

COMMUNICATIONS.

Mr. Editor,

Perusing your paper the other evening, I was pleased with some verses written by the Rustic Bard of Richmond Bay. When I say I was pleased, I mean with the simple and easy style. For the subject 'Prince-Town's Lament' I cannot say much. Poring over the probable consequences likely to result to St. Eleanor's in the monopoly of the County Jail; I fell into a train of thoughts which for their infinity had well nigh bewildered my brain; fortunately, however, as is usual with me on such occasions, terminated in a long nap which all the interest I felt could not prevent. Had the theme ended here it had been well, but the subject gave rise to endless incidental effects. Methought I was strolling beside the margin of Indian river, near Oyster Cove, admiring the beautiful expanse of water, marking the gentle undulations of the stream, and enjoying the zephyr of a calm summers evening, in distant perspective was seen the village spire. The sun was sinking with radiant splendour below the horizon, and leaving his crimson tinge on the far off western hills; a dead silence seemed to preside o'er nature's works. As I watched the bark of an Indian canoe as it receded from my sight—in the same direction, gazing intently on this object, methought I could discern a luminous body on the surface of the river that excited my curiosity, and keeping my eye fixed, it seemed gradually to increase in size, and the stillness of the evening enabling me almost to hear a leaf fall. I shortly distinguished strains of the most melodious music, softly stealing on the wind not unlike the Eolian Harp—and on its more near approach became so captivating to the auricular sense, from its delicate and tender notes, as to intimate that it proceeded from some celestial choir, than any thing appertaining to this system.

As it approached more near the notes became more distinct, and seemed to proceed from a number of instruments, and the soft notes of the flute bore a prominent part. The full moon had risen some time, though obscured by an opaque cloud soon broke forth, and presented the most sublime object my eyes ever beheld, words would be inadequate to describe the impression it seemed to make on my senses. With the aid of the bright luminary I observed a superb yacht, or pleasure-boat, skimming along the surface of the stream, impelled by some twenty silver oars, keeping time with the music. It seemed to near the spot of the shore where I stood, near enough to see more particularly this splendid vessel, her sails from the circumference of its being calm hung with graceful negligence on her masts, and had rather the appearance of rich and gorgeous ban-

ners emblazoned with gold. She came methought within a few yards of the shore, when a small skiff seemed to put off, and paddled by a handsome youth who received me, and by signs requested me to repair on board. I felt methought no hesitation, being powerfully influenced by curiosity. In a few minutes I was on board, and if I was surprised at the beauty of this vessel as I beheld her from the shore, words would be vague to express the astounding splendour and magnificence of this exquisite vessel.

I was met methought on the gangway by the Genii of Prince-Town, who welcomed me by signs but spake not, but with his usual dignified deportment conducted me aft the yacht, and presented me to a female, who appeared to preside over this fairy scene, she sat half reclined on a couch raised high on the poop of the vessel, surrounded by a company of ladies, whose charms exceeded all terrestrial females, and surpassed in loveliness, beauty herself. When on board this handsome craft, she appeared far superior in point of magnitude, and in grandeur equal to an audience chamber of an eastern monarch. Beneath the feet was an exquisite wrought Persian carpet, with couches of down arranged with taste, and covered with crimson velvet, embroidered and studded with diamonds or precious stones. Over the head was drawn a sumptuous awning of purple silk, and round the sides hung in elegant folds of the same materials. The whole of the attendants of this beautiful queen, (those admitted into her presence,) were all females, they appeared to pay her great deference, but rather savored of affection, than that fawning system so much in practice at other courts: most of them were reclining on the various couches that furnished the aquatic drawing room. The sofa whereon the princess sat was more elevated than the rest; a few feet to the right was a red cushion about four feet high, whereon lay a crown and sceptre or regalia, intimating I supposed, the presence of Royalty. On a kind of ottoman in front of her Majesty a little below her, sat a living figure, that a Grecian Sculpture might have chosen for the purest model of symmetry. She appeared to represent Commerce; in her right hand she held an entablature description of trade, bales of goods, shipping et cetera, and beside her lay globes and instruments of science, and a cap of Liberty on flag staff. On one side the genius of commerce carved round an ivory pillar, a coracopia over the top of which poured forth a profusion of pure virgin gold, in divers coins, into a square receptacle written thereon in phosporic italics, "Treasury Nationalis."

I observed one thing that appeared very singular, a little forward or about midship of the yacht, was fixed a pedestal about three feet and a half high, and on the top

was a kind of vase constructed from the precious metal containing incense that sent forth an odoriferous perfume that scented the whole vessel and the surrounding atmosphere, and from time to time would blaze like a meteor. There stood on one side of the pedestal a lovely damsel, who held in her hand a small torch, the hilt of which shone with a brilliancy indescribable, and whenever and anon she waved it over the incense, it emitted a pure lamberent flame that rivaled the queen of night. The vessel was all the time moving gently down the stream, a perfect silence prevailed, nor had one word been spoken, all was either dumb show, enigmatical or emblematical, the deviation was left me to construe according to my own ideas. I was methought too much embarrassed at the time to make much comment, I was too much overawed to interrupt the profound silence, but must have appeared perfectly amazed or confused by such singular circumstances, when fortunately the Genii entered, and to relieve me made a sign to walk forth on the deck. We were cutting through the water at a brisk rate, and several youths were busy in trimming the sails, she must now have had a most gallant appearance, the wind blew a gentle breeze a little abate her beam. I have read of Cleopatra sailing down the Nile, and if she surpass this superb set-out words would not describe her splendour.

We were now methought rounding a point, having hauled our wind and laying close upon it. In a moment the sheets were let go and away we went before it, riding abreast a magnificent city on our larboard bow. This fairy-like display or preternatural appearance must have had a most imposing effect, melodious strains of music, the phosporic meteor, the hour of night, all was calculated to impress the inhabitants with wonder, awe, and admiration. That we were seen from the city admitted of no doubt, which was evinced by a discharge of musketry from the battlements. In a moment from the dead silence of the midnight watch interrupted only at intervals by the melancholy hail or response of 'All's well,' all was bustle and life, had an enemy's line of battle ship appeared off the town, it could hardly have produced a more sudden movement, in a short time from entire darkness it appeared brilliantly illuminated, the ordnance poured forth loud peals of thunder, the bells in the various steeples rang their merry changes, the brazen trumpet's shrill blast was answered by the distant echo of the bugle horn, with various fires on the adjacent hills gave additional effect to this midnight scene. As we receded from the city its appearance was grand, and to the eye like Venice, emerging from the watery element. Turning myself from the sublime picture, and resting my arm on the gun-whale of the bark, my eye fell full on the