

## POETRY.

### Selected.

#### TIME'S CHANGES.

I saw her once—so freshly fair,  
That, like a blossom just unfolding,  
She opened to life's cloudless air,  
And nature joyed to see it moulding.  
Her smile, it haunts my memory yet,  
Her cheeks fine hue divinely glowing.  
Her rose bud mouth, her eyes of jet,  
Around on all, their lights bestowing;  
Oh! who could look on such a form,  
So nobly free, so softly tender,  
And darkly dream that earthly storm  
Should dim such sweet, delicious splen-  
dor?

For in her mien and in her face,  
And in her young steps airy lightness,  
Nought could the raptured gazer trace,  
But beauty's glow and pleasure's bright-  
ness.

I saw her twice—an altered charm—  
But still of magic riches, rarest,  
Than girlhood's talisman less warm,  
Though yet of earthly sights the fairest;  
Upon her breast she held a child,  
The very image of its mother,  
Which ever to her smiling smiled;  
They seemed to live, but on each other.  
But mignon lurking, eaves of woe,  
Her thoughtless, silence youth had ban-  
ished.

And from her cheek the rosy glow  
Of childhood's early morn had vanished,  
Within her eyes upon her brow  
Lay something softer, fonder, deeper,  
As if in dreams some visioned woe,  
Had broke the Elysium of the sleeper.

I saw her thrice—Fate's dark decree  
In widow's garments had arrayed her  
And beautiful she seemed to be,  
As even my reverie portrayed her;  
The glow, the glance, had passed away,  
The sunshine and the sparkling glitter,  
Still, though I noted pale Decay,  
The retrospect was scarcely bitter,  
For in their place a calmness dwelt,  
Serene, abiding, soothing, holy,  
In feeling which the bosom felt  
That every louder mirth is folly;  
A pensiveness which is not grief,  
A stillness, as of sunset streaming,  
A fairy glow on flower and leaf,  
Till earth looks like a landscape dreaming.

A last time—and unmoved she lay  
Beyond life's dim, uncertain river,  
A glorious mould of fading clay,  
From whence the spark had fled forever.  
I gazed—my heart was like to burst;  
And as I thought of years departed,  
The years wherein I saw her first,  
When she, a girl, was lightome hearted,  
And when I mused on later days,  
As moved she in a matron's duty,  
A happy mother in the blaze  
Of ripen'd hope and sunny beauty;  
I felt the child—I turned aside,  
Black Desolation's cloud came o'er me,  
And Being seemed a troubled dream,  
Whose wreck in darkness swam before me.

## LITERATURE.

### DESCRIPTION OF THE GROTTA OF ANTIFAROS.

ANTIFAROS, one of the Cyclades, is situated in the Egean Sea, or Grecian Archipelago. It is a small island, about sixteen miles in circumference, and lies two miles to the west of the celebrated Paros, from which circumstance it derives its name, *anti* in the Greek language signifying *opposite to*. Its singular and most interesting Grotto has attracted the attention of travellers. The entrance to this superb Grotto is on the side of a rock, and is a large arch, formed of craggy stones, overhung with brambles and creeping plants, which bestow on it a gloominess at once awful and agreeable. Having proceeded about thirty paces within it, the traveller enters a low narrow alley, surrounded on every side by stones, which, by the light of torches, glitter like diamonds; the whole being covered and lined throughout with small crystals, which give, by their different reflections, a variety of colours. At the end of this alley or passage, having a rope tied round his waist, he is led to the brink of an awful precipice, and is thence lowered into a deep abyss, the gloom pervading which makes him regret the "alley of diamonds" which he has just quitted. He has not as yet, however, reached the Grotto, but is led forward about forty paces, beneath a roof of rugged rocks, amid a scene of terrible darkness, and at a vast depth from the surface of the earth, to the brink of another precipice, much deeper and more awful than the former.

Having descended this precipice, which is not accomplished without considerable difficulty, the traveller enters a passage, the grandeur and beauty of which can be but imperfectly described. It is one hundred and twenty feet in length, about nine feet high, and in width seven, with a bottom of a fine green glossy marble. The walls and arched roof are as smooth and polished as if they had been wrought by art, and are composed of a fine glittering red and white granite, supported at intervals by columns of a deep blood-red shining porphyry, which, by the reflection of the lights, presents an appear-

ance inconceivably grand. At the extremity of this passage is a sloping wall, formed of a single mass of purple marble, studded with sprigs of rock crystal, which from the glow of the purple behind, appear like a continual range of amethysts.

Another slanting passage, filled with petrifications, representing the figures of snakes and other animals, and having towards its extremity two pillars of beautiful yellow marble, which seem to support the roof, leads to the last precipice, which is descended by the means of a ladder. The traveller, who has descended to the depth of nearly one thousand five hundred feet beneath the surface, now enters the magnificent grotto, to procure a sight of which he has endured so much fatigue. It is in width three hundred and sixty feet; in length three hundred and forty; and in most places one hundred and eighty in height. By the aid of torch-light, he finds himself beneath an immense and finely vaulted arch, overspread with icicles of white shining marble, many of them ten feet in length, and of a proportionate thickness. Among these are suspended a thousand festoons of leaves and flowers, of the same substance, but so glittering as to dazzle the sight. The sides are planted with petrifications also of white marble, representing trees; these rise in rows one above the other, and often enclose the points of the icicles. From them also hang festoons, tied as it were one to another, in great abundance; and in some places rivers of marble seem to wind through them. In short, these petrifications, the result of the dripping of water for a long series of ages, nicely resemble trees and brooks turned to marble. The floor is paved with crystals of different colours, such as red, blue, green, and yellow, projecting from it, and rendering it rugged and uneven. These are again interspersed with icicles of white marble which have apparently fallen from the roof, and are there fixed. To these the guides fasten their torches; and the glare of splendour and beauty, which results from such an illumination, may be better conceived than described.

The following is the account of this Grotto given by M. TOURNEFORT, a distinguished philosopher and traveller, in the description of his voyage into the Levant.

"A rough cavern is the first object which presents itself to the traveller, about thirty paces broad, vaulted in a kind of arch, and enclosed with a court made by the shepherds. This place is divided into two by some natural pillars, on the largest whereof, which looks like a tower fixed into the top of the cavern, there is seen an inscription, very ancient and very broken. It mentions some proper names, which the natives, by I know not what tradition, suppose to be the names of the conspirators against Alexander the Great: who, after having failed in their design, took refuge in this place, as the safest retreat which they were able to find. We next went forward to the bottom of the cavern by a descent of about twenty paces long: this is the passage into the Grotto, and is only a very dark hole, in which we could not walk upright, nor see without the help of torches. First, we went down a frightful precipice by means of a rope, which we had taken care to fasten at the very entrance. From the bottom of this precipice, we slid down into another, much more terrible; the sides being very slippery, and deep abysses on the left hand: the guides placed a ladder on the side of these abysses; and by its means we tremblingly got down a rock that was perfectly perpendicular. We continued to make our way through places somewhat less dangerous; but when we thought ourselves upon sure ground, the most frightful leap of all stopped us short, and we had infallibly broken our necks, had we not had notice, and been kept back by our guides. To get down here, we were forced to slide on our backs along a great rock; and without the assistance of another rope, we had fallen down into horrible quagmires.

"When we came to the bottom of the ladder we again rolled for some time over rocks, sometimes on our backs, sometimes on our bellies, according as we found most ease; and after all these fatigues, we at length entered into that admirable Grotto. The people who conducted us reckoned it three hundred yards from the entrance to what is called the Altar, which is a pyramidal mass, and as many more from the Altar to the deepest part of the cavern. The bottom of the Grotto, on the left hand is very rugged; on the right it is pretty even; and by this way it is that we go to the Altar. From this place, the Grotto appears to be about eighty feet high; and one hundred broad: the roof of it is a pretty good arch, in several places rising into large round knobs, some bristling with points, others

regularly dented, whence hang clusters like grapes, festoons, and lances of a surprising length. On the right and left are natural curtains, that stretch out every way, and form on the sides a sort of channelled spires, or towers, for the most part hollow, like so many closets all round the Grotto. Among these cabinets, one large pavilion is particularly distinguishable; it is formed by productions that so exactly represent the roots, branches, and heads of cauliflower, that one would think nature meant by this to show how she operates in the vegetation of stones. All these figures are of white marble, transparent, crystallized, and generally break aslant. Most of these pieces are even covered with a white bark; and on being struck will sound like copper. The before-mentioned Pyramid, or Altar, is truly surprising: this piece stands separate from the rest; it is twenty-four feet high, adorned with several chapters, fluted length-ways, and sustained on their feet, of a dazzling whiteness, as in all the rest of the Grotto. This pyramid is perhaps the finest plant of marble that is in the world: the ornaments with which it is covered, are all in the shape of cauliflowers; that is to say, terminating in large bunches, described in a more masterly style than if a sculptor had just given them the finishing touch. This has been called the Altar since the time of the Marquis de Mointal, Ambassador of France to the Porte, who, in 1673, caused mass to be celebrated here with great pomp. He passed the three Christmas holidays in the Grotto, accompanied by above five hundred persons, as well his own domestics, as merchants, corsairs, or natives, who were curious to follow him. A hundred large torches, of yellow wax, and four hundred lamps that burnt night and day, were so well placed that no church was ever better illuminated. The Ambassador lay, during the night almost opposite to the Altar in a cabinet seven or eight feet long, naturally cut in one of those large spires which we mentioned before. On one side of this spire is a hole, which is an entrance into another cavern; but no one as yet ventured to descend into it."

To these accounts we add the following extract from that of Dr. E. D. CLARKE, who visited this Grotto in 1802.

"The mode of descent is by ropes, which, on the different declivities, are either held by the guides, or are joined to a cable which is fastened at the entrance around a stalactite pillar. In this manner we were conducted, first down one declivity, and then down another, until we entered the spacious chambers of this truly enchanted Grotto. The roof, the floor, the sides of a whole series of magnificent caverns, were entirely invested with a dazzling incrustation as white as snow. Columns, some of which were five and twenty feet in length, pended in fine icicle-forms above our heads; fortunately some of them are so far above the reach of the numerous travellers, who, during many ages, have visited this place, that no one has been able to injure or to remove them. Others extended from the roof to the floor, with diameters equal to that of the mast of a first-rate ship of the line. The incrustations of the floor, caused by falling drops from the stalactites above, had grown up into dendritic and vegetable forms, which first suggested to TOURNEFORT the strange notion of his having here discovered the vegetation of stones. Vegetation itself has been considered as a species of crystallization; and as the process of crystallization is so surprisingly manifested by several phenomena in this Grotto, some analogy may perhaps be allowed to exist between the plant and the stone; but it cannot be said, that a principle of life existing in the former has been imparted to the latter. The last chamber into which we descended surprised us more, by the grandeur of its exhibition, than any other. Probably there are many other chambers below this, yet unexplored, for no attempt has been made to penetrate farther; and, if this be true, the new caverns, when opened, would appear in perfect splendour, unsullied, in any part of them, by the smoke of torches, or by the hands of intruders.

\*A favourite hypothesis of TOURNEFORT.

### WHALE HUNTING IN GREENLAND.

Every ship engaged in the Greenland Fisheries, from British ports, is furnished with six boats, besides the ship's or jolly boat. One of these is called the gig-boat; the remaining five are distinguished only by their number. The gig is provided with six oars, besides the steersman's; the rest have only five oars each, with the same exception: in all, the harpooner uses the bow or foremost oar. Each boat is

provided with three lines, of one hundred and twenty fathoms each, made of the very soundest hemp; as on the faithfulness of the line the success of capture depends. These lines are coiled with great care and nicely in a square frame in the middle of the boat, and the harpooner has his harpoon ready in a dry place, to set it on a rest prepared for that purpose on the right bow of the boat. The boat-steerer, who must be trained to his station, as in emergency his courage and caution may not only secure success but save the lives of the men, is provided with a long oar, with which he dexterously directs the motion of the boat. Each boat is also provided with a tin trumpet, to announce the station or movement in case of being enveloped in a fog; and also with a piece of bunting attached to a short pole, by way of signal flag.

Thus equipped the boats are suspended by a simple machinery of ropes and blocks, by the ship's side, ready to be lowered in an instant. To the mainmast is attached, at a great elevation, usually about one hundred feet above the deck, a structure resembling a water-cask, called a hurricane-house, in which the master or confidential officer is stationed with a telescope on the look out; and to such as have not witnessed the fatigues of that station, a recital of its dangerous hardships would appear incredible. In the sudden transitions from intense cold to the most annoying heat, whilst the head is constantly involved in the blaze of an unclouded sun, that blisters the face and blinds the strongest vision, that situation must be inflexibly maintained; and such perseverance often costs the individual the loss of health and life.

If the ship's station be on what is considered good fishing ground, which is commonly known by the water being of a deep olive colour, a boat or two being kept continually on the watch, the moment a whale is descried; the pursuit commences without the loss of a second of time; and as the ordinary speed of the whale boat is six miles an hour, a very short space of time is sufficient to bring them to the spot. The whale, on the first rising, seeing no enemy near, and not apprehending danger, is apt to repose a considerable time at the surface apparently "stretching out o'er many a rood," and the boats are mean time advancing to the place. "Give way" is then the word with which the rowers urge their speed, and the harpooner, with desperate and determined energy, buries the weapon in the animal's body. This is mostly followed by a moment's awful pause; the whale upon feeling the smart of the barb, trembles for an instant in his posture, darts precipitately forward, or sinks by an unaccountable effort with the suddenness of so much lead. If the harpoon remain fast, the line continuing to run with immeasurable velocity, the flag of the boat is displayed in token of success, when all in the boats within sight of the transaction, and those on board the ship, join in a wild irregular cry "of a fall, a fall," and a flag is immediately run up to the mizen mast head to proclaim the vessel's good fortune.

In the meanwhile the other boats are dispatched to aid in the capture, and no sooner does the animal rise again, than the next harpooner secures him by a second wound, and so follow as many as they can, until by multiplied efforts to escape, compelled so repeatedly to rise for breath, and then almost instantly visited with the instruments of death, exhaustion follows, and he becomes a bestricken object for the hunter's deliberate aim, when, from the numberless plunges of the lance, the vital current becomes spent, and the animal dies. Such an event is not always unattended with danger to the hunters.

Often in the first instance of being stricken, if recollection of a similar injury, aid his anger, the retaliation of the animal is destructive; for rushing backwards, in which direction the assailants usually advance, a single touch of the tail is sufficient for their destruction. The sudden violence with which the animal descends, frequently produces a similar effect if the line happen to meet obstruction in its course; and in the dying scene, pierced with many wounds, the animal exhibits a terrific object by the mightiness of his efforts, though quite unconscious of the grand effect produced by such exertions. Spouting a column of apparent flame, which, descending, covers the sea with a crimsoned surface of acres in extent, at the same time lashing the water all around into purple foam by the strokes of his fins and tail, now and then endeavouring to replunge, in hopes of escaping; in which effort half the body towards the tail is seen above water; the danger so obvious, is carefully avoided by the boat's crew, at that crisis cautioned to remain at a secure distance,

when the lines fastened to the harpoons are slowly drawn in till the animal reappears, and breathes his last.

The whale after death always turns on the back. The fins are then lashed together, perforations are made in the tail, and a rope is passed through, and thence round the rump; when all the boats passing lines from one to another, proceed to tow the monster towards the ship; which is usually so managed as to meet them, in order to lessen the fatigue. When brought alongside, the body is properly secured by the operation of finching. This consists in digging off the blubber, or cellular substance from the muscular parts, in large slips, sometimes of half a ton weight, but all of a regular form, which are lifted on deck by the help of the windlass, and the labour of many hands, who toil incessantly until the spoliation is completed. The whale bone as it is called, is carefully dug out, as well as the massy tongue; the former for its peculiar importance, and the latter as being almost entirely of blubber. The bones of the lower jaw are also removed, being a private requisite for the master, and so would the frontal or crown bone too, were it not for the extreme difficulty in separating it from the body. Then finally the remotest joint that can be marked in the lumber vertebrae or rump, is severed, and the crang, as is called the residue of the animal, with its abdominal contents, is suffered to sink, which it instantly does, to the bottom.

The older whales are more dangerous and difficult to take, both from the rigidity of their frame, and their experience of injury. It is not unusual when they happen to be disturbed in the pursuits that draw them from their retreats, that if a partner be wounded, the affectionate companion comes to give relief, not knowing the cause of the pain, or of the sudden flight. In the search, the watchful hunter strikes the fresh prey; when the tortured animals, seeking each other in their anguish, and desperate with their wounds, often run foul of the boats, and involve their pursuers in the ruin that overwhelms themselves. In some instances they, by running among packed ice, or rubbing the line against the edge of a flaw, (a portion of fiendice,) frequently chafe it so as to make it snap, and so escape for the moment, but they are seldom eventually safe. On such occasions they cease not to run for unknown length, until fatigue or death makes them insensible of pain. To some such occurrence is to be attributed the circumstance of a whale, having been captured with the harpoon embedded in its body, after traversing the unknown seas between Spitzbergen and David's Strait.

I cannot conclude without mentioning the singular character of courage and intrepidity evinced by the men employed in the capture of the whale. Trained to the occupation from boyhood, and induced by rewards of much importance in their station, such qualifications are highly recommendatory in their application for employment; and in their voyage, should what they term "good luck" attend their exertions, and an implicit devotedness to the interests owner be manifested, their advancement and employment are certain. The expense of outfit, the danger of total loss by shipwreck, and the thousand casualties to which this branch of trade is liable, should prevent all envy at the profits arising from it. When successful, these profits are certainly great; but they are fairly balanced, not only by the constant and straining anxiety attending selfish concern, but by the apprehension that all the individuals so engaged may probably never return from so perilous a mission. Such reflections consume an honest and humane heart; while the purse of the adventuring merchant may be distended by the fortunate return, the whale averaging a value of one thousand pounds.

O'Reilly on Greenland.

### CENTRAL BANK OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that a further instalment of Fifty per Cent on the Capital Stock of the Central Bank of New Brunswick, is hereby required to be paid into the hands of the Cashier of said Bank, at the Counting House of Messrs. Robert Rankin, & Co. in Fredericton, on or before Monday, 1st day of September next.

By order of the Board,  
H. G. CLOPPER, President.  
Fredericton, 9th May, 1834.

### FOR SALE.

THREE Lots of Land Nos. 43, 44, and 45, in the Military Grant on the Portage, between Fredericton, and Miramichi, opposite land owned by the Hon. George Shore, containing 500 Acres more or less, with the usual allowance for roads. For terms apply to

W. B. KINNEAR,  
Atty. for the Estate of Wm. Ewing,  
deceased.  
St. John, September 11th, 1833.