



Poetry.

EDUCATION.

The Lion o'er his wild domain,
Rules by the terror of his eye;
The Eagle of the rock retains,
By force, his empire in the sky;
The Shark the tyrant of the flood,
Pursues his prey with quenchless rage,
Parent and young, unwean'd from blood,
Are still the same from age to age.

Of all that live and move and breathe,
Man only rises o'er his birth;
He looks above, around, beneath—
At once the heir of Heaven and Earth.
Force, cunning, speed, which nature gave,
The various tribes throughout her plan,
Live to preserve, from death to save—
These are the lowest powers of man.

From strength to strength he travels on,
He leaves the lingering brute behind;
And when a few short years are gone,
He soars a disembodied mind,
Destined his future course sublime
Through nobler, better paths to run,
With him the certain end of time,
Is but eternity begun.

What aids him in this high pursuit,
Opens, illumines, cheers the way,
Discerns the immortal from the brute—
God's image from the mould of clay?
'Tis Knowledge!—Knowledge to the soul
Is power, and liberty and peace,
And, while celestial ages roll,
The joys of knowledge shall increase.

Aid then the generous plan which spreads,
The light with universal beams,
And through the human desert leads
Truth's living, pure, perpetual streams,
Behold! a new creation rise,
New spirit breathed into the clod,
Whate'er the voice of Wisdom cries—
Man know thyself, and fear thy God!

From the Telescope.

A MONSTROUS SERPENT.

An account of the Anaconda, a monstrous species of serpent in the East-Indies, and of the manner of its seizing and managing its prey, in a letter from an English gentleman, many years resident there.

Some years since the command of my directors carrying me to Ceylon, to transact an affair of no little consequence, I had an apartment prepared for me on the skirts of the principal town facing the woods: at some distance from my windows there stood some large palm trees, that afforded me a delightful prospect. One morning as I was looking at these trees, I saw, as I thought, a large arm of one of them in strange commotion, bending and twisting about, though there was no wind, and often striking one end to the earth, and then raising it again, and loosing it among the leaves. I was gazing at this with great amazement, when a Ceyloneze coming in, I begged him to look and wonder with me; he looked, sir, and was much more amazed and terrified than I; in short a paleness overspread his face, and he seemed almost sinking to the earth with terror. He begged me to bar up all my doors; then told me that what appeared the arm of a tree to me, was in reality a serpent of that monstrous size, diverting itself there with its various contortions, and now and then darting down to the earth for its prey. I soon found out the truth of what he told me and looking more nearly, saw it seize a small animal before me, and take it into the tree. Inquiring after this miracle, the Ceyloneze told me that the wonder was only that the creature was so near us, for it was a serpent but too well known in the inland parts and woods, where it often dropped down from the covert of a large tree, and devoured a traveller alive. A relation so strange as this could never have gained credit with me, but that I actually saw the creature, from its size, capable of doing more than was related. It continued diverting itself till we assembled a body of twelve of us, to go on

horseback well armed to destroy him. We rode near the place, but not to expose ourselves to danger; we rode behind a thicket, from whence we might unseen level our fire-arms at him; but when we arrived there, we found him so much larger than we had conceived, that we wished ourselves at home again, and for a long time we dared not fire.—We had now time to observe the creature; and believe me, sir, all the descriptions of monsters of this kind hitherto given, are trifles to what we saw in him. The Ceyloneze all declared that he was much larger than any they had ever seen, and such a mixture of horror and beauty together, no eye but that which saw it can conceive. The creature was more than as thick as a slender man's waist, yet seemed far from fat, and very long in proportion to his thickness: often hanging himself by the tail, from the highest boughs of the tree, and reaching the ground with his head. He was surprisingly nimble, and was now diverting himself in the heat of the day with a thousand gambols round the branches of the tree, and would sometime come down and twist his tail round the bottom of the trunk, throwing himself to his whole length all round it. In the midst of one of these gambols, we were surprised to see him, all of a sudden spring up into the tree, but the cause soon appeared; an animal of the fox kind, which the serpent had seen coming towards him, he took his way to be prepared for him. He darted down upon the unwary creature, and sucked him in a few minutes, then licking his chops with a broad double tongue of a blackish color, laid himself at his ease at length upon the ground; but his tail still twisted round the tree.

In this posture I had an opportunity with horror yet with admiration to behold him. He was covered with scales like a crocodile; his head was green, with a large black spot in the middle and a yellow streak round the jaws; he had a yellow circle of a gold color round his neck. His sides were of an olive color, and back more beautiful than can be described; his head was very flat but extremely broad, and his eyes monstrously large, and very bright and terrible. When he moved about in the sun, he was, if possible, a thousand times more beautiful than before, the colors according to the several shades of light, presenting a vast variety of hues, in many places looking like our changeable colors in silk. We all aimed our pieces at him as he lay and fired at his head once; but whether he accidentally moved just at the time or our fears made us take bad sight, we either missed him or never hurt him, for he took no notice of it; and after a council of war we all agreed to make no further attempt upon him at that time, but to go home and return with a stronger party next day. The Ceyloneze seemed to know the creature well; they called it Anaconda, and talked of eating its flesh when they caught it, as they had no small hopes of this; for they say when one of those creatures chooses a tree for his dwelling, he seldom quits it for a long time. I detained my company to dine with me, and the afternoon was spent in relating the amazing things which one or other of the company had seen of these sort of monsters; in short, they told abundance of things that far outwent my credulity; but what we saw the next day as much exceeded all they had told me, as what they had told me seemed to exceed truth and probability. It seems the custom of this creature is to lie in wait for its prey, by hiding in the boughs of large trees, from which it unexpectedly drops upon the creature before it sees an ene-

my; but the instance we saw of this, I must relate to you. The next morning, sir, we assembled to the number of 100, at the same thicket, where we had the pleasure (if I dare call it so) to find our enemy at his old post. He seemed very fierce and very hungry this morning, and we soon saw the effect of it.

There are great plenty of tigers in that country; and one of these, of a monstrous size, not less than a common heifer, as he went along, came at length under the serpent's tree, and swift as thought the serpent dropped upon him, seizing him across the back a little below the shoulders, with his horrible mouth, and taking in a piece of his back bigger than a man's head; the creature roared with agony, and to our unspeakable terror, was running with his enemy towards us; his course, however, was soon stopped, for his nimble adversary winding round the body of his prey, girded him so violently, that he soon fell down in agony. The moment the serpent had fixed his folds, he let go the back of the creature and raising and twining round its head opened its horrid mouth to its full extent, and seized the whole face of the tiger in it, biting and grinding him in a horrid manner, and at once choking and tearing him in pieces. The tiger reared up again on this, and words are too poor to paint his seeming agony; he writhed and tossed about, but all in vain, his enemy wherever he went was with him, and a hollow roaring from within the devourers mouth was dreadful beyond expression. I was for firing on the creature in this state but they all declared against it; they told me they knew his customs so well, that they were now very sure of him without any trouble or hazard, if they let him alone; but if they disturbed him in this condition, he would be so outrageous, that several of their lives would assuredly pay the forfeit.—They, seemed to know so well what they were about, that I readily acquiesced.—Several of us spent the whole day in observing this sight; and surely the agonies of the tiger were beyond all that can be conceived, and his death more horrid than a thousand other deaths with all their torture put together. The tiger was a strong and fierce creature, though unable to hurt or get rid of his cruel enemy, yet gave him a world of trouble; a hundred times would he rear up and run a little way, but soon fall down again, partly opposed by the weight, and partly by the wreathed twists of the serpent round his body; but though he fell he was far from being conquered.

After some hours he seemed much spent, and lay as if dead; and the serpent who had many times girted himself violently round him, attempted to break his bones, but in vain, now let go his hold, and twisting his tail only round the tigers neck, who was now in no condition either to resist or escape, he made towards the tree, dragging with some pains the tiger after him.

Nature, it seems informs this animal, that though it can conquer such large creatures as these, it can by no means devour them as they are, as their bodies are too thick for his swallow, and he must therefore break their bones, and reduce them to a soft mass before he can manage them. This he usually does as we saw him attempt it on the tiger, by girting his body very firmly and hard round them, by this means crushing them to pieces; but when his method will not do, he has recourse to the tree, as we now had an opportunity to observe. He dragged the tyger by degrees after him to the tree, and the creature being almost dead, unable to stand, he seized him slightly a second time

by the back, and set him on his legs against the trunk of the tree, then immediately winding his body round both the tiger and the tree several times, he girted both with all his violence, till the ribs and other bones began to give way, and by repeated attempts of this kind, he broke all the ribs and legs in four or five different places; this took up several hours, and the poor creature all this while was living, and at every crack of the bones gave a howl, though not so loud, yet pitious enough to pierce the cruellest heart, and make a man forget his natural hatred to its species, and pity its misery.

After the legs and ribs, the snake attacked the skull in the same manner, but this proved so difficult a task, that the monster, tired with fatigue, and seeing his prey in no condition of escaping, left him for the night at the foot of the tree, and retired into it himself to rest; upon which we went home, and I must assure you, I could not sleep for the poor tiger, who was naturally so strong, that we left him alive, tho' mangled in this miserable manner.

In the morning I returned with several others to the thicket; but as we rode up, we saw a strange change; the body of the tiger which was no longer to be known as such, but looked like a red lump of shapeless matter, was dragged to some distance from the tree, and shone as covered with glue or jelly; when we arrived, we saw plainly the meaning of this, the snake was yet busied about it.—He had laid the legs one by one close to the body, and was now placing the head straight before, and licking the body (which had no remaining shape of one,) and covered it with its slaver, which was what gave it that shining look, coating it over like a jelly, and rendering it fit for swallowing; and having prepared it to his mind, seized the head, and began to suck it, and afterwards the body, in his throat. This was a work of so much time, that I left him struggling at the shoulders when I went home to dinner, and by the account of those that stayed to watch him, it was night before he got it all in.

Next morning we all assembled for the last time, and the very women followed us, saying, that as the prey was gorged, there was no danger. I could by no means conceive the meaning of this, till I came to the place, but then I found it very true; the serpent had so loaded his belly, that he could not fight nor runaway. He attempted on our approach to climb up the tree, but in vain, and was soon knocked in the head with staves. We measured him, and his length was thirty-three feet four inches. He was soon cut up, and I assure you, sir, afforded a flesh whiter than veal, and as they said that eat of it, finer than any flesh whatever.

I hope the curious nature of this account will plead pardon for its length.

CHINESE HUMOR.

In the late English negotiation with the Chinese monarch, of which lord Amherst was the envoy, it appears that the whole plan was defeated, because his lordship refused to present himself on his knees, and bang his head nine times on the ground in token of his submission. If the English ministry has chosen a two year old Ram, instead of his lordship, as an envoy, he would have accommodated the Chinese monarch, with a quantum sufficit of bangs from an head nearly as hard as his own.—*Fed. Rep.*

Melancholy Accident.—On the morning of the 10th inst. a young man named John Pope, son of Mr. Elisha Pope, of this county, having rode out alone, was thrown by his horse against a tree with the most fatal violence. He died the same evening.—*Raleigh Minerva.*