



POETRY.

[FROM THE NORFOLK HERALD.]
LINES,

On hearing of the death of Com. PERRY.
He should have died another time—
And in another way—
Torn from his country—in his prime,
Like one of common clay!

But here a Hero—true and tried,
The bay was on his brow;
And flourish'd there in living pride,
Entwin'd with cyprass now!

Yet long that wreath of his renown
Shall bloom to ev'ry eye,
Beyond the brightness of a crown,
And all too fair to die.

For never can our hearts forget
Those few eternal hours
On Erie's water—"We have met
The foe, and they are ours."

But Glory knew not to increase
His perfect orb of fame:
So gave her order—"Die in peace,
And leave the world—THY NAME."

Miscellaneous.

THE CITY OF TIMBUCTOO.

From Lieut. Col. Fitzclarence's Journal.

On returning from Alexandria in his Majesty's ship *Tagus*, the author was fellow passenger with Muly Ali and Muly Omar, two sons of the emperor of Morocco, who had been on a pilgrimage to Mecca, under the charge of Hadjee Talub Ben Jelow, a successful merchant of immense property. He was mild and communicative, and imparted some very striking information relative to the celebrated city of Timbuctoo, of which the following account is given:—

"But what has caused most interest amongst us, is a discovery we have made that Hadjee Talub Ben Jelow, as well as several others on board, have been several times at Timbuctoo on commercial speculations; and as the governor is very communicative, he has answered a number of questions put to him by Captain Dundas, and myself. As we were well aware of the diversity of opinions respecting the size and situation of that city, it was the first subject to which we drew his attention.—Upon inquiring about Timbuctoo, the hadjee laughed at our pronunciation, the name of the city being Timbuctoo; it is situated about two hours' journey from the great river. He says the king of Timbuctoo, is a negro, and resides at Kabra, which is the port of Timbuctoo, being upon the Nijer. The houses, he states, are low and mean; the inhabitants have no shops, but there are stalls for selling the necessaries of life under leather tents. The habitations are built of clay and loose stones, though some of them must be two stories high, from their having stairs. He says there are mosques at Timbuctoo, which agrees with the evidence of Hadjee Benata, who asserts "that there are Mahometans there;" and some of "no religion at all;" while Hadjee Talub's account is, that all religions are tolerated: The majority of the inhabitants are, according to his description, negroes. The cow at Timbuctoo has a hump upon its shoulder, and appears rather larger than the Indian cow; these the natives ride on. In 1807 the king's name was Boobkier, that of the queen Fatima; the dress of the latter is represented to be a short blue petticoat with a stripe of lace; his was said to cost 100 dollars at Timbuctoo. With respect to the Nijer, he states that it runs towards the east, or as he terms it, towards Mecca. He has invariably called it the Nile, but another person on board, of the name of Hadjee Benata (whose bad state of health for a length of time prevented our gaining much information

from him) calls it Dan, but confirms the interesting fact which was so long counted of the river running to the east. The Nijer is reported to be a quarter of a mile broad at Kabra, but in the summer it is much more considerable. Hadjee Talub has understood that the river runs into a large fresh water sea in the interior of the country, which he calls Behur Soldan; that from this sea the Nile of Egypt takes its rise; so that he calls it the same river; and that half way to Cairo there are great falls and cataracts which prevent boats from passing. This account of the source of the Nile may however, be reasonably doubted. The boats on the river are of a middling size, flat bottomed, having no sails, and being constructed without nails. They are formed of the bark of trees, and some of them are as large as a frigate's launch, or about 28 feet long. Our informant Hadjee Talub, adds, that crocodiles abound in the river, are very voracious, and are taken by being harponed with an instrument with 5 prongs. There are vast quantities of fish in the Nijer, which, from their color and size, are supposed to be salmon. Hadjee Benata states, that Timbuctoo is three times the size of Alexandria; and Hadjee Talub conceives the population to be about 60,000, and represents their character as being good and friendly, though he has heard of people being shot for theft, and of offenders being beat on the back with the skin of an animal dried and cut into thongs. He says there are cocoa nuts and dates in abundance, and water melons in great plenty, but all grow wild, there being no garden whatever.—The woods in the neighborhood of Timbuctoo, are described as being full of game, and lions and beasts of prey are often seen in the neighborhood of the town. Hares and rabbits are in vast quantities; and the only dog they have is a greyhound which is trained to catch these animals; cats they have none. The city is well supplied with every kind of provisions, and it is customary for the natives to eat elephant's flesh, which animal is stated to exist in immense herds in the vicinity. Their flesh appeared palatable to Hadjee Talub tasting like beef, but being quite white. They are ferocious animals, and will attack single persons, which obliges men who ride alone to carry a horn to frighten them away. There are two methods of hunting the elephants, one by driving them into the river, where men by swimming, get on their backs, and cut and destroy them; the other by driving them into pits and butchering them; a few are tamed.

"As to their commerce, it is carried on between Fez, and Timbuctoo, generally by caravans, which leave the former place in March and October, as does that of Mecca at the same season. The articles which sell best at Timbuctoo, are salt, tobacco, European scarlet cloth, and English printed cottons, besides pistols and guns. This traffic returns elephant's teeth (of which two are so large as to be a load for a camel,) slaves, and gold. The gold is generally in small bags, in each of which is an ounce valued at fifteen dollars; it is extremely pure and fine; they have also pieces of gold weighing about five ounces. This precious article is very common, and comes from the south-west, where it is found in great quantities. The negroes wear bracelets and other ornaments of this metal, and Hadjee has presented Captain Dundas with some gold articles, consisting of part of a necklace, a pair of ear rings and some braids of the hair, similar to the filagree work of the archipelago of the Eastern Seas; which he states that the women manufacture as they do in Java and Sumatra, in the house of their employer, by whom they are hired like journeymen. The price of a male slave is from sixteen to twenty dollars.

"He speaks of a tribe called Shullahs, who are a savage race, living

in leather tents, and of a warlike and brave spirit. They are armed with a long sword, sharp on both sides, though some of them carry a javelin. For defences they have a shield made of leather, about five feet long and four-broad, which covers their whole persons.—Their dress consists of a blue shirt and white trowsers. He represents the women as being very fat, and having a protuberance behind like the Hottentot women, of whom we have heard so much. The Shullahs receive a certain tribute from the negroes of Timbuctoo, and never cross the river. During the summer they remain two days' journey to the east, but in the winter come close to the city. The women perform all the agricultural labors in the fields.

"We made inquiries respecting the caravans from Fez to Timbuctoo, and from Timbuctoo in various other directions. He says he travelled by the regular caravan in three months and ten days from Fez to Timbuctoo, but the year after he went the same journey with a guide and two guards in twenty-nine days, on a herrie performing four days' journey in one. There is no want of water during the winter time; but hords of Arabs attack travellers at that season. The herrie is mentioned as being the fleetest animal that can be conceived; it is like a dromedary, but is as superior in speed to the generality, as the race horse is to a cart horse.

"There runs a tradition that there was at one time a regular caravan from Timbuctoo to Cairo, but the distracted state of the country has at length rendered it so unsafe as to prevent it altogether. Indeed, as two Shullahs accompanied the caravan from Fez to Mecca, having come from Timbuctoo for that purpose, Captain Dundas thinks, in which Hadjee Talub agrees with him, that there is no direct communication between that city and Cairo. With respect to intercourse toward the east and south-east, our traveller speaks of Houssa being a considerable city, but at such a distance from Timbuctoo that the latter city is only half way between it and Fez. It is described to be a place of great traffic, where the cloth used by the inhabitants of Timbuctoo is manufactured. Neither he nor Hadjee Benata know any thing of Wassana, although they are acquainted with a large place, 20 days journey south-east from Timbuctoo called Massana—indeed the latter states that his mother came from thence. Beyond this place, to the south-east, are a people who eat their prisoners.

"During our various conversations, Hadjee Talub mentioned, that eleven years ago, when at Timbuctoo, he heard of two white men, who came from the sea, having been near that city. This was the year before he arrived at Timbuctoo, and he understood that the white men sold beads, as they had no money to purchase grain. He adds, that they went down the Nile to the eastward, and that general report stated that they had died of the climate. This appeared to Captain Dundas and myself to allude to, and certainly all circumstances tend to prove that these persons were, Mr. Park and Lieutenant Martyn, who would have arrived there about that period. However, the pacific conduct and friendly intercourse mentioned by Hadjee Talub disagrees with the journal of Amadi Fatouma, who speaks of hostility taking place off Timbuctoo, which is not on the Nijer; and in what regards the fate of these gentlemen, they differ as to the mode of their death.

"It was natural that we should attempt to ascertain if it was practicable for a Frigate to pass from Fez to Timbuctoo, and if he thought the Emperor of Morocco would assist the views of any Englishmen in reaching that city, which he answered with the greatest confidence in the affirmative. As to any danger with the caravan, he expresses a conviction that there is not the slightest but singly, he thinks, that great risk would be hazarded. I further asked

him, whether, if duly rewarded, he would accompany me to Timbuctoo to which he assented with the utmost readiness; and added, that we could reach that city in forty-seven days from Fez on horseback, and that he would forfeit his life if he did not bring me back safe.

"I conceive from this, from the universal renown of our nation, and from the friendly terms on which we stand with all the world, that a British agent properly accredited, and his objects fairly stated, namely, commerce and rational curiosity, could not fail of being not only safe, but well received, and put in a situation to solve the great geographical problem of the course and termination of the Nijer."

[From Poulson's Daily Advertiser.]

A young merchant, whom we will call Morton, was united a few years since, to a most amiable girl, whom he sincerely loved, and who returned his affection with all the warmth and ardour his many virtues deserved. At the time of the nuptials, Mr. M's. business was lucrative and apparently increasing, so that he could indulge in reasonable anticipation, not only of eventual independence, but also of attaining that desirable end, without denying himself and family the fashionable gratifications of the day. Accordingly he furnished his house in a style of considerable elegance, kept several servants, and in other respects conducted his family arrangements on a liberal scale, and which his forefathers would, perhaps, have deemed idly extravagant. His wife too, thinking to do credit to her husband, paid little attention to economy, and rather made it her study to gratify his taste, than to regard the expense it might occasion.

There was a time when such a general prosperity prevailed in this country, that prudence herself seemed almost to justify extravagance.—But these times had gone by, and on those countenances where formerly beamed hope and confidence, now sat disappointment and despair.—No longer could the Merchant engage in schemes of enterprize; for he saw that the more extensive was his business, the more extensive were his losses.—No longer could he place reliance upon the stability of his neighbour; for experience was daily teaching in painful lessons, that the foundations of credit were loosened; and those who had withstood many a storm, now bent and yielded to the calamities of the times.

But still the storm howled only without the dwelling of domestic peace—it had not yet wounded the merchant in his tenderest concerns. Soon, however, Mrs. M. saw the gloom that misfortune was gathering on her husband's brow, and which neither her own affectionate solicitude, nor his children's sportive playfulness, could chase away. Day after day passed, and she sighed in silence. At length she extorted from him the cause of his dejection, and learned that his business had declined, and that he had sustained multiplied losses, which had deprived him of nearly all his earnings. There are women, and those whom the world calls women of sense too, who would have contented themselves with sympathizing with their husbands, and supposed that by affectionately sharing his regrets, they had discharged their duty.—Not such a woman was Mrs. M.—She felt deeply her husband's misfortunes; but that feeling was an active principle, which promoted her to do what was in her power to assist and relieve him. She immediately commenced a rigid system of reform—retained only a single servant—her table was not as before loaded with luxuries, and the wine was banished from the sideboard.—Her two little children were neatly but simply dressed, and she gazed upon them with more heartfelt delight than when covered with riband and expensive, useless finery. She applied herself to domestic avocations with unabating diligence, and

carried economy into every department of her household.

All this was not done, however, without the opposition, and in some instances, the sneers of her acquaintances; but happily the suggestions of pride and indelence fell harmlessly on the ears of Mrs. M.; for she weighed them against her duty to her husband, and her affection for her children, and the scale mounted in the air. Her husband, in the meantime, although, perhaps, he would have perished rather than have prescribed such a conduct, saw her thus employed, with new delight springing in his heart—and in his approbation, she found at once a reward for past exertion, and an additional incitement to new. From the much decreased expenses of his family, he was encouraged still to struggle against misfortunes, and his business soon began slowly to revive; and although he cannot as before anticipate speedy wealth, yet, from the prudent care of his wife, and his own industry and application, brighter prospects are daily opening to his view. To his partner, he is now attached by a new and tender tie of affection, for he has seen that she can share and alleviate the distress of adversity, as well as adorn and dignify the prosperous station. Happy M. who has such a wife, and thrice happy and lovely the woman who can thus act! From her example, may every American fair one, in what course of conduct lies the true dignity of the female character.—May they learn, that they were intended by Providence, not merely to float on the surface of pleasure, or flutter like butterflies in the sun, but to be the sweet soothers and consolers of man, when misfortune clouds his prospects, and presses heavily upon his spirits. A. M. J.

Female Excellence.—Propriety is to woman what the great Roman critic says action is to an orator; it is the first, second, and the third requisite. A woman may be knowing, active, witty and amusing—but without propriety she cannot be amiable. Propriety is the centre in which all the lines of duty and agreeableness meet. It is to character, what proportion is to figure and grace to attitude. It does not depend on any one perfection, but is the result of general excellence.

Natural History of the Monkey.—Let a monkey be chained, (says the *Gallia Gazette*.) so that you may observe his motions minutely; look him in the face, and he will turn it from you; hold his head still, and he will turn away his eyes; approach him so near as to force yourself upon his vision, he immediately covers his eyes with his hands. Just the same power has prejudice to blind the human mind to evidence; so that, on viewing the conduct of some people, one might be tempted to exclaim—
"Men are but Monkeys of a larger growth."

A ready cure for the bilious or Cramp Cholick.
Take a small quantity of Brimstone; dissolve it in Brandy, temper it with Water, and drink it as often as you can, until the pain is removed, which will be after the second or third drinking. Should the third not effect the removal of the pain, continue the dose. Experience has taught me this, who sends it to the press for the good of the community at large. M.

The following easy remedy to counteract the effects of frost on tender vegetables, has been communicated by a gentleman who has tried the experiment. The method he takes is to water the vegetables on a frosty morning, before the sun shines upon them; for it is to be remembered, that it is the sun which completes their destruction, and not the frost itself.

A woman named Elizabeth Parry, lately died in England, at the age of 109 years, who never had been two hundred yards from the spot on which she was born.