

## SELECTED POETRY.

## THE ORPHAN.

A PICTURE OF WAR.

I WAS but a child when my father fell,  
And a child when I saw my mother die;  
But though years have gone, I remember well  
My father's last look, my mother's last sigh,  
She sought the red field, where the war had been;  
And she bore me where mangled bodies lay;  
But I knew not the horrors of such a scene,  
And, 'mid all, my young heart smil'd, and was gay.

On the ground I saw my sire reclined—  
But I knew not then he was dying there,  
And still I prattled, smiled, and twined  
My fingers round his bloody hair,  
Thoughts so faintly he breathed—my son, my son,  
Blessing me there with this parting breath—  
Ah! little I dream'd he days were done—  
The look he gave me was the look of death.

And there was my mother sitting by,  
And her watch beside my sire she kept,  
But no gathering tear had dulled her eye—  
I thought her happy who had not wept,  
How I wondered, when the night came on,  
They had made the cold green earth their bed—  
But at morning my mother too was gone,  
And I was an orphan—both were dead.

FROM THE WORCESTER SPY.

**Valuable Importance.**—A machine for making shingles was invented a few years since by William Earle, of Athol, in this country, which he has so far improved that it bids fair, soon, to entirely supersede the present mode. The machinery, which is propelled by water, is easily kept in repair, and may be managed by boys, as no part of the work is laborious. By it one person will easily make 3 M. shingles per day. But the greatest advantage to be derived from this improvement, consists in the better quality of the work and the great saving of timber. The shingles made by these machines are all of a uniform thickness, and are made so perfectly true that a man will lay at least a third more, per day, than of the common kind, and the work, when done, is better and more uniform. We understand that ordinary lots of timber will make twice as many shingles in this, as in the common way, there being no waste made, and timber which cannot be worked in the old way, such as bass wood, pine that will not split, &c. may be wrought by these machines to equal advantage with the best of timber. A single machine requires less than a fourth part of the power usually applied to a grist mill.

The inventor has taken a patent for his improvement, and, we are informed, has orders for machines faster than he can supply them. A considerable number are in operation, and give universal satisfaction.

In a suit at law, Earle vs Sawyer, for an infringement on the patent of the above saw, the patentee recovered damages in the sum of 900 dollars. Many witnesses and men of mechanical genius were examined on both sides; and recent English publications, containing descriptions and drawings of machines, used in connexion with the Circular Saw, in Great Britain, at the present time, were read on the trial; and it appeared that the plaintiff's improvement was, as an ingenious and labor-saving invention, in advance of all machines, for a like purpose, any where before known and used.

**CASTINGS.**—Iron and metallic castings are stated to be very much improved, by subjecting metal, when in moulds, to pressure. This is done by making a part of the mould such a form as to receive a piston, which, on the metal being introduced, is made to press on it with any required force. It is stated that castings obtained in this way are not only free from the imperfections generally incurred in the usual mode, but have a peculiar soundness of surface and closeness of texture, qualities of the utmost importance in ordnance, rolling cylinders, &c.

**Philosophical Questions.**—M. de la Place, in one of the last sittings of the academy of sciences at Paris, proposed the following four questions for examination and decision, by a commission of that philosophical body: 1st. The actual intensity of the terrestrial magnetism. 2d. The exact proportion of the two gases which constitute our atmosphere. 3d. The exact pressure of the atmosphere at the surface of the sea; and 4th. The heat of the terrestrial globe at different depths following latitudes and other appreciable differences. The ingenious academicians allowed, that two or more of these points had been already examined by the greatest philosophers, and had been considered as sufficiently accurate to be appealed to by posterity; but ought to be established after a still more rigorous inquiry. Unless a more decided and a more generally admitted statement of the facts involved in these questions could be made, future ages would want the means of ascertaining or measuring the changes which may take place on the surface of our globe. A commission was accordingly appointed to make experiments to ascertain the above mentioned points.

**Mode of Soldering, in the construction of Telescopes.**—The following is a safe and neat mode of soldering a piece of brass to the back of the little speculum of a telescope, as a fixture for the screw to adjust its axis, telescopes of any construction may be neatly put together by the same means. Having well cleaned the parts to be soldered, cut out a piece of tin-foil, the exact size of them, then dip a feather into a pretty strong solution in water of sal ammoniac, and rub it over the surfaces to be soldered, then place the tin-foil between them as fast as you can, for the air will quickly corrode their surfaces, so as to prevent the solder taking, and give the whole a gradual and sufficient heat to melt the tin. If the joints to be soldered have been made very flat, they will not be thicker than a hair, though the surfaces be ever so extensive.

**On soldering thin sheet iron with cast iron.**—When the filings of soft cast iron are melted in a crucible with borax, which has been previously calcined, in order to get off the water it contains, a hard, shining, black, pitch like soldering substance is obtained, being glass of borax coloured black with iron.

Sal ammoniac having been applied to the internal joining, to between the overlapped edges of thin sheet iron, some of this black solder being powdered, is to be laid along a short portion of the joint, and as soon as it melted over a clear forge fire, the soldered part is to be placed on the back of an anvil, and beaten with a light hammer and quick hand, as long as the heat permits. More of the powder is to be laid on the adjoining part of the joining, until the whole of the seam is soldered.

This is justly considered a valuable process, and is attempted to be kept a secret.

From the Mechanics' Press.

**TEST FOR OXALIC ACID.**—Among the numerous tests that have lately been submitted to the public through various channels for detecting this poison, which has so frequently been taken by mistake; and as often most shamefully given for Epsom salts, perhaps the easiest, and one equally if not more certain, to those whose fingers are not entirely callous to the different degrees of sensation produced by heat and cold, has been overlooked. Epsom salts convey a cool, watery, obtuse sensation to the finger or skin of any part of the body. Oxalic acid, on the contrary, communicates a kind of gritty and pointed feel, resembling coarse dry sand, without any very perceptible degree of either heat or cold.

**SAGACITY OF RATS.**—A thorough good story. At Amsterdam, in a street called the Wood Market, recently lived a man, who was curious in keeping fowls. One of his hens, though in midst of summer, had several days stopped yielding her usual produce, and yet made her usual clucking; he searched the nest, but could find not even the shell of an egg, which made him resolve to watch her closely. He accordingly the next day placed himself in such a situation as to be able to observe her motions minutely; when to his great surprise he saw her discharge her egg, but no sooner was she off her nest, than three rats made their appearance. One of them immediately laid himself on his back, whilst the other rolled the egg upon his belly, which he clasped between his legs and held it firm; the other two then laid hold of his tail, and gently dragged him out of sight. This wonderful sagacity was exhibited for several days to some curious observers.

King Charles II. asked Stillingfleet how it came about that he always read his sermons before him, while he preached *extempore* elsewhere? He told the king that the awe he felt at so noble an audience made him afraid to trust himself, unless he put his discourse into writing. "But, pray," says Stillingfleet, "may I be permitted to ask a similar question? Why does your Majesty read your speeches, who can feel no awe from the presence of superiors?" "Why, truly," replied the king, "the question is a fair one, and so shall be my answer. By reading my speech, I keep my eye upon the paper; for I have asked supplies from the commons so heavily, and they have granted them so often, that we are ashamed to look each other in the face."

**CROSS READINGS.**—Wanted, a middle aged woman to take care of—the committee on Military Affairs.

Lost, on the way to the theatre—the whole population of the hind ward.

Wanted, a gentleman to teach the French language to—two hundred gallons of Irish whiskey.

A coloured boy of about 16 years of age, wishes—to be chairman of the committee on India Affairs.

Strayed or stolen, a few days since—the capital of the Lombard Bank.

Died, yesterday after a short illness—the New York Sharon Canal Company.

The celebrated horse Napoleon—will be appointed one of the Ministers to the Congress of Panama.

The committee rose, reported progress and obtained leave to sit again—on the upper side of Central Wharf.

Wanted, a nurse for—4 casks of Raspberry Brandy.—New York Paper.

**A TERRIBLE DISEASE.**—How do you do Jack P.—What ails you man?" inquired a friend to another. "Oh! my dear fellow, (replied he) I have got a terrible bilious disorder." "Indeed! (said the first) I did not know before that you were subject to bile." "Bile! (said he) oh no, but I am so, to a heap of bills, which I can't pay, and if this be not a bilious disorder, pray what is it?"

**FRIENDSHIP.**—The noblest part of a friend, said old Felham, is an honest boldness in the notifying of errors. He that tells me of a fault, aiming at my good, I must think him wise and faithful—wise in spying that which I see not; faithful in a plain admonishment, not tainted with flattery.

**EYES.**—Dr. Franklin observed, "The eyes of other people are the eyes that ruin us. If all but myself were blind, I should want neither fine clothes, fine houses, nor fine furniture."

**ANECDOTE.**—Frances I, having asked

Castellan, bishop of Orleans, whether he was of noble extraction, "Sire," replied he, "Noah had three sons with him in the ark, I cannot say from which of them I am descended."

**PROVERBS.**—From bad air, we take diseases; from bad company, vice and imperfections.

In the morning, think what thou hast to do; and at night, ask thyself what thou hast done.

STRONG GROC.

A venerable but eccentric member of this presbytery, lately, in attempting to get into the packet boat, fell into the canal. He was drawn out half drowned, and conveyed to a house in the neighbourhood, where he was put to bed. "Will ye tak some spirits and water, sir?" asked his considerate host. "Na, na! I hae had plenty o' water for ae day, I'll tak' the spirit noo." Scotch pa.

## INDIAN ELOQUENCE.

The Creek Indians, in a communication to the Secretary of War, on the subject of their grievances, in conclusion, hold the following spirited language:

Further concession cannot be made, and after the reasons first assigned, more you cannot well demand. We now appeal to the magnanimity of the U. States. We have travelled a long road to perform this duty. It is ordained by the Great Creator, that we are so reduced as to be dependant on your power and mercy, and if, in the hugeness of strength, you determine to decide by power and not by right, we shall return to our friends and live there until you take possession of the country. Then shall we beg bread from the whites, and live the vagabonds on the soil of our progenitors. We shall not touch a cent of money for our lands thus forced from our hands, and not a drop of white men's blood will we spill; and as fast as we are knocked in the head, the throats of our wives and children are cut by the first tide of population that know no law, we will then afford the United States a spectacle of emigration, which we hope may be to a country prepared by the Great Spirit for the honest and unfortunate Indians.

We remain your friends and brothers.

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