

already gone, without leaving any address by which a letter could be forwarded to him.

Sophia was in despair: for she had loved Frank Weddale as much as it was in her vain and misguided heart to love any, and she bore this her first sorrow as ill as she had hitherto borne her happier days. The scenes where she had been used to see him were insupportable, and the sight of those acquainted with her disappointment, a perpetual irritation; so she gave up a situation she had long disliked and at once returned home. But it was only to encounter fresh annoyances. Amy, the quiet, unpretending sister, whom so early in life she had disowned among her companions, was the betrothed bride of Blewett, the man whom her own vanity had disgusted, and the sight of their unaffected happiness was a pain and a reproach. Her mother, too, was indignant at the termination of her engagement with Weddale; and once she overheard her remark that Sophia was a vain, silly doll, who could not keep affection when she had gained it, and that it was Amy who really turned out the lady of the family.

In the depths of her own heart Sophia felt her mother's words were true, but at the same time she felt who had instilled those feelings into her heart, and whose teaching it was that had rendered her the being that she was, and thus brought upon her the sorrow of losing one she really loved.

And after that, when Amy was gone to her new home, a pretty cottage on the outskirts of the town, there were sad scenes of accusation and recrimination between the mother and daughter. Amy at first strove to make peace, but soon she found her interference, only served to aggravate the evil.

'Had she been a good steady girl like you with her beauty and gentility, she might indeed have been the lady of the family,' said the mother.

'Had you not sought to make me the lady of the family, I might have been as good and as steady as she is,' retorted Sophia, bitterly.

Years passed on, and Sophia becoming a peevish and discontented woman, passed from one situation to another, remaining long in none, yet carefully shunning the town wherein dwelt her mother and sister, for the former disappointment rendered her home most wretched, and the happiness of her sister, a beloved and respected wife, only reminded her of her misused opportunities. But through all she had one consolation. She had always indulged the hope that Weddale would at length return, and that her union to him would retrieve all the past, for he was now becoming a painter of some eminence. One day, on looking over a newspaper, she saw the announcement of his marriage. The intelligence broke upon her like a peal of thunder, and awoke her from the last of her fairy dreams, and again she grieved for his loss almost as much as when he first left her. But it was for a shorter time; and some twelve months after, when chance threw in her way her earlier and humbler lover, Charles Evans, she wedded him, thankful to have a quiet home, yet with the resolution of being a good and industrious wife.

And to the best of her ability she fulfilled her resolution, though it was long ere she fully understood her duties in her new position, or lost the remains of the fine-ladyism: that long clung to her; but it was at last overcome, and even looked back upon with disgust, and when, years after, some one, in remarking upon the beauty of her little daughter, observed, 'She is quite a little lady,' she earnestly replied.

'I hope so great a misfortune will never befall her, especially that of being the Lady of the Family.'

From Hogg's Instructor.

THE FIELD OF THE CLOTH OF GOLD

Who, either, in history, in romance, in legend or in song, has not read of the 'Field of the Cloth of Gold'? Its splendours have been celebrated by minstrels and troubadours, chronicles have recorded its minutest details, and the page of Hume has not disdained to speak of it as the most brilliant and gorgeous spectacle of its age. By some it has even been characterised as the most magnificent that Europe ever beheld.

It was well known that the originator of this singular pageant was Cardinal Wolsey; who, for political purposes, thus planned a meeting between Henry the Eighth of England and Francis the First of France, the two most powerful monarchs of their time. It took place on the French soil, near the town of Guisnes, in the month of June, and in the year of our Lord 1520. Historians tell us, that, after he had planned it, the mighty Wolsey, having sold himself to the Emperor Charles, a higher bidder for his favor than Francis, would fain have broken it off. But the nature of Henry was not such, as that his otherwise all powerful favorite could venture upon attempting to take this step.

The principal personages present at the scene, in addition to Henry, Francis, and Wolsey, Katherine of England, Queen Claude of France, and the Dowager Queen of France, the beautiful duchess of Suffolk. Henry had not yet become the stern and selfish tyrant, whose deeds of cruelty make the heart of every Christian now thrill with horror. He was then only the "bluff King Hal"—the gay, the joyous, the loving and beloved—the idol of his subjects, and the sovereign respected by the world. Francis was gentle and manly in his nature: and was of a disposition calculated both to grace the show and to enjoy it. The great Wolsey was a man that

bore himself loftily, and with not more loftiness than natural dignity, as became the prime minister of an illustrious king. Katherine of England was good as well as gentle. Claude, the amiable, the domesticated, the well-trained step-daughter of Ann of Bretagne, was worthy of her place. And the lively and graceful Suffolk the dowager queen—she who, rather less than five years before, had ascended a throne an unwilling and weeping bride—was one of those who most ardently devoted herself to the revelries around.

The Dowager Queen of France's fate had, at one period of her life been a hard one.—Passionately attached to one of her brother's subjects, the noble Suffolk, and by him loved in return, her warm passions and vivid feelings had been set at naught. For reasons of state policy, she had been compelled, to marry a king of France, who was elderly, sickly, and querulous; and who, immediately after her marriage, had sent home from her every endeared friend and attendant that had accompanied her from her native land. For the death of such a husband, her sorrow was not likely to have been either deep or long. Her marriage with her royal spouse did not last above three or four months.

Among those assembled to do honor to the tilts and tournaments of the Field of the Cloth of Gold, were the loftiest of Christendom's knights and the loveliest of Christendom's daughters. There was Bayard the chevalier *sans peur et sans reproche*. There was the noble Tremouille, and the lofty Constable of Bourbon. There, also, in addition to the magnificent structures for king and court, and in addition to the accommodation required in and about the little town of Guisnes, were to be seen two thousand eight hundred tents erected for the use of the English alone. There were noble and baron, knight and squire, yeomen and citizen, of "merry England," citizens' wives in their richest silks and heaviest chains, Jews, pedlars, tradespeople, and rogues. There, to quote the quaint language of one who saw it, were "vagabonds, plowmen, laborers, waggoners, and beggars, that for drunkenness lay in routes and heapes, so great resorts thither came, that both knights and ladies that were come to see the nobles, were faine lye in haye and strawe, and hold them thereof highly pleased."

The accommodation provided for King Henry, and for the privileged members of his court was on the most princely scale. They were housed in an edifice of oriental gorgeousness. The richest tapestry, embroidered silk, jewellery of every kind, all that art could produce or wealth devise, constituted its materials: and the tent itself, the nucleus of the show, in which Henry and Francis were to hold conference, was hung round with cloth of gold. This it was which gave the meeting its title—a title which will endure to the latest time.

It is, perhaps, worthy of remark, that the age which witnessed the Field of the Cloth of Gold was one characterised by the existence of men, in different countries, distinguished for the possession of talents of a peculiarly exalted kind. It was the age of Solymann the Magnificent, of Leo the Tenth, of Charles the Fifth, of Sir Thomas Moore, of Martin Luther, and of Raphael, the great painter, whose creations have been the admiration of every subsequent age.

The chronicler Hall has given a full and interesting account of the diurnal transactions of the Field of the Cloth of Gold. To his pages we refer the reader; being of the opinion which he enunciates, that "to tell the apparel of the ladies, their rich attyres, their sumptuous juelles, their divertisties of beauties, and their goodly behavior from day to day, sithe the fyrst metyng, I assure you ten men's wits can scarce declare it."

From the Magazine of Natural History. THE POISON OF SPIDERS.

At a recent meeting of the Linnean Society, Mr Blackwall communicated a paper on the alleged power possessed by spiders of poisoning whatever they bite. He states that in the summer of 1846 he commenced an experimental investigation on the subject, the particulars of which he communicates, arranging his experiments under four distinct heads, corresponding to the objects upon which they were made, namely, human species, spiders, insects, and inanimate substances. His results are as follows:

First, as regards the effect of the bite of spiders upon the human species. Mr Blackwall states that the conclusion properly deduced from his various experiments is, that there is nothing to be apprehended from the bite of the most powerful British spiders, even when inflicted at a moment of extreme irritation, and in hot sultry weather, the pain occasioned by it being little, if any, more than is due to the laceration and compression which the injured part has sustained. Under the second head, the observations were made on both the male and female of various spiders, and the result is, that extensive mechanical injuries commonly prove fatal to spiders, whether received in conflicts or otherwise; but the experiments supply no evidence indicating that the fluid emitted from the fangs of the spider possesses a property destructive to the existence of animals of that order, when transmitted into a recent wound. Thirdly, the author concludes that his experiments do not present any facts which appear to sanction the opinion, that insects are deprived of life with much greater celerity when pierced by the fangs of spiders, than when mechanically lacerated to the same extent in other ways. It is true, however, that the catastrophe is greatly accelerated if

the spiders maintain their hold for some time; but this is to be attributed to the extraction of their fluids by deglutition into the stomachs of their adversaries. Fourthly, in his experiments on inanimate substances, Mr Blackwall found that litmus paper presented to spiders belonging to several genera, when they were in a state of extreme irritation, and moistened by the transparent fluid which issues under such circumstances from the fissure near the extremity of the fangs, invariably became red as far as the fluid spread, clearly proving that this secretion, though tasteless, is an acid. On the other hand, the fluid that flows from the mouth, as also that contained in the stomach, and that which is discharged from the wounds inflicted on the body or limbs, were found by the same chemical test to be alkaline. Tumeric paper was rendered brown by the application of the fluids from the mouth and stomach, and restored to its original color by the agency of the fluid secreted in the so-called poison gland, thus affording complete proof of the respectively alkaline and acid natures of these several secretions.

From Hogg's Instructor.

HEART HISTORIES, OR TALES OF THE AFFECTIONS.

BY M. P. AIRD.

THUS I have seen a soaring bird of song
Make the vale vocal with its silver notes,
Folding its wing above its downy nest,
Where its hid treasures slept in silken flow-

ers,
When some rude hand, charm'd with its lay,
erewhile,

It poured its sweetest song to please his ear,
Robb'd it of all its treasure, love and joy,
Scattering its care-built home beneath his feet,

Which straw by straw, and day by day was rear'd,

E'en lined with down and feathers from its breast.

A moment laid it ruin'd in the dust,
Leaving the widow'd bird to wail alone.

THE BAPTISMAL FONT.

Where nature, in her hermit solitudes,
Strews her quiet path with moss and heather bloom,

Edging with silver hem the misty moon,
There winds a moss brown stream, whose pilgrim way

Makes melody amid the low green hills,
Fringing its rugged banks with ferns and furze;

Where pure, meek flowers, like childhood,
tint the rocks;

The lowly violet, like eve's first star,
Peering in beauty through the blue of night.

On a green slope there stands an old grey stone,

Hoar with the frost-like moss of many years,
The purple lichen, and the pale blue bell—
And in its scoop'd basin, small and rude—
Tradition stories 'a Baptismal Font.'

Where Peden sealed the weeping babes for heaven,

Of Scotland's hunted, persecuted sons;
Or gentle Renwick accents gently pour'd,
Like the small rain, or dew, on tender grass.

THE BEREAVED.

Love bent her spirit to its potent sway—
Outstretched it to its height to gain the prize
In the stern race like an Olympian crown;
Nearing the goal, 'twas 'whispered all is lost,'

Another wears the wreath you hoped to wear.

The sum and centre of life's aim and longings
Shrouded and dead to her.

Through long, long, weary days, and restless hours,
Patience and hope, kept vigil through her night

Of living death; that silent love, the star
Which lighted up the heaven of her faith,
And set its rainbow on her clouded heart:
Her heart-strings, wrung to bleeding by suspense,

Cut from the objects it so closely clasp'd
And clung to with such fond tenacity,
Even as the twining ivy wreaths the oak,
But which, if torn as limpet from the rock,
Soon dies and withers, when the severing axe,

With heavy stroke, cuts down the towering bough
Round which it clung, and whence its life it drew.

The wreath so green lies fading, torn and sear
Like festal garlands on the conqueror's way,
Or bridal wreath laid on a bridal bier,
Withering—unworn by her for whom 'twas twined

Too late, like Tasso's crown, to grace her brow.

Thus snapt the golden link which bound to earth

The chain, which made life beautiful as the spring,

Left her sick heart dissever'd, yet unwean'd,
A bruised reed nigh broken; for that blow
Fell like a blight upon her tender heart,
Leaving it sad, and desolate, and lone,
Pining o'er perish'd hopes!

For, ah! that perilous hour,
Cold as an east wind, or a frost on roses,
The April buds of hope, unfolding, nipt

The flower of promise wither'd in the grasp;
The vase was shattered, and its cherish'd blooms

Torn, trampled, lay in fragments in the dust

The good alone are happy whether young or old.

United States News.

From the Boston Daily Advertiser.

OFFICIAL.

TO THE COLLECTORS AND OTHER OFFICERS OF THE CUSTOMS.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, July 16, 1851.

The existing Revenue Laws of the United States provide that the value of all foreign merchandise imported into the United States shall be verified by the oath of the owner thereof. Where the goods are owned by parties residing in the United States, this oath is taken before the Collector at the time of entry; and where they wholly belong to a person or persons not residing at the time in the United States, the invoice is required to be verified by the oath of the owner, to be administered by a Consul or Commercial Agent of the United States, or by some public officer duly authorised to administer oaths in the country where the goods are purchased; in the latter case, the certificate of the public officer who administered the oath, must be authenticated by a Consul or Commercial Agent of the United States in the port from which the goods are imported. If there be no Consul or Commercial Agent of the United States, in the country from whence the goods may be imported, the authentication of the invoices may be executed by a Consul of a nation at the time in amity with the United States, if there be any such residing there. If there be no such Consul, then the authentication may be made by two respectable merchants residing at the port from whence the goods are imported.

In addition to the fact that so great a number of the invoices of the goods shipped to the United States by, or for account of non-resident merchants, traders and manufacturers, come forward unaccompanied by the needful consular certificates, required by law the department has positive information, which leads to the belief that this is a regular system with many of the foreign owners, with a view the better to enable them to have their goods entered, and the duties assessed on an undervalued invoice, which is sworn to by their agents in the United States, who are really ignorant of the true cost. The parties thus also avoid the risk which would follow, from reduced value at which the goods may be invoiced, not to be known to the Consul at the port of shipment, who, in most cases, would at once see the fraud, and whose duty it would be to put on his guard, the Collector at the port of destination.

Heretofore all the cases, where the consular certificate has been accidentally or designedly, omitted with the invoices for foreign account, have been referred to the Department, which has, as a matter of course, admitted them to entry without giving the usual bond for the production of said certificate within a certain limited period, according to the distance of the port of shipment. The Department has ascertained that in some of the principal ports of entry these bonds have been considered too much as a mere form; and, except where the parties have voluntarily produced the certificates at these ports, no demand has been made upon them, and the bonds remain on file uncancelled. This has, of course, induced those foreign owners who have habitually sent forward their goods without the needful certificates, to continue the practice, until the evil has become so general and extensive, as to render it necessary to adopt vigorous measures to check and destroy it.

In the circular from this Department of 7th April, 1851, to American Consuls and Commercial Agents, which has been generally published in the public journals of the United States, and which the Consuls abroad were instructed to make public at the places of their respective residences, notice was given of the intended change of action by the Department on this subject after a reasonable delay. The time for this change the department thinks, has now arrived, and the collectors are therefore requested and instructed to observe and enforce the following rules on the subject.

In all future importations of merchandise for account of non-resident owners, where the invoices are not accompanied by the consular certificates required by law, the goods must be sent to the public stores, there to remain at the expense and risk of the owners until the certificate shall be produced; and no bonds will be taken, as heretofore, for the production of such certificates.

When, however any such goods are of a perishable nature, or what are called fancy or "seasonable" goods, or where the sale would be materially injured by delay, the Department, unless there is obvious evidence of intended fraud, on a report of the facts by the importer, certified by the Collector, will admit them to entry on such terms as the facts and circumstances of each case respectively, may render necessary and proper.

Some of the foreign shippers and manufacturers are in the habit of sending a consular certificate attached to a general invoice of goods, part of which only come in the vessel with the certificate, and the balance being intended for future shipment by a subsequent vessel or vessels; and in many instances, as the department is advised, such goods are not even manufactured when the invoice is dated and the certificate granted. In future no such certificate is to be respected, except for the goods which actually accompany it; and any other portion of the invoice which may come by other or subsequent vessels will be treated as being without consular certificates, unless there be a distinct and separate one for the goods by each vessel.

In all cases where bonds heretofore given