

Poetry.

THE DYING BOY.

BY THE LATE J. HUNTINGTON BRIGHT, ESQ.
It must be sweet in childhood to give back.
The spirit to its Maker, ere the heart
Hath grown familiar with the paths of sin,
And soon to gather up its bitter fruits.
I knew a boy, whose infant feet had trod
Upon the blossoms of some seven springs,
And when the eighth came round, and called him out
To revel in its light, he turned away,
And sought his chamber to lie down and die.
Twas night; he summoned his accustomed friends,
And on this wise bestowed his last request:

'Mother, I'm dying now!
There's a deep suffocation on my breast,
As if some heavy hand my bosom pressed,
And on my brows I feel the cold sweat stand.
Say, mother, your hand!
Here, lay it on my wrist,
And place the other thus, beneath my head;
And say, sweet mother, say when I am dead:
Shall I be missed?

'Never beside your knee!
Shall I kneel down at night and pray,
Nor in the morning wake, and sing the lay
You taught to me.
Oh! at the time of prayer,
When you look round and see a vacant seat,
You will not wait then for my coming feet—
You'll miss me there!

'Father, I'm going home!
To that great home you spoke of, that blessed land,
Where there is one bright summer, always bland,
And tortures do not come;
From faintness and from pain,
From troubles, fears you say I shall be free—
That sickness does not enter there, and we
Shall meet again!

'Brother the little spot
I used to call my garden, where long hours
We stray'd to watch the coming buds and flowers
Forget it not!
Plant there some box or pine,
Something to bloom in winter time,
A verdant offering to my memory,
And call it mine.

'Sister, the young rose-tree,
That all the spring has been my pleasant care,
Just putting forth its leaves so green and fair,
I give to thee;
And when its roses bloom,
I shall be gone away—my short course run—
And will you not bestow a single one
Upon my tomb?

'Now, mother, sing the tune
You sang last night; I'm weary, and must sleep;
Who'll it call my name? Nay, do not weep;
You'll all come soon!

Morning spreads over earth her rose wings,
And that meek sufferer, cold and every pale,
Lay on his couch asleep. The morning air
Came through the open window, freighted with
The fragrant odors of the lovely spring.
He breathed it not. The laugh of passer-by
Jarred like a discord in some mournful note;
But worried not his slumber. He was dead!

Miscellaneous.

VISIT TO THE SALT MINES AT SALZBURG.
(From the New Monthly Magazine.)

The passage we had now entered was quite wide, and high enough to admit one person, the roof peaked, and the sides shelving, so that our sphere of action was confined to a narrow space in the centre, where, guarded in front and rear by a body of sturdy mountain gnomes bearing torches, we marched on—an unsocial party—stopping occasionally to admire the glittering veins of red and white salt in the walls of our rocky corridor. At length the foremost guide made a halt, and, flinging the blaze of his torch forward, showed a barrier to our progress in a dark bottomless pit. I was in the rear of the party, and, seeing neither ropes nor buckets visible, awaited further orders. In the mean time the chief of our miners had singled Madame from the group. I heard a series of shrill emphatic objections going forward, interspersed with the low growl of the miner's remonstrances; then just such a pause ensued as occurs when the executioner is adjusting the fatal rope. At last a signal was given, and stepping forward, I just caught the retreating figure, and last pathetic "G and dieu" of poor Madame, as she vanished from our eyes into the shades below. Thus, one by one, my companions disappeared, till I was left alone with a rough young gnome behind. "Hurrah, the dead can ride space, dost fear to ride with me?" from Burger's Eleonore, was ringing in my ears; but before resigning myself to my fate, I will enlighten the mind of the reader by a brief natural history of this mysterious steed. The machine is simply this—A passage of the same dimensions as the one we had traversed descended almost perpendicularly from where we stood. Down this were fixed two round, smooth beams of timber of about nine inches in diameter, and placed in parallel lines one foot and a half apart. Over and along the right beam is slung a rope, just affording room between that and the beam to admit the leg. The victim sits down, stretches a leg over each beam, as if astride across both, grasps the rope in his right hand, and leaning back, so as to be in almost a recumbent position, away he slides at a tremendous rate, the steepness of the descent, and his own weight, increasing the impetus to an almost frightful rapidity. All real danger, however, is obviated by the power which the rope passing through his hand gives him; a firm grasp of which serves as an immediate check. Thus a distance of 200 feet was traversed with the speed of lightning. The ascent is performed by means of narrow stairs, sunk deep between the beams. We gentlemen were left to take care of our own necks, but the ladies were mounted in exactly the same position, *en coupe*, behind the trusty guides, whom they grasped for further safety by the collar.—Again we continued our walk on level ground, and in a few minutes another of those *Rollen*, as they are termed, presented itself. This time I was the first to take the lover's leap, and on reaching the bottom, was not a little amused at the *coup d'œil* before me. Down came my companions, like falling angels; Madame perched on her gnome, like a monkey on Brun; their hair whistling in the wind; their torches blown to the shortest span, and a shower of sparks from a thousand diamonds around and above, accompanying their fall, and marking the rapidity of their descent. Thus passenger after passenger was lodged at my feet, and all fear vanished. We began really to enjoy this novel exercise, and each succeeding *Rolle* was the signal for fresh merriment and reciprocal jokes. Again we pursued our apparently interminable path, the

torches flinging a momentary gleam into the mouths of numberless dark avenues with which our path was intersected. Our miners, however, threaded their path through this maze with that confidence which a long intimacy with the secret of the mountain had given them.

Occasionally our path widened into extensive chambers, amongst which we were shown a nearer hewn apartment, a species of mineral store-room—the show boudoir of the mine—where various specimens of crystals and fossils in every gradation of colour, from white to the richest rose tint, gleamed from their dark recesses, like jewels from a lady's casket. Here also was an inexhaustible fund of entertainment to the antiquarian in the variety of antediluvian relics, and a rich collection of old bridles, rusty keys, arm rings, spoons, &c. At the entrance to this chamber stood a simple stone slab, commemorating the date of Maria Theresa's visit to these mines with her imperial consort. Proceeding onwards, we executed three brilliant passages more, down our favourite *Rollen*, whereby the advantage of male attire over female drapery was satisfactorily substantiated. A depth of 1074 feet had been thus descended, and still there seemed no end to the rocky depths and lofty chambers. At length a change in the atmosphere, a colder, fresher breeze betokened the vicinity of some more spacious region. Our torches burnt straighter, a louder echo responded to our footsteps; and turning a sudden angle, a scene of enchantment, fit only for fairies and genii, burst on our view. Before us, in a dark, smooth, unruled surface, lay stretched an immense lake, the extent of its shadowy shores dimly outlined by a succession of torches, which, placed at intervals, and receding, like the faintest star, into the intense darkness, gave token of their existence, only by their long tapering reflections in the black water. Above us blazed a mighty fretwork of diamonds, flashing as our torches waved to and fro in playful coruscations of light across the dark vault, and reflecting mirror of waters. At length, at a signal from our guides, out of the nearest lights moved from its station, and emerging from the darkness, boat and bather became visible. We entered, and took our places in silence, as the vessel cleft the dark element, a thousand mimic fireflies danced on the sultry ripples whose low murmurings, alone disturbed the solemn stillness.

All around bespoke another sphere, or vast chaos, where the germ of life still lay slumbering on the waters. An undefinable charm seemed to bind our thoughts in silence, while the remembrance of our own bright sun, and laughing world above, stole on our minds like a sweet dream of the past, and faded into airy but alluring phantoms, before this scene of unearthly grandeur. To these impressions, the rough wild figures of the cave-nurtured beings around us not a little contributed, while Charon himself could not have desired a truer representative on earth than the uncouth figure who steered us over this modern Styx. We listened with much interest to the history of this lake, which, while it ministers to thoughts wild and dark as its own deep waters, is at the same time subservient to purposes of world-enchantment. A small cavity is hewn in the rock, into which a stream of fresh water is admitted; this, eating away the particles of salt with which the rock is impregnated, slowly, but slowly, extends its domain, till one mighty fragment yielding after another before its dissolving touch, the bowels of the mountain receive a body of water of the magnitude I have described. When the requisite dimensions are attained, the supply of water is stopped, and the further progress of the element checked by banks of clay; then, after standing the requisite period, the water is drawn off by wooden pipes, which, emerging from the side of the mountain, extend to the adjacent town of Hallein, where, by the common process of evaporation, the crystals which glittered in their dark mountain nests reappear in a purer form. Nature thus acting as her own workman. The revenue accruing to the Austrian government from these mines is £160,000 annually.

It may seem almost incredible to state that in this mountain or rather chain of mountains, there are contained no less than thirty-two lakes of this description. Some of the mighty chambers we had traversed were the dried up beds of former lakes. The one I have described is kept up for the purposes of inspection. On the opposite shore, a means of conveyance awaited us, for to a long rough plank, with rude wheels at each end, and a swinging bar beneath, I can give no more specific term. Upon this the whole party were obliged to mount astride, packed closer than was perhaps quite convenient, and holding on one another for support, with our feet resting on the unsteady bar beneath. Our steed was a nimble youth, who harnessed himself in front, another acting as steersman behind, and as our wheels ran in an iron rail, and the passage lay on a gentle slope, no exertion beyond that of running and guiding the machine was required. The lads seemed to enjoy the fun, and the faster they galloped, the closer were we obliged to cling for safety, the impetus of the moment threatening to dash us against the rocky sides. The length of this passage is 7800 feet, having consumed in its formation the incessant labour of forty-four years. At last a tiny star twinkled in the extreme distance, and in our rapid career seemed to advance to welcome us; the light of day dawned wider and brighter, and in another instant, emerging from the bowels of the mountain, the overpowering radiance of a splendid setting sun fell in showers of gold around us.

THE BUCCANEER.—The grey mist was gradually dispersing from off the point of Cape San Antonio, when a British cruiser was to be seen lying off and on, under easy sail, waiting the sun's doubtful force to clear up the fog off this low land. Her intention was evidently to search strictly this den of piracy and murder, as she had been there all night, using every precaution to elude observation, by extinguishing all lights except the binnacle, which was singly enveloped by a flood of canvas, to pre-

vent its feeble rays from illuminating her position, or betraying themselves to the marauders they were in search of. Masthead, there said the officer of the deck, (who was a mate with a short thin jpaned speaking trumpet in his hand, much scratched and decorated with sea emblems, such as foul anchors, &c., the work, no doubt, of an idle hour, so often occurring to a deck officer, in these hot climates,) "can you see the vessel round the cape?" "Yes sir, yes!" was the reply. "Then how does she bear?" "About three points under our lee."

"Very well, come down from aloft, and lend hand to work the ship." The cruiser, I state, was a British vessel; her rig was that of a cutter, and her name the Grecian; her force was four guns, and the crew consisted of forty men and officers—all told. The Buccaneer of modern days, or rather pirate, then in sight, and at anchor, was the celebrated Sarragossa, a large topsail schooner, mounting one long heavy pivot gun, with a crew of the most cruel and determined murderers that the records of piracy contain any account of. She had long waged a war of extermination on the traders of those seas, and in some cases had even audaciously exchanged shots with cruisers, and put them at defiance by her almost supernatural speed. The Grecian, her antagonist, was, on the contrary, rather a dull sailer, and it was only in the continuance of the then existing calm any hope of capturing this formidable freebooter seemed probable. "All hands shorten sail, ahoy!" resounded from the throats of a rough, honest boatswain and his mate—and the sails of the cutter were quickly braced up and hauled down. "Get out the sweeps, and run in the guns clear for sweeping; hurry and get grumets on!"—The order was obeyed with alacrity, and, ere the land was perceptibly clear of the morning's misty veil, the cutter moved at a rapid rate, propelled by the pipings and cheering efforts of as lively a crew as ever graced the decks of a man of war.—"Give way, my lads, and we'll get the fox out of his hole before breakfast—and give Gallows Point such a decoration as it never had!" Give way, and they are ours!" exclaims the commander, encouraging the exertions of his men.—"Mind your helm, and keep her north-east; that will run us clear of the cape's shoals, sir," said the captain to his executive officer. "Aye, sir."

By this time the sun was out, and the fog broke and scattered itself in small columns around the undergrowth of the cape and edge of the horizon, rendering plainly visible the object of their search—the daring Sarragossa—then deliberately weighing her anchor, and with part of her men above, casting loose her sails. The spot she chose for her temporary harbour, was a small nook, or bay, so hemmed in by shoals, that the only outlet was through the narrow channel that the Grecian was then entering by, so that no probability existed of her getting away from them, in the minds of those hardy Britons.

"Unbuckle your gummets—lay in your sweeps, and run out your guns," cried the officer—and pipe to quarters, Mr. Catharpin." The order was obeyed, and the men mustered at their respective guns.

"Lay off your aprons and cut tomponys—ram home a grist of grape extra for these fellows—they like forced meat balls better than cold rolls; prick your cartridges—prime—cock your locks; stand by, Second Captain?" "Sir?" "Handle your matches; are they lit?" "Yes, sir." "Then mind, when the order to fire, you apply them, I don't like to trust to a flint." "Aye, aye, sir."

By this time the vessels were both fast closing, the pirate having got completely under weigh, the fore-sail hanging in the brails, so as to fight their Long Tom. The Grecian hoisted her jib, and hauled out mainsail, which brailed up (in the place of lowering, like most sloops) and was lying off and on in the mouth of the channel, waiting her antagonist, whose intentions bespeak contempt of her and her pre-dive powers.

"Hoist our colors, sir," said the English commander, "and give her a gun across the water—she may be a Spanish cruiser."

"Aye, aye, sir," and the weather bow gun rung a wide reverberation on the placid sea, while the shot hissing and tapping the waters, dashed the briny wave, it struck under the Pirate's bow, and threw on her deck the glittering spray. The wind from the N. and E. had now commenced: first favoring the Pirate, she buffeted, and brought the Long Tom to bear on the Grecian.

A bright flash, a crash! and the pirate's iron messenger of death, preceded the loud roar that they know how to return such marine civilities; a crash was heard, and she fired again; and slew some four poor fellows on the Grecian's deck, and wounded several others.

"Load and fire my lads, briskly, give her a mariner's touch of musketry," exclaimed the captain, and the battle waxed close and warm.

"Mr. Catharpin," said the sailing master,

"get a runner on the end of the fore-stay, and

haul it up for the present; and trimmers

haul in the main sheet and drop the peak of the main-sail, which was soon done, and the men

ordered to their guns again:

"Give her language my lads."

"Aye, aye."

"Bravely done, cheer, hurrah, shouted the British tars, as the foremast of the pirate tottered, fell athwart the bows, and declared they had them at their mercy.

For a moment or so, a deathlike stillness prevailed on the other side, and a crowd of men on the schooner's deck with hatches, cutting away the rigging that held the wreck of the foremast alongside, showed they were getting it clear of their long gun for further hostile purposes.

"A good aim, my harts, among those red shirts; ready, fire!" and the Grecian's last broadside carried death to at least twenty of those desperadoes, of whose bodies some in agony were hurled in the water, dyeing it with their blood; and others dropped lifeless across

the head rails, with their heads hanging down like fenders over her bows; this was the home thrust of the Grecian's success.

The pirate propelled sideways by the sea-breeze, fell alongside of the Grecian, and the Britons, headed by their officers and captain boarded this common enemy. The pirates fought, and owing to their still superior numbers, forced the brave tar of old England back to their vessel, leaving some eight or ten wounded and dead of their numbers on the pirate's deck. "Rally, boys, rally; at it again!" And they re-boarded the pirates, who now gave way. "Down, you son of a —, kill him," resounded from tar to tar as they hewed their way through the motley group of their antagonist's crew.

On one side of the deck lay a British sailor with his head cleft by a sabre, struggling with a wounded pirate, whose wrist he held, whilst his belt knife dull, and his strength almost gone, he sawed its blunt edge across the pirate's throat, and the several arteries gushed their crimson streams in streaks over the sailor's arm. At last victory was to the just, and the surviving twenty-five pirates on bended knees and earnest supplication were granted quarters by their conquerors, whose force was less than their own, having lost fifteen killed and many wounded in this sanguinary encounter. "Where is your captain?"—"Estia acquis," said several, pointing to a thick set man who lay dead across the breach of the long gun. "L'Estia est le Capitan que sue Senior," cried all the pirates; he was no doubt a brave fellow in a bad cause, and on the waistband of his duck trowsers was written 'Mitchell,' but no further could they glean of their prisoners. The crew of the Grecian buried the Buccaneer's dead as well as their own—secured the forestay and rove fresh gear, took the piratical vessel in tow, proceeded to Jamaica with the largest prize that had been captured for many years on those seas. The twenty-five prisoners were condemned and executed on Gallows Point, old Port Royal. And never since has the world been troubled with the bloody detail of the Pirate or Buccaneer Mitchell. The action lasted about an hour and a half—part of the time nearly within pistol shot.

LOCUSTS IN THE CRIMEA.—At Eupatoria I had an opportunity of witnessing the truth of the surprising accounts the natives relate of the locusts, which so often ravage these countries; the whole face of nature seemed covered with them, at one time swarming on the earth and in the houses; then rising to an immense height, absolutely obscuring the light of the sun. When first rising from the earth, or turning upon the wing, I cannot compare their noise to any thing more appropriate than the roaring of the sea when agitated by a storm. The present swarm is of the *Grillus migratorius* species, or, as the Tartars call them, Tschirzorka, distinguished for the red colour of their legs and wings; consequently whenever the rays of the sun shot obliquely over them, they appeared like a vast fiery cloud. They did not, however, finally settle on the steppe; for, on clearing the bay of Eupatoria, we observed them, after two or three attempts to alight, not liking, I suppose, the prospect of starvation on the parched deserts of the Crimea, continue their flight towards Odessa; and so did I; but it is scarcely necessary to say that the wings of the locusts are a swifter conveyance than steam. We had a short but pleasant passage, and, on our arrival, found a fearful battle raging between the inhabitants and the reckless enemies of vegetation. Every noisy weapon, from a pistol to a mortar, from a kettle-drum to a tin casserole, were rattling like thunder in the hands of the horrified citizens, while the locusts fought quite as bravely to obtain possession of the luxuriant meal promised by the gardens and neat little shrubberies. A more comic scene it would be difficult to imagine; and a stranger, unacquainted with their intentions, would suppose the whole population crazy. The uproar, however, had the desired effect; for the insect multitude, terrified at the clamour, bent their course towards some other territory less vigorously defended. In the midst of this noise and confusion, I entered the house of M——, whose garden is celebrated for being the prettiest in Odessa, when I found him and his whole family labouring to scare away the dreadful intruders. My host, a sedate-looking man, was hammering away with all his might upon an old tin kettle, and greeted my arrival with the salutation—"Oh, these locusts! these locusts!" at the same time rattling his clanging instrument ten times louder than before; every other consideration being absorbed in the prospect of his gay flower-beds becoming the prey of the hungry swarm that hovered round.—*Speaker's Circassia, Crimean Tartary, &c.* in 1836.

AN IRISH SCHOOLMASTER.—At the Donegal assizes the following humorous cross examination of a witness occasioned much merriment in court.

Mr. Dougherty—What business do you follow?

I am a schoolmaster.

Did you turn off your scholars, or did they turn off you?

I do not wish to answer irrelevant questions.

Are you a great favorite with your pupils?

Aye! truth am I; a much greater favorite than you are with the public.

Where were you sir this night?

This night, said the witness; there is a learned man—this night is not come yet; I suppose you mean that night. (Here the witness looked at the judge, and winked his eye, as if in triumph.)

I presume the "schoolmaster was abroad" that night, doing nothing?

Define nothing, said the witness.

Mr. Dougherty did not comply.

Well, said the learned schoolmaster, I will define it—it is a footless stocking without a leg—(roars of laughter, in which his lordship joined.)

You may go down Sir.

Faith I believe you have had enough of me, but it is my profession to enlighten the public, and if you have any more questions to ask, I will answer them.

A DISPUTE BETWEEN MEN OF HONOUR.

"Sawyer," said the scrofulous youth, in a low voice.—"Well, Noddy," replied Mr. Bob Sawyer.—"I should be very sorry, Sawyer," said Mr. Noddy "to create any unpleasantness at my friend's table, and much less at yours, Sawyer—very; but I must take this opportunity of informing Mr. Gunter that he is no gentleman." "And I should be very sorry, Sawyer, to create any disturbance in the street in which you reside," said Mr. Gunter; "but I am afraid I will be under the necessity of alarming the neighbours by throwing the person who has just spoken out of the window." "What do you mean by that, sir?" inquired Mr. Noddy. "What I say," replied Mr. Gunter. "I should like you