

POETRY.

THE WARRIOR'S GRAVE.

Not a drum was heard, nor a funeral note,
As his corse to the rampart we hurried;

We buried him darkly at dead of night,
The sods with our bayonets turning—

No useless coffin enclosed his breast,
Nor in sheet nor in shroud we bound him,

Few and short were the prayers we said,
And we spoke not a word of sorrow;

We thought, as we hollow'd his narrow bed,
And smooth'd down his lonely pillow,

Lightly they'll talk of the spirit that's gone,
And o'er his cold ashes upbraid him,

But half of our heavy task was done,
When the clock told the hour for retiring;

Slowly and sadly we laid him down,
From the field of his fame fresh and gory;

BYRON.

LOVE.

Dreams, dreams, all dreams! a bright fantastic
cloud,

Gorgeous as is Italia's peerless sky,
Breathing of hope and immortality:
But how recedes the glorious pageant, proud!
At morn, fair as the brow of Hope; eye, fair
As Venus' train, the young and sportive Hours;

SELECTIONS.

BACKGAMMON.

Chess is a valuable game in a prison or during a passenger's voyage to the Indies, because it consumes a deal of time, but it is not one of relaxation; for it has been often remarked of chess-players, that they look more stupid than usual after a long game; and well they may, for it is tedious work, and even the automaton chess-player who looks perfect tranquillity, turns impatient when his adversary takes too much time between moves. I respect a good chess-player as I would a mathematician, but I would not ask either for company in the intervals of care or business. As a social game, backgammon is far preferable, being a happy mixture of chance and skill, which keeps the attention alive:—it can be played amidst the hum of the largest parties, and a game or pool is soon determined. It is a very vulgar notion, that this game is all chance, for the precautions against chance control it in the long run in the same way as a skilful man does in his worldly affairs. Backgammon players may play all day long without being weary, but a chess-player, after such an operation, would look as stupid as a mile-post.

Nice point of law.—Blackstone, speaking of the right of a wife to dower, asserts, that if land abide in the husband for a single moment, the wife shall be endowed thereof; and he adds in a note, that this doctrine was extended very far by a jury in Wales, where the father and son were both hanged in one cart; but the son was supposed to

have survived the father, by appearing to struggle the longest, whereby he became seized of an estate by survivorship; in consequence of which seisin his widow obtained a verdict for her dower.

Water and Ice produce fire.—Throw a piece of potassium, about as large as a pepper corn, on the surface of water in a basin; the instant the metal meets the water, it burns in flame, with a slight explosion. It continues to burn till the whole of the potassium is consumed, darting from one side of the vessel to the other, or running to and fro on the surface of the water very rapidly, in the form of a red hot fire ball. If a piece of potassium be placed on ice, it instantly takes fire, burns with a bright flame, and melts a deep hole in the ice. This curious phenomenon is caused by the great affinity which the potassium has for oxygen, in consequence of which it decomposes water and ice, combining with the oxygen with such intensity as to produce heat and light, and setting fire to the hydrogen, which is liberated. The result of the combustion of the metal is the alkali potassa, which is thus shown to be an oxide of the metal potassium.—Chemist.

Astronomical Fact.—The seventh visible star of the constellation Pleiades has been of late found to be a periodical and revolving star, which accounts for the constellation being described by some writers as consisting of six, and some as being composed of seven stars, to which Ovid alludes—
"Septem quæ dici sex tamen esse solent."

French Premises.—The Queen Marie Antoinette said to M. de Breteuil, "Baron, I have a favour to ask of you," "Madame," he replied, "if the thing be possible, it is already done; if impossible, it shall be done."

Genius defined.—A wit, being asked what the word genius meant, replied, "If you had it in you, you would not ask the question; but, as you have it not, you will never know what it means."

Signor Fattori, an Italian surgeon, proposed as a remedy for the tooth-ache, the division of the nerve supplying the diseased tooth, and to effect this he has invented a new instrument, by which he perforates different parts of the painful tooth, and cuts through the nerve. The tooth, by this operation, for ever after, rendered insensible.

A gentleman who had neither voice nor skill, once attempting to sing in company, when he had come to a conclusion, Bannister said, "Your song, sir, is like the small pox."—"How is that?" said the company—"explain, explain."—"Why," rejoined the wit, "a devilish good thing when it is over."

During the riots in 1780, a magistrate being asked why he had not called upon the posse comitatus, replied, "that he would have done so, but knew not his address."

Early Rising.—To rise early is so truly the one thing needful above all—to all who are candidates for either of those capital prizes—health, wealth, or wisdom, that it is the only sure foundation for securing any chance of obtaining either of them.

He that would thrive
Must rise by five;—
He that has thriven
May lie till seven."

Instances may be found (but very seldom) of persons who have sat up late becoming wealthy, but they have paid for it the unwise price of their health. You cannot remember one solitary example of a sluggard having ever obtained one of these blessings of life. "Shake off dull sloth, and early rise."

There is no time spent so stupidly as that which inconsiderate people pass in a morning between sleeping and waking. He who is awake may be at work or at play; he who is asleep is receiving the refreshment necessary to fit him for action; but the hours spent in dozing and slumbering are wasted, without either pleasure or profit. The sooner you leave your bed, the sooner you will be confined to it. When old people have been examined, in order to ascertain the cause of their longevity, they have uniformly agreed in one thing only, that they all went early to bed and all rose early."

Change of Rings.—Two lovers bound themselves by mutual faith to separate during the latter part of the seven years' war; they agreed, however, to consider themselves as engaged, and accordingly exchanged rings, and swore eternal and inviolable constancy. On the ring of the lady, which she had given her lover, were the following letters: A. I. L. T. N. A. F. A.

Alas! I languish truly; now, adored friend, adieu.
On the ring which the gentleman gave to her: H. T. F. T. P. E.

Hold thy faith thy pains endure.
After an absence of eighteen months, the officer returned at the end of the war, in expectation of marrying the lady, but found her wedded to another. He went to her, to reproach her with her infidelity, but was received with raillery. On his mention of the ring, and the verses on it she desired him to read the letters backwards on the ring she had given him, and he would find their true meaning.
Adieu for aye; no true lover is absent.

On hearing this he was so enraged, that he begged the same favour of her to read his ring likewise in the inverse order of the letters, and she would also discover their true signification.
Egregious perfidy! thou'rt false, thou harlot!—
Parfitio.

How to arrive at Perfection.—Regularly read the sporting Sunday newspapers—visit the fancy houses—blow your steamer every night at a lush crib—associate with its frequenters—wear a poodle upper benjamin, mother of pearl buttons, a lilly shal low and bird's-eye wipe—chaff at the Fives Courts, and be present at the mills—carefully mix up all the slang phrases in your ordinary conversation—call a shilling a bob—a coachman a Jarvie—your uncle or your father a rum old cove; and if you find yourself at a loss, take half a dozen lessons from any Paddington stage-coachman; you cannot fail becoming a perfect BLACK-GUARD.—London paper.

Amongst all the inventions of human wit, there is none more admirable than writing; by means whereof a man may copy out his very thoughts, utter his mind without opening his mouth, and signify his pleasure at a thousand miles distance, and this by the help of twenty-four letters. The several ways of combining these letters amount, as Clavius, the Jesuit, has taken the pains to compute, to 5,852,616,738,497,664,000 ways.

An actor of some humour was pressed by his tailor for the payment of a long bill. The debtor declared himself to be in what he called a state of impecuniosity. This being the case, the tailor very modestly asked for a bond, which the other expressed his readiness to grant, provided the matter was kept a secret. When the bond was produced, it was indignantly torn, and thrown in the tailor's face. "You rascal," said the enraged comedian, "you promised to keep the affair a secret, and now your paper begins, 'Know all men by these presents!'

Mr. Smith.—Every body knows that Smith is a very common name, but hardly any body would have thought of turning its commonness to account in such a queer and cruel way as a "gentleman" did the other night at one of the theatres. Entering the pit at half-price, and finding every seat occupied, he bawled out—"Mr. Smith's house is on fire!" In an instant twenty Mr. Smiths rushed out of the pit, and the wicked wag, chuckling at the success of his stratagem, coolly took possession of one of their vacated seats.

The man who played the flute, by some accident broke it while in the orchestra of Covent-garden Theatre; Edwin running into the Green-room, cried out, "Poor fellow, poor fellow!"—"What's the matter, my dear Edwin?" cried Mrs. Webb. "Why madam," rejoined Edwin, poor Mr. — has just split his wind-pipe."

Curious Fact in Natural History.—It is a fact, we believe, not much known, that the eel, though it lives in an element that seems to place it beyond the reach of the atmospheric changes, is yet singularly affected by high winds. This is well known to the inhabitants of Linnibgow, who have an excellent opportunity of observing the habits of that animal, in the loch adjoining the town. The stream which flows out of that loch at the west end passes through a sluice, and falls into an artificial stone reservoir, from which it escapes by a number of holes in the sides and bottom. These holes are too small to let eels of a common size pass, and hence this reservoir answers the purposes of an eel-trap or cruite. The fish, however, are rarely found in it in calm weather; but when strong winds blow, especially from the west, these tenants of the waters seem to be seized with a general panic, and hurry from their lodgings like rats from a conflagration. At these times they rush through the outlet in crowds, and fall pell mell into the reservoir, from which they are speedily transferred to the frying pans of the burghers. During the late high winds, a cart-load was taken out of the reservoir every day, and in one day no less than two cart-loads!

"Lord Bacon," says Aubrey, "had a delicate, lively, hazel eye. Dr. Harvey told me it was like the eye of a viper."

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GEORGE K. LUGRIN.
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