

Poetry.

HOME IN THE SKIES.

(From Blackwood's Magazine.)

When up to endless skies we gaze,
Where stars pursue their mighty ways,
We think we see from earth's low clod,
The wide and shining home of God.

But could we rise to moon or sun,
Or path where planets duly run,
Still heaven would spread above us far,
The earth remote would seem a star.

'Tis vain to dream those tracts of space,
With all their worlds, approach his face:
One glory fills each wheeling ball—
One love has shaped and moved them all.

This earth, with all its dust and tears,
Is His no less than yonder spheres;
And rain drops weak, and grains of sand,
Are stamped by his immediate hand.

The rock, the wave, the little flower,
All fed by streams of living power
That spring from One Almighty will,
Whate'er his thoughts conceive, fulfill.

And is this all that man can claim?
Is this our longing's final aim?
To be, like all things round—no more
Than pebbles cast on Time's gray shore?

Can man, no more than beasts aspire
To know his being's awful sire?
And, born and lost on nature's breast,
No blessing seek but there to rest?

Not this our doom, thou God benign;
Whose rays on us unclouded shine:
Thy breath sustains yon fiery dome,
But man is most thy favored home.

We view those halls of painted air,
And own thy presence makes them fair;
But dearer still to thee, O Lord!
Is he whose thoughts to thine accord.

Agriculture.

INDIVIDUAL ENTERPRISE.

Mr. Dawson was the son of a farmer in Berwickshire, where he was born in 1734. At the age of sixteen he proceeded to Norfolk, and other parts of England, to examine the best courses of husbandry, and store up for his own use whatever seemed likely to be introduced with advantage into his own country. Returning to Scotland, he commenced operations on the farm of Frogden in Roxburghshire, in the year 1759. Disregarding the evil anticipations of his friends and neighbours, he proceeded in his course, upon the rational plan of bringing his lands into the best possible condition. This he accomplished by the turnip husbandry, by the use of artificial grasses, then unknown in Scotland, and by the liberal use of lime, not for the purpose of scouring the soil by successive grain-crops, but to obtain the means of bringing it advantageously into grass. His object was to support upon his lands a great number of cattle, and by means of them to enable a moderate proportion of the soil to bring forth a larger crop of grain than had formerly been done by the whole. Every man who, in our own times, has attempted to improve an ill-cultivated and exhausted soil, must be sensible of the merit which attends success in such an enterprise; but in those days Mr. Dawson had to encounter difficulties which do not now exist. He had numerous prejudices to encounter; and it was nearly two years before he succeeded in training an expert ploughman, who was willing to follow out his plans. All difficulties are overcome by perseverance. Mr. Dawson's fields soon became more fertile and beautiful than those around him. This his neighbours might have overlooked, as they had disregarded the fertility produced by the costly efforts of certain enterprising land-proprietors; but as his conduct had become an object of minute attention, a more important point was speedily discovered—namely, that he was becoming a rich man. They now became eager to tread in his footsteps. Men who had once been in Mr. Dawson's service were always sure to find employment; his ploughmen were in the utmost request; they were transported to East Lothian and to Forfarshire, and every where spread the improved practice of agriculture. Roxburghshire, in the mean while, together with the adjoining county of Berwick, soon became the scene of the most active agricultural enterprises; and Mr. Dawson, independently of his own personal prosperity, had the satisfaction to live to see himself regarded and hear himself called the Father of the Agriculture of Scotland.

Soil.—Subsoil Ploughing.—The ploughing of the subsoil is a new feature in Scotch husbandry, and deserves particular attention both from the speculative and practical agriculturist. To understand its value, we must revert to matters connected with the constitution of the soil in reference to vegetation. Plants consist chiefly of certain elemental gases, in peculiar combination with earthy substances. Nature provides the grass to a certain extent, both from the atmosphere and the ground, but as the supply is inadequate for artificial and regular cropping, the farmer assists in the good work by a due administration of manures. These manures, however, excepting in the case of lime, do not greatly supply the loss of earthy substances in vegetation. In taking a heavy crop of grain from the ground, we actually carry away a portion of the soil: and if this be done repeatedly, the land must, ultimately, be diminished in bulk. To the eye of a common observer, the field after many years' cropping remains the same as ever, but in reality a portion of its contents has disappeared, and what remains is a very different kind of substance from what existed before the cropping commenced. If any one have a doubt of the correctness of these observations, let him take the stalk of any plant, and, after drying, burn it to ashes; then bray the ashes on a plate of stoneware, and he will find that the powder contains small particles of a sandy material, which will feel harsh to the fingers, or scratch upon the plate. This sandy material is silica, of

which there is a portion in every vegetable product. Besides this, there are in most vegetables carbonate of lime, carbonate of magnesia, alumina or clay, oxide of manganese, and oxide of iron, all which, along with the elemental gases, can be detected by chemical experiments.

Profits of Breeding.—Improvements began to be effected in the breeds of cattle—a department of rural economy only of secondary importance to field culture. The principal and most meritorious improvers of stock were the Bakewells, father and son. The younger Bakewell, who exceeded his predecessor in enlightened energy, having observed that moderate-sized, compact, small-boned animals were generally in the best condition, applied himself to regulate the breeding in such a manner as to develop those desirable points in his stock, and to remove what he considered blemishes. Pursuing with judgment and perseverance this line of policy, he at length produced those varieties of both cattle and sheep which, in honour of his place of residence, have been termed the *Dishley breeds*. Such was his success, that in one season he received 1,200 guineas for the hire of three rams, and 2,000 for the use of seven; and during several successive years he never obtained less than 3,000 guineas for the use of his stock of those animals. Equally extraordinary sums were realized for his cattle. *Comet*, the property of Mr. Colling, of Ketton, near Darlington, was sold by public auction for 1,000 guineas. At this sale, which took place in 1810, forty-seven head of cattle of the same breed, many of them calves, produced the gross sum of £7168 7s. There were various other sales of these excellent breeds of animals, at which great sums were realized; but these need not be specified, our object being simply to point out what may be done in the way of improvement in a single branch of rural economy by *one enterprising mind*.

MANSION HOUSE, LONDON, Oct. 22.—Captain Stewart, whom the Lord Mayor recognised as a very brave military officer, appeared before his Lordship for the purpose of being advised as to the course he should adopt to obtain recompense for a very remarkable benefit which he had rendered many years ago, to, as he had been given to understand, the under-writers at Lloyd's.

The following is the substance of a written statement which the Captain handed to the Lord Mayor. Names are omitted, for obvious reasons.

"In the latter end of the year 1811, a ship insured at Lloyd's for 30,000*l.*, and bound from London to Prince Edward Island, anchored in the port of Burin, in Newfoundland, where Captain Stewart was, with a small recruiting party. The captain of the vessel, immediately on his arrival, called a survey of the vessel, which condemned her as unfit to proceed to her destination on account of unseaworthiness, and pronounced the cargo as having incurred damage in consequence of the defect. The ship and cargo were therefore advertised to be sold, in five days, for the benefit of the underwriters. The day after, the advertisements were posted up, the first mate brought away from the vessel her docket, and made affidavit before the acting Collector of Customs, that the captain had, in two gales of wind, in her passage out, opened the hatches, for the purpose of letting in the salt water, in order to damage the cargo, and thus enable him to furnish an excuse for condemning the ship and contents in the first port he reached in North America; and that the captain had also agreed with an agent of a commercial house resident at Burin, for the purchase of the whole for 3,000*l.* Upon this statement, made upon oath, the acting Collector instantly took measures to rescue the ship and cargo, by attempting to get on board to obtain the register. The captain of the vessel, however, to prevent such an alternative, pointed his guns and armed his crew with muskets, with orders to parade the decks whenever the Collector should make his appearance along-side. The Collector, after having made attempts for three days, successively, to get on board, and been defeated in each attempt, called upon Captain Stewart, represented that he was 100 miles distant from either naval or military assistance to aid him in seizing the ship, and that there was but one day now to intervene before the sacrifice of the ship and cargo; that the transaction was a most horrible one, for he knew that a person was to pay 3,000*l.* for the whole to the captain, who was to fly to the United States of America as soon as the property should be disposed of. The representation concluded with a request that Captain Stewart would act in defence of the interests of the underwriters, who would, if some powerful interference were not made, be heavy sufferers by such base proceedings. Captain Stewart, being wholly unacquainted with mercantile affairs, asked what was meant by 'underwriters,' whereupon the collector placed before him the docket, and showed him the names of the underwriters at Lloyd's, stating to him at the same time the nature of the responsibility. To the best of his recollection, there were twenty names attached; and the Collector declared, that if the nefarious plan succeeded, these gentlemen would be compelled to pay the 30,000*l.* for which the policy was effected. Captain Stewart, shocked at such intelligence, determined, at whatever risk to himself, to render all the aid in his power, on the conviction that as a British officer he was bound to protect the interests of the British merchants. He then sent for his serjeant, and his recruiting party, consisting only of six men with side-arms, proceeded to the ship, went on board and delivered the vessel to the Collector, and the captain was placed in irons, and handed over to the magistrates. The Collector then requested that he would allow the soldiers to remain on board to guard the ship and cargo, which was readily granted, and a despatch was sent to St. John's, the capital of the Island, by

the Collector, with a detailed account of the whole proceedings to the Court of Vice Admiralty. In a few days an answer was returned, with instructions from the Judge of the Court to the Collector, and also to the magistrates, to hold the ship and cargo, and to keep the captain in prison until the agent of the owners should arrive from Prince Edward Island. It was necessary to state that the captain of the vessel, upon being taken prisoner, spoke as if he acted upon the occasion upon authority. In the month of March, the agent arrived from Prince Edward Island, at the port of Burin, and released the prisoners, in consequence of instructions from the owners, and from thence proceeded to Prince Edward Island with the ship and cargo safe. The vessel was then loaded with timber, and she arrived in the port of London without any injury, and the underwriters were thus, by the resolute and decisive interposition of Captain Stewart, protected against an enormous fraud."

The Lord Mayor said that the time of Captain Stewart's alleged interposition was so long gone by that the recollection of it, particularly as remuneration was expected to flow from that recollection, would naturally be very weak at the present moment. His Lordship asked Captain Stewart whether he had had any communication with the chairman at Lloyd's on the subject.

Captain Stewart (as our reporter understood him) said that the Chairman at Lloyd's did not appear to credit the statement, and that was the reason the present application was made to his Lordship. The facts were well known to several, who were strongly persuaded of the *bona fide* nature of his claims. If there was any misrepresentation in the statement, he was willing to submit to the penalty of contempt, to which he must be subjected in the minds of all men of honour. For the act, which had effectually prevented the heavy pecuniary loss to the underwriters, he had been much censured by Major-General Moore, then commanding the forces in Newfoundland; but when the matter was fully explained by the Judge of the Court of Vice-Admiralty, who declared that as a young officer he (Captain Stewart) had acted with remarkable judgment and decision in protecting the interests of the British residents, the Major-General withdrew his censure, and his (Captain Stewart's) conduct was highly commended by the merchants of that and the surrounding Colonies, who expressed their opinion that he was entitled to a handsome recompense for his exertions from the underwriters.

The Lord Mayor regretted that Captain Stewart had allowed so much time to pass without making application, but he expressed a hope that such a service had not entirely escaped the memories of those who were immediately interested, some of whom would probably hear of the obligations they were under to a gallant man, who now stood in need of that to which he certainly appeared to be entitled.

Captain Stewart expressed his acknowledgments in very grateful terms to the Lord Mayor for the kindness of his Lordship's sympathy, and for the very great courtesy manifested towards him. He stated that the period at which the occurrence took place being war time he preferred following his regiment to any other pursuit whatever, and he naturally concluded that, if he survived the war, advantage would not be taken of the lapse of time, to deny the validity of his claim.

The Lord Mayor—I would advise you to apply again to the Chairman at Lloyd's. I am convinced that justice will not be refused you. At all events I am convinced that if your claim be rejected some cause will be assigned, and then you will be enabled to correct any mistake or misapprehension which may have arisen with respect to the extraordinary circumstances you have stated.

Captain Stewart—I will take your Lordship's advice, and inform you of the result.

The Captain then withdrew. We understand that Captain Stewart is the man who, by leaping from the Archduke Charles transport, and swimming to shore, on the coast of North America, in the year 1816, saved the lives of nearly 300 persons, and that Government had promised to take his eminent services into consideration.—*Times*.

A short time since, the *London Times* made some severe comments on the apathy of Ministers, in paying no attention to an invention of a fearful instrument of destruction which had been pressed upon their notice by the inventor. We have copied the following description of this destructive missile, and if it can be depended upon as correct, of which we have little doubt, a more terrible weapon of warfare has never been known, and the possession of the secret by any nation, must be of immense importance:

The Instrument of Destruction!—Having had an opportunity of becoming acquainted with the operation of the fearful instrument of destruction, the discussion relative to which has almost led the public to doubt the existence of the engine altogether, so marvellous has been the account of it, we are bound to state that no description can adequately picture its most awful power. It is small, about twice the size of a cricket ball, and somewhat pear shaped; it is fired without either flash or smoke, and without the aid of gunpowder. In the case of which we are cognizant, it was projected, at a distance of three miles, into a vessel prepared and strengthened by iron girders and clamps and extra timbers. The effect was instantaneous: the vessel was blown into a thousand fragments in less time than it takes us to describe it! And thus would it be with even the largest ship of the line. Yet the inventor of this tremendous weapon of war is absolutely denied admittance at the Treasury and Admiralty, although he most

nobly refuses £400,000, which has been offered to him by Louis Philippe. Were he not one of the most honourable, as well as one of the most gallant of her Majesty's Naval officers, he would have accepted the French King's offer, especially when it is considered that he has spent £30,000 in perfecting his invention. But he who has served under Sir Sidney Smith does not revenge himself upon his country for the wrong done him by his government.—We have called attention to this subject because we now know it to be as fearful as it is real; because we firmly believe that there was an enemy to get possession of the secret, our dominion over the sea would be at an end, and further, because we are persuaded that even for the sake of the interests of humanity the inventor's silence ought to be purchased at any cost.—*Age*.

THE DUKE OF SUSSEX.—We insert in our columns a copy of a letter addressed by His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex to his son Sir Augustus d'Este, at a period when the paternal feelings of his heart were unaffected by that sinister influence which has so long succeeded in estranging them from his meritorious offspring. Let us hope that the late solemn scenes of which His Royal Highness has been an eye-witness, and the personal affliction under which we regret to learn, he still suffers, may be so overruled as to lead him to attend to the admonitory voice of public opinion, which has been so unequivocally expressed through the press, by asserting and maintaining for his children what the highest legal authorities in the United Kingdom and in Germany have declared to be their undoubted birthright. The Duke of Sussex may be assured, that such efforts would alike contribute to his public reputation and to his domestic comfort; for, though they should prove unavailing, they would convince the country, and history would record the fact, that the Royal Duke is not deficient in those household virtues which Englishmen prize so highly. It will be seen by the address of the subjoined letter that Sir Augustus d'Este was, at that time, acknowledged by his father as Prince Augustus Frederick of Sussex, and yet, if report speaks the truth, that son is, without a cause, left to contend, not merely unaided, but discountenanced, by his father, to defend his mother's fame and his own honour. The remarks of the *Sun* on the conduct of His Royal Highness towards his own children when the Regency Bill was before Parliament should be seriously pondered within the limits of Kensington Palace. The genuineness of the letter is unquestionable:—

"Endymion, off Cape Finisterre,
January 13, 1801.

"My dear Son,—To day begins not only a new year, but also a new period of your life, for which you ought to feel particularly grateful to your creator. This you can only do by a virtuous and good conduct, which, at your time of life, consists in an entire confidence in God Almighty, in a dutiful submission to your parents and masters, and in being diligent at your studies, avoiding idleness as the mother of all vice, which is the only thing you ought eternally to hate.

"At seven years old, you are no more a child, but a boy—therefore you must put all childish things away; thus by degrees you will grow up a man—which is a good Christian, a useful member of society—the satisfaction of your fond parents.

"In hopes of this, I pray to the Almighty to take you under his all-powerful protection—that he may graciously please to guard you from all danger, and keep you in the right path of virtue.

"God bless you, my dear son; thus writes your truly affectionate father and friend,

"AUGUSTUS FREDERICK.

"To my dearly beloved Son;
Prince Frederick Augustus,
40, Lower Grosvenor-street,
Grosvenor-square, London."

The very beauty of this letter, (as it has been well observed,) setting forth feelings which do honour to human nature, makes the recent proceedings of the Duke of Sussex more inexplicable.

BANKING.—It is well known that Scotland—a poor country compared with England as regards the average fertility of her soil—has been for the last half century a long way in advance of England in Agriculture. Ireland, on the contrary, so much more fertile than England, is, in this respect, half a century behind us. The mere politician tells us, that these anomalies may be traced to partial laws—meaning *political* partiality—whereas, we think they may be at once traced to the three parts of the kingdom having enjoyed unequally the advantages of COMMERCE in one of its most important branches. Scotland had the advantage of many years' start before England in a free system of Banking; Ireland laboured under the disadvantage of having hardly any Banks at all. There is no term which so well exemplifies the meaning of the word COMMERCE as Banking, when legitimately carried on. Its object is to remove trade as far as possible from a state of barter; but its collateral uses extend much further. By the joint action of deposits and loans it keeps all the savings of income employed in further production. It thus gathers all the seed which cannot be consumed this year to increase the harvests of future years. It makes the tradesman use his surplus capital in the cultivation of the soil—it causes the farmer to use his savings in the promotion of trade. And in the same proportion that the system of Banking in any country is sound and convenient, in that proportion will capital be found employed in reproduction, and the powers of the soil to be called forth.—*London Journal of Commerce*.

"A mother who works her fingers' ends off, in order that her daughter may attain and preserve a delicacy of appearance, is more to be blamed for her folly than praised for her diligence, or extolled for her wisdom." A remark, worthy of, though not from Mrs. Sigourney's *Mother's Book*.

CHARLOTTETOWN: Printed and published by JAS. B. COOPER & Co., Printers to the Honourable the House of Assembly, at their Office, East corner of Pownall and Water Streets.—TERMS 15s. per annum, payable half yearly in advance.