

LITERATURE, &c.

BORDEAUX.

Bordeaux, the opulent and commercial city of France, is situated on the Garonne, about 75 miles from its mouth, and contains a population of about 100,000; its trade is very great; the Garonne is a noble river, with a depth of water sufficient to enable the largest ships to come up to the city, lying open, in conjunction with the Dordogne and their tributary streams, a large extent of country. The commerce of Bordeaux is greatly promoted by the famous canal of Languedoc, which communicates with the Mediterranean; by its means Bordeaux is enabled to furnish the south of France with colonial products at a cheaper rate than Marseilles. Wine, Brandies, and fruits, are the staple articles of export, but the merchants apply themselves more particularly to the wine trade; most of their other business is confined to their dealing on commission, but the wine trade they conduct it most invariably on their own account, the reason they assign for this, is, that the difficulty attending the purchase, racking, fining, and proper care of wines, so as to render them fit for exportation, are so very great as to make it almost impossible to conduct the business on anything like the ordinary terms, so as to satisfy their employers. Colonial products, cotton, &c. form the principal articles of importation.

Money is the same in Bordeaux, as it is in other parts of France; all accounts are kept in francs, the par exchange being 25 fr. 20 cent the pound sterling. With the exception of wines, and brandies, the new or decimal system of weights and measures is of general application in Bordeaux, both in wholesale and retail operations.

The principal exports from Bordeaux to this country, are wines, brandy, almonds, prunes, verdegriis cream of tartar, and small quantities of manufactured goods.

Of the various classes and kind of wines, sold and exported from Bordeaux, our limits forbid us to write. The merchants in general purchase up the finest *Crus*, as soon as sufficiently advanced to judge of their character, or more frequently they are bought up for a series of years whither good or bad. They are transported to their cellars or 'chays' in Bordeaux, so situated and protected by the surrounding houses as to preserve a tolerable equable temperature throughout the year, and in these they ripen and undergo all the different processes of fining, racking, mixing, &c. considered necessary to adapt them to the different tastes of the foreign consumers. Mixing is one of the principal features of the process; for instance they adapt their wines for the English market, by a plentiful dose of the strong full bodied, and high flavored wines of the Rhone, such as Hermitage, &c. The wines shipped under the title of Chateau Magaux, Lafitte, and Lotour, are mixed with the vines of the surrounding Vineyards, which are not materially different. Other good wines are said to enter largely into the composition of these celebrated *Crus*; and those of a superior year are employed to bring up the quality of one or two bad years, so that it is easy to conceive that the famous wines of 1811, 1815, 1819, and 1825, are not speedily exhausted. Some houses pretend to keep their wines pure, but the practice of mixing is at any rate very general.

The purchase of the wines, whither from the grower or merchant, is always effected through a broker. There are few of them who have acquired a reputation for accuracy in dissecting the different flavours, and in tracing the results of the wines by certain measures of training or treatment.

England takes off nearly half the high priced wines and very little of any other quality. Except in Bordeaux itself, there is but a very moderate portion of the superior Medoc consumed in France. Paris even demands only second, third, or fourth rate wines.

The Dutch who are the largest consumers of Bordeaux wine, go more economically to work than others; they send vessels to the river, in the wine season, with skillful supercargoes, who go among the growers, and purchase the wines themselves, cheaper even than a broker could do; they live on board the ship, take their own time to select, and wait often for months before their cargo is completed; but they obtain their object, getting a supply of good sound wine, at a low rate with all the charges of shipping included, as the wine merchants can deliver it into their stores in Bordeaux. They never purchase old wine; they take only that new made, and the same system is followed by them at Bayonne, in procuring white wines.

The principal wine merchants have agents in London, whose business is more particularly to introduce their wines to family use; for this they pay them from £300 to £800 for travelling expences and giving entertainments, besides allowing them a commission on the amount of sales. They select agents of good address to mix with the upper classes.

Bordeaux possesses some iron founderies, cotton factories, sugar refineries, glass works, &c. but labour and

living are too high to admit of its being a great manufacturing city. There is but one banking company at Bordeaux, the 'Bordeaux Bank;' it enjoys perfect confidence, and is of great service to the merchantile interests of the town, though not very profitable to its shareholders.

Colonial produce, spices, dye stuffs, and mettals, are usually sold at Bordeaux for cash, with 3 per cent. discount. Corn, flour, brandy, and several other articles, are sold for net cash without discount. Wines are generally bought of the cultivators at 12 a 15 months credit, or 6 per cent. discount, when they change hands amongst the merchants, the practice is to sell for cash, allowing three or five per cent. discount. The usage is established at Bordeaux to consider all paper having less than thirty days to run as cash; and with such, all payments are made, unless otherwise stipulated.—*Moore's Price Current.*

O SPARE MY FLOWER.

O spare my flower, my gentle flower,
The slender creature of a day,
Let it bloom out its little hour,
And pass away.

Too soon its fleeting charms must lie
Decay'd, unnoticed, overthrow'd.
O, hasten not its destiny—
Too like thy own.

The breeze will roam this way to-morrow,
And sigh to find his playmate gone:
The bee will come its sweets to borrow,
And meet with none.

O spare! and let it still outspread
Its beauties to the passing eye,
And look up from his lowly bed
Upon the sky.

O spare my flower! Thou know'st not what
Thy undiscerning hand could tear:
A thousand charms thou notest not
Lie treasured there.

Nor Solomon, in all his state,
Was clad like Nature's simplest child;
Nor could the world combined, create
One floweret wild.

Spare, then, this humble monument
Of an Almighty's power and skill:
And let it at His shine present
Its homage still.

He made it who makes nought in vain;
He watches it who watches thee;
And he can best its date ordain
Who bade it be.

REV. H. F. LYTE.

LEVEL OF THE BALTIC.

The Commercial Gazette of St. Petersburg, of May 28, has the following:—'It has been remarked that during the last 20 years, the water in this port has become considerably lowered; and affords a new proof of the correctness of the observations made by the ancient inhabitants of the shores of the Baltic, that the bottom of this sea is continually rising, and that the level and body of the water is gradually diminishing, and that the land is increasing on every side. According to the researches of the ancient naturalists, phenomena of this nature most frequently occur in the countries near the North Pole. We can quote as examples the lakes of Denmark, which have sunk so low that some of them are almost entirely without water. Sweden and Norway, 2500 years ago, formed one island. The town of Pittea, in 45 years, become distant from the sea two miles, and the water receded from Lonlea one mile in 28 years. The ancient port of Lodisa is now four miles from the sea, and that of Westerwich two miles. At the time of the foundation of Torneo large vessels could come close up to it, now it is in the middle of a peninsula. The islands of Eerrgsoe and Caroe, Aspoe and Testeroe, have been for many years joined to each other; and Louisoë, Psalmodi, Magdelone and may more have become part of the main land. It was upon these facts, connected with other observations, that Linnæus and Celsus concluded that the depth of the Baltic Sea diminished four inches in every century, and that in 2000 years it would entirely disappear. Although more accurate observations made in modern times do not confirm the diminution to be so rapid as this, they concur with the generally received opinion that the bottom of the sea in the northern hemisphere rises in a degree, though the level of the water does not sink. It is difficult to decide which of those two opinions are most correct, but it is incontestible that the main land washed by the Baltic is enlarging, that the rivers and lakes diminish in depth, that banks are forming in the seaports and that sooner or later the inhabitants of the

shores of this sea will be driven to dig canals, and perhaps to lay down iron rail-roads, in order to maintain their commerce.

MORAL FORTITUDE DEPENDANT ON HABIT.

When life is in danger either in a storm or a battle, it certain that less fear is felt by the commander or the pilot, and even by the private soldier actively engaged, or the common sailor laboriously occupied, than by those who are exposed to the peril, but not employed in the means of guarding against it. The reason is not that the one class believe the danger to be less. They are likely in many instances to perceive it more clearly. But having acquired a habit of instantly turning their thoughts to the means of counteracting the danger, their minds are thrown into a state which excludes the ascendancy of fear.—Mental fortitude depends entirely upon this habit. The timid horseman is haunted by the horrors of a fall. The bold and skilful thinks only about the best means of curbing or supporting his horse. Even when all means are equally unavailable, and his condition appears desperate to the bystander, he still owes it to his fortunate habits that he does not suffer the agony of the coward. Many cases have been known where fortitude has reached such strength that the faculties, instead of being confounded by danger, are never raised to their highest activity by a less violent stimulant. The distinction between such men and the coward does not depend upon difference of opinion about the reality or extent of the danger, but on a state of mind which renders it more or less accessible of fear.—*Encyclopædia Britannica, new edition, Sir James Mackintosh's Dissertation.*

SAGACITY OF A NEWFOUNDLAND DOG.

THE ASIA was one of the fastest ships in the fleet, and we stretched away to the westward for several miles, till a gun from the commodore gave us notice to close. We had seen nothing of the boat, but we saw a strange schooner, Yankee-rigged, that was standing towards the rocks, and we hoped that if the long-boat was yet in existence, there would be a chance of her being picked up by the schooner, though the general idea was, that she had gone down, and every soul had perished. We had scarcely wore ship for the purpose of joining the convoy, when a dense haze obscured them from sight, and as evening was closing in fast, every officer was stationed in different parts to keep a look out. We had retraced about half our distance, and the passengers were conversing in melancholy mood upon the events of the past night, and the probable fate of the long boat, when a noble Newfoundland dog, that had laid sleeping on deck, suddenly raised his head, and gave a short growl. The Captain was pacing to and fro with the chief mate, but stopped near the animal, and addressing it, said, 'Halloo, Nep! what's the matter with you old boy?' The creature wagged its long bushy tail at hearing his master's voice, and then composed to slumber again, but in less than a minute he resumed his growling, and raised himself upon his fore-paws. 'He bears something beyond our knowledge,' exclaimed the Captain: 'up Nep, my boy, and see to 'em!' The animal at first rose lazily, stretching his limbs and shaking his coat, but in an instant he stood immovable in the fixed attitude of attention, and then sprung away up the poop ladder, running from side to side, and barking most vehemently, till at last he took his station to windward, and seemed perfectly furious. 'We cannot be within six miles of the fleet,' said the Captain, 'and yet I am confident there is something near us. Weather cathead there, do you see or hear anything to windward?—silence, Neptune—down boy! down!' and the animal became perfectly tranquil, wagging his fine tail, and rubbing his head affectionately against his master's hand. The officer on the lookout replied in the negative, as did also several others who had cautiously looked round and attentively listened. 'I'll stake my existence on the dog's sagacity,' said the Captain, addressing the chief mate. 'By heavens! it may be the missing boat!—haul up the main sail and square the after-yards; keep her course quarter-master, till I tell you to luff to the wind, and let there be silence fore and aft.' The orders were immediately and punctually obeyed, and then the Captain patting the head of the huge animal, exclaimed, 'Now, Nep, we must trust to you, old boy; look for 'em, Nep! seem 'em out!' The dog whined with a languid playfulness, as if satisfied that he had awakened attention, when there arose a low, hollow moan, that seemed like a heavy groan issuing from the very bowels of the ocean. The ship, though moving through the water, was greatly retarded by the shivering of the after-sails, and the dash