

POET'S CORNER.

SELECTED.

ADDRESS TO CHARITY.

An Ode performed before the Female Charitable Society, in Providence, Rhode Island.

BEHOLD from yonder radiant sphere  
All bounteous Charity descend,  
To dry the weeping Orphan's tear,  
And be the drooping Widow's friend.

Thou first of human virtues hail!

To thee we consecrate the day;  
May thy persuasive voice prevail,  
And drive each selfish care away.

Columbia's daughters\* still appear,  
The foremost in thy shining train;  
'Tis their's the languid heart to cheer,  
And soften misery's keenest pain.

Far brighter than the diamond's rays  
The trembling tear in Pity's eye:  
Applauding Seraphs here might gaze,  
And wait to Heav'n the beaming light.

Ye who possess the envy'd crown  
To gratify the generous mind,  
Let some kind action mark each hour,  
Nor be to suffering merit blind.

Yet sacred is the heart-felt tear,  
By sympathy and virtue given;  
And though 'tis unavailing here,  
'Tis surely regrett'd in HEAVEN.

\* It is not known that there are in Europe any similar charitable institutions, directed and supported by Females.

THE TRIALS OF VIRTUE.

PLAC'D on the verge of youth my mind  
Life's opening scene survey'd;  
I view'd its hills of various kind,  
Amidst a boundless sea.

But chief my fear the dangers mov'd,  
That virtue's path enfold;  
My heart the wild pursuit approv'd,  
But O, what toils oppos'd!

For see, ah! see, while yet her ways  
With doubtful step I tread,  
A hostile world its terrors raise,  
Its snares delusive spread.

O! how shall I, with heart prepar'd,  
Those terrors learn to meet?  
How from the thousand snares to guard  
My unexperienced feet?

As thus I mus'd, oppressive sleep  
Soft o'er my temples drew  
Oblivion's veil. The watry deep,  
An object strange and new,

Before me rose: on the wide shore  
Observant as I stood,  
The gathering storms around me roar,  
And heave the boiling flood.

Near and more near the billows rise;  
E'en now my steps they lave;  
And death to my affrighted eyes  
Approach'd in ev'ry wave.

What hope, or whither to retreat?  
Each nerve at once unstung,  
Chill fear had fetter'd fast my feet,  
And charm'd my speechless tongue.

I feel my heart within me die;  
When sudden to my ear  
A voice descending from on high,  
Reprov'd my erring fear.

"What though the swelling surge you see  
"Impatient to devour:  
"Rest, mortal, rest on God's decree,  
"And thankful own his power.

"Know, when he bade the deep appear,  
"Thus far, (th' Almighty said,)  
"Thus far, nor farther rage, and here  
"Let thy proud waves be stay'd."

I heard, and lo! at once control'd,  
The waves in wild retreat  
Back on themselves reluctant roll'd,  
And murmur'd left my feet.

Deeps to assembling deeps in vain  
Once more the signal gave:  
The shores the rushing weight sustain,  
And check the usurping wave.

Convinc'd, in Nature's volume wise  
The imag'd truth I read;  
And sudden from my waking eyes  
Th' instructive vision fled.

"Then why thus heavy, O my soul!  
"Say, why distrustful still,  
"Thy thoughts with vain impatience roll  
"O'er scenes of future ill!

"Let faith suppress each rising fear,  
"Each anxious doubt exclude;  
"Thy Maker's will has plac'd thee here,  
"A Maker wife and good!

"He to thy ev'ry trial knows  
"Its just restraint to give,  
"Attentive to behold thy woes,  
"And faithful to relieve.

"Then why thus heavy, O my soul!  
"Say, why distrustful still,  
"Thy thoughts with vain impatience roll  
"O'er scenes of future ill!

"Tho' griefs unnumber'd throng thee round,  
"Still in thy God confide,  
"Whose finger marks the seas their bound,  
"And curbs the headlong tide."

MISCELLANEOUS.

SINGULAR OCCURRENCE,

Which happened during the American Revolution.

Extract of a letter from Dr. M——r.

Albany, 27th Dec. 1778.

BUSINESS having called me hither, I went to view the hospital, where many of our army were sick; I observed with pleasure, that no epidemical disease prevailed among them. Passing through the large hall in the midst of the hospital, I perceived a soldier, whose countenance struck me. He viewed me very attentively, finally called me, I drew nigh to him, and having seated myself, listened to him. I am a stranger, said he, however, can you not believe the words of an American soldier? The term of my engagement is almost expired; I have an extreme desire to return to my family, because I have heard that my brother is dead. I have found a man to take my place in the regiment. My father possesses a considerable estate in Virginia; what would you think of me should I request of you an hundred dollars? with that sum I can pay the sum which I have agreed to pay, go from this hospital, and again join my relations. I have the greatest desire to quit this state before the fall of snow, which is very nigh; we have no posts, consequently there remains no hopes of informing my friends of my unhappy situation. Struck by the bold, but honest request, I examined the traits of his features very attentively; I consulted the secret impression which his physiognomy produced upon me. I thought that I saw the character of honesty, and granted him the sum he requested of me. The surprise which my facility occasioned, cut short his words for a moment; but he soon shed tears which relieved him exceedingly; they were those of the most lively gratitude; he bathed my hands with them, and thanked me in the most energetic manner.

Some days after he came to see me, informed me more particularly of the state of his family, and renewed his protestations of payment the first day of February following. I had no uneasiness, and had he never returned the sum which I had lent him, I should not have lost it; for I enjoyed an exquisite pleasure in the act which I had done, and still enjoy it whenever it comes into my mind. Methinks I still see all the gestures of the young man, all the traits of his countenance, expressing the return of hope and happiness. Methinks I still hear the cry of his gratitude, rising towards his benefactor, and towards Heaven.

Five weeks after his departure, I received a letter from his father, his mother, and his uncle, a copy of which I send to you, (for I will keep the original as long as I live.) Tell me, I pray you, what you think of the offers they have made me, and what I ought to do. If I accept this astonishing return of their gratitude, I shall be considered as a mercenary, who has obliged only with a view of augmenting my fortune. If I refuse entirely, may they not accuse me of pride? I know not what to do: shall I go and reside among strangers by virtue of this singular adoption? I may perhaps expose myself to the reproaches of my friends; for it is not the opinion of the public that I dread. Tell me, I pray you, your opinion.

Virginia, Culpepper County,  
Nov. 18, 1778.

"I had two sons, one had already perished in these boisterous times, but he died defending his country; the other was also about to disappear; and you have saved his life by giving him the means whereby he might come and rejoin his relations. Already afflicted by the death of the former, I become every day more unhappy, through the fear that I should never again see the latter. But for you, perhaps this day we might have been childless. But tell us, what was the motive which induced you to that generous action; to choose our son from among so many others who equally merited your attention? Blessed be the invincible hand which conducted you secretly toward his bed, and made you listen attentively to his proposal. He has informed us that the day was the 14th of October: let it hereafter be an epoch of annual joy in our family—I consecrate it, that it may be distinguished from others by the most fervent thanks to the Supreme Being, by a suspension of labour, and by innocent pleasures. My servants shall partake with us the joy inspired by the sweet recollection; suffer them to share in the general gratitude; do not despise the care which they may take, for they are men, and I have always treated them as such. You have procured for our son, health, liberty, and the pleasure of again visiting his relations: What benefits! Happily, the young man has many friends and relations, had he not, the weight of his gratitude would be too much for him to bear. He has told me that you never have been a father; you cannot then conceive the joy, nor the paternal sensations which transport my heart; while nature has hidden them as a treasure from those to whom she has not given children.

"We are unacquainted with each other, it is true, but virtuous men are united by the bonds of intellectual consanguinity. Hereafter consider me as your friend; I will neglect nothing to merit that name; by the law of nature, I am the father of that son whom you have relieved; you are the adopted father whom nature hath given him in the critical moment when he was abandoned and in want; we are then brothers, and heaven grant this new union may last for ever!—Come and join us, come and partake with us the possession and enjoyment of all that we have;—you are already incorporated into our family; Come and take possession of that chair which awaits you at our table. My wife! But who can express the chagrin, the affliction, the joy, the surprise, the love, and all the different movements of her maternal sensibility? It was only by the most violent wringing of her hands, by her tears, and by her sighs, that you could conceive of the extent of her gratitude; not only our whole family, but all our neighbourhood, to whom your name has already become dear, will receive you as you merit deserves, and will convince you that there are still souls which have not lost, among the cruelties of this war, those sentiments which distinguish virtuous men.

"To convince you that this letter is not formed of vague words, inspired by the sudden joy of sentiments which will soon evaporate, and be forgotten; to convince you that the impression made upon our hearts by your generosity, shall be as durable as the service you have rendered us; the bearer of this letter, who is my brother's son, will deliver you an authentic and legal contract of one half of the plantation of —, accompanied by a negro, which I give you, a second coming from my son, a third from my wife's mother, and a servant from each of my brothers.—This contract, as well as the bill of sale, as you will see by the endorsement, are signed, sealed and recorded, according to law. This new property is irrevocably yours. Happy if our soil, our government, and our climate can persuade you to dwell among us!—Join this small present to your fortune; come and dwell in Virginia, where your talents, your mercy, and your humanity, are already known, and will procure you all the advantages which the esteem of a grateful family, and the enlightened neighbourhood, can produce. May this messenger which I send, find you safe and found, and bring you to our arms."

W—A—S.

An Original Anecdote of Sir Roger Curtis.

THE mirth and good humour natural to this gallant officer frequently led him into many pleasant adventures. Having received orders, while in London, to take the command of a Squadron, and hoist his flag on board the Formidable at Portsmouth, he travelled for dispatch without servants, plainly dressed, in the mail coach. As it frequently happens in this sort of conveyance, the passengers were unknown to each other, and Sir Roger found himself in company with a young man, who proved by his uniform to be a mate of the East-Indiaman then lying at the Mother Bank. When they had proceeded within a few miles of Petersfield, the young officer pulled out some cheese and bread from a bundle, and invited his fellow travellers to eat. During the repast, he entertained them with sea phrases, which induced the admiral jocosely to ask him many simple questions relating to nautical tactics, among others he demanded how sailors could see at night, and whether they were not sometimes compelled to tie the ship to a post or tree, until morning? The mate was not backward in bestowing a few hearty d——ns upon the ignorance and lubberly lingo of the admiral, who laughed heartily at the joke; and he not only bore the rough observations of the sailor with good humour, but the contemptuous grins of his fellow passengers. On their arrival at Portsmouth, the admiral shook hands with the mate, and went on board his ship. The same day Sir Roger came on shore in his broad gold-laced hat and uniform; he was attended by several of his bargemen, and while walking up Point-street, he met his late fellow-passenger, the mate of the Indiaman.—Before the latter could recover from his surprise, Sir Roger accosted him with "What cheer, messmate; you see I am not the lubber you took me for; but come, as I breakfasted out of your locker this morning, you shall splice the main-brace with me this evening; then you may square your yards and run before the wind to the Mother-Bank." The mate with astonishment, apologized as well as he was able, for the liberty he had taken with the admiral, who soon released him from his embarrassment, and advised him over a bottle, never to be decoyed, in future, by false colours, but to look sharply at the mould and trim of every vessel he met before he suffered them to surprise him. [Lon. paper.]

MAXIM.

HE who is puffed up with the first gale of prosperity, will bend beneath the first blast of adversity.

ELECTRICAL EELS.

[From that part of M. Humboldt's Travels which has appeared in Europe under the title of "Tableaux de la Nature."] "THE marshy streams of Bera and Eltro are full of electrical eels, whose slimy body, dashed with yellowish spots, communicates in every direction, and spontaneously, a violent shock. These gymnasts are about six feet long; and, when they suitably direct their organs, armed with an apparatus of multiplied nerves, they are able to kill the most robust animals. The people of Urutu have been under the necessity of changing the road on the Steppe, because the number of these eels had increased to such a degree, that, in every year, many horses, struck with their benumbing influence, were drowned in crossing the ford of a small river. All fishes shun the approach of this formidable eel. It even frequently surprises men, who, standing on the steep bank, are fishing with a hook, the wetted line conveying the fatal commotion. In this instance, the electrical fire is discharged from the very bottom of the waters."

THE IONIAN ACADEMY.

THE Ionian Academy established at Corfu, for the restoration of the arts and sciences, held its sitting on the 15th of August last. It was then determined, that in imitation of ancient Greece, the academy should every fifth year distribute Olympic prizes, computing therefore, from the period when the academy was created by the French government, the next prizes will be distributed in 1812, which will form the first year of the 648th Olympiad. The prizes will consist of medals, bearing on one side the image of Buonaparte, with this inscription: "Napoleon, our benefactor and protector." On the other side a star will be seen with these words: "To Genius the grateful country." The medals will be made of iron, which was the current coin at Lacedemon. [London paper.]

From a late North-Carolina paper.

ON Tuesday, the 30th of January last, at 2 o'clock P. M. there was a fall of meteoric stones, in Caswell county. Their descent was seen for a considerable distance round, and reports distinctly heard at Hillsborough, a distance of 30 miles. A fragment weighing a pound and three quarters, struck a tree in the new ground of Mr. Taylor, near where some wood cutters were at work, who apprehending the fate of Sodom and Gomorrah, ran home without looking behind them. Encouraged, however, by a woman, whose curiosity was superior to her fears, they returned with her to the place and brought away the fragment, which was still hot. We understand that Governor Williams, of the Mississippi territory, (now in Rockingham) intends sending it to the Chymical Society, in New-York, to be analysed.—It is, he informs us, of a dark brown colour, porous, and probably contains iron.

KINE POCK.

BY a gentleman lately arrived from France we learn, that a new mode of inoculating Kine Pock has been adopted, and is extending in practice with the happiest success. It is as follows: When a child has been infected, instead of a physician coming when the pock is mature, to take away the matter, and frighten the babe into tears and terror by his lancet, quills, &c. the parents announce by a card fixed outside the door, "that on such a day children in perfect health may be inoculated without expense, and with ripe living matter, provided that they are brought by their mothers between the hours of ten o'clock in the morning and 4 in the afternoon."—The matter to be taken is furnished only with a common sewing needle, the point of which she dips in the ripe vesicle on the arm of her child, and then immediately with it makes a slight puncture on the arm of that which is brought to receive the infection. No blood is drawn. If the children are asleep, they are neither of them suffered to be disturbed. This mode of infection, with living matter, never fails; no inflammation ensues; and the whole of the operation is performed by the mothers only.

The loss of the Austrians at the battle of Wagram, is thus reported in the Gazette of Vienna.

	Killed.	Wounded.	Prisoners.	Total.
Generals	4	13	0	17
Officers	120	616	111	847
Soldiers	5507	17490	7479	30476
Horses	1933	1912	253	4098

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