

POETRY.

THE AGES.

(From Blackwood's Magazine for October.)

A thousand years—a thousand years!
So long a time has worn away,
And o'er the hardening earth appears
Green pastures mixed with rocks of grey;
And there huge monsters roll and feed,
Each frame a mass of sullen life;
Through slime wastes and woods of reeds
They crawl, and tramp, and blend in
strife.

A thousand years—a thousand years!
And o'er the wide and grassy plain,
A human form the prospect cheers,
The new-sprung lord of earth's domain.
Half-clad in skins he builds a cell,
Where wife and child create a home;
He looks to Heaven with thoughts that
swell,
And owns a Might beyond the dome.

A thousand years—a thousand years!
And lo! a city and a realm;
Its weighty pile a temple rears,
And walls are bright with sword and
helm:
Each man is lost amid a crowd;
Each power unknown now bears a name,
And laws, and rites, and songs are loud;
And myriads hail their monarch's fame.

A thousand years—a thousand years!
And now beside the rolling sea,
Where many a sailor nimbly steers,
The eager tribes are bold and free.
The graceful shrine adorns the hill;
The square of council spreads below;
Their theatres a people fill;
And list to thought's divinest flow.

A thousand years—a thousand years!
We live amid a sterner land,
Where laws ordained by ancient seers,
Have train'd the spirit of command;
There pride and policy and war,
With haughty fronts are gazing slow,
And, bound at their triumphal car,
O'er master'd kings to darkness go.

A thousand years—a thousand years!
And chivalry and faith are strong;
And through devotion's sorrowing tears,
Is seen high help for earthly wrong.
Fair gleams the cross with sunny light,
Beneath a dim cathedral arch;
'Tis raised, the burgher Staff of Right,
And heads the stately feudal march.

A thousand years!—How swift the chain
That drags along our slight to-day!
Before that sound returns again
The present will have stream'd away,
And all our World of busy years
Will dwell in calmer halls of Time,
And then with joy will own at length,
Its course is fix'd, its end sublime.

MISCELLANEOUS.

SAVAGE DUEL AT A GAMING TABLE.

(From Fraser's Magazine.)

To shew the brutalising effects of gaming on the human mind, I introduce the following melancholy, I might say astonishing, story, translated from a French weekly periodical called "Le Voleur," of November 10, 1834, and it will appear to bear the stamp of veracity. The occurrence took place, it is true, some time back—in the year 1788; but that does not invalidate the fact, nor lessen the interest attached to it. Man is the same now as he was then,—ay, the same as he was in the days of Solomon,—equally prone to go wrong, and kept in check only by appeal to his reason and experience. The story runs thus:—

"A few years before the dreadful insurrection of the negroes at St. Domingo, that beautiful French colony was at the height of its grandeur and prosperity; and its cultivation and industry had been the means of introducing into it more gold than the mines of South America had even furnished the avaricious Spaniards with. This precious metal, indeed, circulated there with the greatest activity; and with it luxury and extravagance, as usual, kept pace, in every kind of pleasurable enjoyment. Neither is this to be wondered at. Under the burning atmosphere of the tropics, the passions, naturally quick, become ardent, and even volcanic; whilst riches, which in a great measure give rise to them, offer every means of gratifying them.—At the period to which we allude—namely, the year 1788—the most predominant passion of the wealthy inhabitants of St. Domingo was the baseful and pestilent one of gaming. Still, the games of calculation, in which address and skill neutralise, in some degree, the chances of fortune, were not sufficient for the grasping iniquity and covetous ideas of its votaries. They looked forward to those games in which the fascinating expectations of gaining a large sum by a few throws of the dice were most likely to be realised, and a fortune made, or lost, in the course of a few hours. So far, indeed, was this thirst for gaming carried, that it was not an uncommon occurrence to see houses and estates, with the complement of negroes belonging to them, depending on the throw of the dice. They (the dice) were placed upon the table by dozens, when the player picked out three and commenced his acts of desper-

ation, submitting himself to the power of fate.

"In the year 1788, one Captain St. Every, the son of a very rich sugar proprietor, was about twenty-six years of age; and, although possessed of an immense fortune, had embraced the profession of arms, and was serving in a regiment at Port-au-Prince. In the management of the sword and pistol he was quite without a rival, and brave even to temerity. Still, he took nothing like unfair advantage of his dexterity; and, when engaged in a conflict, he generally contrived slightly to wound his opponents. In this he was lucky, even to insolence, although he had been himself occasionally wounded, and, in his numerous duels, had left many traces of blood in the society of St. Domingo. He possessed many amiable qualities, although he was more feared than loved; forasmuch as his upright conduct and prepossessing manners could not make amends for the impetuosity of his character, his propensity for duelling, and his attachment to gaming; for it is, unfortunately, necessary to add, that he was a gambler. One evening, in a house of public resort for gaming in Port-au-Prince, a few of the inhabitants of that place were seated round a table, waiting until a sufficient number of persons had arrived to enable them to commence play. At length one of them called out, 'Who will play?' 'I will play,' said the captain of a French frigate, who happened to be at that time in the town, and, taking the box, threw the dice, to win or lose, as he thought, a small sum of money which was put upon the table. Of course he was ignorant of the game—at all events of the stake—about to be played. 'Monsieur le Commandant,' exclaimed Captain St. Every, 'you have won, take up your winnings;' at the same time pushing towards him several bags of gold. At the appearance of their contents, the captain of the frigate shrank back with astonishment, supposing he had only run the risk of winning or losing the small sum he saw on the table, which did not exceed a few crown pieces (probably counters); and, gently pushing from him the bags, addressed the party thus:—'Gentlemen, I should be wanting, not only in good manners, but in common honesty, if I were to appropriate to myself these sums, the winning of which I never in the least degree contemplated; having only, as I thought, played for the trifling sum I saw lying on the table. I cannot therefore, look upon this enormous quantity of gold as properly my right.' 'Sir,' said Captain St. Every, 'you must take it; for if you had lost, you would have been obliged to pay the same sum.' 'You are mistaken, sir,' replied the naval captain, 'if you think so. I do not conceive my honour endangered in refusing to pay a debt which I never contracted, nor in refusing to accept of so large a sum, which I never entertained an idea of winning.' 'Monsieur le Commandant,' rejoined Captain St. Every, 'elevating his voice to the highest pitch, 'if you had lost, you should have paid: I could have made you do so.'—There was in this language, and in the tone in which the words were delivered, an evident desire of provocation, which could not escape the notice of the naval captain; and he answered it in a similar manner. The result was a challenge, which the exertions of the bystanders were not able to prevent. 'Sir,' said Captain St. Every to his adversary, 'as I do not wish to take any advantage over you, which my known ability in the use of the sword and the pistol gives me, I will offer you terms of equality. Let a pistol be brought here instantly, and charged; and the chance of the dice shall determine which of the two shall blow out the other's brains.' 'ACCEPTED!' replied the captain of the frigate. A feeling of horror agitated the whole of the society present; several persons left the room, trembling for the consequences, and resolved not to be witnesses of the bloody conflict; whilst others, more hardened in their nature, and excited by a brutal curiosity, approached nearer to the combatants, who were sitting exactly opposite to each other, and separated only by a table four feet in width. Whilst a third person was loading the pistol, the silence of death pervaded the assembly, and the calm was only interrupted by some words which passed between the adversaries, but not of an aggravating nature; for it was observed that they alone preserved a coolness of temper in these fearful moments. When the pistol was charged, each of the parties minutely examined it; and, finding it in proper order, one of them placed it on the table, on which were lying, in two heaps the dice. Each drew out three, and it was decided that the naval captain should have the first throw. He took up the box with a firm hand,

and, putting into it the instruments which were to award him either his life or death, he shook them, and threw them. 'That is a good throw, commandant,' said Captain St. Every, suspending for a minute his own throw. 'The chance is in your favour; but, listen to me: if it turns out, as it appears to me it will, that fortune has favoured you, I beg you will have neither mercy nor pity upon me: for, rest assured, you shall have none from me. Moreover, I should consider either as a coward that would think of sparing the other.'

'Sir,' observed the commandant, 'I do not stand in need of your impertinent remonstrances to teach me how to act in this or in any other affair.' St. Every then took the box, and having put into it the dice, threw them; they numbered fifteen!! The company present were now horror-stricken. Monsieur le Commandant calmly rose from his seat, and presenting to his antagonist—or, rather, to his enemy—the firm attitude of a brave man, was thus addressed by him:—'Your life belongs to me, Sir,' throwing down the dice on the table, and taking the pistol in his hand. 'Recommend your soul to God.' 'Firas, Sir,' replied the commandant, placing his hand on his heart; 'an honest man is always ready to—' He was not allowed to finish the sentence. (St. Every's ball scattered his brains about the room, and also upon the persons of several of those who were present.)

After this horrible catastrophe, on which the public voice was most loud against Capt. St. Every, that officer was no longer looked upon but with horror, and was avoided and shunned by almost every person in the colony; which treatment he acknowledged by expressions of hatred and disdain. At length, on the breaking out of the insurrection at St. Domingo, he entered the service of the enemy (i. e. the English), and served as captain under the orders of Gen. Sir Thomas Maitland; in which he displayed proofs of great bravery, as well as the most consummate ability in the art of war. The insurgents owed almost all their success to his talents, even to their last battle at Ivois, near Thurbon, where he was killed by a ball in his ribs at the very moment victory declared for him.

RUSSIAN PENAL ESTABLISHMENT IN SIBERIA.—The Russian Government has lately published a return of the culprits exiled to Siberia in the year 1833 and 1834, from which it appears that the total number in Western Siberia on the 1st of January, 1833, amounted to 33,921 males, and 6,373 females. In the Eastern division there were 42,675 men, and 8,539 women. In all, 92,053. In the course of 1833, the number was increased by 7,884 criminals of both sexes, and in 1834 by 10,957. On the 1st of January, 1835, there were in Western Siberia, 35,797 men, and 6,942 women, and in the Eastern part, 40,893 men, and 10,223 women—total, 97,121 individuals, being an increase of 5,068. It results from this document that the Government of Czar supplied the greatest number of criminals, and the Governments of Archangel and of Olonez the smallest; in Czar the proportion of culprits "deserving capital punishment" is 1 in every 2,753 inhabitants, in Archangel 1 in 10,734, and in Olonez 1 in 12,329. The women transported to Siberia have been for the most part condemned to hard labour for the crime of incendiarism. In 1833, the only natives in Livonia sentenced to exile for murder were females; and another remarkable fact is, all the women exiled for murder during a period of ten years, belonged mostly to the eastern provinces of the empire. The individuals sentenced for political crimes are obliged to reside in the north of Siberia or in the east towards the icy Sea; those condemned for less dangerous offences are allowed to settle in the south and west, and in the government of Tobolsk, where the climate is much milder. Among those exiles are many who belong by their birth, education and rank, to the first classes in society, and possess sufficient strength of mind to be reconciled to their fate. The children born of marriages contracted by those exiles with Siberian women bear no trace of their European origin, or of the manners of their ancestors. This explains why Russian noblemen who, in Siberia, devote themselves to agriculture, hunting, and manufacturing pursuits, do not differ in the slightest degree from the other classes of the people. The descendants of the Tartar princes profess the Mahomedan faith, and live apart from the rest of the population, with whom they never intermarry. The Tartars of Siberia reside all in separate slobodes, and work only for themselves. The German exiles, on the contrary, have modified in a singular degree the

manners and customs of the Russians, but remain strictly attached to the religion of their ancestors, although their mode of living approaches nearer to the simplicity of a patriarchal life. They are distinguished by their spirit of order and industry. The Israelites banished to Siberia are treated with more kindness and attention than in any other part of European Russia. They are considered as a distinct people, and as being of the same origin as the Germans, because all those who have settled in Siberia invariably speak the German language.—*Prussian State Gazette.*

TRAFFIC IN THE WEST INDIES.—The payment of claims in the West India Islands, under the slave compensation act, by the remittance of specie direct, may be regarded as indicative of a commencing change in their internal trading intercourse which eventually must extend to their external relations. The inconveniences resulting from the debased state of the West India currency generally, with suggestions of experienced men for its amelioration, appear to have had no result. The force of circumstances, arising out of the relations of colonial property now and hereafter, and however at length compelling that amendment which had long been wished for. To place this in a clear light, it is necessary to revert to the usual routine of West India traffic, which, in fact, was little else than a system of barter—commodity against commodity; for, the labour of the slave to begin with, was paid in kind, that is in provisions and clothing; so that no money passed in the shape of wages. The produce of his plantation was consigned by the planter to his merchant or factor in London or Liverpool, as payment for port, or by anticipation for future supplies, of those necessities to his stores; and the excess, in value of the produce shipped over the returns was rarely remitted to the islands, but, when not absorbed by previous advances of the factor, or by mortgage judgments, or by absentee proprietors, was generally invested, for account of the consignee, in public securities here, deducting what might be needed for extensions of cultivation or renovation of stock at home; and whatever was wanted for that end might still be accomplished without the passage of specie between parties by means of bills of exchange upon the mother country, always negotiable against the lumber, bread stuffs and provisions of the United States, Canada, Hamburg, or elsewhere. With the town population of the West Indies the case was somewhat different, so far as the retail dealing and articles of domestic consumption were concerned. There a circulation of some sort was necessary, and became established eventually, but composed of signs of value of the meanest description. Large amounts of specie were imported during the time that the commerce of the Spanish Main centred in Jamaica; but being for account of manufactured goods, of which it was merely a place of transit or deposit, and not for the products of the island itself, the specie entered little into the general circulation, but bulk unbroken, was mostly reshipped to order of the British exporter and principal interested. In the state of money affairs and the mode of conducting business thus described, the Emancipation Act has already begun to work a material alteration, and seems likely to effect in a few years a total revolution. The result of the clause restrictive of the hours of slave or apprentice labour has already been, that a considerable portion of his time remains at the free disposal of the negro, which, if inclined, or if he consider it more advantageous than employing it in cultivating his allotment of land for raising food, he can and does sell to his master or the best bidder, and the wages of which are paid him no longer in commodities, but in money, with the amount of which the goods to market for the supplies which he could have raised. From the prevalence of this system has resulted in part the great scarcity of provisions so loudly complained of by every arrival of late from Jamaica; but, as the value of his labour exceeds proportionally the higher prices of food, the negro it is clear is still a gainer, and has calculated rationally. Such being the case, a greater circulation and absorption of money is caused and has become necessary; and this, from the extended operation of the same causes, must be still more considerably increased within a brief period, for on apprenticeship of the "non-predial," or town slave apprentices is by law to cease and determine. They become free labourers, competent to bargain for their labour, and dispose of it to the best advantage for money wages; so that a money-market is created and en-

larged as the free labour market is established. In two years afterwards the state of apprenticeship of the "predial" apprentices, that is, of the whole slave population of the country, ceases, and with that a further extension of the currency will be rendered inevitable. A local consumption of money to an extent never anticipated will thus ensue in the West India Islands, and thus an additional market be opened for it, which must abstract the quantity required from the stock and circulation of other countries, with which, in reference to be brought into competition. The necessity of providing for the present demand and preparing for the future extension of it has, as shown formerly, turned the attention of the planters and merchants to the expediency of realising at home some portion of the indemnities to which they may be entitled under the West India loan; and hence the shipments of specie from Mexico to Jamaica, recently noted on Government account, against Treasury bills drawn by a commissary resident in the capital of that republic. The Colonial Bank, in addition, which is at present establishing branches in all the islands, has its resident agent, and has become a regular purchaser of dollars in the Mexican market, and is likely to continue so, from the obligation under which it is laid, by the terms of its charter, of redeeming its notes on demand in dollars or specie.—The Government also at the time of conceding the charter is understood to have expressed the intention of issuing a new coinage for the use of the colonies, for which, of course, a stock in hand of the precious metals would be indispensable. The effect of this new drain upon the specie-market will be matter of curiosity hereafter for observers. In the mean time, dealings will probably assume a totally different shape in the West Indies, and a new class of dealers or intermediate agents spring up to furnish supplies to the population, no longer restricted as heretofore to the stores of the planter or the merchant, to whom he was under advances or his plantation under mortgage. And this new species of dealing will consist, as in Europe, of interchanges of money for goods, instead of the old system of coffee and sugar against slops and stores, or food and clothing against labour. Bills and exchanges, therefore, may come to be as regularly established and quoted between Jamaica, Demerara, and the West Indies generally on the one part, and the United States, England, and Europe, on the other, as now between London, Paris, and North America.—*London Times.*

A drunken fellow having sold all his goods to maintain himself at his pot, except his feather bed, at last made away with that too; when, being reproved for it by some of his friends, "Why," said he, "I am very well, and why should I keep my bed?"

"Never," say an imaginative German, "can I forget what I felt when I came to the end of Soukey's 'Life of Nelson,' when the hero terminates his career in a barrel of rum."

DINNER.—I advise men who cannot drink good wine after dinner, to dine alone; human ingenuity could not invent a severer punishment for me, than to compel me to eat heartily, drink cold water, and then attempt to entertain a company of ladies. One might as well attempt to deliver a lecture on Italian literature, after being well saturated with draught porter.

REMARKABLE PARTRIDGES.—Yesterday week, in a field at Alston, near Preston, two partridges, this year's birds, were shot, which are perfectly and beautifully white, not a coloured feather being intermixed. In the same preserve whence these beautiful birds were obtained, there are two others of exactly similar plumage.—*Preston Chronicle.*

NOTICE.

THE Subscriber respectfully informs his friends and the public generally, that he has laid in his Fall Supply of best quality of SHEET IRON, suitable for STEVE PRESSES, at his Shop, nearly opposite Mr. Clapper's, where all orders will be executed with punctuality and despatch, on the lowest terms for cash only. As the Subscriber has employed two first rate workmen, stores of any shape or size will be made on the shortest notice.

Country orders will be particularly attended to. Charges moderate. WILLIAM MOORE. Frederickton, October 9, 1837.

NOTICE.

ALL Persons having demands against the Estate of Jedediah Slason, deceased, of this place, Merchant, are requested to render the same, duly attested, and all those who are indebted to said Estate are desired to make immediate payment. JOSEPH GAYNOR, Sole Admstr. Frederickton, 27th December, 1836.