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Poetical Department.

RAIN ON THE ROOF. When the humid shadows gather Over all the starry spheres, And a melancholy darkness Gently weeps in rainy tears, Tis a joy to press the pillow Of a cottage chamber bed, And listen to the patter Of the soft rain overhead.

Every tinkle on the shingles Has an echo in the heart And a thousand weary fancies Into busy being start; And a thousand recollections Weave their bright brues into woof, As I listen to the patter Of the soft rain on the roof.

There, in fancy comes my mother, As she used to, years agone, To survey the infant sleepers Ere she left them till the dawn. I can see her bending o'er me, As I listen to the strain Which is played upon the shingles By the patter of the rain.

Then my little seraph sister, With her wing, and waving hair, And here ight-eyed cherub brother, A serene, angelic pair! Glide around my wakeful pillow With their praise of mild reproof, As I listen to the murmur Of the soft rain on the roof.

And another comes to thrill me With her eye's delicious blue, And forget I, gazing on her, That her heart was all untrue; I remember that I loved her As I ne'er may love again, And my beart's quick pulses vibrate To the patter of the rain.

There's naught in art's bravuras · That can work with such a spell, In the spirit's pure, deep fountains, Whence the holy passions swell, As that melody of nature-That subdued, subduing strain, Which is played upon the shingles By the patter of the rain!

A Selected Tale.

From the Southern Literary Gazette. THE MAROON. A LEGEND OF THE CARRIBEES. BY W. GILMORE SIMMS, ESQ.,

Author of "The Yemassee," etc.

Here then was a curious discovery. The island was not inhabited. He had traversed it for three days and had found no tootstep but his own. Had it ever been inhabited? Scarce. ly :- the impunity with which beast and bird enjoyed its securities, and of which he had sufficient proofs in his three days' experience, was conclusive of that question. But it was visited by human beings, the witnesses in the cavern were numerous. Did they come frequently and from whence? These were the next questions. That they came frequently might be inferred from various circumstances. The brands which had been swept from the altar, were in great heaps in one corner of the cavern. The shreds of hair were equally numerous and of different degrees of age. This difference was very perceptible upon the slightest camination. They came for a religious purpose. The shreds of hair, the altar, the aromatic woods and gum,-were all significant approaching him from that doubtful and hostile of sacred rites. From whence? Surely, was shore. He sees; but now it disappears. It is the thought of the "Maroon," from that isle, gone! He looks in vain, his whole frame conthe thought of the "Maroon," from that isle, or continent, the dim outlines of which had vulsed and quivering with the emotions of his fixed his gaze but an hour before. A farther soul! Again it rises into view. It disturbs the

of hair, seemingly the accumulation of centuries, were found in remote crannies and dark recesses of the vault. A thousand little baskets of shells, and white and blue fragments; pebbles that seemed like glass; and, more precious in the sight of Lopez, numerous strands of pearl, such as he had alrealy discovered; which, dark and dingy with frequent smokes in the cavern, he found could be made clean by a little water. In a recess of the rock, the most obscure, he made the discovery of a niche which had evidently been used for a couch. It was softly lined with moss and leaves, and there were flowers in bunches at the head and feet which might have been grasped by the hands of youth and beauty. The impression of the head was perceptible upon a pillow of moss at one extremity, and suggested to our Maroon the idea of a lar more comfortable couch for himselt, than any which he had yet found upon his island. The sun had been rapidly sinking while he had been urging his researches, and the cheerless dusk of the horizon without, as he emerged from the cavern, determined him once more to return to its recesses. He did so, and, ascending the mysterious recess in the inner chamber. though with some hesitation, he soon sunk into a deep slumber, in which, though he dreamed of strange forms and aspects about him, he dreamed of nothing to impair the virtue of his

XIII.

But, with his awakening thoughts, apprehension, rather than pride or exultation, followed the consciousness of his new discoveries. Had he not reason to fear the return of the strange people by whom the isle was visited, as it would seem, periodically! That they were a barbarous people he could not doubt; that they would resent his presence, and treat him as an enemy, he had every reason to dread. He should be a victim to some one of their cruel sacrifices. He should be immolated on the altars of one of the bloody deities of the Carribean worship .-The man, brave by nature, and in the situation of Lopez de Levya, might well entertain such apprehensions. How much more vividly would they occur to the imagination of one so timu and feeble of soul as our Maroon. They kept him-assuming various forms of terror-in a cold sweat for several days; and though the impression was naturally weakened and dissipated the more familiar the images became, yet any immediately imperling thought brought them back upon his spirit with a ghastly and withering influence. Three days empsed after this discovery belt re he found himself able to recur to it without . vague and overpowering sense of terror. But the pearls shone in his eyes. He had grown wealthy on a sudden .the drew forth the numerous strings which he found suspended in the cavera. Every Spaniard of that day had an instinctive appreciation oftreasure. Lopez had never seen so much riches at a glance before. He examined his pearls in the sunlight. He cleansed them or their impurities by the ocean's side. And he was the master of all this glitter. He had never dreamed of such vast possessions. In Spain -but when he thought of Spain, and cent the probability, in all its lorce, that he should never again behold its shores, he was aimost moved in his desparation to fling his newly found treasure into the deep. But the latent hope, which dreamed of the possible approach of some future mariner, forbade the sacrifice; and restoring his possessions to the dark crevices from whence he had taken them, he stretched himself out upon the eminence which vaulted his possessions, and which had now become with him a lavorite place of watch, to gaze upon the broad plane of ocean by which he was girded on every hand.

XIV.

No sign of hope for the "Maroon." The sun shines with a red and scorching influence.-There is not a cloud in the sky to curtain the brazen terrors of his countenance. The ocean sleeps, smooth as glass, unbroken in its widerness of range, spread out like an endless univol of steel, that fired the very brain to gaze upon And in the sky, on the return of night, migut be seen the moon, bright but placid, nearly at her full, giving to the scene something of an aspect melancholy, such as she habitually wears herself. Not a speck upon the waters-not a speck-and, while the full continues, no possibility of a sail in sight. He tooks toward the faint uncertain line of shore, which he has fan cied to be beyond him on the south. It is no fancy now. It is certain. The subdued waves lessen the usual obstacles of vision. The line of land, if it be land and no mocking cloud appears to rise. It undulates. There are inc. qualities which strike his eye, and which, seen at that distance, cannot be subject to doubt or dishelief. He trembles with mixed feelings of hope and terror as he comes to this conclusion. Once more to behold the human form-once more to look upon the friendly aspect of man, and to say Brother!' But will the aspects be friendly that shall look upon him from from that shore? Will they hearken to his cry of pleading? Will they understand him when he uses the endearing title of "brother" to the savage chief who leads the marauding party! I hese suggestions but fill our "Maroon" with dismay.

Crouching in the shade, his eye fixed on the opposite shores, as he believes them, he starts suddenly to his feet. He passes his hand across his brows; his fingers press his eyes, as if to remove some speck, some foreign atom, from his vision. Can be believe his eyes? Does he, indeed, behold an object upon the waters search led to firsther discoveries, but all of the smooth surface of the deep. The brightness of and drapery being kept sacred from the waves. sold at prime cost.

same character. Vast stores of these shreds of hair, seemingly the accumulation of centuer. It is a boat which he beholds-it brings with it a savage enemy-the fierce cannibal of the Carribean Sea! He drops his spear, and his cross bow; his hand grapples, not his knife, but his rosary. He falls upon his knees-he counts the beads with hurried hand and failing memory. He clutches the agnus Dei; he stains it to his lips, and with many a broken invocation to some favorite saint, he hurries away to put himself in shelter.

His search has fortunately enabled him to find

many places of temporary hiding, such as would

probably suffice for safety during the staywhich was evidently brief always -of the savages by whom the islet was visited. At first, he thought of occupying a dense piece of copse which lay at a little distance in the rear of the elevation in which the cavern was found. But a doubt whether this would not be penetrated, in a desultory ramble of the intruders after fruit, and a curious desire to be in some situation which would enable him to watch their pro-ceedings, led him to abandon this idea. The cave itself was obviously one of their places of greatest resort. It was here that their religious rites were performed. The islet itself was unemployed. It was a place set apart and sacred to some special and superior purpose. The vaulted chamber was the place of their mysteries. He determined that it should be the place of his concealment. He had sought out all its secret places. He had seen that certain of their remains, their shreds of hair, their baskets of shell, their broken arrows, had been undisturbed for a long season; and behind these, in convenient fissures of the rock, which were wholly unlighted by the day, he prepared to bestow himself. The suggestions of the naturally timid person, under a consciousness of approaching danger, are usually prompts enough. Lopez de Legya hurried to execute the plan he had conceived. He entered the cave ere vet the strangers could behold any movement on the shore. His provisions, a supply for several days at least, had been already transferred to the safe keeping of the vaulted apartment.-These were all disposed of, conveniently to his reach, in the crevice of the rock in which his own person was to find security. And, all prepared, he planted himself within the mouth of the cave, auxiously looking forth—yet not so as to be seen -- for the unknown object of his ap-

The strange object is indeed a boat-a large canoe with two banks of oars-one of those long and stately barges in which the Carribean was wont to go form for wat or ceremonial. its sides was gaudily and richly painted. Its poop was raised with a triumphal canopy of dyed cotton above it. Its prow was lofty and sharp, and bore, for a figure, head, the savage jaws of a Cryman, or American crocodile. The rowers of the boat were men, but all besides were women. These were eight in numberseven who sat forward, and near the prow, and one who sat in the stern, alone and under the canopy. The course of the boat was regulated by the oars men. The women at the prow were all richly clad in stained cotton garments. Their heads were tressed with strands of pearl; their necks, which were bare, were covered with similar decorations. Each, in her hand, bore a bunch of arrows and a baskekt of arromantic gums, and bundles of wood similarly arromatic These females were all evidently matrons, none of them being less than thirty years of age, and all of them wearing the experience of look and bearing which is common to those who have been mothers. But she who sat alone at the stern was evidently none of these. She could not have been more than unen years old and looked wild and startled as a young fawn, for the first time venturing forth without its dam in company. She was quite as beautiful as she was young; her skin less dark than was usual among the Carribean Indians-not much more dark, indeed, than was that of the Spaniard; and the red blood coursing at moments, from her her heart into her checks, suffusing at with the most exquisite tints of unocence and youth. She was well formed and tall. Her hair streamed down over her back and shoulders. Her bosom was quite bare, without pearl or any other ornament .-Her dress was of white cotton, purely white, without any of those rich and gaudy dyes, which were so treely used by her people. Before her was a small earthen vessel half covered, from which a slight smoke continued to ascend, as if from a hidden fire below. Into this, at intervals, the maden might be seen to fling a fine powder which she scooped out of a gourd that lay beside her. Numerous baskets of flowers and shells by at her feet, and a bunch of arrows es ed upon her lap. The oars-men were all habited as warriors. Their brows were grave. No words passed among them or among the women, until, as they drew nigh the shore, the latter suddenly broke out into a wild, and not unmusical chaunt, which made our Maroon recoil within his vaulted chamber, with an indefinite sense of terror. At this sound the rowers dropped their oars; the boar lay upon her centre, and the women prepared to leave her, tho' they were still more than thirty paces from the shore. But the water was exceedingly shallow where the vessel lay; the beach which formed the esplanade of the cave, stretching out boldly tor some distance into the sea. Availing themselves of their knowledge of the bar, the women stepped forth upon a ridge, where the ocean, disarmed of its billows, swept along gently to the level of their knees. They brought forth their billets of fragrant wood, their baskets of shell, their sheaves of arrows, their vessels of odorous gums and incense. Then, taking the damsel from beneath the canopy at the stern, they bore her, with anxious solicitude upon their shoulders from the vessel to the shore; her teet

One of their number seemed to counsel and direct the rest, and it was with reelings of new horror, that our Maroon beheld in her grasp, as she led the way to the cavern, a sharp broad instrument of stone, that greatly resembled a butcher's cleaver. His apprehensions were not now for himself. For what was the unhappy damsel destined? For the sacrifice! For what crime, what penance, what terrible superstition? To appease the malice of what bloody god, was this poor child, so young, so beautiful; so evidently innocent; to be made the victim? Her sad and fearful looks, the tears which now gathered in her eyes, the wild chaunt of the women, and the stern, grave aspects of the men -these all seemed to denote an occasion of wo and terror. The men did not leave the bout; hey drew no nearer to the land. The shore seemed to be a consecrated one, which the masculine footstep was not allowed to pollute. The girl, still borne upon the arms of the women, and following her who seemed to be the officia. ting priestess, was carried into the cavern; the wild chorus of the women being resumed as they entered the gloomy portals, and reverber. ating from the walls within, with a sound at once sweet, awful and inspiring.

Our " Maroon" was already crouched, close,

in his place of hiding. He beheld in silence and safety, but with an awful beating at the heart, the whole of the strange procession. He saw the women circling the altar stone with wild contortions and a strange unearthly song. He saw them, from several branches of wood, draw forth the bilets, with which they kindled thane upon the stone. The fire was drawn from the vessel which had been supplied with fuel on the voyage by the hand of the young damsel. She sat apart, on a low projection of the wall, to which she had been conducted, and but a few paces from the cavity in which Lopez found retreat. She took no part in the ceremony, though she seemed deeply interested in its progress. At certain pauses in the wild incantions particularly when certain emphatic sounds or words closed the chaunt, she clasped her hands aloft, and her groan was audible, as il in supplication. The fire began to blaze addenly above the stone, and its strange gleams payed in lively tints upon the gloomy walls of he cavern. Then the circling dance and the chorus were renewed. Then at certain sounds, the women paused and at such moments, the maiden rose, and, approaching the flame, threw into it fragments of wood or gum with which she had been supplied. At all such additions, solves the Union. The only cement of the Union is in the affection for our institutions, he flame blazed up more brightly, and the brightened by common sufferings and dangers, and in doing justice and practising charity and haunt was more wild and vigorous that ever. At length it ceased; and, in an instant, every woman crouched down around the stone where she stood, except the one who seemed to act as riestestess. She did not join in the chorus of the others, but in a low chaunt of her own performed some separate office. She now approached the maiden, and conducted her toward the attar. At her words, the damsel bent over the heads of the kneeling women, separately, and her tears tell fast as she murmored in their several ears. She took from the necks of each er strands of pearl. They themselves unbound hem from their own tresses, which now hung down mournfully, of great length, from every shoulder. The pearls were collected by the riestess and laid apart. Our "Maroon," from is place of worch followed with keen eyes, and saw where she laid them. The women now receded. The girl embraced them each, with a deep sobbing, and they responded with minging sighs and songs, while passing out of the hamber in which they left her with the officiaing woman. When their voices were heard only i om the seashore, where they had now assembled, the maiden was conducted to the alar place by her matron-like companion. Her nournful utterance announced some sadder ceremonial. The girl answered her by a cry and threw herself at her feet before the altar. The woman knelt upon one knee. The head of the maiden was supported upon the other from which the long black hair depended, half shrouded the drapery of the priesess. Very ender were the iew words which then passed between the two. The girl clasped her hands ogether, and her tearful eyes were full of the sweetest but saddest resignation. The woman smoothed her tresses out with her fingers, stoopal and kissed affectionately the lips of the child, and while everything betokened nothing less than the truest sympathy, and the most heartich and generous affection between them, what was the horror of our "Maroon"-now deeply interested in the event-to see the woman possess herself of the broad knife of stone which lay on the foot of the altar. Timid and feeble as he was of soul, his lingers clutched his knile with a convulsive resolution, which, in the case of a braver spirit, would have long before declared itself in action!

GREAT CAVES, -A summer tourist, writing com Saaron Springs to the New York Journal of Commerce, gives a description of two caves or great size, near Schonarie Court House, New York. One callen Howe's, Cave situated about 17 miles from the Springs, and five from the Seamaries Court House, and been explored a lepta of seven miles tarough limestone rock, and contains a lake, on which is a boat for visitors. One portion of this cave is so yast that rockets have been sent up and do not reach the ceiling. The other cave is called Gebhard's and is about our miles east of the Schoharie Court House. It has been explored to the distance of five miles. This also is said to have a lake, ann an apartment 315 feet in diameter. Pure white alabaster has been found in it .--Howe's cave was discovered in 1842 by a Mr. Howe, who has now a hotel near it.

Miscellaneous Department.

WORDS OF SOBERNESS .- The following remarks from the Richmond Enquirer are words of soberness and truth. The doctrine of consolidation under the federal leaders appears to be making rapid strides, but the sun of liberty will have set when State sovereignty is blotted out of our national policy :- South Carolinian.

In all extuaordinary excitements like the present, great principles are unfortunately liable to be lost sight of. We have a case now before us. We have referred to Mr. Clay's attack upon Mr. Rhett's speech in which the Senator so unjustifiably threatened the sovereign State of South Carolina with the armed force of Kentucky and the General Government. The Washington Republic follows up the movement, and puts forth some heterodox doctrines, which we cannot but hold up to reprobation. No one is more anxious than ourselves for a pacific adjustment of the present controversy, none more opposed to disumon per se-but so profound a reverence have we for State sovereignty, so vital do we deem its preservation to the Union, peace and happiness of the Confederacy, that duty impels us to expose the false doctrine. The Republic, referring to the position of South Carolina, says :

"The people of the United States will not permit a secession from the Union, peaceable or otherwise of one or more of the States composing it. In self-defence, they will suppress any such attempt, at all hazards.

"The people themselves of the slaveholding States will not permit it."

This bravado is in total violation of the immortal principles laid down by our own Jefferson and Madison, as the text book of the Republican party. They taught us to regard each and every State as sovereign, and fully qualified to judge of the constitutionality of the action of the Federal Government, and to protect herself by withdrawing from the Confederacy .-This would be an extreme case, but the State horself is the only judge in this case, she has the undoubted right to adopt such a measure of protection. Appeals may be made by sister States (as was done by Virginia, in sending Mr. Leigh a Commissioner to South Carolina in the time of "Nullification,")-but force can never be thought of as one of the elements of our institutions. It is fatal madness to bring up such a mode of redress. The first blow struck by the General Government at a sovereign State dis-

good sense. The Republic commits another error, when says that the South ought not now to complain of being excluded from the new territories,

"The North, both parties concurring, distinctly notified the South, by word and by vote, before the territory was acquired, that if acquired, slavery would and should be excluded from

Now, it is well known that, on the ratification of the Mexican treaty, a motion to apply the Wilmot Proviso was voted down by the Sonate. Was not the South properly to infer from the fact that no degrading exclusion from common property would be raised against her

The Houston Telegraph says that prepara-tions are in progress in all parts of the State, for a grand expedition to the gold region that ha- been discovered in Northern Texas, not far. from the ruins of the celebrated city of Grand Quivira. Gold mines have been found all along the great chain of mountains extending from the. sources of the Arkansas and Platte rivers by Santa Fe, to the Puerco. Immense expavations are shown along the feet of these mounmins, and the ruins of vast cities indicate that these mines were once worked be millions of people. The geographical formations of this region are so similar to the gold regions of California, that they appear to be identical, and contain similar deposits of the precious metals. l'hese facts have been made known throughout Texas, and the Telegraph would not be surprised to find that the emigration to the gold region of Texas, in the ensuing autumn, should exceed the emigration to California, All along the Indian Contier, and throughout the interior. of the State, the notes of preparation are sounding, and thousands may be found wending their way to Northern Texas in the course of two or three months. The excitement in regard to its expedition has perhaps never been equalled,

An exchange says: We have not seen a single paragraph from Mrs. Partington, in relation to the female mummy which turned out to be a man. Didn't Mrs. P. have a ticket ?

The good old lady did have a ticket sent to her, with, as she said, "Mr. Gliddon's implements. But, deary me," she continued, "I didn't keer much about the dummy, and I'm glad I didn't, for I never could have sot by, and seen that conniption Princess invested of its debilities. They say the scoffygust was all covered with high low gipseys, and the handages were fastened with gitsence and bittermen. It must have been a querious sight, a querious sight ra-

"But it turned out to be the body of a man after all," said Mrs. Smith, who had just stepped in while we were there to have a little chat, "The gracious sakes desaryo us, it didn't

though, now did it raly? Then there must 'a been a disposition practised, for Mr. Gliddon's a Yankee, and cute dumbugging, I guess, Pity he hadn't said it was pharriar's butlow, that Dr. Franklin used to say that rich widows was buried a thousand years or so afore the were the only piece of second-hand goods that flood, then he'd a' hit it."

Didn't we laugh?