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SPECIMENS OF OLD ENGLISH POETS.

No 1—DRAYTON.

The following beautiful passage is descriptive of the allegorical marriage of the Rivers Thames and Isis, from a long poem, in a similar strain, entitled *Polyolbion*. Drayton flourished in the Elizabethan age.

The Naiads and the nymphs extremely over-joy'd,
And on the winding banke all busily employ'd,
Upon this joyful day, some dainty chaplets twine :
Some others chosen out, with fingers neat and fine,
Brave anadems do make : some huldricks up do bind ;
Some, garlands ; and to some the nosegays were assign'd
As best their skill did serve. But for that Tame should be
Still man-like as himself, therefore they will that he
Should not be drest with flowers to gardens that belong,
(His bride that better fit) but only such as sprung
From the replenish'd meads, and fruitful pastures near.
To sort which flowers, some sit ; some making garlands were ;
The primrose placing first, because that in the spring
It is the first appears, then only flourishing ;
The azur'd hare-bell next, with them they neatly mix'd :
T' ally whose luscious smell, they woodbine plac'd betwixt.
Amongst those things of scent, there prick they in the lilly ;
And near to that again, her sister daffadilly.
To sort these flowers of show, with th' other that were sweet,
The cowslip then they couch, and the oxlip, for her meet :
The columbine amongst they sparingly do set,
The yellow kingscup, wrought in many a curious fret,
And row and then among, of eglantine a spray,
By which again a course of lady-smocks they lay :
The crow-flower, and thereby the clover-flower they stick,
The daisy, over all those sundry sweets so thick,
As nature doth herself ; to imitate her right ;
Who seems in that her pearl so greatly to delight,
That every plain th' erewith she powd'reth to behold :
The crimson carnal-flower, the blue-bottle, and gold ;
Which though esteem'd but weeds ; yet for their dainty hues,
And for their scent not ill, they for this purpose chuse.

Thus having told you how the bridegroom Tame was drest,
I'll shew you how the bride, fair Isis, they invest ;
Sitting to be attir'd under her bower of state,
Which scorns a meaner sort, than fits a princely rate.
In anadems for whom they curiously dispose
The red, the dainty white, the goodly damask rose,
For the rich ruby, pearl, and amethyst, men place
In kings imperial crowns, the circle that inlace.
The brave carnation then, with sweet and sovereign power
(So of his colour call'd, although a July-flower)
With th' other of his kind, the speckled and the pale :
Then th' odoriferous pink, that sends forth such a gale
Of sweetness ; yet in scents as various as in sorts.
The purple violet then, the pensive there supports :
The marygold above t' adorn the arched bar :
The double daisy, thrift, the button hatchelor,
Sweet-william, sops-in-wine, the campion : and to these
Some lavender they put, with rosemary and bays :
Sweet marjoram, with her like, sweet basil rare for smell,
With many a flower, whose name were now too long to tell :
And rarely with the rest, the goodly flour-de-lis.

Thus for the nuptial hour, all fitted point-device,
Whilst some still busied are in decking of the bride,
Some others were again as seriously employ'd
In strewing of those herbs, at bridals us'd that be ;
Which every where they throw with bounteous hands and free.
The healthfu' balm and mint, from their full laps do fly,
The scented camomile, the ven'rous costmary ;

They hot muscado oil with milder maudlin cast ;
Strong tansy, fennel cool, they prodigally waste ;
Clear hysop, and therewith the comfortable thyme,
Germander with the rest, each thing then in her prime ;
As well of wholesome herbs, as every pleasant flower,
Which nature here produc'd, to fit this happy hour.
Amongst the strewing kinds, some other wild that grow,
As burnet, all abroad, and meadow-wort they throw.

ABORIGINES OF THE SOUTH.

(Continued.)

In the year 1665, says the manuscript, the English established themselves twelve leagues north of St. Helena, and called the place St. George (Charleston). An expedition was prepared in 1668, to dislodge them, but was arrested by contrary orders from Spain, and in 1670 the inlet of St. Helena was fixed upon as the boundary. General Oglethorpe's subsequent establishment in Georgia was therefore resisted as an encroachment, or infringement of this convention, which I doubt not it really was.

All Indian tribes occupying the sea coast from Charleston to St. Augustine, appear to have been known to Spaniards as one powerful nation, called the "Yamassees;" but the English enumerate them as several tribes or divisions. Those residing in the interior, or west of the mountains, were; I presume, the same which have been since known as Creeks, Cherokees, Chickasaws and Choctaws, who were intruders from the north-west, that had come into the country simultaneously with the emigrants, or about the same period, dispossessing weaker tribes as they advanced; and therefore their right of territory in Carolina or Georgia was no better than that of the whites, for they held by the same title—"conquest and occupation," which in point of date was not more ancient.

Whatever might have been the peaceful policy of the sea-board Indians, amongst themselves, or towards the Spaniards, all was ended with the establishment of a rival colony. Whether the English really did excite Indians, won over to their interests, to commit depredations upon those remaining faithful to the Spaniards, or whether the Spaniards did excite their Indians against the English, matters little, for each party continued to charge the other with most diabolical designs (amazingly exaggerated); and their unfortunate Indian partizans, under pretence of serving their superiors, soon became involved in mutual hostilities, which only ended in mutual destruction.

In 1680 Don Juan Marquez de Cabrera, Governor of Florida, ordered the execution of Niquitalla, principal Chief of the Yamassees, which so exasperated the nation, that in 1686 they drove the Spaniards from all their possessions north of the River St. John's, in Florida; to which they were undoubtedly encouraged by the English; though for a dozen years, while slaughter was general among Indians, adhering to one colony or the other, the most courteous understanding existed between the rulers of Charleston and Augustine. That the Spaniards desired the preservation of the Indians, as a barrier, weak it is true, against the encroachments of Protestantism and the English, cannot be disputed, nor is their claim for mercy and humanity to be denied, because the motive was self-interest. But the following extract from the letter of even a pious man of the times (1695), John Archdale, Governor of South Carolina, exhibits another spirit in the English colonists:—

"And, courteous reader, I shall give you some further eminent remarks hereupon, and especially in the first settlement of Carolina, where the hand of God was eminently seen, in thinning the Indians, to make room for the English. As for example, in Carolina, in which were created two potent nations, called Westoes and Savannahs, which contained many thousands, who broke out into an unusual civil war, and thereby reduced themselves into a small number; and the Wea.