

FREE TRADE.

CONSEQUENCES OF CHEAP BREAD.—One of the thirsty brotherhood was encountered the other morning by a sober friend, who upbraided him with the severity of the previous night's debauch, which, indeed, was too plainly visible in his flaming countenance and unsteady limbs.

INVENTION FOR DISCOVERING THE POSITION OF AN ENEMY AT NIGHT.

The 'Carcase,' fired at Woolwich on Capt. Boxer's plan, was a beautiful spectacle, the shells ascending to a great altitude, and when at the highest point, an explosion took place similar to the bursting of a rocket in the air, and out came a parachute, fully six feet in diameter, and about three feet in depth, suspending the brilliant blue light, and gradually descending in the south-east direction, owing to the point of the compass from which the wind was blowing at the time, and lighting the part of the common on which it descended with a light nearly equal to what is given by a full moon on a clear night.

From the London People's Journal.

THE MISSION OF THE POET.

BY BURLINGTON B. WALKER.

WHEN the Poet dies, society seldom mourns much for its loss. The world shines as brightly, and moves on as merrily, now that the great departed has stepped aside into his lowly tomb, as it did when he lived and moved, a giant among men. One more star has indeed fallen from the intellectual firmament; and for a moment the mournful cadence of a nation's sorrow is heard swelling above the hubbub of political violence, and then all is still. The dirge dies slowly away. The world returns to its feasting and its merriment; a new orb is culminating in the firmament, to which society points its telescope, and men mourn no more for the 'bright particular star,' which has gone down for ever into night and silence.

Thus, amid human indifference and neglect, does death snatch from the world its brightest jewels, gathering to its dark domain all that is good, and beautiful, and true. Yet is this indifference of the world to the passing away of its greatest reformers, strange and unaccountable. We say its greatest reformers, for poets have in every age been the first reformers; the boldest denouncers of the oppressor, and the most fearless advocates of the people's rights.

Every man has his mission, lives for a purpose, and wields an influence; and when he dies, the world is either the better or the worse for his existence. It is true that, with the majority of mankind, this influence is limited in its range and duration; but men of genius outlive their age in a manner, and by an influence peculiar to themselves. Their works exercise an immediate influence upon the spirit of their race, ages after they themselves have mouldered into dust. It is a purely moral influence, silent as the dew, invisible as the wind! Of these men of genius, the Poet perhaps, occupies the most prominent and influential position. His writings belong to the literature of the heart; and the human heart, with its passions, its hopes, its memories, is everywhere and for ever the same.

Literature divides itself into two great divisions: the literature of the heart, and the literature of the intellect. To the latter belong works of science, history, politics, &c.; it is purely informative. In the former is comprised all works of fancy, imagination, and sentiment; among these, the productions of the Poet stand first. The materials with which they have to do, and the passions and sentiments to which they appeal, are inimitable.

The literature of the intellect, on the other hand, is constantly varying with the fluctuations of knowledge. That which formed the text book of science in one age, becomes the plaything of the next. Science in its progress may supersede Newton's Principia; but no future poet will ever supplant Homer or displace Milton. The truths of science are relative, the truths of sentiment absolute.

What we gain from Milton or Shakspeare is not some ten thousand infinitesimal items, the tout ensemble of which goes to the making up a maximum of knowledge upon any given subject, but the development of those latent sympathies, which constitute our moral nature; the calling forth those aspirations for the beautiful, the holy, and the infinite, which like the patriarch's ladder lift the spirit from earth to heaven, and bring it into closer communion with its creator.

All the steps of knowledge carry us forward on the same plane; whereas, the very first step in moral truth carries us upward into a region where the grosser materialism of earth is forgotten. Knowledge is transitory; history may be re-written. How many histories of England have been enlarged, condensed, or epitomised! But what should we think of the man who proposed to re-write the tragedies of Aeschylus; to abridge Hamlet or King Lear, or to add three more books to the Odyssey, or Paradise lost? The spirit of these works can never transigrate. The great creation of

poet-genius can never be repeated or remodelled. What literary Encyclopedist would venture to reconstruct, expand, condense, or modify the master-pieces of modern poetry; the Satan of Milton, standing apart from his fellows in the starry grandeur of darkness, and in his immortal hate norling defiance at the Omnipotent; Night in its dark pavillion spread wide upon the wasteful depth; Chaos on its sackcloth throne; Lear cursing his daughters in his fury, or battling with the storm in his madness; Macbeth grasping the blood-stained dagger, or holding unhallowed communings with the weird sisterhood upon the blasted heath; the last man standing alone upon the skeleton-peopled earth—the black firmament above him, and the soundless waves congealed into a motionless mass at his feet?

These magnificent creations are susceptible of no improvement, no modifications.—Amid perpetual mutability, they at least are immutable. There is no Procrustean bed, to the dimensions of which they can be elongated or curtailed.

And so with every poet whose works survive his age. The position which his immediate successors award remoter generations will not dispute. Posterity will never question his title nor attempt to dislodge him from his proud pedestal. The works of poetic genius win for themselves an immortality of fame, to which no other productions of the human intellect can lay claim. The agencies by which they act are more numerous, the objects on which they operate more susceptible, and their influence more lasting than that of any other species of literary composition.

Such is the duration of the poet's power and fame; what then his mission? Is it to go forth, like Byron, converting earth's loveliest scenes into the homes of misanthropy and despair? Must we be forever listening to the barking of the poet's own sensuality? In indulging for ever in the philosophy of sneers? We have not so read thy book, O golden-winged and radiant spirit! To our mind the mission of the poet is one of love not of scorn.

The Poet is the high priest of nature, the interpreter of her wondrous mysteries. It is his to trace, in the great alphabet of nature and of life, the august hand of God; to unravel the seeming intricacies of nature, speaking out to the listening world, in tones of grand and eloquent music, the mystic meanings of her world Cadmean letters; the storm-clouds floating in the eternal fire-side overhead; the golden tears of heaven which men call stars; the storm—the calm—the eve—the sunshine, and the pleasant noon; the everlasting hills—the flashing seas—the sombre forests—the cloud-crowned mountain—the ivied ruin—the foaming cataract—the concave heavens, with their evershifting cloud-scenes, and dim moonlight drapery, and gorgeous setting sun; all these are woven into his solemn lore, coined into music, and sent forth in grand articulate throbbings over the harsh dissonances of life, to gladden the hearts of his fellows, and to imbue with

'Holy hope and humanity'

the souls which are grovelling in the dust and sensualism of existence.

[Remainder next week.]

From the London People's Journal.

THE SONG OF THE ROBIN.

BY J. E. CARPENTER.

Oh, what sings the Robin, the bird of the poor,

As he chirrup and flits round the cottager's door?

As, gay and contented, he carols his lay, These, these are the words that his song seems to say:—

'I envy no proud ones their cages of gold, My freedom's a jewel too prized to be sold; I'm humble, yet happy—though poor, I am free;

So no gilded cages, no prison for me!

Oh, thus sings the Robin, the bird of the poor,

As he carols his lay by the cottager's door.

The swallow, in spring, builds his nest in the eaves, But faithless his friendship—ere winter he leaves!

I'm true to my home, whereso'er it may be— Then may not earth's proud ones take lessons from me?

I build not my nest on the tree-top or wall; For the higher ambition, the lower the fall; In winter and summer I'm always the same— Is it so with some bright feather'd birds I could name?

And thus sings the Robin, the bird of the poor,

As he carols his lay by the cottager's door.

Then should we not prize him, the bird of our youth, If not for his beauty, still more for his truth— For his lesson's of meekness and constancy, blent

With feelings still dearer—of home and content? Then spurn not the humble: the Robin may teach

A moral to minds that no sermon can reach— May bid us to cling, while Hope points from above, To the scenes of our youth and the friends that we love.

Oh, long may the Robin, the friend of the poor,

Still gladden the scene round each cottager's door.

The Politician.

REDUCTION OF THE SALARIES OF THE JUDGES.

[The last number of the Head Quarters, contains the speech of Mr Street in the Assembly, on this question, and as we know our readers are anxious to learn the sentiments of their members on all leading questions, we copy below the greater portion of his address. We find his sentiments agree with ours, on the non-working principle which the Government has pursued, and the necessity there is for a change of policy.]—ED. GLEAN.

He would call the attention of the committee to the Government measures introduced the present session, and here he would observe that he had been entertained and edified by a great many very eloquent and beautiful speeches from the hon. leader of the Government. With one or two of such speeches the hon. leader had accompanied all the measures that had been thus introduced, but when he (Mr Street) came to analyze and look into these measures, and their effect upon the country, he found them to be little else than a flourish. These fine speeches reminded him (Mr S.) of what Mr Johnston, in the House of Nova Scotia, said of Earl Grey's Despatches—that he, Earl Grey, wrote wisely, but acted foolishly. So of the hon. Attorney General's speeches may be said—he spoke well, but his measures were abortive, so far as concerned relief to the country. He (Mr S.) would ask hon. members what measures had the Government introduced the present session involving the slightest degree of political responsibility, or which were calculated to relieve the country from its present commercial depression? He (Mr S.), without fear of contradiction said—none. They had introduced several bills for the consolidation of local acts, which might save this House in future some trouble, the beneficial effects of which were still to be tested, and in which the country took little or no interest. They had given certain legislative powers to the Sessions of the respective counties, the good working of which were, in his (Mr Street's) opinion, very problematical. The Government had also introduced a number of law Bills, one of which was so crude and absurd that the learned Attorney General had himself become ashamed of it, and at length most unnaturally disavowed as his bantling. One of these law bills, had, however, passed into a law; this bill had been sent from the upper House; it had, he (Mr Street) learned, been framed by the hon. and learned Executive member in that House (Mr Chandler) and been introduced by the hon. Executive member for Charlotte, (Mr Hill) whom the learned Attorney General, upon a former occasion, and when he (Mr Hill) belonged to a previous Government, termed the small joint in the Executive tail, and who appeared to play the like part in the tail of the present Government. This bill had been sent down and committed to the care of the quasi son-in-law of the hon. Mr Chandler (Dr Wilson) as a perfect measure, and as one that was to make law cheap, and had been thus passed through this House, without the slightest amendment being made, and without even listening to the objections urged against it from an impression on the part of the majority that it would reduce the expenses of litigation. Now he (Mr Street) verily believed that that law would be found in its operation to be productive of harm, produce great confusion, render the administration of justice very uncertain, and add greatly to the expence of obtaining legal relief. Still this was one of the measures of the Government for the relief of the country. The Parish School law was another measure which had brought forth one of the most beautiful speeches from the hon. leader of the Government he (Mr S.) had ever listened to upon that subject, yet what had it resulted in? Why, the introduction of a Bill which was a failure, and which the Attorney General was at length obliged to abandon as impracticable. To such clap-trap had the Government thus far confined themselves the present session, and have, at the close of the heat, when the benches were thin, and a great many hon. members had left for their respective homes, as a climax, introduced a measure that having for its object the reduction of the judicial salaries with another beautiful speech from the learned leader of the Government, a measure which if carried, would and could afford no relief to the country—a thing the country never called for or wished; the amount of saving proposed was the 72d part of a farthing per day to each male inhabitant—less than a penny a year. Wonderful relief to the country, truly! What has become of the various measures brought under the consideration of the House in His Excellency's Speech at the opening of the Session? Have not the government given the go bye to nearly the whole? and why? because those subjects involved political responsibility; they, therefore have mainly confined their great measures, of which they boast so much, to subjects in which neither the House nor the country take any serious interest. What have they done to develop the resources of the Province—to encourage the trade, and relieve the country from its present commercial embarrassments? He (Mr S.) would answer—nothing. What has become of the boundary question between New Brunswick and Canada—the great trunk Railway—the initiation of money grants—the improvement in the Revenue laws, and various other important subjects? These all had to give place to the consolidation of the laws, law bills, and the other clap-trap already pointed out. With these remarks he (Mr S.)

would resume the subject of the Resolutions before the committee. Last year the Hon. Attorney General came down with a Bill for the prospective reduction of judicial salaries; the Chief Justice to £700 a year, and each of the Puisne Judges to £600. When that Bill was under consideration the Hon. the Attorney General argued strenuously that no reduction could be made to affect the present incumbents. The Hon. and learned member from St. John (Mr Ritchie) then insisted that a Bill should be brought in for the immediate reduction of salaries; but this proposition the Attorney General resisted with all his weight and eloquence. What had since occurred to convince the Hon. Attorney General that he was wrong last year, and that now he might bring in a measure for the immediate reduction of judicial salaries? Was it simply the published report of a speech made by Lord John Russell in his place in Parliament, which might or might not be correct, but whether correct or not it surely could not be argued that the report of such a speech is to supersede a despatch under the hand of Her Majesty's principal Secretary of State for the Colonies. Such might be the views of the leader of the Government, and such may be the views of the Government itself, but he (Mr S.) was free to confess such were not his views, nor did he believe they were the views which could be entertained by a sound constitutional lawyer, whatever his politics might be; nor could he (Mr S.) draw any such conclusions from the speech in question. He had read Lord John Russell's speech with attention, and could find nothing whatever therein to justify the introduction of such a measure. He agreed with the Attorney General in his views on this subject last year as widely as he differed with this year; nor could he conceive how the honor and faith of the crown, for the present salaries of the Judges during the tenure of their office, could be more strongly pledged than it had been.—(Here the hon. member went into a history of the delegation to England, and the settlement of the Civil List Bill, which secured £14,500 a year to His Majesty for the purposes therein named.) It was certainly a novel way of retrenching, by robbing the Judges of the land—officials, of all others, who ought to be independent and placed beyond suspicion—of the salaries guaranteed to them, not only by the British Government but by the Province itself; for the moment that the Civil List Bill became a law that moment the faith and honor of the Province was pledged to the fulfilment of its provisions towards all appointed to office, stipulations mutually agreed upon by the British Government and the Legislature of this Province; and if any act were wanting to confirm and complete the compact, the passing of the law last winter fixing the salaries of the future incumbents, introduced as it was by the hon. leader of the Government, upon the expressed ground that the present incumbents could not be interfered with without a gross breach of faith, was that act. These were his (Mr Street's) opinions, and what was a little singular they had also been the political faith of the Attorney General himself when the subject of the reduction of judicial salaries was before the House last year. He had before him a file of the Head Quarters newspaper, which contained a report of the hon. and learned Attorney General's speech on that occasion, in which, while treating of the negotiations for the surrender of the casual and territorial Revenue, the following remarkable passage occurs:—'It was a most remarkable fact that among all the reports and throughout all the negotiations which had from time to time taken place, there never had been a proposition offered to that House to lower the salaries of the Judges below £1000 a year for the Chief Justice, and £900 a year for each of the Puisne Judges exclusive of fees.' This was certainly a remarkable fact, but one which could easily be accounted for from the desire which every well regulated mind must possess to see the Judiciary of the country independent, and this of itself was a strong argument for the views which the Attorney General then, and which he (Mr S.) still entertained. But this was not all; in a subsequent part of the same speech the Attorney General said:—'From what has already been advanced, hon. members would see clearly the impossibility of the Government attempting to reduce the salaries of the present Judges. It was contrary to all experience to suppose that any such attempt could be successful; and it would be in direct opposition to the frequently declared opinions of Her Majesty's Colonial Secretary to make the effort.' He would again ask how it happened that the Attorney General was now ready to adopt a measure which, last year he had said in his place would be contrary to the declared opinions of Her Majesty's Colonial Secretary? Again speaking with reference to the language of a despatch from the Colonial Secretary, the Attorney General told them that 'following the language of this despatch, he considered it of the very highest consequence that this subject should be settled once for all, and not left open as a subject of discussion from year to year,' and in the next sentence he adds that 'this was rendered still more imperative when it had been openly declared on the floors of that House, that to attack the salaries of Public officers was one of the readiest means of recommending a candidate for public favor to the constituency of this Province.' He (Mr Street) quite agreed with the sentiments of the learned Attorney General when he last year said that the subject should be settled once for all, and not left open for discussion from year to year, but the course now pursued by the hon. and learned Attorney General was in direct opposition to his former views,