

POETRY.

Selected.

THE GONDOLA GLIDES.

The Gondola glides, like a spirit of night,
O'er the slumbering tides, in the calm moon-
light:
The star of the north shows her golden
eye,
But a brighter looks forth from yon lattice
on high!

Her taper is out, and the silver beam
Floats the maiden about,—like a beautiful
dream!
And the beat of her heart makes her trem-
ble all o'er:
And she lists with a start, to the dash of
the oar.

But the moments are past, and her fears are
at rest,
And her lover at last holds her clasped to his
breast;
And the planet above, and the quiet blue
sea,
Are pledged to his love, and his constancy.

Her cheek is reclined on the home of his
breast,
And his fingers are twined mid her ringlets
that rest,
In many a fold, o'er his arm that is plac'd
Round the cincture of gold which encircles
her waist!

He looks to the stars, which are gemming
the blue;
And devoutly he swears he will ever be true;
Then bends him to hear the low sound of
her sigh,
And to kiss the fond tear from her beauti-
ful eye.

And he watches its flashes, which brightly
reveal,
What the long fringing lashes would vainly
conceal;
And reads,—while he kneels all his ardour
to speak—
Her reply as it steals in a blush o'er her
cheek!

T. K. HERVEY.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The following is an outline of a recent trial for arson. The unfortunate individual was found guilty, and sentence of death passed on him on the strength of circumstantial evidence alone. In some cases, we admit, this evidence acquires a force perfectly irresistible from the number and minuteness of a variety of undesigned and independent coincidences, which throw a strong and concentrated light of illustration on one focus. The testimony of other cases may, alas, be cited, in which, as subsequent discovery or the very confession of the guilty parties themselves attests, innocent persons have been sacrificed through an unwarrantable confidence in circumstantial evidence, and in violation of the first principles of justice. In the present case, it is evident, that more cannot be predicated of the slight circumstantial evidence adduced at the trial, than that it warrants suspicion. There is a temerity in this department of the administration of justice in England, which calls for investigation to supply the necessary defences of suspected innocence. In some countries, as Prussia for example, the danger of an exclusive reliance on this species of evidence is so thoroughly understood, that, in cases warranting capital punishment, it is never relied on alone. The King of Prussia will not sign the death-warrant of any of his subjects, unless the crime be verified either by the testimony of two eye-witnesses, or the confession of the criminal. Even the convictions, which take place under the Code Napoleon, in the Rhenish provinces annexed to Prussia, are subjected to the ultimate operation and correction of this fundamental law of the empire, and capital punishment, when awarded under such circumstances, commuted for that of hard labour or imprisonment.—*London Watchman*.

TRIAL FOR ARSON

CHELMSFORD, Thursday, July 23.

George Cranfield labourer, aged 34, was indicted for setting fire to a farm of Osgood Hanbury, Esq., at the hamlet of Bures, whereby the same with a large quantity of corn, &c., therein, the property of Grimard Wood, was burnt and destroyed.

Mr. Turner for the prosecution, said the barn was in the occupation of Wood, as tenant to Mr. Hanbury. The fire took place on the night of the 24th of March last. The prisoner in October, 1833, married Charlotte Patten, who was a servant in the employ of one of Mr. Hanbury's tenants. She had got a little money, and before the marriage she went to Mr. Hanbury, and begged his advice what she should do with it. Mr. Hanbury invested it in the funds in her name, and afterwards £100. 3s per cents. was transferred to Mr. Hanbury and his son Mr. Henry Hanbury, as trustees for her, and the remainder was sold out and given to her amounting to about £26. An agreement was executed, by which the trustees were to pay the wife the interest for her life, and to transfer the stock after her death as she should appoint, and in default of appointment, to the children she might have. After this the marriage took place; but the prisoner was desirous of getting the trust money, and made many applications to Mr. Hanbury for that purpose; he refused the request, and thence arose angry feelings in the breast

of the prisoner, who knew that the barn in question, although let to Wood, was the property of Mr. Hanbury.

Grimard Wood.—Was a farmer and tenant to Mr. Osgood Hanbury, of a farm in Bures hamlet, near Sudbury. There were a dwelling-house, stables, cowhouse, &c., and a barn. At 9 o'clock on the evening of the 24th of March last, he and his family went to bed, everything was then safe. In about an hour and a-half he awoke, and saw a light; he got out of bed, and the window appeared all in a blaze. He opened it, looked out, and saw the barn in a blaze from the bottom to the top. He went down to the front door, cautiously opened it, and ran to the farm yard gate, where the barn was. Several people came to assist, and they put the fire out, but the barn with about 26 quarters of barley, with 4½ quarters of peas, were destroyed. The barn was worth about £200., and the barley and peas, with implements, &c., worth £70. In about four hours it was all safe. The prisoner worked for witness about five or six years ago. He was taken up about a month after the fire. Witness was with the constable at the time of the apprehension. The prisoner said he did not mind going, for he was clear that he never went out anywhere that night. The constable took him to his (the prisoner's) house. The prisoner there drank some water and then said, "I never went out anywhere that night but to my father's house." The constable searched the house with the prisoner's leave, as he had no search warrant, and found some papers written on with chalk.

The papers were produced, but his Lordship refused to receive them, as it was not proved that the prisoner could write, and the counsel for the prosecution admitted he could not.

Cross-examined.—The barn was usually locked. Witness's boy was last in the barn. The prisoner knew that the barn belonged to Mr. Hanbury.

James Walsh, labourer, was going home with a friend about 10 o'clock on the night of the fire. The prisoner lived under the same roof with a man of the name of Bugg. They passed by this house, and called out "Bugg" several times, but received no answer. Afterwards, as they went on, they saw a light in the air, on which they hastened to the fire, and assisted in putting it out. The prisoner was not there.

William Bugg.—Lived under the same roof with the prisoner. There was both a front and back door to the house. Heard the men calling him, but was in bed, and did not answer them. He afterwards heard a cry of "Fire." On which he got out of bed, went to the prisoner's door, and called him five or six times by name, "George, George," but received no answer, on which he was going to open the door, but found it ajar, and he tumbled into the room. The prisoner's wife told him her husband was not there. Witness in about a quarter of an hour after that saw the prisoner come into the house by the front door, which his wife went down and unfastened. Witness asked the prisoner if he had seen the fire. The prisoner answered he saw it as he was coming by a place which he named, but which the witness could not recollect. The prisoner said he had been at his father's; he then said "For God's sake, Master Bugg, don't say I was out, for they will say I set it on fire." Witness has heard the prisoner say Mr. Hanbury had wronged him of some money, had cheated him of some money, and had not given him the interest.

Cross-examined.—Witness had had serious words with the prisoner's wife respecting some wood.

Mrs. Charity Bugg confirmed her husband's statement. She did not know whether the prisoner could read or write.

Brittain, a constable at Witham, apprehended the prisoner on the 20th April, as he was hoeing wheat in a field. He said he knew nothing about the fire: he was not from home that night. Witness took him to his (the prisoner's) own house, and with his consent searched it, and found papers written upon with red chalk. The papers were produced, but not read in evidence.

Osgood Hanbury, Esq., a Quaker, was owner of the barn. He knew the prisoner for two years, and he also knew Charlotte Patten for three years before she married the prisoner. She had some money, and begged witness's advice as to what was proper for her to do with it. Witness, on the 22d January, 1830, bought for her, in her own name, with her own money, £115 new 3½ per cents., which sum was afterwards increased. On the marriage £100 of this stock was transferred into the names of Henry Hanbury and witness, and the remainder sold out, and the proceeds, about £26, given to Charlotte Patten.

A settlement was then put in, executed by the prisoner as a marksman. It provided that the dividend of the stock should be paid to the wife for her life into her own hands, and after her decease to such persons as she should appoint, and in case no appointment was made, then to the children of the marriage.

Mr. Hanbury (continued).—The prisoner made many applications for witness to sell out the money; the first was within two months after the marriage. The last application was in March last. To oblige him the opinion of Mr. Creswell was taken, and he said that witness could not safely do it. The prisoner grumbled very much, and one time he conducted himself so that witness rang the bell, and told his servant to call for his gardener, who was a constable, with a view to give the prisoner in charge if he did not leave his house.

Cross-examined.—This occurred early in March last, before the fire. He was in gaol on the 20th April.

Mr. Justice Park then summed up the case. He observed, that it was clear that there was a fire, and that it was not accidental. The question therefore was, did the prisoner do it? Although the prisoner and Mr. Hanbury might dislike each other extremely, the jury must be satisfied that the prisoner's was the hand that did it. The attempt was to show that the prisoner did it, from his wishing to have it concealed that he went out that evening. Mr. Hanbury seemed to have acted most kindly to these people, in being their trustee for so small a sum, but still there might be such a degree of ignorance in the prisoner's mind, that he might imagine he was entitled to the stock upon the marriage. It was clear that he was out of his own house at the time of the fire, and that he denied that was the case: that he afterwards said that he was at his father's house, but had not called any one to prove that he was there, and that he begged Bugg and his wife not to say that he had been out. The leaning of juries was, and he hoped would ever be, in favour of innocence rather than of guilt, and if they had reasonable doubts in favour of the prisoner, they would give him the benefit of those doubts; but they should not be mere random doubts, but such as a considerate man would entertain.

The Jury after a short time returned a verdict of Guilty.

Mr. Hanbury immediately stepped forward, and said "Allow me to recommend the prisoner to mercy."

Mr. Justice Park.—You must apply to the higher authorities.

The learned Judge then proceeded to pass sentence of death, and said to the prisoner.—After a long, full, painful, and deep consideration of your case by myself, and afterwards by the jury, they have returned a verdict of guilty against you: and although I believe every circumstance was drawn to your consideration that could tend to elucidate innocence, yet they have thought proper to bring in a verdict of guilty. And I am bound to say, as an honest man, that they have in my judgment, returned a correct verdict. The evidence was circumstantial, but the conviction of almost all crimes must depend upon circumstantial evidence, for a man does not commit a heinous crime in the face of day, but at a moment when no human eye can see him, forgetting that there is an eye that never slumbers which observes what he does, and brings to light in his own wonderful way what has been done in the most secret manner. The circumstances are few, but so pregnant in themselves, that it is impossible to say the jury have done wrong. Yours is a crime of the deepest magnitude, for no one can tell where the fury of the flames will end. The motives for your conduct have been made most apparent: because you were not allowed to put into your pocket the small property which it was your duty to preserve, you conceived a rankling malice against the gentleman who prevented you from doing so. I should deceive you cruelly were I to hold out any false hopes of mercy.

The learned Judge then pronounced sentence of death.

MANNERS OF THE ARABS IN ETHIOPIA.—"I presented to the Bey the firman of the pasha. He looked at the seal, kissed it, and applied it to his forehead in token of his obedience; but at the same time assured me that on account of my being an Englishman, even if I had brought no firman, he would have done whatever was in his power to facilitate my plans. He would not allow us to leave him without partaking of his evening meal, a short description of which may amuse the reader. After we had well lathered our hands in the usual Turkish manner, the round white metal table was brought in, and we all squatted down on the floor, with due

decorum around it. We had first soup, and afterwards twenty dishes of meat, one following the other, and the dinner finished with a pill of rice. We used wooden spoons for the soup, diving into the dish promiscuously; the meat we ate with our fingers, using always the thumb and two fore fingers of the right hand; each person keeping as well as he could to his own angle of the dish. Holding a piece of bread in his hand he fished out the pieces of meat, with a due proportion of gravy. The dishes were all small, and some of them, very recherches; but, as usual, it was mutton, mutton, nothing but mutton, though disguised in a great variety of forms, with herbs, beans, and sauces from Cairo. The hands of the boy had the precedence in plunging into each dish, and the paws of the other briskly followed those of their leader. Having tasted one or two choice morsels, his excellency nodded his head, and that plate vanished. A number of hungry attendants, who were to dine upon the remains of the feast, waited in a string, and handed the dishes back and forward, from one to the other with the greatest rapidity. Very little was said during the repast; indeed, whoever is so foolish as to converse on such an occasion runs a great hazard of faring indifferently. As it was, I had rather a scanty supper; for perceiving it was *bon ton* to eat of every dish, and not knowing how many might follow, I did not duly profit by the precious moments. Old Nazred Dean, who, as I have said stated, is reported to breakfast with such a voracious appetite, seemed by no means satisfied, although I observed he made the best use of his time. The whole affair was finished in twenty minutes. Some of the dishes were not one minute on the table. The boy, with his fugacious nod, reminded me of the physician at the island, who was so considerate for Sancho Panza's digestive powers. I ought not to omit mentioning, that the boy, as a special act of politeness to myself, selected often the most delicate morsels from the best dishes, with his own besmeared fingers, and placed them before me. I did not quite relish such a greasy gratification, but was obliged to swallow the compliment. Several slaves stood around the table with gullahs of cool water,—the only beverage permitted; others had large fans to keep away the flies. After we had performed our very necessary ablutions, smoked a pipe and taken coffee, the bey dismissed his court and attendance, and we had a long *tele a tele* upon various subjects."—*Hoskins' Travels in Ethiopia*.

ORIENTAL DESPOTISM.—Two years after the death of Conrad marquis of Montferrat and Tyre, and that of Rashideddin Sinan, Henry, count of Champagne, passed on his journey to Armenia, near the territory of the Assassins; the grand prior, the successor of Rashideddin Sinan, sent deputies to welcome him, and to invite him to visit his fortress on his return. The count accepted the invitation, and came; the grand prior hastened to meet him, and received him with great honours. He took him to several castles and fortresses, and brought him at last to one having very lofty turrets. On each look out stood two guards dressed in white, consequently initiated in the secret doctrines. The grand prior told the count that these men obeyed him better than the Christians did their princes, and giving a signal, two of them instantly threw themselves from the top of the tower, and were dashed to pieces at his foot. "If you desire it," said the grand prior to the astonished count, "all my whites shall throw themselves down from the battlements in the same way." The latter declined, and confessed that he could not calculate upon such obedience in his servants. After staying some time at the castle, he was, at his departure, loaded with presents; and the grand prior told him, on taking leave, that by means of these faithful servants he removed the enemies of the order. By this horrible example of blind submission, the prior showed that he trod exactly in the footsteps of the founder of the order, who had given the ambassador of Melekshah a similar proof of the devotion of his faithful followers.—Jelaleddin Melekshah, sultan of the Seljunks, having sent an ambassador to him to require his obedience and fealty, the son of Sabah called into his presence several of his initiated. Beckoning to one of them, he said, "Kill thyself!" and he instantly stabbed himself; to another, "Throw thyself down from the rampart!" the next instant he lay a mutilated corpse in the moat. On this, the grand master turning to the envoy, who was unnerved with terror, said, "In this way am I obeyed by seventy thousand faithful subjects. Be that my answer to thy master."—*Wood's Translation of Von Hammer's History of the Assassins*.

INFLUENCE OF NEWSPAPERS.—A newspaper, says a sensible writer in *Tait*, is a flying omnibus, licensed to carry the opinions of the world. Time and space are compromised by its velocity and power; for it has the regularity of ocean's tides; besides that they are turned into steam, and work at high pressure. It is an ephemeral giant, whose birth, is renewed every morning; and it issues forth to the field with all its "arms and appointments," as though it had only slept like the rest of us, instead of having laid human brains and hands, and wonder working machinery, under heavy contributions for its re-creation. In its war replenished grasp it holds the passions, prejudices, interests, reasons, virtues, and vices of the times, with the opinions that result from the complex mixture; and its strides forward on seven leagued boots—to speak moderately—strewn them on every side. It is a voice that will be heard; for, if it fail in its desperate effort to have its own way, and produce its desired effect, it gives up attempting to make the mountain come to it, and very wisely sides with the collected mass. It is the mirror of public opinion; not the original or fundamental creator, but the munificent distributor. You may be heartily sick of politics, commerce, and the rest of the perverse present; but the newspaper claims your ear as its prey, and remorselessly pursues you for ever. Dart away by the mail to escape from some detested news of Bourbon or St. Nicholas, and take shipping at the Land's End, "the paper" goes with you; hide yourself where you will, it finds you out; it is the bellman of your social existence, your shadow, your familiar; in short, there is no avoiding it. The first house we set our foot in, on arriving at Mexico, in 1825,—in time of war, trouble, and yellow fever, and before speculators and travellers had ventured their lives and fortunes to work mines, or write a book,—there sat the vice-consul's clerk, blowing swift clouds from a much excited cigar, behind a copy of the incorrigible, omnipresent *Times* newspaper!—*Monthly Magazine*.

REMUNERATION OF SURGEONS AT CORONERS' INQUESTS.—It would appear from the lengthened discussion which took place last night in the Committee on the County Coroners' Bill, upon the remuneration to be given to Medical men for postmortem examinations, that that branch of the learned professions is not at a premium in the House of Commons. It was proposed by the Bill that one pound should be paid for the attendance of the surgeon, and two pounds if a post mortem examination should be deemed requisite. To this an amendment was proposed, to the effect that it should be left to the discretion of the Coroner to call in two surgeons, in which case they should receive one pound each; another amendment was proposed, to the effect that it should be left to the discretion of the Coroner to give from one to three pounds, according to the particular circumstances of each case. Will it be believed that two mortal hours of the valuable time of the House was wasted in determining as to which of these propositions was the most eligible; and at last the maximum was fixed at £2. We cannot help thinking that this is dealing hardly with the medical profession, that it would perhaps, be difficult to assign a reason for limiting a remuneration for a surgeon to £2 for such a disagreeable task as that of a post-mortem examination, while the sum of five guineas a day has been unhesitatingly granted to the Revising Barristers for taking as was well observed excursions to see the country, the labour being comparatively nothing. It is somewhat strange that the world should be so readily disposed to pay largely to those whose utmost reach of skill will at most preserve their properties, while it does out with a niggardly hand to those on whose science life itself is dependent. More than twice the encouragement is thus given to that species of science which must be confessed to be decidedly of the lesser value to society.—*Morning Herald*.

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