



POETRY.

THE LEAF.

BY BISHOP HORNE.

SEE the leaves around us falling, Dry and withered to the ground; Thus to thoughtless mortals calling, In a sad and solemn sound:

Sons of Adam once in Eden, Blighted when like us he fell, Hear the lecture we are reading; 'Tis, alas! the truth we tell.

Virgins, much, too much, presuming, On your boasted white and red, View us, late in beauty blooming, Number'd now among the dead.

Gripping misers, nightly wailing, See the end of all your care, Fled on wings of our making, We have left our owners bare.

Sons of honor, fed on praises, Flutt'ring high in fancied worth, Lo! the fickle air, that raises, Brings us down to parent earth.

Learned sophs, in systems jaded, Who for new ones daily call, Cease, at length, by us persuaded, Ev'ry leaf must have its fall.

Youths, though yet no losses grieve you, Gay in health, and manly grace, Yet not cloudless skies deceive you, Summer gives to autumn place.

Venerable sires, grown hoary, Higher turn the unwilling eye, Think amidst your falling glory, Autumn tells a wint'ry tale.

Yearly in our courses returning, Messengers of shorter stay; Thus we preach this truth concerning, "Heaven and Earth shall pass away."

On the time of life eternal, Man, let all thy hope be staid, Which alone, forever vernal, Bears a leaf that shall not fade.

Miscellaneous.

IDEA OF MEXICAN WEALTH.

FROM THE TRAVELS OF HUMBOLDT.

This traveller affirms that the riches of Mexico are infinitely superior to those of Peru. I know of no Peruvian family (says he) in the possession of a fixed and certain revenue of 180,000 francs (29,000 dollars); but in Mexico there are individuals who possess no mines, and whose revenue amounts to a million of francs, (200,000 dollars.) The family of the Count de la Valenciana possesses alone, on the ridge of the Andes, a property worth 25 millions of francs, (5,000,000 dollars), without including the mine of Valenciana, which yields, one year with another, a net revenue of 1,500,000 livres, (240,000 dollars.)

The Count de Regia built, at his own expense, two vessels of the largest size, worth 600,000 dollars, & presented them to the king of Spain.

The family of Fagnaga, well known for its beneficence, intelligence and zeal for the public good, exhibits the example of the greatest wealth which was ever derived from a mine. A single vein which the marquis of Fagnaga possesses, in the district of Sombredath, left in five or six months, all charges deducted, a net profit of 4 millions of dollars.

The European reader will be still more astonished, when I inform him of the extraordinary fact that this family lent, about the year 1800, a sum of more than 3 millions and a half of francs, (700,000 dollars,) without interest, to a friend whose fortune they believed would be made by it in a solid manner.

To complete the view of the immense wealth centered in the hands of a few individuals in Mexico, it is only necessary to add, that, amongst instances of individual opulence, 9 clergymen, only, possess an annual income, collectively, of 539,000 dollars—a sum almost equal to the whole expenses of the civil government of the United States.

From the Journal of Gen. Pike.

I had the curiosity to visit a silver mine, (says Mr. Pike,) and endeavored to get the Spanish officers to accompany me, but always found them backward in those visits, deferring them to some future time.—Attended by my friend Dr. Robinson, I went one day through many of the furnaces near Chihuahua, and observed the manner which was pursued to analyze the mineral and extract the metal. Learnt that the one was brought in bags upon mules from the mine to the furnace, then ground or pounded into small pieces not larger than a nut, and precipitated into water in a sieve, which permitted the smaller particles, in the course of several progressive operations, to escape into a tub.—From the particles which remained at the bottom of the tub, after it had been purified of the earthly particles, there was a proportion of metal extracted by a nicer process; but the large parts were put into a furnace, similar to our iron furnaces; and, when in a state of fusion, was let out into a bed of sand prepared for it. In this bed the melted silver was formed into bars about the size of our pig iron; averaging in value 2,500 dollars each.

The gold was cast into a mould, something like a bowl, and stamped by the king's assayers with its value; generally 8 or 10,000 dollars.

These bars of gold and silver are received into the king's treasury in payment, and have a currency through the country. But many of the owners of mines, having no use for their money, pile away their bars of gold and silver in their cellars—where it remains for their posterity, of no service to themselves or the world.

The annual product of all the mines is immense—amounting to the astonishing sum of 14 millions of dollars in gold, and fifty millions in silver—the king's part of which is 12,000,000 dollars.

Yet, notwithstanding this abundance of precious metals, the necessities of life, owing to the fertility of the soil, and the deliciousness of the climate, are cheaper than in any part of the United States. For instance:

Table listing prices of goods: Flour, by the cwt. 85; Salt, by the mule load 3; Sheep, each 1; Bees, each 5; Delicious wine, by the bbl. 15; Horses, each 41; Mules, each 30.

The price of all kinds of labor is excessively high—lands very cheap—large districts being uninhabited.

Among the military the following is the annual pay of the respective grades, from a private to a colonel:

Table listing military pay: Private \$288; Corporal 300; Sergeant 350; Ensign 800; 2d Lieutenant 1000; 1st Lieutenant 1500; Captain 2400; Major 3000; Lieutenant Colonel 4000; Colonel 4500.

WILD HORSES OF THE WEST.

The Horse of the Columbia River will rank with the finest of his species in the known world. His size is fifteen hands, even in a state of nature, unprovided with food or shelter by the hand of man. His form exhibits much bone and muscle, but not the mass of flesh which is found on the fat European horse. His limbs are clean and slender; the neck arched and rising; the hoofs round and hard, and the nostrils wide and thin. He is equally distinguished for speed and bottom. He runs rapidly and for a long time, rivalling, in this respect all that we have heard of the English hunting horses. In other respects, in the docility of his nature, in his capacity to sustain hunger and hardship, in his powers to provide food for himself and his master, he is wholly univalled. He is readily trained to the business of his master's life; that

of hunting and pursuing the game with all the keenness of the dog, and with equal sagacity and with more success. He will run down the deer in the prairies, with or without his master on his back, and when overtaken, will hold it with his teeth. When rode after game, he needs no guiding of the bridle to direct him. He will pursue a drove of buffaloes, and, coming up with them, he will stop one by biting him with his teeth. The animal bitten, immediately wheels to defend himself with his horns; the horse wheels at the same moment to avoid it; and at this moment when the side of the buffalo is presented the Indian lets fly an arrow, which often passes entirely through the body. The wounded animal always turns out of the drove to lay down and die. The horse and his rider pursues the gang to make fresh slaughter. Another horse, trained to a second part of the game, with other Indians, takes the trail of the wounded buffalo, which is butchered and carried into camp. These things seem incredible; but we have them upon the authority of Lewis and Clark, and a great number of traders, who have been upon the Columbia river since the time of their discovery; some of whom are now in this town.

The capacity of this horse to sustain fatigue, and to provide food for himself, is equally astonishing.—He is galloped all day, sometimes eighty or ninety miles in the space of ten or twelve hours, and is then left to shift for himself during the night. In the spring, summer and autumn he finds no difficulty. The short and sweet grass of that country gives him an abundant and nutritious repast. In the winter, and towards the mountains, where the snow is several feet deep, his unerring instinct tells him where to search: he scrapes away the snow with his hoof till he comes to the ground, and rooting there with his nose finds where-with of moss and grass to sustain his life. On the borders of creeks and rivers he feeds on the boughs of willows, and other soft wood, which his master has sometimes the kindness to fall for him with a hatchet.

This fine animal is found on the banks of the Columbia, in latitude 46, in the great plain which lies on the borders of this river between the upper and lower range of mountains. His origin is traced to Mexico; thence to Spain; thence to the north of Africa, where the Arabian barb is found in all the perfection of his species. His fine form, his generous spirit, and his noble qualities are preserved upon the Columbia river; and certainly it is worthy the experiment to endeavor to transplant him into other parts of the United States. Many citizens have attempted to do so, but have always been robbed by the Indians of the Rocky Mountains. Lewis and Clark procured seventy-three, said by Governor Claiborne to be the most beautiful collection of horses that he has ever seen together before or since; but the whole number was stolen from them by Indians who followed their trail and never ceased their operations until they had carried off the last. It is to be hoped that the military establishments forming on the upper Missouri will facilitate the attempts which will no doubt be renewed to introduce this fine breed into the settled parts of our continent.

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FOR THE NATIONAL ADVOCATE. DOMESTIC ECONOMY.

I was conversing a few evenings ago with an old friend on the subject of prevailing vices, and, contrasting the past with the present, I imagined that society had somewhat improved, that morality seemed to be more felt and studied than it was formerly, and that a disposition, generally speaking, seemed to prevail of doing what was right. I take no pleasure in dwelling on the dull side of a picture where there are bright touches, and agreeable hints to admire; nor would I censure

a community for faults which were not apparent, or withhold that meed of praise which merit, good and good actions claim. I therefore, thought, that among decreasing vices I might reckon gambling, which I flattered myself was happily getting daily into disrepute. You are in error, observed my friend, and I am sorry to say it;—once gambling was confined to a high sphere—none but kings and noblemen were authorised to rob their people, and then each other; under this friendly and seductive mask it shortly spread like an epidemic, and infected what was called high classes—the mechanic, and the labourer, was preserved by that purity of thought which arises from employment and economy, but, alas! the disease has even affected them. Come, said he, it is a pleasant night—take a walk with me, and I will show you how this vice is nourished in the heart of moral community. I will attend you, said I, if you even lead me where no "lamp burns"—my powers of locomotion are at least equal to yours. We took our departure as St. Paul's chimed eight o'clock, and after crossing several squares, and passing through lonely alleys, we entered what seemed to be a tavern, and, on going up stairs in a long room, we found a large table surrounded by mechanics, dirty labourers and ragged boys;—they were employed at a game called *letto* or *kino*—the master drew the numbers from a wheel, while the company covered such as appeared on small placards before them, and when they obtained a certain number, they claimed and took the purse. Here was high life in miniature;—loud and boisterous mirth, obscene language, and deep imprecations, prevailed among this clan of apprentice boys, who, instead of being detained at their honest labour, stole an hour, and probably the means to gratify a vicious propensity. Masters have the same duty to perform as parents, and while they receive great credit in sending an honest apprentice forth, they cannot escape a great portion of censure if that apprentice is an idler and a gambler. We left this humble habitation of vice to examine some of a more elevated character, (for vice has degrees) and we shortly entered a billiard room, brilliantly illuminated, and the glare of light introduced to our view a number of young men genteely dressed; they were merchants and attorneys clerks, together with a few who had no pursuits at all;—I watched them for a half hour—a couple played a game for oysters—another set played for wine—a party was made up for pool, in which game several played for money, while the lookers on smoked segars and drank brandy and water;—oaths were heard in abundance, and the smashing of maces, bouncing of balls, and cries for the waiter, gave a dismal coloring to the scene. Here was another picture of vice which debased the character of our city. Could the parents and employers of these young men find no pursuit for them? Were they so indifferent to their morality and prosperity as to pass over in silence these nightly and deadly debauches? If they had no employment—Why not improve their mind and amuse their fancy with a book? If they had no book, and their time was heavy—Why not pass an hour with a neighboring friend, or a pleasant and worthy family? And, if these advantages are denied them, and they have no book, no friend, but must walk the streets at night to search for objects of amusement, let them enter those places of worship which are nightly opened, and join in prayer and anthem; there they will find a friend—a true one, who never turns a deaf ear to a sincere applicant.—How much more delightful, would their moments pass, than thus hurrying their honor and prosperity, their health and industry, in an untimely grave of debauchery and excess.

I took my departure from this scene, as my friend told me there was yet a higher sphere of vice to

visit—and we shortly entered a large brick house, and found a suite of rooms splendidly furnished and lighted; several card tables surrounded with persons, playing whist and faro. We were introduced formally, for ceremony was maintained in this temple, as they were all gentlemen there—all whose debts were debts of honor. On a side table refreshments were placed, and I was invited, in the most flattering manner, to take punch; the hospitable host, no doubt, intending to ply me with liquors in order to "screw my courage to the sticking point. The whist players were amusing themselves with playing for 50 dollar points, a mere trifle; and one observed, that he should quit whist and try faro, if he lost more than 5500. Finding so little interest in looking on, I placed myself near the faro table: here were several venturing with all the zeal of a most unnatural and hectic excitement—their faces, the alternate pictures of hope and despair—fear, joy, anxiety and agitation prevailed: here was one filling up checks on the bank and losing them quickly, yet going on to fill even to ruination—another with a pile of notes and half eagles before him, on which he ever and anon stole a greedy and delighted glance, while his opposite neighbour, who had lost his all, fixed his wan and sunken eyes on the glittering store, in deep despair; here was one striding rapidly up and down the room, beating his head that "let the folly in and the dear reason out"—there another pouring down glass after glass, to drown reflection—while a third sat gnawing the ends of his fingers, and muttering curses "loud and deep." Monstrous infatuation. To what will this avarice—this "auri sacra fames," lead men to? I recognised, among these last mortals, several gentlemen of family and respectability; several merchants who subsequently stopped payment, but could give no account of forty thousand dollars. Here they were destroying the hopes of their family, and sinking their peace of mind in a gaming house, while the fond and estimable wife counted the sad hours of their absence, and alone, in their sumptuous dwellings, waited night after night for their return; pacing the room in perturbation; taking together the expiring embers; making the glimmering of the dying taper; starting at every rustling sound; her heart, which should be tranquil, beating with alarm, until the traitor husband's well-known knock revives and animates her—when his disordered dress, his pale & anguished countenance, and the deep-drawn sigh of misfortune draws, from his heart-broken companion, the silent tear of agony; while cold and comfortless, with aching head and heart, he throws his listless person on his bed, and groans the live-long night with a poor wife, whom his vices have made wretched. Shame—shame, that a man should permit his reason to be thus sacrificed by an inordinate thirst of gain, a miserable, misguided infatuation. No gambler ever died rich—though fortune, for years, may have deluded him with smiles, yet she deserts him at his utmost need: and breath, which honest labour earns, is sweeter to the appetite, and a greater cordial to the soul, than the luxuries purchased with the gains at play, gains acquired only to be again lost—gains obtained at the expense of the peace, happiness and prosperity of whole families.

HOWARD.

A London paper says, that a disabled sailor, has chalked out the effigies of the whole British Navy on the brick wall of New Gardens, and placed over each the vessel's name, and the number of her guns. In this way he has drawn about 800 vessels, from 5 to 6 feet long, occupying altogether a distance of more than a mile. Passing travellers give the draughtsman a few half pence for his pains, which affords him a maintenance.