcass is there will the eagles be gathered together.' By the carcass is meant the Jewish nation in their fallen, deplorable, and lifeless state, who were like the body of a man, struck dead by lightning from heaven. By the eagles, then, the Roman armies are intended, upon whose standards was the figure of an eagle; and the eagle is still the ensign of the Roman Empire. Formerly other creatures were used for their ensigns; but Caius Marius in his second consulship, in the year of Rome 650, prohibited them, and appropriated the eagle only to the legions. The sense of the passage then seems to be, that wherever the Jews were, there would the Roman eagles or legions find them out, and, as the ministers of God's vengeance, make an utter destruction of them. The metaphor is still more striking and expressive, when it is considered, that of all birds the eagle is the only one that is not hurt with lightning, and so can immediately seize carcasses killed thereby. To this there seems to be an allusion by comparing this with the preceding verse, where Christ's coming to destroy the people of the Jews, their city and temple are compared to lightning. 'For as the lightning cometh out of the east and shineth even unto the west, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.'—*Christian Magazine*.

READING AND ITS ENVIRONS.

I had occasion to spend a day or two, about the middle of July last, in Reading. One delightful afternoon I accepted an invitation of a friend to ride into a part of the country which I had not previously seen—a few miles southwest of the borough. Our outward ride was chiefly along a narrow stream that one time went brawling over the stones and pebbles, and then contracting its width, it slid silently through a rich meadow, pouring abundance along its margin. Again, a large portion of its waters were diverted to the edge of the meadow, until it held a height far above the level of that portion which ran into the natural channel, and until it acquired a position to make a fall sufficient for grain-mills, &c. It was delightful to see how many uses that little stream was turned by the ingenuity of man, without destroying one for which it was poured out by Him who "holdeth the waters in the hollow of His hand."

Pursuing the route upwards along the margin of this beneficent stream, for several miles, we turned at length short, and came through rich farms, and saluted hard-labouring farmers, until, descending a hill, a large handsome building arrested our attention,—it was the *Berks County Poorhouse*.

I don't know when I have seen so much taste in the selection of a site of a public building. It was in the centre of a broad gentle declivity towards the southeast. Above the building, the land was sufficiently high to supply the premises amply with water; and below it slanted away gracefully, with here and there a slope and a rise, until, far down, the meadow was margined by a stream hastening to pay its tribute to the Schuylkill.

Leaving our carriage and horses in the care of one of our company, my companion introduced me to the keeper of the vast establishment.

I do not propose to discuss all that we saw; but it may be well to say that the rooms were constructed to be well heated in the winter, and properly ventilated in the summer.

Here was the men's wardrobe with abundant supplies of apparel, marked and numbered; and there, the women found their garments all arranged.

When the hay-field and the grain-field claimed the healthy of both sexes, the rooms of the place were but poorly tenanted. A blind man was strumming at some unpronounceable instrument, and the halt was looking over the page of a German psalter. In one corner lay a man about fifty years of age; he had no pain, it was evident; but there was no hope on his brow. I could see that he was watching the decline of the sun—marking how steadily its broad disk dropped below the brow of the western hill. He was in a rapid consumption, and the cares of the house did not disturb him, for was trying to set his own house in order. He had no part nor lot in the harvest field, for his own head was bowed, ripe for the sickle, and his attenuated frame seemed to invite the reaper's hand.

"This is the school-room," said the keeper to us, as we passed through a neat room with benches, and about twenty old black letter Dutch psalters scattered in various parts of the room.

Shortly afterwards, we passed some two or three old lazars, sitting under a tree; one, about eighty years old, was smoking his pipe.

"Well, Jacob," said the keeper, in Dutch to the old man, "how comes on the school."

Jacob was the schoolmaster.

"Pretty well," says Jacob; "pretty well, I believe."

"Where are the boys?"

"The boys! they are in the school-room."

"No: we have just come through the school-room, and there is no person there."

"Well, that is strange. I left them all there yesterday, playing like dogs."

"That," said the keeper, directing our attention to a building at a short distance from the house, "is the old mansion house. This whole farm was the home of Governor Mifflin."

We entered the house, whose position and remnant of elegance gave great evidence of refined taste. The parlor was occupied by some half dozen maniacs, whose cropped hair was bristling like the newly reaped fields; and the front yard was a refreshing place for a race of unhumanized beings, to whom the straight jacket had become a familiar restraint.

Above in the lodging and dressing-rooms of the late Governor, were disposed moping objects; some whom, for months, had lain stretched out, as if life had departed.

Returning through the main building, my eye accidentally caught the form of a young woman in a room which we were hastily passing.

"And what does she ail?"

"Nothing!" said the keeper; "her husband was drowned last Saturday, and as she had neither friends nor money, they sent her and her child hither; but she will be dismissed next Monday."

Taking leave of the attentive keeper of the house, we drove away, impressed with the order and usefulness of the establishment.

Our road for a short distance lay through the grain field of the almshouse—never was the sickle thrust into such an abundant harvest.—*American Paper*.

MILITARY.

Dress and drilling of some of our infantry regiments in the year preceding the great revolutionary outbreak in France.

"How different in all its external features was the London of 1788 from the London of 1839. How widely different the constitution and management of the forces which then and in times more recent composed its garrison. Of the foot guards, which then, as now, consisted of three regiments, with two battalions to each, I need say no more than that they were clothed, accoutred and armed, pretty much as they had been since the days of the Duke of Cumberland. We wore long-tailed coats, which, slanting off like those of livery servants in front, exposed to view a considerable portion of our lapelled and capacious-pocketed white waistcoats. Our breeches of white cloth were made to fit so tight, that how we contrived to get them on and off without tearing has been to me a source of frequent wonderment; while our long white gaiters composed of glazed linen, reached just above the bend of the knee, and were tied round the upper part of the calf of the leg with bands of black leather. As to our hats, they resembled in form the head-dresses which are still worn in Chelsea Hospital; and to distinguish us from regiments of the line, they were bound round the edges with silver lace. Our arms, again, were the musket and bayonet, not very different from those still in use; our accoutrements were of a class peculiar to times gone by. Instead of gathering up the load of ammunition so as to throw the strain as far as may be on the part of the body which is best able to endure it, the guardians of the soldiers' comforts then seemed to regard such considerations as unworthy of their notice. Our belts were long and loose; the pouch came down to the skirts of our coats, and the bayonet, suspended at the left side, swung like a sword as the man moved. Neither must I forget to describe both the hairy knapsacks into which our kits were stowed, and the strange machine which was given to us as a convenient place of stowage for our field ammunition. The pouch contained in those days a wooden frame, which was bored, both above and below, for thirty cartridges, and you were expected, in the heat of battle, so soon as the upper tier was exhausted, to turn the block round, and so reach the tier below. I need scarcely add, that the first time we got under fire, the inconvenience of this arrangement made itself felt, and that the woods, as they were called, being taken out, the men carried their cartridges thenceforth loose in their pouches.

"If such was the style in which the King's Government equipped and clothed the King's foot-guards, what shall I say of the sort of exercise to which we were trained? In handling the musket there were not fewer than fifty-two movements, the whole of which went on as soon as a single word of command was spoken. 'Poise arms!' was that word; on the utterance of which a fugleman began to caper, and the entire line, watching his movements, tossed and brandished their arms into all manner of grotesque figures. When we stood with arms shouldered, we were made to keep the but of the firelock on the hip, and to stick out the elbow of the left