

POETRY.

THE PAUPER'S DEATH BED.

Tread softly—bow the head—
In reverent silence bow;
No passing-bell doth toll,

Stranger! however great,
With lofty reverence bow;
There's one in that poor shed—

Beneath that beggar's roof,
Lo! Death doth keep his state;
Enter—no crowds attend—

That pavement, damp and cold,
No smiling courtiers tread;
One silent woman stands,

No mingling voices sound—
An infant wail alone;
A sob suppressed—again

Oh! change—oh! wondrous change—
Burst are the prison bars;
This moment there, so low,

Oh! change—stupendous change!
There lies the soulless clod;
The Sun eternal breaks—

CAROLINE BOWLES, (Mrs. Southey)

POLITICS AND NEWS.

(From the London Times, March 29.)

We wish to call attention to an advertisement which appeared in our yesterday's paper, and which we would hope, free from that jobbery which has characterized but too many English Emigration schemes.

That the memorialists are of opinion, that colonization conducted on a large scale and sound principles offers a safe and effectual means of augmenting trade, affording employment for various classes, and removing some of the causes of general distress; and that, impressed with the necessity of doing something for improving the state of the country, they earnestly hope that Her Majesty's Government will take the subject of systematic colonization into their immediate and serious consideration, with a view of ascertaining in what manner the best practical results may be attained.

That the memorialists address themselves to the head of Her Majesty's Government, because they conceive that in the present condition of the country the subject of systematic colonization is rather of great national importance than one in which the colonies have a particular interest.

It cannot be denied that the number and respectability of the memorialists, as well as the professed object of the document, give it a prima facie character superior to that tribe of prospectuses which issue monthly from every kind of solvent and insolvent company, society, and association, and to which we have had very frequent occasion to direct notice of the most unfavourable kind.

These recommendations, however, are far from affording sufficient excuse for relaxing any portion of our habitual jealousy with respect to every movement of this highly responsible nature. We have learnt by experience that there is no such thing as a security against jobbery.

The great commercial feature of the present moment is an unfortunate one, being obviously this—that there is most inadequate employment for capital or labour. We have more men and money than we know what to do with.

In adding the paramount necessity that this new and enlarged action should be commenced with the assistance, by the watchful superintendence, of the nation itself.

Men, however, must remember the magnitude of that which they attempt. It is no temporary plethora which is to be remedied—no single crisis which is to be averted by a convulsive effort once and forever—no evil which is to be called at a blow. If our population is really redundant—a question, by the way, not to be too hastily decided—but if it is a "systematic colonization" "on a large scale" is really required as a vent for those throngs which our teeming country is yearly multiplying—if emigration is really wanted as a part of our national economy—it will be wanted more largely every year.

and more continued draught. Its very success stimulates the population which it relieves, and is worse than nothing if it does not exhibit the same expansive power as that principle of increase which it is intended to counteract.

Nothing certainly short of supreme authority can undertake such a task. It remains to be seen, and we refrain from prophesying, how supreme authority will accomplish it.

AERIAL STEAM CARRIAGE.

(From Newton's London Journal of Arts, Sciences, &c., for April.)

It is much to be regretted that men of letters connected with the periodical press, to whom the public look with confidence for information upon all subjects of notoriety, should generally betray such extreme ignorance of the elementary principles of science, and even of the established laws of nature, as to give countenance to any absurd scheme that may arise, and present to the world, with vaunting pretensions, projects the most visionary and fallacious.

Under this designation, we have long felt satisfied that the proposed aerial machine must be classed; and we have seen, with no small degree of astonishment, not only that many intelligent and highly-respectable persons have been induced to listen coolly to this wild project, but also that Parliament has condescended to entertain a bill for forming a joint-stock company to carry this wonderful chimera into active existence.

We have delayed the publication of the present number of our JOURNAL, in order to inspect and give a report of the specification of this invention, which has been just enrolled; and to discover, if possible, some new feature which might give colourable plausibility to the project; but no such feature is there developed.

The apparatus consists of a car, containing the goods, passengers, engine, fuel, &c.; to which a rectangular frame made of wood or bamboo cane, and covered with canvas, or oiled silk, is attached: this frame extends, on either side of the car, in a similar manner to the outstretched wings of a bird, but with this difference—that the frame is immovable.

The amount of canvas or oiled silk necessary for buoying up the machine is stated to be equal to one square foot for each half-pound weight, the whole apparatus being about 3000 lbs., and the area of surface spread out to support it, 4500 square feet in the two wings, and 1500 in the tail, making altogether 6000 square feet.

ROYAL AND PARLIAMENTARY TELEGRAPH.—We are enabled this week to make a communication interesting to men of science, curious and most important in itself. Mr. Cook, the joint Patentee with Professor Wheatstone, of the Voltaic Telegraph, has been commissioned to lay down a line from the Paddington station of the Great Western Railway to Windsor Castle, and carry it thence to the Parliament-houses and Buckingham Palace.

POLITICAL PROSPECTS.—We believe that an impression is gaining ground that the present session, like the last, will pass away without even the introduction of one single measure intended to improve either the political or the social condition of the country.

THE LATE AWFUL EARTHQUAKE IN THE WEST INDIES.—It is a remarkable circumstance that, about forty-eight hours preceding the appalling earthquake which visited Guadaloupe and other West India Islands, joining, a terrific hurricane suddenly broke out in the British Channel, which lasted several hours, and which extended over a very considerable space, both of sea and land.

WESLEYAN PETITION ON BEHALF OF THE SCOTCH CHURCH.

We have great pleasure in directing the attention of our readers to the petition of the ministers of the Wesleyan body in London to the Legislature, in behalf of the claims of our Church. It bears the names of some of the most pious, enlightened, and influential ministers of that body,—"names," says the Watchman, "some of which, at least, will be remembered and loved while Wesleyan Methodism has a history in which to record them, or while Wesleyans have hearts to glorify God in his most honored servants."

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.—On Wednesday, last two great meetings (one at 1 o'clock p. m., the other at 7 o'clock in the evening) were held in the Waterloo-room, Edinburgh, to hear statements from the Deputation lately sent to London by the Special Commission. The Right Hon. Fox Maule presided at the first meeting, and the Lord Provost at the second.

ANOTHER DECISION AGAINST THE CHURCH.—The action of damages raised at the instance of Mr. Clark, against the majority of the Presbytery of Dunkeld, for refusing to take him on trial as presentee to Latheby parish, has been tried in the Edinburgh Court of Session, Lord Cunningham presiding.

THE NUMBER OF MINISTERS NOW ADHERING TO THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE CONVOCATION ARE,—To the First Series, 520; to the Second, 474.

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OCCUPATION OF OTAHEITE BY THE FRENCH.—Extract of a private letter from Otaheite, dated Dec. 28, 1842:—"You will no doubt be surprised to hear that the French have taken possession of this island, the capital of the Society Islands, under the pretence of the natives having offered an insult to a few adventurous years we have had a Protestant mission here, who these islands to Christianity, as well as those of the Friendly Islands (Tonga), the Navigator's Island, and the Sandwich Islands—in fact, the whole of Polynesia has made a wonderful progress within the last few years towards civilization and Protestantism.

LEGAL DIGNITY.—Amongst the traditions of Westminster Hall is one of a certain Sergeant Davy, who flourished some centuries back, in a darker age than the present. He was accused once upon a time, by his brethren of the cof, of having degraded their order by taking from a client a fee in copper; and being solemnly arraigned for this offence in their Common Hall, it appears, from the unwritten reports of the Court of Common Pleas, that he defended himself by the following plea of confession and avoidance:—"I fully admit that I took a fee from him in copper; and not only one but several; and not only fees in copper, but fees in silver; but I pledge my honour as a sergeant that I never took a single fee from him in silver until I had got all his gold, and I never took a single fee from him in copper till I got all his silver—and you don't call that a degradation of our order?"

a predilection towards Englishmen and English ministers of the Gospel, the Queen in particular, and the leading chiefs. We have always experienced the most friendly intercourse in all matters of commerce with the aborigines, who purchase freely our British manufactures in exchange for their own produce—coral, silks, drugs, corn, gold, and silver, &c. It appears to many of us a rather extraordinary thing that the British Government has not had the policy to place the whole of the islands of the South Pacific or Polynesia under its protection, as they are not only most fertile, producing vegetation, fruits, corn, drugs, fish, horned cattle, sheep, pigs, poultry, &c., in abundance, and one of the finest and most healthy parts of the southern regions, but afford so great an opening to our commercial relations between India, China, and New South Wales, with the Mexican Republic, the Isthmus of Panama, Lima, Valparaiso, and the whole of Peru and South America, as far as Cape Horn, throwing the wide Pacific open to our industry.

EARLY MARRIAGES.—Early marriages, whenever they can be contracted with an ordinary regard to prudence, are among the best preventatives of a dissolute life; and whoever contributes to hinder the formation of these may be regarded as standing chargeable with their share of it—ranked among the causes of prostitution. I deny not that prudence is a virtue, and that the question of marriage is a proper sphere for its exercise. But there cannot be a doubt that the high notions which, by the refinement and extravagance of our times, have been introduced, of the style in which young men entering on life must set up their domestic establishments, have, in many instances, laid restraints on the early cultivation of virtuous love, and prevented the happy union of hearts in youthful wedlock.

SAINTS' DAYS, &c.—The Puseyites date their letters as follows:—"The Feast of the Visitation, B. V. M.," "The Feast of Transfiguration," "The Feast of St. Matthew," &c. On the Rev. Sydney Smith recently receiving a letter from one of those formal gentlemen, headed and dated after this fashion, he began his letter in reply as follows:—"Baking-day, eve of Washing-day."

RAILWAYS AND COACHES.—The best distinction drawn between railway and coach accidents was that of an old whip. "If," said he, "you get comfortably capsized into a ditch by the road-side, there you are; but if you get blown up by an engine, run into a cutting or off an embankment, where are you?"

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