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ORIGINAL POETRY.

TO MISS ———.

Go happy note and meet the eye
Wher' nought for me but dangers lie!
If thou art spurn'd, or in the fire—
Poor little martyr—should'st expire,
I shall be spared the anguish known
To know that such thy fate has been;
But I will hope the maid I love
Will let my vows her pity move,
And having one kind kiss impress'd,
May put thee in her gentle breast;
And I will take an oath to thee—
Nor let my fair one deem offence—
That I one day perchance may be
Receiv'd to like felicity.

BY A FRIEND.

A GREEK MARRIAGE.

BY MISS PARSONS.

But I have, meanwhile, forgotten the pretty bride, who was to be married at the house of an intimate friend of ours, and who, on my arrival there, was momentarily expected. The centre of the great Saloon was covered by a Turkey carpet, on which stood a reading desk, overlaid by a gold embroidered handkerchief, and supporting a Bible and the two marriage rings; the whole bright with the profusion of silver money that had been cast over them. The lady of the house was to officiate as "godmother" to the bride, an office somewhat similar to that of bride's maid; and she was even at that early noon sparkling with jewels. Although the sounds of music announced the arrival of the marriage train; and we hastened to a window to watch for their approach.—The procession was an interesting one.—The musicians were succeeded by the bridegroom (elect, walking between his own father and the father of his bride; one fair girl followed, accompanied by a couple of her young companions, and the two mothers, attended by "troops of friends," closed the train.

They were met at the threshold by the Archbishop of Non-masculinity and a party of priests, who immediately commenced chanting the marriage service; and, as they ascended the stairs, showers of money were flung over them from above.

In five minutes, the spacious saloon was filled to suffocation; the young couple were placed upon the edge of the carpet, the nuptial crowns, formed of flowers, ribbons, and gold thread, were deposited on the reading desk; and the rector of the parish, silver, began a prayer, that was caught up at intervals by the choral boys, and repeated in a wild chant. At the conclusion of this prayer, which was of considerable length, the attendant priests flung over the Archbishop his gorgeous vestments of violet satin, embroidered with gold, and gilded with tissue; and he advanced to the reading desk, and took thence two brilliant diamond rings, with which he made the cross three times, on the forehead, lids, and breast of contracting parties; and then placed them in the hand of the "godmother," who, putting one upon the finger of each, continued to hold them there while the prelate read a portion of the gospel; after which, she changed them three times, leaving them ultimately in the possession of their proper owners. This done, the Archbishop put the hand of the bride into that of her husband, and went through the same ceremonies with the nuptial crowns that he had previously enacted with the rings; they were then placed upon the heads of the young couple; and a goblet of wine being presented to the Archbishop, he blessed it, put it to his lips, handed it to the bride and bridegroom, and thence delivered it up to the "godmother."

The crowns were next changed three several times from the one head to the other; and several wax candles being lighted, as I have described them to have been during the Easter ceremonies at the Fanar, the whole party walked in procession round the carpet; and then it was that the silver shower fell thick and fast about them; the floor was literally covered.

When the chanting ceased, the bride raised the hand of her new-made husband to her lips; after which, every relative and friend of either party approached, and kissed them in the forehead. The Archbishop cast off his robes; the children scrambled for the scattered money the hand in the outer hall burst into an enlivening strain; and such of the company as were of sufficient rank to entitle them to do so, followed the bride and the lady of the house to an inner saloon, where a train of servants were in attendance, bearing trays of preserved fruits and delicate little biscuits, which were given to each person to carry away.—Liquors were then offered, and subsequently coffee, after which each married lady made a present to the bride of some article of value, previously to her departure from her home, whether we all accompanied her in procession; and took our leave at the portal to the house her friends, and join in the cheerful morning ball which was about to commence.

The effect of the golden tress that I had assisted to weave was very beautiful, binding it did, the rich dark hair of the bride upon her fair young brow, and then falling to her feet; and her whole costume we all had been eminently graceful, had she not been sinking under the heat and weight of the eternal cademite. The nuptial crowns which I have mentioned are about a foot in height, and shaped like a bee-hive when they were removed from the heads of the young couple, they were carefully enveloped in a handkerchief of colored gauze, and borne away to be hung up in the chapel of the bride groom's house, where they will remain until the death of either party, when the deceased is crowned for the second and last time, in the open coffin in which he is borne to the grave.

The Greeks make almost as much toilet for a funeral as for a marriage. Where the deceased is young and pretty, she is decked out in the richest apparel, and not antequently as her eyes become stained, and a quantity of rouge spread over her cheeks, to cheat death for a few brief hours of his wideness; her gloved hands are carefully displayed; she tricked out in jewels; and this frightful mockery is rendered still more revolting by the fact that she is paraded the streets, followed by female relatives, who weep, and shriek, and bewail themselves with a transient violence truly national. At the grave side, all the finery is stripped from the stiffened corpse; the friends carry it away, a cover is placed over the coffin, and the poor remains that were only a few instants previously so lavishly adorned, are consigned to the earth, of which they are soon to form a part.

TRIFLES TO SMILE AT.—A deceased, upright, and able chief justice of one of the courts, was once obliged to address a solemn jury.—A condemnation of the jury, in this case the counsel on both sides are unintelligible; the witnesses on both sides are incredible; and the plaintiff and defendant are both such bad characters, that to me it is indifferent which way you give your verdict." Some catalogues and printed particulars given by auctioneers are truly curious. Placards, headed "sale of a nobleman," may lead many persons to suppose that the sale of a nobleman's person is to take place in the most public markets of the metropolis. In a catalogue, "a great man's coat," and "an elegant lady's shawl," may seem to show that the pressure of the times affects all ranks, till it is explained that, by incorrectly placing the advertisements, two common articles of dress are only meant. "A mahogany child's chair," has certainly a dubious meaning; "movable fixtures" is declared to be correct, because technical—but in a sale of linen drapery, "a matchless piece of Irish," with twelve successive lots "ditto," is certainly an unequalled specimen of Hibernianism. A jury in one of the Cinque Ports, being charged with an old woman accused of stealing a pair of boots, moved probably by the infirmities and miserable appearance of the prisoner, returned the following verdict:—"We find her not guilty, and hope she will never do so any more."

CHINESE DOCTORS.—It is said to be a custom in China, that the physicians of the royal household receive their salaries only during the time that his celestial majesty continues in good health; and consequently that as soon as he happens to be seized with any illness, the payment of salaries is suspended until his recovery. This appears a wiser practice than our own, by which the fees of the sons of Galen increase with the increase of disorder.

A tailor following the army, was wounded in the head by an arrow. When the surgeon saw the wound, he told his patient that as the weapon had not touched his brain, there was no doubt of his recovery. The tailor said—if I had possessed any brains, I should not have been here.

FROM LATEST ENGLISH PAPERS.

London, February 23rd.

A rumor has been circulated during the week, that Lord Durham has had a difference with Ministers, on account of the premature publication of Lord Glenelg's instructions.

It is said that the Coronation of Her Gracious Majesty will take place in August.

The Irish poor-law bill has passed by a majority of 219 to 25, O'Connell being the leader of the minority.

Mr. Poulett Thompson is about to bring in a Bill before the House of Commons for an international law of copy-right.

We mentioned some months ago the probability that her majesty would form a matrimonial alliance with Prince George of Cambridge. There is, we believe, no doubt of the fact.—United Service Gaz.

In the House of Commons, Lord Easton presented the report of the Marylebone Election Committee, which declared, that Sir S. Whalley was not in possession of a sufficient qualification to entitle him to be selected Member for that borough. A new writ was immediately ordered in the room of Sir S. Whalley.

On the motion of Lord John Russell, the House agreed with the Lords' amendment to the Canada Bill; it was a provision requiring Members of the special council to take the oaths of allegiance before sitting or voting at the board.

The Queen has been pleased to appoint Col. De Lacey Evans, Lieutenant General in the service of the Queen of Spain, to be a Knight Commander of the Most Honourable Military Order of the Bath.

The Candidates for the representation of Marylebone, in consequence of the election of Sir Samuel Whalley, are Lord Teignmouth, Mr. Ewart, late M. P. for Liverpool, Lord Nugent and Col. Thompson.

Mr. Ellice, Junior, it appears, offered to resign his seat for the Coparburgh's, in consequence of his intended departure with Lord Durham to Canada; but his supporters have granted him leave of absence, and have declined for the present to accept his resignation. The facts, they are by no means fond of encountering in an election contest at present, as a Tory candidate is ready for them.

Sir William Nicolay, Governor and Commander in chief of the Mauritius, has been recalled, it is said on the ground of the usual period of service having expired.

Miss Kemble, the sister of Mrs. Butler, and youngest daughter of C. Kemble, is about to make her debut at the opera in Paris. Monsieur de Beriot is about to re-visit England during the coming season.

The Post Office clerks have commenced travelling on the Birmaniam railroad, and sort the letters during the journey so as to have them ready for delivery on their arrival.

Charles Kemble, accompanied by his daughter, Miss Adelaide Kemble, left town last evening for Paris, where, we understand, most advantageous offers have been made to Miss Kemble to perform in the grand opera.

Mr. Baker is publishing a sequel to his novel of Ernest Maltravers.

CANADIAN FENCIBLES.—Mr. Mackinnon, M. P. for Lynton, has suggested to Government the formation of a regiment of Canadian Fencibles from the unemployed poor of

the Western Highlands. The offer has been made by Mr. Mackinnon to raise one regiment of one thousand men or more, from the population of the clan that bears his name, and neighbouring clans on the following conditions:—That every man who is enlisted shall be entitled to fifty acres of land in Canada, which shall be assigned if his services are no longer required in that province, after the expiration of three years. The non-commissioned officers to have a proportionate number of acres. Mr. M. to have the disposal of the commissions, and the regiment to receive their pay and clothing from government. Officers on half-pay of the British Army to be eligible to take commissions, retaining their half pay. At the end of three years service, the regiment to be disembodied, and located in their land adjoining each other, and which land they are to retain in fee, on condition of being eight days' exercised under the officers in the course of the year, and of being again embodied should the local government of Canada or the executive government here, deem their services necessary for the public tranquility. If embodied to receive the same pay clothing and allowances as the other forces in Her Majesty's service.

The yearly income of the Norwich Company from insurance premiums amounts to £74,000. The proprietors' dividend for this year is £10 per cent.

Lord Ward has purchased the magnificent estate of one of the oldest and most respected of the Worcester Conservative gentry, Mr. Foley, of Whitley Court, has parted with this beautiful property to his lordship for £580,000.—Worcester Journal.

The Archduke John, of Austria, is to arrive in London this spring, to be present at the coronation of Her Majesty. Is he a bachelor?

Messrs. Henry and John Lee have contracted to lay the foundation of the new House of Parliament, within two years, for £7,475,775. In the execution of the new plan for warming and ventilating the House of Commons, more than five millions and a half of holes have been bored in the floor.

On Saturday night, a great number of persons collected in front of the Tower of London, in consequence of a report that Mr. Hume, M.P., and Mr. Leader M.P., had been taken into custody on charges of high treason, and were to be confined in the fortress previous to their being arraigned at the bar of the Old Bailey.—Times.

One of the greatest equestrian performances on record took place on Friday, on Sunbury Common. The undertaking was to perform in saddle 20 miles in one hour. Mr. Savage, who was to ride the match, weighed 12 stone, but had by training reduced himself to 10 stone 11 lbs. The mare, a beautiful bay, the property of Mr. Whitfield, 15 hands high, started a little before one; the first five miles were done in 14m. 30s.; the second in 13m. 50s.—The strap leather broke, and the mare was checked for about a minute, and another strap put on, and she again went off at full speed. She did the last five miles in about 13m. and won by 2m. 20s. Having performed the distance, exclusive of the delay, in 46m. and 40s.

FIRES IN THE METROPOLIS.—The number of fires in the metropolis and its suburbs during last year, 1837, according to the records kept by the London Fire Engine Establishment, amount to 717.

A man named Arthur Connolly, residing in Grayson-street, Liverpool, 79 years of age, has had seventeen wives, having been married five times in St. Peter's Church, and eight times in Walksey Church. He has been the father of 36 children, and is now "a year for another match," is the sporting people term.—Liverpool Mercury.

The largest steamer in Her Majesty's navy is the Gorgon, recently built, being 1,150 tons builder's measurement. She will carry twenty days' coals, one thousand troops, one hundred and fifty-six crew, with stores and provisions for six months. The engines are 320 horse power, and the vessel is so constructed that the steam machinery can scarcely be reached by shot.

