

sequent to his coming of age. Although, as has already been observed, he was remarkably active and intelligent for a person in his melancholy condition (for the loss of sight under all circumstances places a person in a melancholy condition), yet when he took upon himself the management of his own farm it soon became apparent that he would have farmed better, and more profitably, had he possessed his eyesight. Several of his performances were, nevertheless, quite marvellous,—for with a pair of steady horses he was able to make pretty good work as a ploughman, and it was not unusual to see him driving his cart to mill or market. But his labours were not confined to the ploughing and tilling of his ground; for in the time of harvest he might be seen mowing his grass, or with a sickle cutting down his oats and barley. Shortly after he commenced farming on his own account he entered into the marriage state; and at the present time he is the father of a family. But although he became possessed of a helpmate, his pecuniary prospects were far from improving; yet before he became irretrievably involved in difficulties, he gave up farming to those who could better see how to manage it. Having disposed of his property, he then rented a small house that stood by the side of the high-road leading through the village; and being bent upon doing something for a livelihood, he procured a licence under the (then) recently-passed act of retailing beer upon the premises, and accordingly opened a beer shop. But as the remote and out-of-the-way situation of the village precluded the possibility of his doing much business in that line, he turned his attention to dealing in horses (for which he had always shown an inclination), and frequented the fairs and markets all through the country. His friends attempted to dissuade him from embarking in a business that obviously required the possession of all the senses—and particularly that of seeing; but their remonstrances were again ineffectual. It must be admitted, however, that he was more of an adept than his friends had imagined; for on many occasions he would return from the markets with a more valuable horse than he had set out with—besides a few extra sovereigns in his purse, which he had realized by his various tradings and exchangeings. It was very remarkable, too, that in all his dealings and traffickings among horses he never met with any accident nor was he ever robbed of the smallest sum of money.

Not among the least surprising feats of "Blind J***," (as his neighbours and acquaintances familiarly called him,) were the adroitness and accuracy displayed by him in finding out the bye-roads, gates, and dim paths leading to many of the secluded farm-houses in the mountainous and thinly-inhabited district where he resided. The writer of this article, who knew him in his infancy, and still knows him well, has many times had the curiosity to watch his motions when travelling through the lanes and meadows; and the result has always been an increased astonishment at the accuracy with which the sightless equestrian would quit the main road,—force his horse up to some gate he wished to open,—unlatch the gate with apparent facility,—and then continue his route amongst the various turnings and windings, until he arrived at the door of the farm-house he was intending to visit. All this would have been the less surprising had he been mounted upon some old and staid animal to which the lanes and paths were mostly familiar; but this by no means was the case, since, from his constant dealings in horses, he rarely made two excursions with the same animal. He was likewise noted for the breaking-in of young horses; not only on his own account, but for any of his neighbours that chose to employ him in this way; and what is very extraordinary, he never met with the slightest accident to himself or the horses under his charge; nor failed in subduing the most vicious tempers, nor of rendering them as tractable and gentle as it was possible for them to become.

Notwithstanding that he had calculated upon considerable profits from his beer-retailing establishment, as well as something in addition from his trading in horses, yet he could not hide from himself the disagreeable certainty that he was yearly becoming poorer and more narrowed in his circumstances. He therefore came to the resolution of making the most of his musical talents; so that that which had hitherto been practised as an amusement should henceforward become a source of emolument. Such being his determination, it soon became blazoned abroad that "Blind J***" would feel much obliged to the inn and public-house keepers in the surrounding country towns and villages, if they would patronise him at the fairs, dances, and merry-makings; and as his name was already favourably known throughout an extensive range of country, not so much for his fiddling as for various other wonderful achievements as a blind person, he soon had the satisfaction of finding himself ranking with the most popular of the ambulatory fiddlers frequenting any of the neighbouring districts; so that the money he made in his new calling, added to his other small items of income, seemed to bid fair towards ensuring for himself and family a comfortable subsistence.

One of the most remarkable characteristics in J*** W**** was the uncommon retentiveness of his memory. This has already been partly exemplified in the manner he was able to ride through the country, from hamlet to hamlet, and from house to house, alone and unassisted: but after he became a professional attendant at the fairs and merry-makings as a fiddler, many more indivi-

duals had opportunities of observing this wonderful tenacity of memory; for a voice that he had once heard he never forgot; and being (principally in consideration of his bereavement) a general favourite, most of the young men (and many of the maidens too) used to make kind inquiries after his health, on which occasions he invariably asked their names, and never afterwards forgot them, no matter where or under what circumstances they chanced to meet.

In many parts of the north the ancient custom of itinerant musicians perambulating the country a little before Christmas commences is still kept up. They journey from house to house, playing some familiar air before the doors or the windows of the rural dwellings, addressing by name the several members of each family, and wishing them a "good night," or a "good morning," as the case may happen to be. In this way they continue these nocturnal visits until Christmas begins; when laying aside their instruments, they perform the same journey by day, when it is expected that every householder will contribute his mite; for it would be considered unpardonable to refuse a trifle to the "poor thwaites," as these itinerant ministers are called. When the subject of these remarks had become a professional reformer at the fairs, etc., he undertook to traverse by night a wide and wild district, for the part of the country wherein he resided was mountainous and scantily inhabited. Being a total stranger to many of the fell-side farm-houses, he considered it necessary to have a companion in these nightly excursions, with whom he agreed to divide whatever money they should collect at the end of the season, although his guide happened to be non-musical. The season was a remarkably severe one, and the musician and his conductor were frequently exposed to severe frosts and storms of drifting snow. One night, when the frost was more intense than usual, and when the poor fellows were near the extreme limits of their nightly wanderings, about four or five miles from home, they reached the side of a rather small but rapid stream, across which they had to find their way by means of a score of pretty large but somewhat irregular stepping-stones. It was the guide's duty to venture over first, and explain to his sightless superior if there were any new or peculiar difficulties; and then the musician and his violin (for he would not intrust it to the care of another), aided by a long and stout staff, undertook to pass over. It appeared, however, on the night in question, that the guide had neglected to inform J** W**** that the surface of one of the stepping-stones was incrustated with slippery ice, and the consequence was that the unsuspecting and courageous fiddler, having fearlessly placed his foot upon the treacherous stone, off it slid before he had time to recover the false step, and the next moment he found himself plunging into the rapid current. His presence of mind, however, did not forsake him; for although he momentarily lost his footing, he managed to hold his violin high above the surface of the half-frozen river. This little adventure certainly had the effect of preventing him from completing his ordinary circuit that night—or, rather, morning; for having lost his hat in his anxiety to save his fiddle, and being thoroughly drenched, he found it necessary to hurry homewards by the nearest route in order to escape from the ill effects of the intense cold.

But this little misadventure was far from cooling his musical ardour; since about the same hour on the night following he was at the identical same place, and fording the treacherous stepping-stones. But on this occasion he was alone; for as his companion had neglected his duty in making him acquainted with the difficulty on the previous night, he had given him to understand that for the future he should dispense with his attendance. After this occurrence took place, this extraordinary person continued to perform his nightly long and rough journeys alone; and which he undertook for several succeeding winters;—and respecting which he has often been heard to declare, that upon the whole he was much better off without a companion; for having so many rude stiles and fences without stiles to climb over, he found there was a considerable saving of time when not incommoded by a useless attendant.

PARLIAMENTARY PRIVILEGES.—Mr. Edward Floyd, in 1621, was punished by the House of Commons for scoffing at the Elector and Electress Palatine; it being adjudged that, they being the son-in-law and daughter of the king, the head of the parliament, any reflections upon them were a breach of the undoubted privileges of the House. The sentence is thus reported:—"1. Not to bear arms as a gentleman, nor be a competent witness in any court of justice. 2. To ride with his face to the horse's tail, to stand on the pillory, and his ears nailed, etc. 3. To be whipped at the cart's tail. 4. To be fined in £,000. 5. To be perpetually imprisoned in Newgate. It was put to the question first, whether Floyd should be whipped or not—which some lords doubted to yield to, because he was a gentleman—yet it was agreed, *per plures*, that he shall be whipped. Then it was put to the question, whether Floyd's ears shall be nailed to the pillory, or not, and agreed, *per plures*, not to be nailed." Even members were occasionally exposed to a somewhat distressing exercise of authority:—"In 1626, Mr. Moor was sent to the Tower for speaking out of season. Sir William Widdrington and Sir Herbert Price sent to the Tower for bringing in candles against

the desire of the House."—*Dwarris on Statutes*, p. 83. If ancient precedents are to be revived and acted upon, a good many modern orators might speedily find themselves in the same predicament as Mr. Moor.—*Quarterly Review*.

For the Pearl:

If you think the following lines worthy a corner in your inestimable PEARL, by inserting them you will much oblige A FRIEND.

GLAZED HATS.

Gentlemen what is the reason
For the Ladies think it out of season,
That you should wear such odious hats,
Fit only for the heads of cats.

A glazed hat is what I mean
Which on your heads should ne'er be seen,
They are such very frightful things
I wish I'm sure they would take wings.

I also wish that in their flight,
That they would get a sudden fright,
And ne'er come back to trouble us,
Or we shall make another fuss.

You dandies think when you have got
(A hat, I'm sure, I'll call it not.)
Upon your heads, that we will fall
In love with both the short and tall.

But you are very much mistaken
If you believe our hearts are breaking,
Though you may think us foolish in our way,
We are not, and now farewell, I say.

ILLUSTRATION OF ATONEMENT.—If I should compare the natural state of man, I should conceive an immense graveyard, filled with yawning sepulchres and dead and dying men. All around are lofty walls and mussy iron gates. At one of the gates stands Mercy, sad spectatress of the melancholy scene. An angel flying through the midst of heaven, attracted by the awful sight, exclaims "Mercy, why do you not enter, and apply to these objects of compassion, the restoring balm." Mercy replies, "I dare not enter, justice bars the way." By her side, a form appeared like unto the Son of Man. "Justice," he cried "what are thy demands that Mercy may enter and stay this carnival of death?" "I demand," said Justice, "pain for their ease—degradation for their dignity—shame for their honour—death for their life." "I accept the terms; now Mercy enter." "What pledge do you give for the performance of these conditions?" "My word, my oath." "And when will you fulfill them?" "Four thousand years hence upon the hill of Calvary." The bond was sealed in the presence of attendant angels and committed to patriarchs and prophets. A long series of rites and ceremonies, sacrifices and oblations, was instituted to preserve the memory of that solemn deed. And at the close of the four thousandth year, behold at the foot of Calvary, the incarnate Son of God. Justice too was there; in her hand she bore the dreadful bond; she presented it to the Redeemer and demanded the immediate fulfillment of its awful terms. He accepted the deed and together they ascended to the summit of the Mount. Mercy was seen attendant at the side of the Son of Man, and the weeping church followed in his train. When he reached the tragic spot, what did he with the bond? Did he tear it in pieces, and scatter it to the winds of heaven? Ah! no, he nailed to his cross; and when the wood was prepared, and the devoted sacrifice stretched out on the tree, Justice sternly cried "Holy fire come down from heaven, and consume this sacrifice." The fire descended and rapidly consumed his humanity—but when it touched his Deity it expired. Then did the heavenly hosts break forth in rapturous strains, "Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace, and good will towards men!"—*Evans*.

LAKE OF TIBERIAS.—About eight o'clock we reached Tiberias, having travelled about two hours along the side of the lake; we had occasion to observe that more pains appeared to have been taken to construct the road where it was very rocky, than in most parts of Syria which we had visited. The modern town of Tiberias is very small, it stands close to the lake of Genesaret, and is walled round with towers at equal distances. At the northern extremity of the ruins are the remains of the ancient town, which are discernible by means of the walls and other ruined buildings, as well as by fragments of columns, some of which are of beautiful red granite. South of the town are the famous hot-baths of Tiberias: they consist of three springs of mineral water. We had no thermometer, but we found the water too hot to admit of the hand being kept in it for more than fifty seconds. We endeavoured to boil an egg, but without success, even out of the shell. Over the spring is a Turkish bath, close to the lake's side, which is much resorted to, particularly by the Jews, who have a great veneration also for a Roman sepulchre which is excavated in the cliff near the spot, and which they take to be the tomb of Jacob. Beyond the baths, a walk runs from the lake to the mountain's side, which rather perplexed us when we were taking the measures of the ancient walls of Tiberias; but it has since appeared evident that the walls did not extend so far to the south, and that this was the fortification of Vespasian's camp, as appears from Josephus, who places it in this position. The lake of Tiberias is a fine sheet of water; but the land about it has no striking features, and the scenery is altogether devoid of character.—*Irbid and Mardin*.