

**BYRANT'S HABITS.**

The straight point in Mr. Bryant's character was his simplicity. This is no more true of his poems than of his prose writings; no more true of either than of his daily pursuits and habits. Traveling, as he did, through many lands and among the proudest monuments of civilization; having, as he always did in his character and position, a perpetual passport to all society and every public place, his heart remained fixed in its first love of simplicity. Mr. Bryant told the story of his habits himself. Nothing could be simpler. The Athenian, born on the poorest soil in Greece, contented himself at dinner with the head of a fish, an onion and a few olives. Even the rich were quite satisfied with a dish of vegetables; while people at large were accustomed to eat on a feast day for the whole year. Mr. Bryant in diet was no exception. In winter he rose at half-past six, in summer from half an hour to an hour earlier. With little clothing on his body, he immediately began an hour's exercise with dumb-bells, a horizontal bar, and a light chair swung round the head. Sometimes he gave more than an hour to this exercise, but never less. When it was over he bathed from head to foot. In the summer, if living at Roslyn, he usually shortened the exercise in the chamber and went out of doors to engage at some work requiring brisk exercise, such as pruning trees or cutting wood. After the bath, if breakfast were not ready, he sat in his library. No breakfast could be plainer than his—honey and milk, or brown bread, or meal or wheaten grouts, and in the season, baked sweet apples. Breakfast cakes he did not eat, but coffee or animal food he never took. Occasionally he drank chocolate, as it has no narcotic effect. After the meal was over he engaged for a while at his studies and if in the city, walked down to the Evening Post office, distance of three miles. After three hours passed thus he returned, always walking, whatever the condition of the streets or weather might be. If living in the country, he studied or read until weary, and then went into his garden to prune pear trees, or walked through the woods; he seldom drove. He dined early on vegetables with a little meat or fish. At supper he never drank tea, but was satisfied with bread and butter and fruit. Fruit formed a large part of his diet, and he ate it at almost any time without inconvenience. In the city, where people dine later, he only ate two meals a day. Water was his almost exclusive drink, though he occasionally took wine. He once said he was a natural temperance man, his mind being rather confused than exhilarated by alcohol. Milton once said, however, that the lyric poet may drink wine and live generously; but the epic poet, who should sing of the gods and their descent upon man, must drink water out of a wooden bowl. According to Milton, then, Mr. Bryant was more of an epic than a lyric poet, and though his verses are not of the epic order, no one lacking the epic spirit could have translated Homer as he did. Mr. Bryant retired early, in town at 10—in the country somewhat earlier. For several years he avoided in the evening every kind of literary occupation which tasked the faculties, such as composition, even to the writing of letters, because it excited his nervous system and prevented sound sleep. He never used tobacco. "I never meddle with it," he said "except to quarrel with its use. I abominate all drugs and narcotics, and have always carefully avoided everything which spurs nature to exertions which she would not otherwise make. Even with my food I do not take the usual condiments, such as pepper and salt." When practicing law in Massachusetts he was elected a Justice of the peace, and at one time held the office of village clerk. He was often asked later in life to accept office, but he steadily refused. His name was once mentioned for the Italian mission and he immediately responded, saying: "What would I do in the hot atmosphere of a court society which derives its tone from the sanction of royalty? Give me the pure air, the bright skies and the green fields." In religion he was a deep, though unpretentious, believer. At Roslyn he regularly attended the little Presbyterian church and partook of the sacrament.

**DEATHS.**

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