Poetry.

A LOCH SCENE.

[From "Angling Songs," by Thomas Tod Stoddart.]

A Mountain shadow lieth on
Its murrow dark and massy;
The red late sun-ray streams across
O'er solemn wood and quiet moss,
O'er sward and hillock grassy.

It tinges with a crimson light
The water sleeping under;
That calm clear water seldom wakes—
Calm when the forest pine tree quakes—
Calm 'mid the very thunder.

A ruin on its islet stands,
The walls with ivy pendent;
Its grey stones crumbling underneath
Peer through the arbitary wreath
Of that untrain'd ascendant.

But glancing from the record rude
Of the remotest ages,
Behold the image of a stag
Timorous of the water flag
Its eager thirst assuages!

The stately antlers branching free
Above its forehead tragic—
The form of animated grace
Are kindred to the quiet place,
A portion of its magic!

And there the wild duck, like a skiff,
Shoots from the reeds horrescent;
Its yellow paddies in their wake
Leave on the solitary lake
The traces of a crescent.

The peerly water-heron, too,
Where the faint sun-ray trembles,
Drooping its ever graceful head
Above the floating lily-bed,
A poet-bird resembles.

And yonder, on the distant marge,
Behold an angler eager,
With taper wand and arm of skill
Under the shadow of a hill—
A solitary figure.

But falling from the quiet air
The mist and shades together,
Glideth away the sad sweet show,
The mountain and the lake below
The forest and the heather!

And night with dewy forehead bent
Holdeth her vigil solemn,
Till the red architect of morn
Upon a cloud-car slowly borne
Erects his amber column.

Miscellaneous.

AMERICAN THEORY OF RAIN.

I must now tell you about Mr. Espy, the rain-maker. You may remember that his theory of storms was referred to and explained by Professor Bache, at the last meeting of the British Association; and in the January Edinburgh Review it was said that, if the "*new theory* does not succeed in supplanting its rival, it cannot fail to lead the abettors of both to a more rigorous examination of their data." This is rather respectful, considering what Mr. Espy claims. What this is I wish to explain, and it can now be done satisfactorily, inasmuch as the theorist has been induced to come out with a full exposé. His object, then, is to manufacture rain, say in time of drought! Mr. Espy begins by laying down these principles:—1. It is known, he says, that if air should be expanded into double the volume by diminished pressure, it would be cooled about ninety degress of Fahrenheit. 2. I have shown, he says, by experiment, that if air at the common due point in summer, in time of drought, 71 degrees, should go up in a column to a height sufficient to expand it by diminished pressure into double the volume, it would condense into water or visible cloud (by the cold of expansion) more than one-half of its vapour—a quantity sufficient to produce nearly three inches of rain. 3. It is known by chemical principles, that the caloric of elasticity given out during the condensation of this vapour, would be equal to about 30,000 tons of anthracite coal burnt on each square mild over which the cloud extended. 4. I have shewn by experiment that this caloric of elasticity would prevent the air from cooling only about half as much as it would if it had no vapour in it, or about forty-five degrees at the height assumed, which would cause the air in the cloud to be, at that height, about forty-five degrees warmer than the air on the outside of the cloud at the same height. I have shown from these principles ['Journal of the Franklin Institute for 1836'] that the barometer would fall, under the cloud thus formed, in favourable circumstances, as much as it is known to fall sometimes under the middle of a dense and lofty cloud; and that consequently the air would rush in on all sides towards the centre of the cloud and upwards in the middle, and thus continue the condensation of the vapour and the formation of cloud and the generation of rain. I have shown also that the air does move inwards on all sides towards the centre of the space or region where a great rain is falling, and of course upwards, after it comes in under the cloud, which is so much lighter than the surrounding air; at least that it does so in all storms investigated, which now amount to sixte . besides several tornadoes, in all of which e trees were thrown with their tops inwards. From these principles, established by experiment, and confirmed by observation, it follows, that if a large body of air is made to ascend in a column, a large cloud will be generated, and that that cloud will contain in itself a self-substaining power, which may move from the place over which it was formed, and cause the air over which it passes to rise up into it, and thus form more cloud and rain, until the rain may become general; for many storms which commence in the West Indies, very narrow, are known to move from the place of beginning several thousand miles, widening out and increasing in size, until they become many hundred miles wide. Mr. Espy now goes on to say, that if his reasoning be correct thus far, great fires and the bursting out of volcanoes should make rain; and he thinks there is proof they do so. From some of these principles, too, it might be expected that clouds would form over large cities and towns, where much fuel is burned; and Mr. Espy says it is found to be so. He refers to Manchester for proof, and also to Mamett's statements, in his collection of facts concerning the Ashby Coal-field. The connexion then, he argues between fires and rain is not accidental "Hum boldt acknowledged this in the cases of volcanos and rain, and says that when a volcano bursts out in South America in a dry season, it sometimes changes it to a rainy one." Mr. Espy, of course, thinks that he has cleared up this "mystery," and that what applies to other fires in proportion. He explains why they do not *always* make rain, and states that he is willing to undertake experiments in proof of his argument, provided Congress or the Pennsylvanian Legislature will reward him in the event of his being *successful.*—*American Letter in the Athenœum.*

THE ROOK.—Though not eminent for their musical capabilities, Mr. White says, "rooks in their breeding season will sometimes in the gaity of their hearts attempt to sing, but with indifferent success. The female lays four or five eggs. When the young are sufficiently strong, their education begins by the parents flying to and fro between the nest and some near branch, calling at the same time in a language we may easily translate, "See how easy it is! Doubtfully, and with a kind of mental head shake, we may imagine the young ones to look on; but at last the thing really appears so easy, they must they will try. A preparatory flatter on the edge of the nest, and the branch is reached, the feat is accomplished; and before long, round and round it goes, giddy with delight, at the new power it has obtained and is enjoying. They now begin to find their own food; and when they no longer need assistance from their parents, they are dismissed to shift for themselves. An old bird has been seen to buffet heartily a young one, who, being perhaps too lazy to forage for itself, wished to impose on the parental good nature. Yet is the love of the rook for its young a marked trait in its character. When seeking food for them it will if unsuccessful in the day, still persevere until it has obtained its object; though there are times when all its endeavours are in vain. "In the hot summer of 1825," says Mr. Knapp, "many of the young brood of the season perished from want; the mornings were without dew, and consequently few or no worms were to be obtained, and we found them dead under the trees, having expired on their roostings. It was particularly distressing—for no relief could be given—to hear the constant clamour and importunity of the young for food. The old birds seemed to suffer without complaint, but the wants of their offspring were expressed by the unceasing cry of hunger and pursuit of the parents for supply, and our fields were scenes of daily restlessness and lament." Mr. Jesse observes, that "at the time when the young ones are shot, according to the common annual custom, it is melancholy to watch the old birds sit apart on the neighbouring trees, waiting until the sport is over, and they may return to the young, if there be any left for them to return to." After the young have fully taken wing, there is a general desertion of the rockery, until October, when the rooks return for a short time, perhaps to examine their nests, and then again remove for the winter. In frost, says Mr. Mudie, the rook examines weirs, embankments, and dams, to see if insects are there doing any damage. When the compost is being spread over the field, he looks anxiously to see that no insects are among it to eat up the young plants. When the swollen stream leaves the meadow, he picks out the noxious germs it may have left behind. In autumn, by a curious instinct distinguishing the sickly plants, he delves down to the root for the caterpillar there at work. In short, so valuable are his services, that, Mr. Selby says, wherever he has been extripated or banished, the most serious injury to the corn and other crops has followed from the devastations of the grub and the caterpillar. Then, doing all this, who is there will say the labourer is not worthy of his hire? "Early to bed and early to rise" is the rooks' maxim, and they do their best to instil it in their neighbours. If the labourer is not forth with the plough in good time, their noise soon awakens him as they fly cawing and clamouring about the field for their breakfast of fresh worms he provides for them in the new made furrow. The rook is decidedly social and unselfish. If they are pressed for room in the rookery, he will allow a pair to build in the same fork of the branch with himself. With dignified condescension he will also permit jackdaws and starlings to associate with him, and occasionally a sparrow to build under his august protection. In the winter, having been distressed for food, he has perhaps trespassed on the sea gulls' shoreward domains; the gull now returns the visit in the field, and both pick together very fraternally. Mr. Jesse mentions a circumstance that proves the rook to have a depth of feeling we should scarcely credit. He observes, the flock are much distressed when one of them is killed or wounded by a gun. Instead of being scared away, they hover over, uttering cries of distress. If wounded, the sufferer is animated in his exertions to escape, by their lying to and fro gently before him, and by their cries and exhortations. "I have seen," says he; "one of my labourers pick up a rook so wounded, which he has shot at for the purpose of putting up as a scare crow in a field of wheat; and while the poor wounded bird was fluttering in his hand, I have observed one of his companions make a wheel round in the air, and suddenly dart past him so as almost to touch him, perhaps with a last hope that he might afford assistance to his unfortunate mate or companion." Their knowledge of the gun, or at least their idea of injury from an instrument of such appearance, is unquestionable; but that they also take the alarm at the smell of gunpowder is, we believe, now considered a popular error. When feeding, the rooks set a sentinel, who executes the duties of the post so well, that it is difficult to get within shot. They have also a language; for by the sentinel's cry they understand not only the danger but, the quarter from whence it is to be apprehended, as they prove by flying in an opposite direction; unless we are to suppose their vision to be so accurate and instantaneous, that the moment their attention is arrested by the alarm being given they see its cause. In feeding on worms, they have been observed to beat and break them into pieces before devouring them. In hot summers they will look for grasshoppers in the hedge sides, when pressed by hunger. In winter the same cause induces them to resort to the seashore, where the periwinkle is their favourite food. They break the shell by rising with a sufficient height into the air, and then dropping it on the hardest place they can find In one very severe winter, Mr. White mentions their resorting to dunghills close by dwelling houses. According to Mr. Mudie, the full grown rook weighs about 19 ounces. It measures from tip to tip of the outspread wings about 38 inches, and is about 15 inches long. Its coat is of the most beautiful shade of glossy black, and a rich blue tint is perceptible on the sides of the neck. Its scientific name is *Corvus frugilegus.*—*Abridged from the Penny Magazine.*

MATERIALS OF MODERN SMYRNA.—The walls of all the buildings in the upper part of the town are formed out of the ruins of ancient Smyrna; and columns, busts, cornices, and entablatures are seen built in everywhere, and mixed indiscriminately with the volcanic stone of the country. The features of the busts are generally destroyed, to satisfy the scruples of their present owners, the Turks. Hundreds of tombstones are constructed of the ornamental parts of ancient temples, all of white marble. The Jews have bought one hill, formed of a pile of ruins of marble, for tombs for their burial ground. Near the town I observed a wall loosely built of stone, and thinking that it looked of a lighter colour than the common stone of the neighbourhood, I went to examine it. It was composed of what appeared to be flat stones, about three inches thick, and all of conglomerate or grout; but, to my astonishment, I found that the surface of every piece (some were two feet long) was formed entirely of Mosaic work, with beautiful patterns in black, white, and red. There must have been hundreds of feet of this, which had no doubt formed the floor of some temple or path in the immediate neighbourhood, probably of the Temple of Ceres, which is said to have stood here. These blocks of mosaic now form the walls of a corn field, out of which they must have been dug, for I observed that the small peebles in the soil were all square pieces of marble of the same size as the stones of the mosaic. Here I saw the top of an arch, with the capitals of its columns only visible above ground, and twenty or thirty feet of loose soil around it, containing the ruins of ancient art. Yet no one had been found even to remove the soil to show the proportions of the building, and this on the side of so steep a hill, that probably the rain will soon do what man has not had taste and emergy to attempt: the people now prop up the soil of the hill with the capitals of columns or cornices as they are laid bare.—*Fellows's Excursion in Asia Minor.*

The following announcement appears in the *New York Albion*, which evinces a further desire on the part of the Proprietor to contribute to the interest and amusement of the patrons of that useful and respectable publication. The subscribers to the *Albion* are to be presented with

A VIEW OF BUCKINGHAM PALACE, THE RESIDENCE OF HER MAJESTY:—"That excellent artist Mr. *A. Dick*, has just completed an engraved view of Buckingham Palace, with the grounds and ornamental piece of water in front. It is intended to be presented to the Subscribers of The Albion, as an appropriate embellishment of the work. This splendid structure on which taste and skill has been largely engaged, is the town residence of Queen Victoria, and is every way worthy of so Royal a distinction. The Canal and the Park, at the western end of which the Palace is situated, has been essentially altered and improved, and according to the most approved rules of landsape gardening, so that they are delightful to the eye; and royal munificence has rendered them equally so as a resort by throwing the premises open to the public under certain regulations of decorum and good order.

"This engraving, which has recently received the warm approbation of critical persons, will be issued as early as a sufficient number of impressions can be taken; and, considering it to be strictly an appendage to the portrait of the Queen given in our last volumn, we have resolved to give to all new subscribers, paying in advance for one year a copy of each of these two engravings. Concerning the estimation of the value which the public have placed upon our engraved portrait of Her Majesty, we need hardly do more than call attention to the very numerous copies which are every where to be found, which have been generally placed within magnificent frames, and hung in saloons and drawing rooms among the most prized works of art. It has been touched by the artist who executed the plate, and is now as sharp and clear in its lines as a proof can be; to make the succeeding volumes as perfect as we can to new subscribers we place expence out of the question, and determine to present that which we believe will be acceptable to every one possessing a British heart, or a gallant feeling,—a likeness of the "Virgin Queen." It may probably have a further interest to many, as coming into their possession immediately before she parts with that title to become as we hope, a happy consort.

"In the number containing the new engraving of Buckingham Palace will be given a brief account of the old Palace, which stood on the same site, together with other matters relative thereto, and a description of the improvements lately made in Saint James Park with a view to correspond to the new and elegent edifice."

NOTICE is hereby given, That GEORGE COOPER is appointed Deputy Sheriff in and for the County of Kent, in the place of JAMES MOONEY.

LEBARON DRURY,
High Sheriff, County Kent.
Richibucto, 15th January, 1840.

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