

LITERATURE, &c.

The British Magazines.

From Chamber's Edinburgh Journal.

THE TALISMAN.

Away with gems and ornaments, and braidings of the hair, Bright roses and the rainbow tints are for the young and fair: The sombre foldings of my robe no glittering clasp confines, Yet hidden, resting on my breast, a golden emblem shines. I clasp it close this talisman, that ne'er was clasped in vain To calm the heart's tumultuous throbs of anguish and of pain.

My pilgrimage on earth may be perchance through devious ways, Where joyous sunshine scattereth but dim and transient rays; And wearied with the journey, in impatience or in pride, I often wish the pathway was a choice one and a wide, And lightly clasp the talisman, that ne'er was clasped in vain To calm the heart's tumultuous throbs of anguish and of pain.

I shield my precious treasure well from foolish scoffer's eyes, Its costliness they fathom not, its purity despise; Yet hath it wondrous power to warm, to cheer, and bless, When chilling blasts strike cold and drear amid the wilderness. Then clasp it close this talisman, that ne'er was clasped in vain To calm the heart's tumultuous throbs of anguish and of pain.

With supplicative lowly plaints, each day at morn and even, When guardian angels hover nigh to waft each sigh to heaven; Oh raise this hallowed emblem high, which, fragile as it seems, Mysteriously o'ershadoweth with bright and awful gleams! Say, need I name the talisman? 'Tis known from shore to shore: Close, closer lift the priceless cross—the crucified adore.

From Chambers's Edinburgh Journal.

INDUSTRIAL HEROES.

RICHARD ARKWRIGHT, it would seem, was not a beautiful man; no romance hero, with haughty eyes, Apollo lip, and gesture like the herald Mercury; a plain, almost gross, bag-cheeked, pot-bellied Lancashire man, with an air of painful reflection, yet also of copious free digestion—a man stationed by the community to shave certain dusty beards, in the northern part of England, at a half-penny each. To such end, we say, by forethought, oversight, accident, and arrangement, had Richard Arkwright been, by the community of England and his own consent, set apart. Nevertheless, in strapping razors, in lathering dusty beards, and the contradictions and confusions attendant thereon, the man had notions in that rough head of his; spindles, shuttles, wheels, and contrivances, plying ideally with the same—rather hopeless looking—which, however, did he at last bring to bear, not without difficulty. His townsfolk rose in mobs round him—for threatening to shorten labor—to shorten wages—so that he had to fly with broken washpots, scattered household, and seek refuge elsewhere. Nay, his wife too, as I learn, rebelled; burnt his wooden model of his spinning-wheel, resolute that he should stick to his razors rather; for which, however, he decisively, as thou wilt rejoice to understand, packed her out of doors.

Oh reader! what a historical phenomenon is that pot-bellied, much enduring, much inventing man and barber! French Revolutions were abating; to resist the same in any measure, imperial kaisers were impotent, without the cotton and cloth of England; and it was this man that had to give England the power of cotton.

Nor had Watt of the steam engine a heroic origin—any kindred with the princes of this world. The princes of this world were shooting their partridges—noisy in Parliament, or elsewhere, solving the question, head or tail—while this man, with blackened fingers, with grim brow was searching out, in his work shop the fire secret; or, having found it, was painfully wending to and fro in quest of a 'moneyed man,' as indispensable man-midwife of the same. Reader, thou shalt admire what is admirable, not what is dressed in admirable. Thou shalt learn to know the British lion, even when he is not throne supporter, and also the British jackass even when he is. Ah, couldst thou always, what a world were it! But has the Berlin Royal Academy, or any English Useful Knowledge Society discovered, for instance, who was it that first scratched earth with a stick, and threw in corns, the biggest he could find—seed grains of a certain grass, which he named *white or wheat*? Again, what is the whole Tees-water and other breeding world to him who stole from the forest the first bison calf, and bred it up to be a tame bison—a milk cow? No machine of all they showed me in Birmingham can be put in comparison for ingenuity for that figure of the wedge named *knife*, of the wedge named *saw*, of the

ver named *hammer*; nay, is it not with the hammer-knife named *sword*, that men fight, and maintain any semblance of constituted authority that yet survives among us? The steam engine I call fire demon and great; but it is nothing to the invention of fire. Prometheus, Tubal-Cain, Triptolemus! Are not our greatest men as good as lost? The men that walk daily among us, clothing us, warming us, feeding us, walk shrouded in darkness, mere mythic men.

It is said ideas produce revolutions: and truly they do—not spiritual ideas only but even mechanical. In this clanging, clashing, universal sword dance, which the European world dances for the last half century, Voltaire is but one choragus, where Richard Arkwright is another. Let it dance itself out. When Arkwright shall have become mythic like Arachne, we shall spin in peaceable profit by him; and the sword dance, with all its sorrowful shufflings, Waterloo waltzes, Moscow gallopadés, now forgotten will that be. —Carlyle.

PRACTICAL CHRISTIANITY.

MANY people talk like an angel, but do nothing in the way of practical relief. Their presence casts a sombre hue over the soul of the unfortunate, like thick clouds which 'darken the dark of the sea.' But this is not the most effective and Divine mode of dealing with those who have waged with fortune an unequal war. The statue of Memnon in Egypt was symbolical of a great truth. It was made of marble, its face turned towards the rising sun, and gave forth lovely sounds when the first genial rays fell upon it. So man is dead, his heart is mute, until the light of heavenly kindness awakens in him the melody of gratitude Divine. To pour balm and oil on the erring and disconsolate would be more certain to correct their faults and encourage their virtues than to apply the remedies of iron and fire. It is better to trust to the redeeming power of charity than to the energies of wrath. The best policy in the world would be to constitute the Cross of Christ and the panoply of Christian benevolence in the place of unfeeling coercion and dungeon glooms. Nothing keeps bad men bad so much as harsh and cruel treatment; nothing so thoroughly confirms good men in their goodness, and incites them to beneficent deeds, as courteous forbearance and judicious praise.—Magoon.

BARREN SOIL.

THIS term is often used, and is supposed by many to mean a soil incapable of being rendered fertile. No such soil exists. Barren, then, is only applicable when intended to convey the idea of soil which in its present state will not repay the cultivator. The unproductiveness may arise from many causes, but none of them are without a remedy. If from a deficiency of some of the earths, let them be added; if from an excess or deficiency of either animal or vegetable matters, the fault is easily corrected; if from stagnant water, either under-drain or subsoil, as may be required; if sand, clay, or chalk be deficient, add them; if either be in excess, add the other two. Peaty soils are generally reclaimed by draining alone; sometimes paring and burning are necessary to induce decomposition of organic matter in excess. The same result can be obtained in most or all cases, by the addition of the salt and lime preparation which we have recommended for composts. When soils are found to be incompetent to produce any special crops required, the farmer should have them analysed, and then compare their ingredients with those of such soils as do produce the required crop readily. The differences will point out the means which must naturally be resorted to, for the purpose of restoring their fertility.

THE CHILD AND THE FIREFLIES.

THE dimness of twilight fell upon a white cottage and its enclosure of trees and flowering shrubs. As the darkness increased fireflies came and swarmed in the air, a shower of living jewels.

'Oh how pretty,' cried a little blue-eyed girl, rushing from the cottage, and spreading out her small apron to capture the glittering insects. Two or three were imprisoned; and seating herself upon the soft grass beneath the high boughs, she carefully inspected her booty. Suddenly her sunny face became clouded over with bitter disappointment, and, throwing away the dull brown creatures from her in disgust, she exclaimed, 'They are not pretty any more!'

'Ah, my little one,' said her mother, 'this is but a symbol of the more bitter disappointments that await you in life. Pleasures will flutter temptingly around your path, and you will grasp them but to fling them from you, and cry, 'they are beautiful no more!' But see, dearest, your released fireflies, beautiful only upon the wing, sparkle now as gaily as ever. Such are the enjoyments of earth. Learn neither to despise them, nor look to them for satisfying happiness. Fleeting and illusive as they are, they often illuminate the darkness of our mortal pilgrimage, and point our immortal yearnings to paradise, for the perfection of bliss.'

A SOCIAL PEST.—An ungrateful man is detested by all; every one feels hurt by his conduct, because it operates to throw a damp upon generosity, and he is regarded as the common injurer of all those who stand in need of assistance.—Civico.

OLD NEWSPAPERS: true mirrors of the past, in which, reflections long since thrown, are still reflected with brilliancy.

European News.

MR HOWE'S MISSION.

From the Hampshire Independent, Jan. 18. PUBLIC MEETING AT SOUTH-AMPTON.

It might be asked if these things were so, how was it that the southern Provinces had become so quickly populated, whilst the northern half were left in the rear? Had all things been equal the northern colonies would have improved as fast as the southward. But all things had not been equal. Previous to the American revolution all European emigration went southward. Whither went the Mayflower, which left this port? To the heart of the New England States. The whole British emigration went to the old Colonies.—When the revolution broke out the State of Massachusetts numbered one hundred and sixty thousand. Before a house was built in Halifax, Philadelphia had her eighteen thousand. Maine had her two thousand eight hundred enrolled militia before there was a single Briton in the Province of New Brunswick. At the close of the American war the United States had three millions of Anglo Saxons to begin with; in the northern Provinces they had a few hundreds at the beginning of the war, and only a few thousands at its close. The thirteen colonies of the south, it would be perceived, had a long start of the Provinces to the north.—The moment their independence was recognised, these States were left free to trade with each other; whilst all the trade and commerce of the northern colonies were crippled by the cramped commercial policy of England. Down to the time of Mr Huskisson they had scarce any chance; but from his time they had gradual improvements effected, down to the repeal of the navigation laws which left them free, so far as foreign tariffs would permit them, to trade with all the world. The South States also possessed self-government in their own bosom.—Down to the year 1839, when Lord John Russell's celebrated despatch was promulgated in the Colonies, they had not—and the struggle was scarcely over till 1848, when that despatch was acted on and enforced by the present Government—the Colonists were carrying on perpetual contests with Governors and Secretaries of State, to win that which Englishmen had enjoyed since the Revolution of 1688—the privilege of managing their own affairs. To that contest he had devoted twenty years of his life, and he thanked God it was now over. England had given them that self-government which she had herself enjoyed for a century and a half, and he trusted they would make a good use of it. They would now no longer trouble the mother country with their internal quarrels, and would have time to enter into communication with the people of England, and reciprocally promote each other's benefit. In other respects the United States had had advantages over the Colonies. The importance of emigration had been early recognised by the National Government, (Here Mr Howe described the measures taken), whilst England until very lately scarcely cared where her surplus population went. She was too busy with foreign wars and skillful diplomacies—with subsidizing petty foreign princes, whose territories if flung into a Canadian Lake, would scarcely raise the tide. The connection between the National Government of the United States and their Colonies was direct. If Kentucky, or any other new State or territory of the American Union had any complaint to make, they would send a representative up to Washington and make their wants known. The Northern Provinces could send no representative to the Legislature of England. He made these references not by way of complaint, but in justification of his own people, and to show why they had not advanced so rapidly as they might have done. They must not blame the people, but the circumstances in which they had been placed. How, then, had they advanced in the northern Provinces? The five which occupied that portion of territory which had been politically organized, were:—Canada, which lay the farthest back, and was the most extensive and largely populated of the whole; New Brunswick, which joined to Canada; Nova Scotia, next to that; Prince Edward's Island, in the Gulf of St. Lawrence; and the Island of Newfoundland. With all their disadvantages he would now shew the audience what these Colonies had done. The five Provinces numbered about two millions of inhabitants. Their average imports and exports, for 1842 to 1846, had been as follows:

Table with 3 columns: Province, Imports, Exports. Data for Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, P. E. Island.

Showing a total of £4,871,995 £4,188,077 —Now a total amount of imports of near five millions, and over four millions of exports, was not had in such a short time, under such disadvantages.

A considerable mistake was often made by persons here who suppose that Canada was everything. Now, their harbors were not frozen up as were those of the St. Lawrence; nearly all the harbors in Nova Scotia and on the southern shores of New Brunswick, were open to navigation all the year round. Taking the five Provinces, and summing up the number of registered vessels they now possessed, not including vessels merely built for the English market, he found that Canada

possessed six hundred and four; New Brunswick, seven hundred and thirty; Newfoundland, nine hundred and thirty seven; and Prince Edward's Island, two hundred and sixty five, being a total of two thousand five hundred and thirty six vessels, the tonnage of which was 252,892 tons. Nova Scotia alone possessed 2,583 vessels, or forty seven more than all the other Provinces, and registering 141,093 tons. Nova Scotia as nearly resembled England as possible, in many respects; it was almost an island; of coal it had endless fields, and in that it resembled England;—it had iron in rich abundance, and in that it resembled England;—inexhaustible fisheries abounded around its shores, and in that it resembled England;—and its population was made up of Irishmen, Scotchmen, and Englishmen, mixed with a few Germans and French, which made agreeable varieties.

Thus, then, the five Provinces had five thousand vessels floating on the ocean, exclusive of boats engaged in the shore fisheries; Nova Scotia alone owning more vessels than did all Ireland.

As another means of enabling gentlemen to understand the value of those provinces, he would take the number of vessels employed in the Mauritius and Ceylon Colonies; the African Colonies, the Cape and others; the Australian Colonies, including New Zealand; and the West Indies, including the Bahamas and Guiana; and he found the whole to be 2,128 vessels, and 98,183 tons. Thus, then, the North American provinces employed more than double the number of vessels owned by all these Colonies put together, and little Nova Scotia alone had nearly twice the amount of their tonnage. Some persons might ask, of what use is all this to England? It may be interesting to the ear, but what interest does England possess in this matter? He would endeavor to make them understand the interest which England had in the prosperity of these Colonies. The late Charles Buller (on whose memory the hon. gentleman passed a high and deserved eulogium) stated a few years ago in the House of Commons, and the statement was uncontradicted, that in Ireland for thirty weeks in every year two millions of the people were unemployed. To what extent fever and famine had diminished that number since he did not know; but he took the fact as it then stood, and he feared that too near an approximation to that statement might even be hazarded now. In Ireland, in the year 1848 (to say nothing of the ten millions voted by Parliament, of the provisions sent in from foreign countries, or of the voluntary aid extended to that unhappy country, there was raised within her own boundaries no less a sum than £1,216,679, and expended in poor rates; or an average of 1s 10d on 13 millions. Nearly a million and a half of persons were relieved, to the extent of 16s. 8d. per head. In Scotland £544,000 was raised and expended; the number of persons relieved was 227,647, and the amount paid averaged £2 6s. 9d. each—enough to have shipped every poor Scotchman out, in a well-appointed steamer to Nova Scotia, there to become a blessing to the colony, and no longer a burthen to the mother country. In England—which, if this plague spot were removed, would be as near perfection as could be attained by any civilised community—the enormous amount of £6,180,765 were raised and expended in 1848, being 1s. 6d. on 67 millions. 1,876,541 persons were relieved, or about one in every eleven of the whole population in this garden of the world! The average cost of each person relieved was £3 5s. 10d.—more than enough to have shipped every man to our own northern colonies, and made proprietors and freeholders of them for life. Then again look at the number of committals for offences in the three kingdoms in the year 1848, viz:—

Table with 2 columns: Country, Number. Data for England, Ireland, Scotland.

Making a total number of 73,771

—Of this number 6,298 were transported, and 27,373 were imprisoned. He referred to these painful facts, merely because he thought that a vast number of poor wretched creatures committed crime in these islands because they had not the wherewithal to live—they were absolutely driven to the commission of crime. Many of these were imprisoned, and expatriated from their country, who in his conscience he believed to be as innocent, in the sight of God as the man who had never violated the law. They maintained in Ireland, in 1849, a constabulary force of 12,829, and 340 horses, at a cost of £562,506; and in England and Wales including the London police, nearly an equal number, at nearly an equal cost. They had expended a gross total of £1,140,000; thus maintaining as many constables in these two small islands as doubled the whole standing army of the United States of America. And was this necessary because the people of these islands were worse than their brethren of the New World? By no means; but government was compelled to maintain this force in consequence of the immense pressure upon the means of life in this country, and which pressure would be relieved, till they might reduce their constabulary one half, by promoting sound and wholesome emigration.

Then again, he might refer to the cost of prisons. He found that the prison at York cost £1,200 per head for each prisoner they had to maintain in it—enough, as the Inspector said, to build for each prisoner a separate mansion, coach house, and stable. If they multiplied by twelve (the number of jurors summoned on the jury) the number of criminals tried, they would see the enormous amount of time wasted in the punishment of crime. Then, there was the amount of pro-