

Poetry.

LET US DO THE BEST WE CAN.

Not in riches, rank, or in power
Is true greatness to be found—
Mere possessions of an hour
By the waves of time are drowned.
Men of true worth, as they should,
Take on deeds as they stand;
If we can't do all we would,
Let us do the best we can.

Mark you, ye would, best in self,
Ded to every social good,
Wouldst thou, for the sake of self,
Ever choose to sink so low?
Trust wealth is doing good,
Doubting strange to thee, poor man!
If we can't do all we would,
Let us do the best we can.

"Charity begins at home"—
Yet, withal, no good man fears
That unbelief or good the sum
He to the poor stranger spares.
Better than can be said,
Is one kind Samaritan;
If we can't do all we would,
Let us do the best we can.

Did we all, with one accord,
Labour for the common good,
Eden soon would be restored,
Peace brood over land and food.
Strive we then, as true men should,
Freedom in Progression's van;
If we can't do all we would,
Let us do the best we can.

The Late Prince Consort and the Post Laureate.

The following is prefaced to a new edition of Mr. Alfred Tennyson's "Idylls of the King":
These to his memory—since he held them dear,
Perchance as finding they would help him dear,
Some image of himself—dedicate,
I dedicate, I consecrate with tears—
These Idylls.

And indeed he seems to me
Scarcely other than my own ideal knight,
Who, in the midst of his own life,
Whose glory was, redressing human wrong;
Who spoke no slander, nor listened to it;
Who loved one only and who loved to her—
Who over all whom he loved, as a king,
Commingled with the gloom of imminent war,
The shadow of his loss moved like a cloud,
Defining the world. We have lost him: he is gone.

We know him now: all narrow jealousies
Are silent; and we see him as he moved
In modern times, all accomplished, wise,
With what sublime repression of himself,
And in what limits, and how tenderly;
Not swaying to this faction or to that;
Not making his high place the lavest perch
Of winged ambitions, nor a vantage ground
For pleasure; but thro' all this train of years,
Valuing the white flower of a blameless life,
Before a thousand peerless limitations,
In that fierce light which beats upon a throne,
And blackens every blot; for where is he,
Who leaves for others, as he leaves for us,
A lovely life, a more unaltered than his?
Or how should England dreaming of his sons,
Hope more for these than these inheritance
Of such a life, such a more unaltered than his?
The noble Father of her Kings to be,
Laborious for her people and her poor—
Valuing in the rich dawn of ampler day—
For the sake of his people, as he leaves for us,
To fruitful strains and rivalries of peace—
Sweet nature guided by the gracious grace—
Of letters, dear, as the life of a king,
Dear to thy land and ours, Prince indeed,
Beyond all titles, and a household name
Hereafter, through all times, Albert the Good.

Break not, O woman's heart, but still endure;
Break not, for thou art Royal, but endure;
Remembering all the beauty of that star
Which shone so close beside his, that he made
One light together, and has past and left
The Crown a lonely splendor.

May all love,
His love, unseen but felt, or shadowed though,
The love of all thy sons encompass thee,
The love of all thy daughters, and the love,
The love of all thy people comfort thee,
Till God's love set these at his side again.

THE DEAR OLD LAND.

A glorious land is "The Dear Old Land,"
Tao's mountains are cold when the snow lies deep,
And the mists round the sides of its mountains
And the waves are white when the March winds sweep,
As they dash on its cliffs in foam.

Thou changed since the days when the Druid old
Was seen in the forest glades;
When the wolf was frosted to mountain den,
And the wild boar roared in the gloomy glen,
And the chase was the test to prove the men
That rang'd through the leafy shades.

When the victim bled on the altar stone,
Or died in a fiery grave,
Where dark woods shelter'd the outlaw's band,
And the folk were woe-stricken and sad,
And the man of the sword was the law,
That rang'd through the leafy shades.

A story of days has "The Dear Old Land,"
And it dates from the days gone by,
When Right with Might the strife began,
And Freedom's torch was kindled in the van,
And the weakling's sword was the law,
To conquer his rights, or die.

Tis a land where hardy spirits grow
In the stern days of yore;
When the arm could do what the heart could dare,
When the threats of a tyrant were "empty air,"
And they made him tremble in his seat,
As they roused themselves in power.

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Miscellaneous.

Telegraphic Communication with Ireland.

(From the London Observer.)
"It is not generally known that, in order to receive the news brought by the Atlantic cable, as they touch at Queenstown it is necessary that the dispatches should be forwarded by telegraph a distance of nearly eight hundred miles, or about one-half of the entire length of the cable, which for a short time stretched across the Atlantic. When the steamer calls at Queenstown, its news has to be transmitted from Cork to Dublin, thence to Belfast, thence to Glasgow, and thence to London. From London, the news is sent to Queenstown, and thence to Belfast, and finally to London. This involves great delay, and numerous breaks in the communication, and mistakes constantly arise from these repeated transmissions. This, however, is by no means all the delay. The steamer calls off what is called Roche's Point, and a steamer now required to convey the telegraph to the harbour at Queenstown, the news is occupied by an hour and a half. Important as the news required, there is no telegraph from Roche's Point to Queenstown. It is now proposed to establish a new telegraphic line, which will place Queenstown not only in direct communication with the telegraph station at the entrance to the harbour, but also with the Old Head of Kinsale, from several hours earlier than is at present the case. Lord Ennemy has given permission to lay a telegraphic wire over his property from Roche's Point, which will be carried on to Queenstown, and join a main line which will connect Cork and Queenstown with Waterford and Wexford, and thence to the Atlantic cable, thus forming a considerable distance from the Atlantic cable to the Atlantic cable. The line will be submerged to St. David's Head, on the Welsh coast, and be continued through Milford, Gloucester, and Bristol, down to London, the whole line being about the length of that at present required to connect Queenstown and London. At Kinsale Head there will be a semaphore to communicate with vessels in the Channel. The Government have entered into arrangements

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