

## POETRY.

### Selected.

#### THE ORPHAN BALLAD SINGERS.

Oh! weary, weary are our feet,  
And weary, weary are our way:  
Through many a long and crowded street  
We've wander'd mournfully to-day.  
My little sister she is pale;  
She is too tender and too young  
To bear the Autumn's sullen gale,  
And all daylong the child has sung.

She was our mother's favorite child,  
Who lov'd her for her eyes of blue;  
And she is delicate and mild—  
She cannot do what I can do.  
She never met her father's eyes,  
Although they were so like his own;  
In some far distant sea he lies,  
A father to his child unknown.

The first time that she lip'd his name,  
A little playful thing she was;  
How proud we were, yet that night came  
The tale how he had sunk at sea.  
My mother never rais'd her head—  
How strange, how white—how cold she grew!  
It was a broken heart they said—  
I wish that ours had broken too.

We have no home—we have no friends;  
They said our home was no more ours—  
Our cottage where the ash-tree bends,  
The garden we had fill'd with flowers:  
The sounding shells our father brought  
That we might hear the sea at home;  
Our bees, that in the summer wrought  
The winter's golden honeycomb.

We wandered forth mid wind and rain,  
No shelter from the open sky;  
I only wish to see again  
My mother's grave, and rest, and die.  
Alas, it is a weary thing  
To sing our ballads o'er and o'er  
The songs we used at home to sing,  
Alas! we have a home no more!

(Littell's Museum.)

## MISCELLANEOUS.

**HALLEY'S COMET.**—Halley's Comet has made its appearance; and in about a month from this date it will be visible to the naked eye. The subject is deeply interesting both as a matter of science and on account of the feelings excited in the ignorant and superstitious; therefore we enter into particulars. In a cheap little work, entitled "Gilbert's Guide to the History of the Comet," and in an equally cheap work, "Archer's Clock work Map of the Heavens," all necessary information is afforded in a form so easily understood that he who runs may read. The comet that has just made its appearance was discovered, in 1682, by Dr. Halley. The early history of this body may be traced back 130 years before the Christian era, when it is said to have rivalled the sun in brilliancy. The comets seen, A. D. 323 and 399 were, doubtless, returns of the same body; the latter revolution was attended with extraordinary circumstances, and the comet is recorded to have presented a "horrible and fearful aspect." Its next recorded appearance was in 550, and it marked the capture of Rome by Totila. The next appearance, according to the records, was, in 930, five revolutions having been completed in the interval. We hear of it again in 1005 and in 1230. In this year, it is said, the heat was intense; there were pestilence and great inundations on the continent; in England 20,000 died of famine, and in the spring of the following year the cold was so intense; that the Mediterranean was frozen over. In 1305, it is stated to have had a "terrifying aspect;" and direful consequences were attributed to it; the Baltic for example, was afterwards frozen over four weeks. In 1380, it is charged with having produced a pestilence. In 1456, the records tell that it appeared of unheard of magnitude, and was accompanied by a tail of such extraordinary dimensions that it extended over sixty degrees, or a third of the heavens. The Turks were engaged in a war of success against the Greek empire, and the comet was supposed to have assisted them. Pope Calixtus regarded it as an instrument of divine vengeance, and prayers were ordered to be offered up to deprecate its influence; and not without reason, as the ignorant supposed, for in that year 40,000 persons lost their lives by an earthquake in Naples; there were also great rains and inundations; and in the following winter the Baltic was frozen over. In 1531, its light is said to have been of a bright gold colour; and there were again terrible inundations and destruction. In 1607 it returned in the track it is now pursuing, and the summer was remarkable for great heat and sudden changes to cold; for there was a frost on the 12th of June; and the following winter was exceedingly severe. In 1682, this comet was minutely observed by Halley, Flamstead, La Hire, Picart, Cassini, Montanari, Hevelius, &c.; its nucleus was of a gibbous figure, from whence proceeded a bright beam or curved horn, and its tail varied from sixteen to thirty degrees in length; some represented its disc as round and clear as that of Jupiter. Halley's wonderful inferences and cal-

culations are well known.—He suspected that the period of this comet's orbit must be 75½ years, and foretold that it would reappear in 1758. It came, and was first seen near Dresden, by a farmer, but its appearance was not brilliant, circumstances having been unfavourable. In the southern hemisphere, however, it was seen with the naked eye, having a tail of from ten to forty seven degrees in length; and in Barbary, Syria, &c. there were tremendous earthquakes, by which 60,000 human beings were swallowed up. It is a curious fact, that in six times out of eight, the appearance of this body has been followed by severe frosts. It is now returned after an interval of 76 years, and old and young are naturally anxious to see it. It has appeared near the star Zeta, in the constellation Taurus as predicted, and laid down in the ephemeris of the Nautical Almanack; in which are also indicated three tracks, those of Pontecoulant, Damoiseau, and Lubbock. The following particulars will interest:

"The Comet will become visible in every part of Europe about the end of August or beginning of September; that is to say, rather more than two months before its arrival at that point where it will be nearest the sun. Its situation also will be favourable to the splendour of its appearance. On the night of the third of October, about midnight, it will appear in the east, at an elevation of about thirty degrees; and will be a little above a line joining the star called Castor, with the star called  $\alpha$  in the Great Bear. Between that hour and sunrise, it will ascend the firmament, and will cross the meridian near the zenith of London about sunrise. On the night of the 7th, the comet will approach the well known constellation of Ursa Major; and between that and the eleventh it will pass directly through the seven conspicuous stars of that constellation. In our latitude this constellation never sets, and, consequently, the comet may be looked for at any hour of the night. But the time most favourable for its appearance will be on the seventh, before the commencement of the morning twilight; on the ninth, at any time in the absence of twilight, when it will pass during the night from the north west to the north east, its altitude not, however, exceeding thirty five degrees; and on the eleventh, after the close of the evening twilight, when it will be seen approaching the constellation of the Crown, in a direction a little north of west, and at an altitude of about thirty degrees. Towards the end of November, the Comet will plunge among the rays of the sun, and disappear, and will not issue from them on the other side until the end of December. On its departure from the sun, it is doubtful whether it will be visible at all; but, under any circumstances it cannot remain long apparent. Its next visit will be in 1911. One of the circumstances, not the least surprising, connected with this Comet, is the magnitude of its orbit. It is a very oblong oval, the total length of which is about thirty six times the earth's distance from the sun; and the greatest breadth about ten times that distance. The earth's distance from the sun is, in round numbers, one hundred millions of miles; the Comet's least distance then will be fifty millions of miles, and its greatest distance three thousand five hundred and fifty millions of miles. It is reserved for the Comet of Halley alone to exhibit a phenomenon, so far as we know unique; to afford a splendid result of those powers of calculation by which we are enabled to follow it through the depths of space, two thousand millions of miles beyond the extreme verge of the solar system; and, notwithstanding disturbances which render each succeeding period of its return different from the last, to foretell that return with precision. By far the greater number of Comets appear to be mere masses of vapour, totally divested of all concrete or solid matter. So prevalent is this character, that some observers hold it to be universal. No rational or even plausible account has yet been rendered of those immensely voluminous appendages which they bear about with them, and which are known by the name of their tails (though improperly, since they often precede them in their motions,) any more than of several other singularities which they present. The light of Comets is an effect of which astronomers have hitherto given no satisfactory account; the doubt is, whether the light which proceeds from them, and by which they become visible, is a light of their own, or is the light of the sun shining upon them, and reflected to our eyes like light from a cloud."

From the London Watchman, August 26.

The settlement of the question of the repeal of the stamp duties on newspapers, is postponed for the present. The Chancellor of the Exchequer resisted

their repeal not so much on the ground of principle, as on that of expediency. He was not in a condition to try experiments with the revenue, at least this session. Nevertheless he held out the prospect of remission at no distant period, but then only partially, from the necessity of giving the country the benefit of the removal of other taxes. He also preferred this course, as holding out feebler inducements to the smuggler to enter the market. The plan of a postage on newspapers, in lieu of the present tax, he shewed to be most impolitic, as other modes of conveyance would be adopted, and, in self-defence, the government would be driven to the hateful expedient of inquisitorial right of search. He justly adverted also to the alleviation of the present tax by the facilities of transmission given to newspapers through the post-offices free of expense. His promise of protection, whenever a remission of the tax should take place, to those newspaper proprietors, who are at immense expense to secure fidelity in reporting, and facility in publishing, to shield their property from being pirated, was worthy of a British statesman. Admitting that in great innovations minor interests must sometimes bend to the good of the many, justice always demands the utmost practicable protection of existing vested rights.

The Chancellor's admission, however, that, with a less embarrassed state of the revenue, he should not object to the entire extinction of the duty, indicates a disposition to succumb to the demand for the freest possible circulation of political information, which is not warranted by the present condition of the country, political or moral. Looking at the radical character of the party, by whom the demand is most vehemently urged, we cannot doubt the party motives, which influence their impetuosity in pressing their claims. We consider it, in short, as putting a new weapon of agitation into the hands of those, who, from the political excitement of the crisis, would use it to the detriment of the existing institutions of the country. Like every new and untried power, it will require some experience of its working to ascertain by proper checks a sort of safety-valve to its excesses. A period of less political excitement would therefore be more eligible for the experiment. A wise state will be careful to avoid the necessity of retracing its steps by a precipitate bestowment of freedom on those, who are not in a condition to use it for the public benefit. The diffusion of education and religious principles to a greater extent than we yet witness, should precede the multiplication of the means of circulating mere political knowledge. Government should lay a strong hand also on those demoralizing agencies, of which a licensed system of inebriation is not the least active, which convert what would otherwise be wholesome aliment for the public mind into intellectual poison.

**GRAND MILITARY DISPLAY AT CHATHAM, July 30.**—That excellent Officer, Sir Hussey Vivian, Master-General of the Ordnance, intimated his intention to inspect the Ordnance Department here. Accordingly, every preparation in the power of human ingenuity was put into operation by the indefatigable engineer, Colonel Paisley, to display his mode of attacking by field works. The Royal Sappers were at work the whole of Wednesday night, throwing up works for the occasion; and on our visiting the works this morning, nothing could exceed our astonishment at finding the fields, roads and hills, that were walked over the day before, a mass of fortifications, trenches, batteries, barriers, and gates. At two, P. M. Sir Hussey arrived, accompanied by his son Major Vivian, and a most interesting-looking gentleman, whom we learned was a Polish General. After the Master-General, with Sir Leonard Greenwell, Majors Forbes, Dubouardieu, and Brown, inspected the works, and the troops arranged, the attack and defence commenced by a most tremendous discharge of cannon and small arms, the gate out of one of the forts was forced open by a new invention—namely, a bag of powder was hung to the gate, and a match lighted. The effect was astounding. The whole gate was shivered to pieces. The Sappers, with saws and hatchets, ran up supported by the forlorn hope, and instantly cut away the wreck, when a body of troops, we believe the 61st Regiment, who were led by an engineer sword in hand, stormed the breach, and carried the works with the bayonet. A mine was blown up, which had a most awful effect. The ground was lifted up several yards into the air in the form of a sugar-loaf mountain, when it expanded like a large tree, and returned in a shower. The great guns were imme-

diately dragged up the inclined plane into the breach, and turned on the flying enemy. Another mine was blown up, which exceeded the first in sublimity and magnitude. The spectators were horror-struck in consequence of several of the soldiers having been blown up many yards with it. This turned out to be only a few officers, sergeants, and corporals, and privates, manufactured with staw and real uniform. The whole scene was now a mass of smoke and fire—a general movement of the troops towards the breach, with bugles sounding the advance and attack in every direction. When the troops got in, the Sappers, in a masterly manner, carried the gabions, and in a few minutes threw up the last parallel. As we moved on, we observed several ladies weeping, and most of the spectators were so much taken by surprise, together with the excellent regularity, extent, and suddenness of the explosion, combined with the stuffed officers and soldiers blown into the air, that they could not suppress their emotions. At this moment a splendid explosion took place under water, representing the blowing up of a ship.

We cannot conclude without expressing our higher admiration at the grand spectacle; and we understand this was only rehearsed for the intended Fete for their Majesties about the middle of August. Due notice will be given, in order to afford the public an opportunity of witnessing so rare, and all but a real battle between armies.

**THE LATE M. T. SADLER, Esq.**—Mr. M. T. Sadler was born at Doveridge, a village in the south of Derbyshire, in January, 1780. He was descended, on the father's side, from the celebrated Sir Ralph Sadler, one of Queen Elizabeth's ministers, and an important instrument in bringing about the Reformation;—his mother's family were French refugees at the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes. He was educated principally at home, and exhibited extraordinary powers of mind in very early youth, having mastered the higher branches of the mathematics and astronomy by the time he was eleven years of age. His father intended him for one of the learned professions, but when about eighteen years old he was induced to join his brother in business at Leeds, where he continued engaged in mercantile pursuits, but not to the exclusion of more congenial literary labours, until he was called into public life, by that important event for Ireland, the ministerial proposal of the Catholic Relief Bill. He sat in two successive Parliaments for Newark-upon-Trent, and in a third till the passing of the Reform Bill, for the ancient borough of Aldborough, in Yorkshire. He afterwards was a candidate for Leeds, and also for Huddersfield, which latter town he unsuccessfully attempted to rescue from the dictation of a Whig landlord, after it had been, in defiance of all principle, created a rotten borough by the projectors of the Reform Bill. In his public career Mr. Sadler was generally associated with the old constitutional Tories, and with them he powerfully opposed that measure so fatal to the peace of Ireland, the Roman Catholic Relief Bill, in one of the most eloquent and effective speeches ever delivered in Parliament. Mr. Sadler was some years ago elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, and was the author of several highly esteemed works—the most important of which are—"Ireland; its evils and their remedies," a work deservedly popular, and which must endure the memory of the author to every friend of humanity; and an elaborate essay on "The Law of population," in two vols. 8vo., written principally with a view to controvert the cold-blooded notion of modern philosophy, that human increase must be checked by vice and misery in order to prevent the over multiplication of the species; and although the most venomous hostility that inveterate selfishness could call up, has been armed against the benevolent system propounded in those volumes, that human happiness progressively advances with the increasing numbers of mankind, we believe this proposition is founded in truth, and will ultimately prevail. A third volume, completing this scientific and admirable work, has unfortunately never been finished, but we understand Mr. Sadler was diligently occupied in preparing materials for it while health was continued to him. We also hear he has left a large quantity of manuscripts upon various interesting subjects behind him, some part at least of which we hope will be found sufficiently finished for publication. Mr. Sadler was married to the eldest daughter of the late Samuel Fenton, Esq., of Leeds, who, and a family of seven children are left to lament his irreparable loss. In private life Mr. Sadler's virtues endeared

him to a large and admiring circle of friends; he was affectionate, generous, affable, accessible, and an utter stranger to pride. His appearance was remarkably that of a man of genius, and there was an enthusiasm and energy in his manner, strikingly characteristic of an elevated and powerful mind. His social qualities were of the brightest order, and his conversation was eminently brilliant and instructive.—*Leeds Intelligencer.*

**LAST MOMENTS OF SIR JAMES MACKINTOSH.**—"His nights were very wakeful, and spent in much uneasiness of body; he became very silent and thoughtful, had his Bible frequently open before him, spoke more than usual upon religious subjects—perhaps it would be more correct to say upon God, and his disposition towards man. His mind seemed less occupied with speculations, and more with his own personal relationship to his Creator. Our Lord Jesus Christ was very frequently the subject of his thoughts; he seemed often perplexed and unable to comprehend much of his history. He once said to me, 'It is a great mystery to me—I cannot understand it.' At another time he told me that, during the many sleepless nights he passed, the contemplation of the character of Jesus Christ, and thoughts concerning the Gospel, with prayer to God, was his chief occupation. He spoke of the delight he had in dwelling on his noble character. I have heard his voice falter as he repeated, 'He went about doing good;' but he added, 'There is much connected with him I cannot understand.' I cannot attempt to give his own words; but his difficulty lay in the account given of the manner in which Jesus becomes the Saviour of man. On Saturday a great change took place. He became very silent, and had the appearance of one listening. Whenever a word from the Scriptures was repeated to him, he always manifested that he heard it; and I especially observed that, at every mention of the name of Jesus Christ, if his eyes were closed, he always opened them, and looked at the person who had spoken. I said to him at one time, 'Jesus Christ loves you.' He answered slowly, and pausing between each word, 'Jesus Christ—love—the same thing.' After a long silence, he said, 'I believe—' We said, in a voice of inquiry, 'In God?' He answered, 'In Jesus.' He spoke but once more after this. Upon our inquiring how he felt, he said he was 'happy.'—*Memoirs of Sir James, by his son.*

**A BLOW-UP.**—A singular, unusual and truly-starting occurrence took place in the Old Church on Sunday afternoon last. An honest country woman, who had brought bread and cheese, and a bottle of beer, with her to town, for her dinner between sermons, had apparently deferred the enjoyment of her "grace drink" till after the afternoon service; and accordingly carried the bottle of beer to church with her under her cloak. During the service it was much to the amusement of some who sat near her, seen peeping from under the folds of her cloak, and prompted, perhaps, by the heat of the weather, or of the woman's person, just as the clergyman was in the act of administering the ordinance of baptism, the cork flew to the ceiling with the report like that of a pistol, the noise of which reverberating along the aisles was heard by every one in the church. The sensation produced by the sound, so unwonted in a place of worship, was prodigious. The clergyman was brought to a good stand still, but instantly discovered how matters stood, composed his mind and his features, and went on with the solemn service in which he was engaged. The honest woman tried to look from her as if nothing had happened, but it would not do: she was obliged to stuff her thumb into the orifice which the cork had just so unceremoniously left, to prevent the contents of the bottle from following it, and hurry along the passage and out of the church, the beer *fix fix* fixing the whole way.—*Dundee Advertiser.*

A priest was one day attending a soldier on his death-bed in one of the hospitals in Lisbon when, observing a drummer in the same ward, whom he took for an invalid, he exhorted him to join with them in prayer. "Tank'e," said the hero of the drum-stick, "I do not require it, the Doctor tells me I am getting better."

## THE ROYAL GAZETTE.

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