



POETRY

THE RAINBOW.

BY R. C. WATERSTON.

He spreadeth the clouds around him,
The Pillars of Heaven tremble,
They are shaken at his reproof,
Lo! these are a part of his ways.

JOB.
"I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of covenant between me and the earth. And it shall come to pass when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud."

GENESIS.

I.
The Indian from his hunting ground,
Gazes upon the darkened sky;
And hears with dread, the solemn sound
Of the great spirit from on high,—
While to the earth, in fearful ire,
He hurls his shivering bolts of fire.

II.
He cometh down! The mighty one,
Who spake creation into birth,
Now with his garment veils the sun,
And gazes on the trembling earth;—
The hunter in this stormy hour,
Shrinks back before Jehovah's power.

III.
The storm rolls on. Each leaf is bent
With glistening drops. The thunder's
roar
Dies on the hills, and through the rent
Of the dense clouds, the sunbeams pour:
All, all—is hushed. The very deep
Smiles like an infant in his sleep.

IV.
All nature rest. The winds are still,
The half shut flowers in silence bow,
From ocean coast to towering hill,
There is no voice of discord now—
And gaze above!—before thy sight,
The rainbow spreads its arch of light!

V.
A rainbow—beautiful and fair,
And woven by a hand Divine,
And hung amid the sunny air,
To be an everlasting sign—
A sacred sign in heaven above,
A token of Jehovah's love.

VI.
The Indian's fear has vanished now,
He kneels upon the beaten sands;
He raises to the sky his brow,
And clasps with joy his hands:—
Love kindles in his heart, and unaware,
He lifts his freeborn soul to Heaven in

THE POOR DEBTOR.

Some years ago I obtained a judgment for a sum not very large nor yet inconsiderable, against a fellow citizen, the father of a numerous family, who lived with them in a decent and apparently comfortable style. He pleaded present inability to pay—my lawyer told me his household was well provided—that his children were placed in good schools, &c. and, in short, persuaded me that if I pushed things to extremities, the money would be forthcoming. I consented, or directed that that should be done, and in due time was informed, not that my debtor had discharged my demand, but that he had been lodged in jail and his business broken up. The intelligence startled and chagrined me—I complained and remonstrated—but was urged to try the effect of the new situation upon my man. A fortnight elapsed—my heart and imagination were at work in the interval in favour of the prisoner; I de-

termined to relieve my disturbed conscience by visiting him, and ascertaining, directly, his case.

My attorney accompanied me to the jail, which I entered for the first time. As we traversed the passages, we saw numbers of squalid beings collected in some of the rooms—these were the very poor debtors; some of them confined for a dollar, and saddled with costs of suit to thrice the amount.—Their labour was lost to society for months or years, on account of debts, the amount of which they could earn in a day or week.—"How do they spend their time here?" "In listless idleness, or gross conversation, or moping and desponding. It does them no good to be here, and it is enough to make one sorry to see their wives and children when they come after them." So said our grisley conductor. He led us to the apartment of my debtor and prisoner. He would not practice the ceremony of announcing us; but opened the door abruptly and retired at once. I stopped on the threshold, and contemplated the group within.

There were two small children, a girl and boy, neatly dressed, playfully hugging each other near a cot, of which I noted two, in opposite corners. Near the fire-place, in which a few sticks were burning, sat a female of the middle age and a genteel exterior, making up linen—by her side a girl of about thirteen or fourteen years old, with a graceful air and intelligent countenance, also working; a little further, a man,—a gentlemanly but mournful eye, a pale, thin visage, a negligent attire, resting his hand fondly on the head of an infant who slumbered in his lap. The room had a gloomy and damp aspect, and the trampling of feet, the creaking of hinges, and the clamour of rude voices, without, did not weaken the general impression of discomfort. I entered singly—the mother and daughter rose from their hard chairs—the father alone knew my person—he immediately but tenderly placed the infant in the mother's arm, and then pronounced my name. I shall never forget the glance which I received from the two females—it was one of mingled reproach, resentment and piteousness; subdued, however, according to the habits of good breeding and the softness of the sex; the two sportive children turned suddenly from their play, and stood gazing as if they had heard a sound with which they connected fear and dislike. The debtor, with a steadfast, but not offensive look, though with a quivering lip, and trembling hand, brought forward a chair and requested me to be seated, and asked me my pleasure. As he did so, the wife and daughter withdrew towards the cots, endeavouring to restrain the younger folks from exclamations and close surveys, which could not have enlivened my mind.

I stammered something to the father about my uneasiness in recollecting what happened; my regret at his situation; my title to complain of his conduct; the duty which I owed to my family, &c. He listened to me without embarrassment; observed, when I appeared to have done, that I had exercised a legal right, and that he was not disposed to upbraid me or expostulate; and he then proceeded to give me explanations, which he said might relieve him from the suspicion of dishonesty or extreme levity in contracting debt, upon which suspicion I might have acted. He soon made me sensible that when he formed engagements with me he had a reasonable confidence, from the condition of his affairs, of being able to execute them punctually; and that his disappointment and mine were owing to the delinquency of persons whom he was warranted in trusting, and to the operation of those general causes which had produced so much distress and embarrassment throughout the country.—"Your lawyer saw my parlours neatly furnished, and myself, wife and children, well clad; he knew that our domestic wants were gratified, and that I educated the children at the usual expense: he concluded that I might have a surplus; or could contrive to pay you by close retrenchment. But it was indispensable to the success of my plans in business that I should keep up the appearance of some prosperity—my wife and myself had

been accustomed even to luxuries—in endeavouring to have our offspring liberally instructed and trained, we gave way only to the most powerful impulses of the heart, and to the consideration that they would be the more able and eager to discharge those obligations, which their parents might not be competent to meet. We practised all the thrift which situation and sentiment would admit—all that was compatible with our purpose of finally doing justice to you. To destroy my credit was to incapacitate me in every way. You were under wrong impressions, and I understood that you would not listen to the real history of my case. I assume fortitude and resignation here, to sustain the spirits of my excellent wife, who will not be separated from me, but my heart and hers are still wrung with grief at the ruin of our prospects for the little ones.—But these are in good health and of fine dispositions; we can work together, and procure a subsistence, when we shall be extricated from this place.

My eldest boy, and all the others, except the youngest darling, sleep at the house of a kind sister-in-law. We have friends who would have come to our relief, but we did not wish merely to transfer a debt, and in so doing, possibly injure those for whom we were bound to feel most regard."

I desired to hear no more—with a choked utterance, I made this worthy man understand that I would remove at once all impediments to his egress. His eyes brightened—the wife and the children advanced, having distinguished my emotion and intention almost intuitively:—I was saved from a scene of gratitude, which would have been more irksome than the one of sorrow, by the entrance of a tidy, active female, and a smart lad, who proved to be the sister-in-law and the eldest son. The former carried a basket in her hand, covered with a white towel, and the children seemed to be well acquainted with the nature of its contents. Benevolence and notableness shone in her face. When my name struck the ear of the ingenuous and spirited lad, his looks were such as the father thought it necessary to repress at once, by a similar mien directed towards him. I could have felt no resentment if they had all railed at me, so deeply contrite was I for having blasted the happiness and fortunes of such a family, by a really improvident attempt to recover what was not necessary to my own support and credit. My vexation and repentance were heightened as I examined the wretched room and observed the family bible on the rough table, and some volumes of the English classics, collected by the brother for the use of the sister. The general conversation which ensued, impressed me with respect for the good sense and sentiment and liberal improvement of my new friends—I say friends, for such they were at once inclined to be, notwithstanding my agency in their new fate.

You will think me tedious, Mr Editor; but I shall not trespass much longer on your patience. The sequel of my story is—that my debtor, very soon after he was released, was obliged to emigrate with his family to a village in the interior, as he could not be reinstated in his credit and former career. They toil there in a more humble line; thrive in a more simple way; hope to be still able to pay all their debts, and enjoy satisfaction which I may envy.

I shall detest for ever the words "IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT," and must beg of you, if you should hear of any instances of the arrest of *dead bodies*, to brand them with the infamy they merit.

Three thousand workmen are employed at St. Petersburg, in building a cathedral to be dedicated to St. Isaac. The outside of the cupola is to be ornamented by twenty-four columns of granite, each of one piece, forty-two feet high, fifteen of which have already arrived. The porticos will be one hundred and twenty feet in length, and will be supported by forty-one columns of granite, with bases and capitals of bronze. When finished it will be the most magnificent edifice erected in modern times.

SPAIN AND THE FRENCH MINISTRY.

Some Journals have announced that the Spanish question had caused in the ministry of the 22nd February a crisis, serious enough to oblige a great number of its members to offer their resignation to His Majesty. It has even been added that M. Guizot had been charged with the formation of a new ministry. With the exception of the latter incident, which was never once contemplated, these rumours are substantially correct. We now publish a complete history of this ministerial crisis, which was only put an end to by the news of the proclamation of the Constitution of 1812.

Every body is aware that even before the formation of the ministry of the 22nd February, M. Thiers had always been a warm partisan of intervention in Spain. His opinion, which had but slight support in the ministry of the 11th October, found more adherents among his present colleagues, and M. Fassy, particularly, expressed himself with much warmth in favour of an intervention, or at least of an extended and efficacious co-operation.

Assailed by the interested suggestions of northern diplomacy, which is at no pains to conceal its lively interest in the cause of Don Carlos, M. Thiers spoke out boldly, and said that France could in no case, have any thing to do with Don Carlos; that the cause of the Queen of Spain was the cause of France; and that, above all, it was necessary to prevent a counter revolution.

The events at Malaga and Saragossa, and the formation of the Juntas, changed the aspect of affairs; and the enemies of intervention drew further arguments against it from this new complication of the affairs of the Peninsula—a complication which tended in some degree to cool the interest taken by France and England in the cause of the Queen. M. Thiers then ceased to insist on an intervention, which, individually, he still desired, but to which invincible obstacles were opposed, and contented himself from that time with demanding an *extensive and efficient co-operation*. He demonstrated that the sole means of combating the Constitution of 1812 was to combat Don Carlos, that France could not interfere in the internal quarrels of the Spaniards relative to such or such a form of government, but must confine herself to act against the Carlists; and that success in this would be the surest means of pacifying Spain, and of uniting all parties around the throne of Isabella the second.

As regards the execution of this scheme, the following are the means combined by M. Thiers, and they are such as in his eyes, and in the eyes of those who shared his opinions, were calculated to insure success.—What has been most wanting up to the present time at the present time at the seat of war has been an ensemble, a highly military and at the same time political direction. A corps of 10,000 French troops, composed of 6,000 of the *elite* of our army, and of the 4,000 still remaining of the Foreign Legion was to form the centre of the new Christiano army, and the pivot of its future operations. A distinguished Lieutenant-General was to command this corps, with which were to be united the six thousand men of the British Legion (whom General Evans, with the most honorable modesty and self-denial, had consented to place under the command of a French General,) four thousand Portuguese, and ten thousand Spaniards, in all thirty thousand men. A plan of a campaign, combined by Marshal Maison, General Harispe, and several other Generals, and agreed to by the English Cabinet, would have insured that success, which in the opinion of our military men of the longest standing was undoubted. The rest of the Spanish army were to have occupied the Ebro as a reserve and would have been able, in case of need, to employ a part of its forces to watch over the safety of the Queen.

It was thus that the question was weighed and it seemed to progress towards a favourable conclusion, when difficulties arose as to the appointment of a Lieutenant General. On Monday last M. Thiers had expressed