# THE NEW-BRUNSWICK BAPTIST AND CHRISTIAN VISITOR.

Poetry.

# SPRING MELODY.

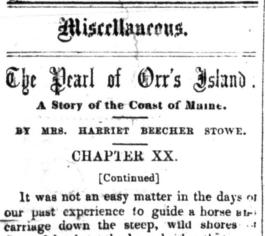
HY MES, FRANCES P. LAUGHTON Angel of Spring ! Thou with the tender violet eyes Thou with the pure white wing ! Unto my spirit bring hoes from the celestial melodies I know that thou art near, Amid the leaves I hear Thy whisper, and the light of thy deep glance Is falling even now Like starlight on my brow, And the winds tell me of thee as they dance Waywardly by. To an unwritten melody.

And with a smile of light. More beautiful than morning's golden wing, Gleamed on my watchful sight The angel of the Spring-Gleamed like a softly-waking star of night

Borne silently away, The angel's hand in mine, I stood where singing waters play, And great elm branches twine Green arches and green bowers Over the Spring's white blooming flowers, And stealing softly up From every blossom's cup Uttered by every leaf and every wave, A clear, low, thrilling voice of melody I heard And from its wood-nest springing, A wild bird Caught the sweet note, and upward soaring sing Upon the Holy One its blessed tribute gave.

Borne silently away, The angel's hand in mine, The silvery clouds around me lay, Bathed in the clear sunshine. A thousand lyres seemed hid Their glistening folds amid. For as the winds breathed lightly, faintly past, They swept sweet . Eolian strings, And wild, sweet murmurings Of wordless song upon the air were cast. Wave after wave was given To the free winds, and than my spirit knew, As the last ripple melted in the blue, I heard an echo dim Of Earth's great choral hymn Flowing still onward to the gate of Heaven.

Borne silent away, The angel's hand in mine, Though never more I heard that song divine. Nor that sweet woodland lay, I felt that life o'erflows with melody. If the heart listens meekly, hopefully.



Great Island to the long bridge that ce to nects it with Orr's. The sense of wild seclusion reaches here the highest degree

of the world. He was nt going to college -it was altogether too slow for him-he was going to see life and push ahead for himself.

Mara's life during this time was intensely wearing. A frail, slender, delicate girl of thirteen, she carried a heart prematurely old with the most distressing responsibihty of mature life. Her love for Moses had always had in it a large admixture of that maternal and care-taking element which, in some shape or other, qualifies the affection of woman to man. Ever since that dream of babyhood, when the vision of a pale mother had led the beautiful boy to her arms, Mara had accepted him as something exclusively her own. with an intensity of ownership that seemed almost to merge her personal identity with his. She felt, and saw, and enjoyed, and suffered in him, and yet was conscious of a higher nature in herself, by which unwillingly he was often judged and condemued. His faults affected her with a kind of guilty pain, as if they were her own; his sins were borne bleeding in her heart in silence, and with a jealous watchfulness to hide them from every eye but hers. She busied herself day and night interceding and making excuses for him, first to her own sensitive moral nature, and then with everybody around, for with one or another he was coming into constant collision. She felt at this time a teartul load of suspicion, which she dared not express to a human being.

Up to this period she had always been the only confidant of Moses, who poured inthe her ear without reserve all the good and the evil of his nature, and who loved ter with all the intensity with which he was capable of loving anything. Nothing so much shows what a human being is in meral advancement as the quality of his live. Moses Pennel's love was egotistic, exacting, tyrannical, and capriciouss anetimes venting itself in expressions of a passionate fondness, which had a savour or protecting generosity in them, and then receding to the icy pole of surly petulance. I'm all that there was no resisting the n-agnetic attraction with which in his amin the moods he drew those whom he liked to himself.

Such people are not very wholesome companions for those who are sensitively of and predisposed to self-sacrificing love. They keep the heart in a perperual freeze and thaw, which, like the American northern climate, is so particularly tatat to plants of a delicate habit. They could live through the hot summer and the cold winter, but they cannot endure the three or four months when it freezes one day and melts the next,-when all the bu is are started out by a week of genial sunshine, and then frozen for a fortnight. These fitted persons are of all others most engrossing, because you are always sure in their good moods that they are just going to be angels,-an expectation which no number of disappointments seems final ly to do away. Mara believed in Moses future as she did in her own existence. He was going to do something great and goint, --- that she was certain of. He would be a splendid man! Nobody, she thought, knew him as she did ; nobody could know how good and generous he was sometimes. and now frankly he would confess his faul's, and what noble aspirations he had ! But there was no concealing from her watchful sense that Moses was beginning to have secrets from her. He was cloudy and murky: and at some of the most harmless inquiries in the world, would flash out with a sudden temper, as if she had touched some sore spot. Her bedroom was opposite to his; and she became quite sure that night after night, while she lay thinking of him, she heard him steal down out of the house between two and three o'clock; and not return till a little before day-dawn. Where he went, and with whom, and what he was doing, was to her an awful mystery,--and it was one she dared not share with a hun an being. If she told her kind old grandfather, she feared that any enquiry tron him would only light as a spark on that inflamable spirit of pride and insubordination that was rising within him, and bring on an instantaneous explosion. Mr. Sewell's influence she could hope little more from; and as to poor Mrs. Pennel such communications would only weary and distress her, without doing any man ner of good. There was, therefore, only that one unfailing Confidant-the Invisible Friend to whom the solitary child could pour out her heart, and whose inspirations of comfort and guidance never fail to come again in return to true souls. One moonlight night, as she lay thus praying, her senses, sharpened by watching, discerned the sound of steps treading under her window, and then a low whistle. Her heart beat violently, and she soon heard the door of Moses' room open, and then the old chamber-stairs gave forth those inconsiderate creaks and snaps that garralous old stairs always will when anybody is desirous of making them accom-plices in a night-secret. Mara rose, and undrawing her curtain, saw three men standing before the house, and saw Moses come out and join them. Quick as land. The foliage was thoroughly vigorthought she threw on her clothes, and ous, aud the bulbs were remarkably well wrapping her little form in a dark cloak, with a hood, followed them out. She kept at a safe distance behind them,-so far back as just to keep them in sight. gence by excuses which were far from sat-isfactory. When Mara would expostulate say but little till they approached the edge "The with him about this, he would break out of that deep belt of forest which shrouds upon her with a fierce irritation. Was he so large a portion of the island. She hur-

# Agricultural.

SALT AS A WEED DESTROYER .- Weeds are said to be robbers of the soil, taking that which is not designed for them, but for more useful plants. But, like other robbers, they do little mischief, if closely watched, and the proper means is taken to prevent their pilferings. Indeed, weeds are not an unmitigated evil, for did they not grow, and make ploughing, and cultivation, and hoeing, absolutely necessary, we fear our corn, potatoes, and all our "hoed crops," would suffer for want of necessary culture ; and the loss from this cause, especially in a dry season, would be far greater than it now is from foul weeds. While saying so much for the weeds, it must be admitted that there are some varieties so tenacious of life, and with such abundant means of propagation by the roots, that they are perfect pests, and among them there are the Couch Grass, Canada Thistle, &c. Almost every week some afflicted tiller of the soil applies to us for a sure and easy method of effecting their eradication. But we know of no easy process, for the price of success we have found to be the same as that which patriots declare to be the price of liberty, "eternal vigilance." Occasionally we have received accounts of partial success by the use of salt, while with others, perhaps from the use of too large a quantity, or an improper mode or applying, the remedy has been found as bad as the disease. Salt, in large quantities, will destroy almost all vegetation. There are only a few of our cultivated vegetables, such as Asparagus, that will endure its liberal applica-

A late English paper contains an account of experiments by a practical farmer in the use of salt for the destruction of Couch Grass and other weeds, which were eminently successful, the salt not only proving effectual in killing weeds, but materially lessening insect depredators, and greatly increasing the crop of routs. We give the most important part of the report, to which we invite the especial attention of our readers. If such great benefits are to be derived from the use of salt, American farmers cannot learn the fact too soon :

tion.

" Some years ago, being troubled on my grass land with a weed which I could not eradicate by mechanical means, I sowed a heavy dose of salt, and at once effected the object. A season or two back, it struck me that if the experience was worth anything, it should teach me a quick way to rid my land of weeds generally-the arable land, I mean. The consequnce was that when the autumn arrived, the fields that were intended for fallow, received a very heavy coat of salt-coarse-grained, agricultural salt : which is. in fact, the sweepings from the sait works, and the refuse of the pans. The quantity sowed was 12 cwt. per acre. The winter which followed was a severe one, and, in connection with the frost, the chemical action of the salt upon the soil was charming to the eye, which delights in the sight of a beautiful friable mold, in place of a churlish, unkindly clay, which usually resists the expansive and disintegrating glacial influence of winter. The field, too, on which the experiment was tried, had long possassed a reputation for Couch Gross, and that particular species of it known as Water Grass, the most troublesome of all. The hoe would not kill it, the twich rake would not gather it, and the children, in seeking it upon the surface after the harrows had left it exposed, usually secured half of it, and stamped the rest into the soil to perpetuate the kind. This Water Grass, then, which the hoe would not kill, which the rakes could not collect, nor the children pick off, was quietly disposed of, never more to trouble me, while it lay at its winter repose. The salt had slain the thief of my profits, noiselessly as the ferret sucks the life blood from the rabbit in its retreat; and when the first spring furrow was turned, the view of the shrivelled enemy-the enemy which had baffled all my ingenuity and kept my exchequer lowwas cheering indeed. One length after another of the sinuous, wiry weed, was exa mined, but there was no sign of life ; not even at that criticri point, the knot, could I detect, by means of the microscope, any indication of vitality. The " foal's foot." which runs down far into the substratum, were many of them dead, though not all. In looking for the buttercup roots, also, scarcely any to be found ; and glad I was, for bother enough they had been to me. " The land then received one or two furrows to incorporate the salt thoroughly. and diffuse its power beneficially, so that it might invigcrate everywhere, and yet not remain in sufficient force in any one place to endanger the seed which followed. " At the proper season, and without any other preparation, the Mangel seed was sown, and speedily vegetated. There were but few weeks to hoe, for the sult had attacked the principle of vitality in the seed of the annual, as it lay secreted in the clod, as well as that of the Couch Grass, and the Mangels grew without let or hindrance to be a finer crop than ever before flourished upon the same plot of matured and sound. The weight per acre reached 25 tons, when before the maximum had been 20 tons-by the aid of several loads of dung and an immense amount.

silent work as before, until, in February, the soil was dry enough to allow of being The soil was reduced to powder, and the weeds were generally dead, so that the Mangel, which was planted in a finely pulverizod seed bed, had nothing to do but to grow without the rivalry of weeds-neither shaded by them from the sun, nor robbed by them of the nourishment purposely stored for their use. I said, however, that I introduced some change into my practice this second time. The change was as follows-Just after the last furrow was turned, I sowed 4 cwt. more salt, which I barrowed in before the seed was dibbled. The result proved the wisdom of the addition, I have reason to think-for the weeds

were even fewer, the foliage of the Mangel was finer, and the bulbs were larger than in the former case, where the application of salt was merely made in the autumn. "It strikes me that our Mangels are freed also from another enemy by the use

of salt. I mean insects. Slugs and wire worm, both very destructive during certain seasons, are certainly banished by salt, if not killed."

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and one crosses the bridge with a feeling as if genii might have built it, and one might be going over it to fairy-land From the bridge the path rises on to high granite ridge, which runs from our end of the island to the other, and the been called the Devil's Back, with that su perstitious generosity which seems to have abandoned all romantic places to so unde serving an owner.

By the side of this ridge of granite is . deep, narrow chasm, running a mile and . half or two miles parallel with the road and veiled with the darkest and most so lemn shadows of the primeval forest Here scream the jays and the eagles, and fish hawks make their nests undisturbed and the tide rises and falls under black branches of evergreen, from which depend long, light festoons of delicate gray moss The darkness of the forest is relieved by the delicate foliage and the silvery trunk. of the great white birches, which the soli tude of centuries has allowed to grow in this spot to a height and size seldom at tained elsewhere.

It was this narrow, rocky cove that had been chosen by the smuggler Atkinson and his accomplices as a sate and secluded resort for their operations. He was a sea faring man of Bath, one of that class whe always prefer uncertain and doubifui courses to those which are safe and reputable. He was possessed of many of those traits calculated to make him a hero in the eyes of young men ; was dashing, free, and trank in his manners, with a fund of humor and an abundance of ready anecdote which made his society fascinating; but he concealed beneath all these attractions a character of hard, grasping, unscrupulous selfishness, and an utter destitution of moral principle.

Moses, now in his sixteenth year, and supposed to be in a general way doing well. under the care of the minister, was left free to come and go at his own pleasure, unwatched by Zephaniah, whose fishing sperations often took him for weeks from ome.

Atkinson hung about the boy's path, engaging him first in fishing or hunung enterprises ; plied him with choice preparations of liquor, with which he would enhance the hilarity of their expeditions ; and finally worked on his love of adventure and that impatient restlessness incident to his period of life to draw him fully into his schemes. Moses lost all interest in his lessons, often neglecting them for days at a time-accounting for his neglialways going to be tied to a girl's apron-string? He was tired of study, and tired of old Sewell, whom he declared an old granny in a white wig, who knew nothing through the dense underbrush.

"The following year, upon a field of the same character, I tried the same experiment, varying the course of management in some degree. I applied, in October 12 cwt. of salt, upon the upturned and weedy surface of that land destined for the root crop, and allowed it there to lie and do its

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