

hurling his sword and bidding his servant carry it home again, passed through unarmed, to the great indignation of all the spectators. They relieved themselves in some degree by hooting a tall blustering fellow with a prodigious weapon, who stopped short on coming in sight of the preparations, and after a little consideration turned back again; but all this time no rapier had been broken although it was high noon, and all cavaliers of any quality or appearance were taking their way towards St. Paul's churchyard.

During these proceedings Master Graham had stood apart, strictly confining himself to the duty imposed upon him, and taking little heed of anything beyond. He stepped forward now as a richly dressed gentleman on foot, followed by a single attendant, was seen advancing up the hill.

As this person drew nearer, the crowd stopped their clamour and bent forward with eager looks. Master Graham standing alone in the gateway, and the stranger coming slowly towards him, they seemed, as it were, set face to face. The nobleman (for he looked on) had a haughty and disdainful air, which bespoke the slight estimation in which he held the citizen. The citizen on the other hand preserved the resolute bearing of one who was not to be frowned down or daunted, and who cared very little for any nobility but that of worth and manhood. It was perhaps some consciousness on the part of each, of these feelings in the other, that infused a more stern expression into their regards as they came closer together.

"Your rapier, worthy Sir!"

At the instant that he pronounced these words Graham started, and falling back some paces, laid his hand upon the dagger in his belt.

"You are the man whose horse I used to hold before the Bowyer's door? You are that man? Speak!"

"Out, you 'prentice hound!" said the other.

"You are he! I know you well!" cried Graham. "Let no man step between us two, or I shall be his murderer." With that he drew his dagger and rushed in upon him.

The stranger had drawn his weapon from the scabbard ready for the scrutiny, before a word was spoken. He made a thrust at his assailant, but the dagger which Graham clutched in his left hand being the dirk in use at that time for parrying such blows, promptly turned the point aside. They closed. The dagger fell rattling upon the ground, and Graham wresting his adversary's sword from his grasp, plunged it through his heart. As he drew it out it snapped in two, leaving a fragment in the dead man's body.

All this passed so swiftly that the bystanders looked on without an effort to interfere; but the man was no sooner down than an uproar broke forth which rent the air. The attendant rushing thro' the gate proclaimed that his master, a nobleman, had been set upon and slain by a citizen; the word quickly spread from mouth to mouth; Saint Paul's Cathedral and every book shop, ordinary, and smoking-house in the churchyard poured out its stream of cavaliers and their followers, who, mingling together in a dense tumultuous body, struggled, sword in hand, towards the spot.

With equal impetuosity and stimulating each other by loud cries and shouts, the citizens and the common people took up the quarrel on their side, and encircling Master Graham a hundred deep, forced him from the gate. In vain he waved the broken sword above his head, crying that he would die on London's threshold for their sacred homes. They bore him on, and ever keeping him in the midst so that no man could attack, fought their way into the city.

The clash of swords and roar of voices, the dust and heat and pressure, the trampling under foot of men, the distracted looks and shrieks of women at the windows above as they recognised their relatives or lovers in the crowd, the rapid tolling of alarm bells, the furious rage and passion of the scene were fearful.—Those who being on the outskirts of each crowd could use their weapons with effect, fought desperately, while those behind maddened with baffled rage struck at each other over the heads of those before them, and crushed their own fellows. Wherever the broken sword was seen above the people's heads, towards that spot the cavaliers made a new rush. Every one of these charges was marked by sudden gaps in the throng where men were trodden down, but fast as they were made, the tide swept over them and still the multitude pressed on again, a confused mass of swords, clubs, staves, broken plumes, fragments of rich cloaks and doublets, and angry bleeding faces, all mixed up together in inextricable disorder.

The design of the people was to force Master Graham to take refuge in his dwelling, and to defend it until the authorities could interfere or they could gain time for parley. But either from ignorance, or in the confusion of the moment, they stopped at his old house which was closely shut. Some time was lost in beating the doors open and passing him to the front. About a score of the boldest of the other party threw themselves into the torrent while this was being done, and reaching the door at the same moment with himself, cut him off from his defenders.

"I never will turn in such a righteous cause, so help me Heaven!" cried Graham in a voice that at last made itself heard, and confronting them as he spoke. "Least of all will I turn upon this threshold which owes its desolation to such men as ye. I give no quarter, and I will have none! Strike!"

For a moment they stood at bay. At that moment a shot from an unseen hand—apparently fired by some person who had gained access to one of the opposite houses,—struck Graham in the brain and he fell dead. A wail was heard in the air; many people in the

concourse cried that they had seen a spirit glide across the little casement window of the Bowyer's house.

A dead silence succeeded. After a short time some of the flushed and heated throng laid down their arms and softly carried the body within doors. Others fell off or slunk away in knots of two or three, others whispered together in groups, and before a numerous guard which then rode up, could muster in the street, it was nearly empty.

Those who carried Master Graham to the bed up stairs, were shocked to see a woman lying beneath the window with her hands clasped together. After trying to recover her in vain, they laid her near the citizen, who still retained, tightly grasped in his right hand, the first and last sword that was broken that day at Lud Gate.

For the Pearl.

TO THE MAY-FLOWER.

1

Sweet child of many an April shower,
First gift of Spring to Flora's bower,
Acadia's own peculiar flower,

I hail thee here!

Thou com'st, like Hope in sorrow's hour,
My heart to cheer.

2

I love to stray with careless feet,
Thy halm on every breeze to meet—
Thy earliest opening bloom to greet—
To pluck thy stem,

And hear thee to my lady sweet,
Thou lovely gem!

3

What though thy leaflets o'er thee steal,
And Nature half thy form conceal—
Though but thy fragrant breath reveal

Thy place of birth—

Our eyes can find, our hearts can feel
Thy modest worth!

4

Thy charms so pure a spell impart,
Thy softening smiles so touch my heart,
I feel the tear of rapture start,

Sweet flower of May!

E'en while I sing, devoid of art,
This simple lay.

5

Yet thou, like many a gentle maid
In beauty's radiant bloom arrayed,
O'er whom in early youth decayed

We heave the sigh,—

E'en thou art doomed too soon to fade—
Too soon to die!

Brookfield, May, 1840.

J. McP.

CHINA.

This vast empire, containing the greatest amount of population, and perhaps also of wealth, ever united under one government, occupies a large portion of the south-east of Asia. It comprises a broad expanse, nearly square, two sides of which are bounded by sea and two by land. The sea is the Great Pacific Ocean, which, however, does not here present a well-defined outline, but is broken into great Gulfs, the chief of which are the Sea of China and the Yellow Sea. The interior boundary consists of a range of thinly-peopled tracts, occupied by barbarous, wandering tribes, Mandshur Tartars, Mongols, Kalkas, Elaths, and the wandering tribes of Great Tibet. These regions have usually given rulers to China, but at present the Empire, or at least the ruling dynasty, comprehends within its sway upwards of a thousand miles in every direction of these rude territories. It holds them, however, as tributaries only, or under loose military occupation, without any attempt to impose on them the police, the laws, or the general character of China itself. At the same time this vast frontier is guarded with equal care against the approach of foreigners, communication is left open at two points only: the port of Canton to the maritime nations of Europe, and Maimatchin, a little town on the Siberian frontier, to the subjects of Russia.

China proper, according to an official statement presented to Lord Macartney, contains a superficial extent of 1,298,000 square miles—a little less than the whole number of square miles contained within the United States. This vast surface consists chiefly of a level plain, alluvial and sometimes marshy, but in general susceptible of the highest degree of cultivation, though it is said that considerable ranges of mountains traverse some portions of the interior. The pride of China and the abundant sources of her wealth consist in the mighty rivers which traverse the whole extent of her territory, of which the most important are the Heang-Ho and the Kiang-Ku, each of which have a course of upwards of two thousand miles in length. Of lakes, China comprises, in its central regions, the Tongting, about three hundred miles in circumference, covered with a numerous population, who subsist by fishing, and the Poyang, a lake of much inferior dimensions.

The Geology of China is unknown, and no very precise knowledge has been obtained in relation to its mineral productions. Precious stones of various kinds are known to exist; gold is found in the sands of some of the rivers, and silver in mines, either pure or in combination with other mineral substances; neither the gold or silver, however, are ever coined. The vegetable productions are of the most splendid character, and consist of a great variety of species of the most useful and ornamental kinds, such as the mulberry, orange, pomegranate, apricot, fig, peach, pine, the camphor tree, tea plant, of which last only our limits will permit us to speak more at length hereafter.

Of the native Zoology of China little is known. A few splendid birds, of which the golden pheasant is the most distinguished, are known to exist, and from thence the gold and silver fish have been procured. The insects are numerous and splendid. The Chinese lantern fly emits a strong light from its trunk-like snout, and the Banby and Atlas, the largest of moths, measure eight inches from the tip of one wing to the other. The silk worm, now cultivated in Europe and America, is said to have come originally from China. There is a kind of ox, not larger than a hog, besides another of the ordinary size. The pigs also are proverbially small.

No country has experienced fewer changes than China. In the first centuries of the Christian era, at which period their earliest intercourse with Europeans commenced, the people appear to have been precisely what they are at present—quiet, peaceable, and industrious, and to have had silk, and perhaps tea, for their staple productions. The Chinese possess a more complete and connected series of annals than any people of Asia, though some of these, carrying back their history for the period of 49,000 years, are manifestly fabulous. The first credible portion begins at the period of three thousand years before Christ. At the commencement of this period, the country is represented as having been in a state of barbarism, from which it gradually emerged by the invention of the different arts and sciences, which are ascribed to the genius of the emperors. About five centuries before the Christian era, the country appears to have been in great confusion, being divided among a number of petty princes, who paid little attention to the authority of the emperor. At this time Confucius appeared, who established the system of law, manners, and government, which have since prevailed in China. The despotism which followed destroyed the military energy of the Chinese, and they fell an easy prey to the hordes of barbarians which wandered over the steppes of Central Asia; and the present dynasty of the emperors has its origin from the Mandshur Tartars.

There is not, and perhaps never was, a government more purely and entirely despotic than the Chinese. No power or distinction exists except that which centres in and is derived directly from the emperor, who is denominated "the son of heaven." As the emperor, however, considers himself in the light of a parent, and the people as his children, it cannot be denied that the empire is generally well governed; and on the whole, the government must be considered the most mild and protective of any that exists.

The fundamental maxim of the Chinese government is to make knowledge the sole ground of official rank and public employment. Those who distinguish themselves in the colleges are promoted to the class of Mandarins, in which is vested the whole administration of China. The Mandarins are divided into nine classes, of which the highest are governors of provinces, and the lowest collectors of the revenue. The laws of China appear to have been framed not with very enlarged views, but with a minute care to lay down the various descriptions of offence, and to prescribe the appropriate punishment. The cane is the grand instrument of government, and the whole population of China is at any time subject to its immediate application on the slightest departure from the established etiquette, the minutest affairs in social intercourse being regulated by law. The revenue is chiefly derived from the land tax, the emperor being considered the direct proprietor of all the lands in his dominions, from which he receives a tenth of the produce.

The military force of China has been represented in number, at least, as very imposing, the amount of men is uncertain, but the best authorities seem to fix it at above 800,000, of which the greater part are a mere militia, which are scarcely called out unless to pursue robbers, or pass muster on state occasions, and then their paper helmets, wadded gowns, quilted petticoats, and clumsy satin boots, exhibit little of the aspect of war. They have also a few armed vessels, but nothing which can be called a navy.

The Chinese are famed for industry in all the arts which minister to human subsistence, and the lands are tilled with a minute care, without example among any other people, though their farming is carried on with rude instruments, and almost no cattle.

A grand and peculiar object of Chinese industry is the tea plant, which flourishes on the hills of Southern China. It is a bushy shrub, and the plants occur wild, but when cultivated they are set in rows about four feet from each other, and prevented from rising to an inconvenient height. There are two varieties of the tea plant,—the green and black,—but it is asserted that both kinds are made from the same plant indifferently, according to the mode of preparation. The leaves are rolled into the usual form by the fingers, and then dried on their earthen and iron plates, over a charcoal fire. The sugar cane is among the other important productions, and is taller and more juicy than that of the West Indies, but the machinery used in the manufacture of sugar is of a very inferior description. Mulberry trees, so necessary for the production of silk,