

## POETRY.

### (Selected.)

#### STANZAS TO A LADY.

R. LAWRENCE MACDONALD.

[We have, says the Editor of the *Literary Journal*, in introducing to our readers, as a worshipper of the Muses, one of the most successful and eminent of our Scottish Sculptors.]

"She walks in beauty like the night  
Of cloudless climes and starry skies,  
Where all that's best of dark and bright,  
Meet in her aspect and her eyes,  
Thus mellowed to the tender light,  
That heaven to gaudy day denies."

There is a pensive sweetness in thine eyes,  
A mystery and a depth like that of heaven  
When viewed by night without the day's disguise!  
Though 'gainst this world my spirit e'er hath striven,  
Yet there be deeds of mine to be forgiven;  
'And, fair Madonna, I would pray to thee  
For solace to a heart all wrong and riven:  
To features less divine men bend the knee,  
And lovelier in the realms of fancy none may see.  
Though I have gazed on faces where the eye  
Shone forth in beauty like the star of morn  
That ushers in the day so tranquilly,  
And struggleth not as doth the babe new born,  
When first it wakes to life 'mid passion's storm;  
But steals all gently o'er each earthly bower,  
As if it meant to keep the angel form.  
It thus assumes, in that most heavenly hour,  
When it comes forth to wake the world with gentle power:  
Yet there is something like a nameless feeling—  
Of which we're conscious, but know not the cause—  
That hovers round thee, like the daylight stealing  
O'er Nature's face—ere man infringed her laws,  
Or earth beheld the curtain sin still draws  
Between high Heaven and this inglorious spot;  
Where, if one blessing falls, it is because  
Lost virtue never can be all forgot;  
And if it brings eternal bliss, 'twill be thy lot.  
'Tis this all nameless thing that dwells in thee,  
The essence of thy being, thy mind's light,  
Thy soul in more than infant purity,  
That makes both eye and star set to the sight,  
When thou art near, with something still more bright—  
Shining in silence like the pale moonbeam—  
When it reveals the glories of the night,  
And makes this earth to me seem like a dream,  
And thou the fair pervading spirit of the scene.  
Speed on thy journey through this world below,  
Thou loveliest of thy kind, and most divine!  
Though I would kingdoms for thy sake forego,  
I would not link thy destinies to mine,  
Nor with my fortunes aught of thee enshrine,  
Because I could not brook the blight that then  
Would fall, and break that tranquil peace of thine.  
That aught like thee should ever wear a stain,  
Would make the heavens to blush, and double all my pain.

Edinburgh Literary Journal.

## VARIETIES.

### From the *Non Solitum*.

**RANK AND DISTINCTION.**—All intelligent statesman have regarded it as an object of primary consideration to render the seats of Justice pure and independent, or in the eloquent language of Lord Mansfield to "make justice flow from pure fountains." Among a free people this is one of the essential requisites to their peace, their welfare and their happiness. If the liberty of the person and the rights of private property are not guarded by the sanction of the law; if the decisions in which the freedom and fortune of the subject are involved, be not founded upon the eternal and immutable principles of right and wrong, the enterprise and the spirit of the people are rebuked, and their exertions and industry palsied. Affect the purity of the judgment seat, and the public prosperity will wither, as if touched with a pestilential blight. Upon public morals it would exercise a speedy and deteriorating influence. From the pulpit the people hear only the cold and abstract principles of morals; the punishments of the guilty are there direly portrayed as the torments of some future and distant time; but a Court of Justice is the actual drama of human life, where, if the law be purely and fearlessly administered, the detection of crime is instantly followed by the retributive justice of the law, by public disgrace, infamy of character and its more imposing and solemn sentences. In the one the conscience, in the other the self interest of mankind, is addressed; and hence it has been maintained by statesmen of the highest reputation, that the British Courts of Justice had a more direct and beneficial influence upon the morality of the people than the whole Bench of Bishops, with their spiritual assistants. To the English Courts the following eulogium is offered by a late American writer. "Nor is it to be overlooked, as a matter of minor importance, that the judicial tribunals have been almost uniformly distinguished for their immaculate purity. Every person well acquainted with the contents of the English reports, must have been struck with the unbending integrity and lofty morals with which the Courts were inspired. I do not know where we could resort, among all the volumes of human composition, to find more constant, more tranquil, and more sublime manifestations, of the intrepidity of conscious rectitude. If we were to go back to the iron times of the Tudors, and follow judicial history down from the first page in Dyer to the last page of the last reporter, we should find the higher Courts of civil judicature, generally, and with rare exceptions, presenting the image of the sanctity of a temple, where truth and justice seem to be enthroned, and to be personified in their decrees." Search the history of the world, and you will invariably find that if the judgment seat is tainted, the love of public morality is touched, and public and private principle lose their just influence upon the conduct and transactions of mankind. It was from these enlightened and comprehensive, as well as patriotic considerations, that his late Majesty, King George, was induced to render the situation of his Judges independent of royal favour—to remit them to the tribunal of public opinion, and to declare that they should be for the future irremovable, unless

by impeachment at the bar of the House of Commons.

The public interests, therefore, imperiously require that the office of a Judge should be one of the first and most dignified in the land, from the high influence it exercises over the destinies and morals of the people. He should be able to mingle in the best society, and to move in the highest sphere of action; for his influence and elevation is not personal only, it sheds around upon the community a healthy and vivifying influence. His emoluments should be sufficient to enable him to move in the first circles upon equal terms with the first. His Salary should be so ample, as to confer upon him the power of returning those courtesies, which he or his family receive, and of giving entertainments, equal in splendour at least to those at which he or his family are guests. His situation, and the talents which have exalted him to it, will find him ready admittance into the circles of fashion; but if it be desirable that he should retain and cherish that proud and independent spirit which is the noblest ornament of the bench, and which, from the ordinary principles of human nature, is indispensable to a fearless and upright administration of the law, his emoluments ought to be sufficient to enable him to move in them without embarrassment, and at all events without being under the necessity of contracting debts. This is equally essential for the preservation of his own self-respect and dignity, as to secure to him the esteem and respect of the country. If his situation be necessary, let the Legislature support it with the respectability which appertains to it; and forbear to measure out the rewards it so richly merits with a parsimonious and niggardly hand. To compel a Judge to trench upon his private fortune, that he may support his proper station in society—the fruit of his own exertions and the inheritance of his family—is an act of public meanness and crying injustice. It is the policy of all just governments to remunerate their public officers, not for the value of their services only, but the rank and standing which their situation compels them to maintain. In England the Prime Minister might command the actual services of a Secretary of State for 1000l. per annum, and yet the Secretary for Foreign Affairs receives 10,000l. This allowance is bestowed upon him because his situation forces him to associate with the Ambassadors of Foreign Courts—to receive them at his entertainments, and to show them the courtesies of society in a style and splendour which becomes the Minister of so powerful and wealthy a kingdom. The same principle regulates the pay and emoluments of these and all the other public officers, not only of Britain, but of every foreign Government in Europe; it is the standard recognised even in the miserly Court at Washington, and is the only legitimate and accurate standard by which the salaries of our Judges should be estimated and ascertained.

Some have contended that the office of a Judge should be regarded by the profession as an honorable retirement for the declining period of life; but I cannot regard it in this light. The duties of the situation are not only arduous, but require the first talents of the profession; talents which, at the bar, would secure an honorable and gainful competence. Why then should the public pay less for such services than they would command by fair competition at the bar, and the more especially as their possessors are elevated to a higher rank, and a larger and more liberal expenditure is imposed upon them.

### SELDEN.

#### FEMALE ORPHAN ASYLUM OF QUEBEC.

On Friday the 5th instant, being the first Anniversary of the opening of the Female Orphan Asylum of this city, the Ladies under whose direction it is conducted and by whose exertions it is supported, together with some other persons who take a particular interest in the institution, assembled in the Asylum for the religious celebration of the occasion. The Bishop and others of the clergy were present, and the solemnity was conducted by the Archdeacon of Quebec. After the reading of several appropriate passages from scripture, and the offering of prayers, taken in part from the Liturgy, a hymn was sung by the Orphans themselves, whose number amounts now to eleven, exclusive of a deaf and dumb girl, whose parents are living, and who was admitted as an exception, in the first commencement of the undertaking. The services were concluded by an Address from the Archdeacon, in which he made it his endeavour to recommend this most valuable charity, and to point out by particular and striking instances the happy consequences which attended it, and the blessed change often produced in the situation and prospects of the children, as well as to encourage the spirit of patience and perseverance manifested already by the ladies who conduct it; and he also met some objections occasionally found to exist, both with respect to the mode of raising means for the support of the institution, and the principle adopted in the appropriation of those means. With respect to the first, he combated the arguments sometimes advanced that it would be better to give the amount in money at once, than time is wasted in preparing articles for the Bazaar, and money produced which is not always given from motives of charity; by representing that it would be found decidedly impracticable to raise an equal sum by collections or solicitations from house to house: that the majority of the ladies so engaged will freely confess that there is time still remaining to them of which they cannot give a better account than that they have employed it in preparing elegant and often useful articles to be sold for the benefit of the poor, while those ladies with whose other duties the time occupied in preparation for the Bazaar had really threatened to interfere, had for that very reason, contracted the scale of their operations. He also contended that it was impossible before accepting money for any purpose of charity or public usefulness, in whatever manner it might be raised, to assume the prerogative of God, and search into the heart of every giver, in order to ascertain the purity of his motives;—his act we ought to be thankful for, and upon his motives to put the fairest construction. And next with respect to the principle of appropriation, he pointed out particularly that if the Ladies had found it necessary to decide that the fruit of their exertions at the Bazaar, should be in future allotted exclusively to the support of this Institution, it would most assuredly be the height of injustice to say that their decision originated in any disposition to give an exclusive character to the operations of charity, since it was well known that they and other warm friends of this undertaking were also active members of other charitable institutions which were "as broad and general as the casing air," but that there must obviously be a great number of charitable institutions for specific objects for

the support of which specific funds must be reserved. The scene upon the whole was most gratifying, affecting and impressive. The comfort and judicious arrangement of the establishment, the healthy-looking children, in the uniform dresses provided for them; the effect of their united voices raised to Him who "out of the mouth of babes and sucklings has perfected praise," were touching and agreeable sights and sounds to those who felt that they had been permitted to become instruments in producing what they saw and heard. Several of the company assembled, and some among the children themselves, were most deeply affected; and it was a subject of regret to all present that the want of space within the apartments, prevented a more numerous attendance, since one opinion prevailed that nothing could have so effectually recommended the Institution to the benevolence of the public as to have enabled them to witness this Anniversary celebration.—*Quebec Gaz.*

#### Baptismal immersion in the Church of England.

An extraordinary occurrence took place in Saint Martin's Church of Tuesday last. A very amiable young lady, named Prosser, who was brought up a dissenter from the church of England, having attended for a considerable time at Saint Martin's church, under the ministry of the Reverend Dr. Richards, was anxious to become a communicant with this church; but not having been christened, it was necessary she should previously undergo that ceremony. She, however, objected to the form of christening, viz:—throwing or sprinkling water in the face, as contrary to the language of the Gospel, as well as the formula in the Prayer-book, the former of which said, speaking of adults who were baptized by the apostle, "And they straightway went down into the water and were baptized," &c.; and the latter, speaking of infants, says, "And they shall warily dip them," &c. She, therefore, applied to Dr. Richards to be allowed at her christening that the ceremony might be performed according to what she conceived was the literal scriptural meaning of the words of the apostle—by submersion. The Doctor vainly endeavoured to convince the lady that sprinkling was equally efficacious, and a dispensation having therefore been obtained from the Bishop of London to have the ceremony performed in the way she desired, Tuesday was appointed for it to take place. About mid day a large oblong wooden tub was placed close to the baptismal font in St. Martin's Church, and the lady made her appearance suitably attired, with woollen underclothing. It was a bitter cold day, but the lady was nothing daunted, and the Doctor "warily dipped her" over head and ears, after reading the appropriate service. The lady afterwards retired to the vestry, with her female friends, and having exchanged her wet apparel for dry clothes, returned to her family in Charing-cross, where the health of the new Christian was drunk with due honors. The only modern instance of baptism by immersion having taken place in one of our churches before, occurred at Leicester, and with the consent of the bishop of the diocese.—*London Paper.*

#### From the *Western Times*.

"DENIED A GRAVE."—A most unprecedented occurrence took place at Stoke Church on Wednesday, the 25th of November. The living is in the gift of Sir J. St. Aubyn, and in consequence of the vast increase of the population, the inhabitants have been compelled to add from time to time to the churchyard; the parish church is therefore placed in the centre of the old churchyard, bounded by its original walls, with three distinct additions, each separated by a strong wall, and altogether comprising an entire churchyard of 10 or 12 acres. These additions were given to the churchwardens in trust for the parish, by Sir J. St. Aubyn, on payment of a small reserved rent; and the question now is, *Whether the Rector has a right to charge the Parishioners for opening the ground appropriated to their families beyond the usual and customary fees for burial.* The late Rector's name was Williamson, a gentleman who, besides extreme deafness, had the misfortune to labour under other impediments to good preaching. His induction sermon was consequently the only one delivered by him for a period of nearly 40 years, and his property in the church, from his residing at a distance, fell into the management of agents. On his death, which happened about 18 months since, the living was presented to the Rev. W. J. St. Aubyn, and that gentleman has already attempted to effect sundry changes, not anticipated by the parishioners. The first of these changes was, the raising the tithes from 2s. 3d. to 3s. in the pound. The second change was, the raising the fees for head and foot stones from 5s. to 10s.; and the third was, a denial of the right claimed by a portion of the inhabitants to bury their friends in what were considered their own tombs or vaults; such tombs or vaults having been erected at their individual expense of from 30l. to 50l. each. Fees for opening family vaults had never been required, and therefore when the sum of 2l. 12s. 6d. was announced by the new rector as his demand, each and every time a vault was opened, it caused a considerable degree of irritation and opposition by the parishioners.

Counsel's opinions have been had on both sides, and every day's experience proves that the questions, instead of being amicably arranged, are far from even an approximation to that point.

Pending the consideration of these things, it so happened that the eldest son of Richard Blackmore, Esq. (a gentleman who has taken the most active part in opposition to the Rector's demand) died. Previous to the funeral, Mr. Blackmore made an application to open his family vault, to which application a peremptory refusal was returned, unless the fee of 2l. 12s. 6d. was previously paid.

The money was consequently sent, with a protest against its legality. Soon after this, the son of Mr. Clouter, the present churchwarden, and son-in-law of Mr. Blackmore, died; the usual application being made to open the vault, and it being refused, the body was taken to the burial-ground of a dissenting place of worship, in the neighbourhood, rather than the fee should be paid. A grand-daughter of Mr. Blackmore (and a daughter of Mr. Clouter) has since died; the usual application was made to open the vault, but without success; and last week, as if fate had decreed he should contend the matter, died another son of Mr. Blackmore, and it was at the attempt to bury this young man that the extraordinary occurrence took place; and we are induced to give a full account of the occurrence, both from its singularity and the interest it has excited.

Mr. Blackmore, as soon as the death of his son took place, wrote a letter to the Rector,

requesting the vault might be opened by his men; but this request having been refused, he addressed a second note, stating that he should bring the corpse of his son to be interred in the family cemetery; and that if the rector refused to bury him, his determination was to take the body back, and lodge it in his coach-house until the question was settled by law. The public having notice of his intention, and knowing the nerve of the man, who was sure to execute what he threatened, congregated to the amount of some hundreds to witness the proceeding.

On the arrival of the funeral at the church, Mr. Rodd, the solicitor, got out of the coach, and expected to meet the Rector as usual at the church door, ready to commence the service; but, not finding him there, went to the vestry, where were the Rector and his legal adviser, Mr. Sole, the Rev. Dr. Jacob, and another clergyman. After being closeted some time, Mr. Rodd came out, and ordered the hearse and carriages round to the west door, from which circumstance those assembled believed that the body would be deposited in the vault required, the west door being the nearest avenue to it. The gentlemen got out from the different carriages, and formed in a line, their numerous black hat-bands and scarfs tied with white ribbands, rustling in the wind, when word was brought, that the gate was strongly fastened with extra locks, and that no access could be had to the vault. Further, that the rector was waiting to perform the service by the side of a grave, which he had ordered to be dug for the occasion in another part of the churchyard, and separated by a high wall from that in which the vault was situated. Again the solicitor, Mr. Rodd, endeavoured to prevail on the rector to consent to bury the body in the vault without prejudice to the merits of the question, but his endeavours were fruitless, and the body being at that moment about one-third down the avenue of the churchyard, or about 40 feet inside the churchyard wall, was turned about and conveyed to the hearse, and the whole of the cavalcade returned to the house of Mr. Blackmore, in Trafalgar row, where the body now remains on a temporary bench in the coach-house, immediately in view of the rector's residence, until the question of fees shall be settled.

Considerable doubts are entertained as to the termination of the question; but doubts upon the law of the case will never affect the policy of the measure. Were the parishioners of Stoke Damerel situated as the inhabitants of many towns are (Exeter for instance), they might bury in one or other of the churchyards belonging to the Establishment; but Devonport has but one parish church, and two chapels of ease, for 40,000 souls, whilst Dissenters' meeting-houses stare you in every street. These dissenters have made a profitable speculation in a burying ground at Plymouth, and there they will bury their friends, because at less cost.

We hear Mr. Blackmore is determined to try the question. He has said, "The question may cost me 1000l.: be it so. If my son had lived, I had intended to have given him more than that sum: I will now spend it on his body, to try a great public question."

**CHANGES OF MANNERS.**—The following is from the pen of Captain Groce, the eminent antiquary, who died in the year 1791, at the age of 60; it was written about the year 1782: "I am a man of little more than 50 years of age, and yet I have nearly outlived a variety of systems and manners. When I was a young man, there existed in the families of most unmarried men or widowers, of the rank of gentlemen, residents in the country, a certain antiquated female, either a maiden or a widow, commonly an aunt or cousin. Her dress consisted of a stiffened starched cap and hood, a little hoop, and a rich silk damask gown, with large flowers, she leaned on an ivory-headed crutch cane, and was followed by a fat phthisicky dog, usually of the pug kind, who commonly reposed on a cushion, and enjoyed the privilege of snarling at the servants, and occasionally biting their heels with impunity. By the side of this good old lady jingled a bunch of keys, securing in different closets and corner cupboards all sorts of cordial waters, cherry and raspberry brandy, washes for the complexion, Daffy's Elixir, a rich seed cake, a number of pots of currant jelly and raspberry jam, with a range of gallipots and phials, containing physic for the use of the poor neighbours. The daily business of this good lady was to scold the maids, collect eggs, feed the turkeys, &c.

"Another character now worn out and gone, is the country Squire. I mean the little independent gentleman, with a landed property of 300l. a year, who commonly appeared in a plain drab or plush coat, large silver buttons, a jockey cap, and rarely without boots. His travels never exceeded the distance of the county town, and that only at Assize and Session time, or to attend an election. Once a week he commonly dined at the next market town with the Attorneys and Justices. This man went to Church regularly, read the weekly journal, settled the parochial disputes with the parish officers at the Vestry, and afterwards adjourned to the neighboring ale-house, where he usually got drunk for the good of his country. He never played at cards but at Christmas, when a family pack was produced from the mantel-piece. He was commonly followed by a couple of grey-hounds and a pointer, and announced his arrival at a neighbor's house by smacking his whip, or giving the view halloo. His drink was generally ale, except on Christmas, the 5th of Nov. or some other gala days, when he would make a bowl of strong brandy punch, garnished with a toast and nutmeg. A journey to London was by one of these men reckoned as great an undertaking as is at present a voyage to the East Indies, and undertaken with scarce less precaution and preparation.

"The mansion of one of these squires was of plaster, striped with timber (not unaptly called calimanco work), or of red brick, with large casemented bow windows, a porch with seats in it, and over it a study. The eaves of the house were well inhabited by swallows, and the court set round with hollyhocks. The hall was furnished with stiches of bacon, and the mantel-piece with guns and fishing rods of

different dimensions, accompanied by the broad sword, partisan and dagger, borne by his ancestor in the civil wars. Against the wall was posted 'King Charles's Golden Rules,' 'Vincent Wing's Almanack,' and a portrait of the Duke of Marlborough, and in his window lay 'Baker's Chronicle,' 'Fox's Book of Martyrs,' 'Glanvil on Apparitions,' 'Quincy's Dispensatory,' 'The Complete Justice,' and a book of Parriery. In the corner, by the fire-side, stood a large wooden two armed chair, with a cushion; and within the chimney corner were a couple of seats. Here at Christmas he entertained his tenants, assembled round a glowing fire, made of the roots of trees and other great logs. The best parlour, which was never open but upon particular occasions, was furnished with Turkey worked chairs, and hung round with portraits of his ancestors; the men in the character of shepherds, with their crooks, dressed in full Court suits, and huge full-bottomed perukes, (such as the Judges wear now); others in full suits of armour, playing on the lute. The females, likewise were dressed as shepherdesses, with a lamb and crook; all habited in high head dresses and flowing robes.

"These men and their houses are now no more; the luxury of the times having obliged them to quit the country, to become dependents on the great, or members of some profession. The venerable mansion is, in the mean time, suffered to tumble down, or is partly upheld as a farm-house, till after a few years, the estate is sold to the steward of some neighbouring Lord, or else to some Nabob, Government contractor, or limb of the law."

#### MATRIMONIAL HOAX.

A few weeks since an advertisement appeared in the *Gloucester Journal* stating that the writer was anxious for a wife, and setting forth the usual quantum of self-praise and importance, with a catalogue of "good temper," "cheerful disposition," "tolerable fortune," and other requisites on the part of a lady so essential to produce felicity in the marriage state. Accordingly, a note was received by the would-be-enamoured swain, couched in terms that could alone be expected from a youthful, enthusiastic, and enraptured lover. The correspondence became intensely interesting, continued for some, and at last he prevailed on the beloved of his soul to name a *giorno felice* when all disguise was to be thrown off, and she agreed to meet him in the lower avenue of the Old Well Walk, Cheltenham, and settle the preliminaries of a nearer and dearer correspondence on the delicate, important, and awful step, he had almost persuaded her to take. But, alas! how short-lived and deceitful are all the joys of this sublimity world! His fair correspondent was merely an ideal being, created by one or two waggish laughter-loving youths of that gay town, who invited a strong muster of friends to be present, without mentioning the name of the lover, whose appearance they expected in the form of some romantic youth. No such amiable and engaging character, however appeared, and the assembled crowd began to suspect that they had been hoaxed, instead of the lover, when their attention was directed to a respectable and elderly looking gentleman, dressed in the very first stile of fashion, with eye glass, jewellery, and all the external points of a man of rank, besides being highly perfumed for the occasion! but his walk was rather tottering and trembling. After enjoying the confusion of the old gentleman for some time, who paced the walk with hasty strides, ever and anon looking round for his dear Maria, his tormentors approached him. After a few nods and winks, they followed him in procession, reading aloud, amidst the applause and encores of the throng, the whole of the correspondence. The amorous and disappointed sexagenarian first looked remarkably sheepish; then turned upon them with a withering frown of savage indignation and revenge, which only increased the ridicule; and finally, seeing his assailants were not to be beaten off, he fairly took to his heels, and ran off as well as the infirmities of age would permit him, quickened in his pace by the shouts of all present, who begged he would present "their best compliments to Maria!"

Extract of a letter from Van Diemen's Land:—The native blacks have been committing sad murders lately in the interior. They killed six European stockmen in one week! They are poor shivering niggardly wretches; and their only arms are sticks about 15 or 17 feet long, made small to a point, being burned in the fire, and rubbed on a sandstone to make them sharp. These are their spears! They have also sticks about two feet long, blunt at both ends, and rounded off by burning. These which they call *vaddies*, are used to beat out the brains of their enemies, or kill the large boomer kangaroos, when they are speared and disabled. From all the information that can be got, there are not more than 500 of these poor wretches on the whole island. The Lieutenant Governor, Colonel Arthur, is making arrangements to take the whole of them prisoners. The interior districts are at present under martial law, as far as regards the blacks; and many of them have been lately killed by the soldiers. They are perfectly contemptible as an enemy, but dangerous to meet with if one is alone, and especially unarmed."

## THE ROYAL GAZETTE.

TERMS—16s. per Annum, exclusive of Postage.

#### AGENTS FOR THE ROYAL GAZETTE.

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