

MISCELLANY.
From Blackwood's Magazine for February.

THE CHILD READING THE BIBLE.

"BY MRS. HEMANS."

"A dawning shape, so simple, gay,
To haunt, to startle, to vary,
A being breathing thoughtful breath,
A traveller between life and death,"

"I saw him in sport awhile,
The bright exulting boy,

Cheerful lightning came the smile
Of his young spirit's joy.

A flash that where'er it broke,
To life unreant of beauty woke;

His fair locks waved in many play,

Up a clear fountain's side,

Where jewel-colour'd pebbles lie,

Beneath the shallow tide;

And gaily spray at times would meet

The gleaming of his fairy feet;

Twinkled him gath'res of all spring flowers,

Which drank that streak'd dew,

Its dungs them over the wave in showers,

Till, grazing, scarce knew

Which seemed more rare, or bright, or wild,

The ringing sound of laughing child,

To look on all that joy and bloom,

Made Earth like Coral seems,

Where the dull shadow of the tomb

Seem'd to never had been.

How can one image of glory

Steal on the dawn of such clear day?

I saw more than that sweet sight—

The boy's cheek heav'd, and wild

In silence over the tomb of lights,

And like a lamb he stood;

The sun about a picture lay—

The looks dropt round it singly,

And if his heart had seem'd thin fair,

When in the fountain glade,

A creature of the sky awakes,

Almost wing'd he play'd,

Not long much hoary beauty shew'd,

Not long young human Being's bont!

The being born to roll to die,

To break forth from the tomb,

Unto pale death;

Then waits the sky-lark's plumet,

I saw him, in that thoughtful hour,

Win the first knowledge of his bont;

The soul, the awakening soul I saw,

My watching eye could trace

The shadows of his newborn awe,

Saw eager over that fair face,

As over a flower night passed the shade

By some dread angel's pinion made;

The soul, the Mother of deep tears,

Of high hopes infinite,

Of glorious dreams, mysterious fears,

Of sleepless woesights;

Lovely, but sombre, in aspect,

Unloving what no morning close,

The red-laved tables, studded,

As yet by me unseal'd,

Or what within me shoul'd,

While his young heart beat bold and stand

And quiv'ring to the Eternal Word,

And earnestly in spirit caught

The reverence of his gaze;

A sign with due of blessing caught

That shall be often done;

To mark the proud heart meekly wise,

By the sweet form in those same eyes

Revealing, of secret, other

A soul abounding in love and light,

Childlike, and cheerful, full of might;

Another, and more than this, in organ

Upon the red-leaved waters of my heart."

Haywood.

From the New York Observer.
PRAYER OF THE EMPEROR OF CHINA FOR RAIN.

On the 31st of May last, an official paper was published by the Emperor of China, lamenting the want of rain. He had previously directed sacrifices to be made to the gods, and when only knocked his head on the ground, but without effect. His conching anxiety had continued night and day, and hour after hour, he looked earnestly for rain, but none had fallen. He had turned his thoughts in upon himself, and his government, but had found nothing "hail." His own conduct, he says rather proudly, ought to have produced a sweet harmony between the rain bearing clouds above, and the parched earth below, but this had not been the effect; and therefore, in this official paper, the Emperor directs a mitigation of punishment for conscientious persons in the province of Pekin ("in the case of great crimes"), and orders that recusant persons should be brought to a severe and fair trial. The imprisoned witnesses should be at once confronted with the opposite parties, or be set at liberty on bail; and that all small offences be immediately dispensed with.

This is a most singular production. It is one too of great value. It is worth more than scores of quirens and folios of the rain specifications which have been published concerning China. Even allowing that much of the colouring has been given to it or effected merely by us, we are slow to admit still it exhibits an exalted personage, in a most interesting and affecting point of view. It is wishful a very curious document as it conducts us to the anti-chambers of the celestial court, and there shows us the minister of heaven, tormented with grief, pouring over his accusations, sins, and with trembling anxiety, recounting the error of his public and private life; sympathy is excited, and we, instinctively, re-echo his lamentation. Who! who! Oh! Alas! Oh! Oh! Oh! Oh! Oh! Oh! Oh! Oh! It exhibits weakness and darkness peculiar to the human mind, while unblessed by the sacred word and by the Spirit of the only living and true God. It shows, also, very distinctly, if we mistake not, the symptoms of an oppressed and declining empire. We predict nothing. We should, perhaps, to see the great power, dynasties long stand strong, flourishing in all the glory, peace, tranquillity, and prosperity which now proudly and finally arrogate. The welfare of the Chinese empire is the dearest object to our hearts on earth. But our own minds, in accordance we believe with the "ways of millions," forbode an approaching change. We cannot deny the evidence of our words; and we will, however, modestly confess the truth. Omens are operating on this nation—would they did not exist—which must produce tremendous effects. The state groans and already confirms her to be "told." And oh! should the bands of government once "broken" under, and the immense mass of population and crew of human beings be thrown into confusion, the scene would be awful. We gladly turn from the contemplation of such a picture.

The Emperor's anxiety, occasioned by the long continuance of the drought, was not the world attested by extraordinary changes. I could not dare to present extraordinary views. But this year the drought is most unusual. Some papers in the Gazette, dated

Not only do agriculture and human beings feel the dire calamity, but also beasts and insects, herbs and trees, almost cease to live."

"the minister of Heaven, am placed over mankind, and am responsible for keeping the world in order, and tranquillizing the people. Although it is now impossible for me to sleep or eat with composure; although I am tormented with grief, and tremble with anxiety; still, after all, no general and copious showers have been obtained."

"Some days ago, I fasted, and offered rich sacrifices, on the altars of the gods, of the land and the grain, and had to be thankful for gathering clouds, and slight showers; but not enough to cause gladness."

"Looking up, I consider that Heaven's heart is benevolence and love. The sole cause is the daily deeper atrocity of my sins; but little sincerity and little devotion. Hence I have been unable to move Heaven's heart, and bring down abundant blessing."

"Having respectfully searched the records, I find, that, in the 34th year of Keenung, my Imperial grandfather, the 13th, however, able, and pure, impudent reverently performed a great show service. I feel impelled to take up and continue the usage and way of troubling, anxiety, easily, usual, heavy, even, most, a, and consider my errors looking up, and hoping that I may obtain pardon. I ask you, whether in such cases, services I have done disinterestedly. Whether or not pride, a, and dignity have a place in my heart, sparing up the time and exertions, to look up and irritate the usage and way of troubling, anxiety, easily, usual, heavy, even, most, a, and consider my errors looking up, and hoping that I may obtain pardon. I ask you, whether in such cases, services I have done disinterestedly.

"It is a very remarkable circumstance, connected with the drought, that none of the houses in Louisville were ordered to be fired by a swivel, give notice of the approach of the red men, and on hearing such signal they mutually bound themselves to bury each other's assistance.

"In this year 1780, Louisville was a collection of huts, huddled closely together in order to diminish the danger of the frequent attacks of the Indians. There was, on the opposite bank of the Ohio, where New Albany now stands, a small collection of houses defended by a long fort.

"An understanding existed between the settlers, on both sides the river, that they should, by the firing of a swivel, give notice of the approach of the red men, and on hearing such signal they mutually bound themselves to bury each other's assistance.

"It was a dark and stormy night in the fall of the year, when the good citizens of Louisville were roused from pleasant dreams and refreshing slumber by the sharp report of the swivel of the New Albany settlement. Every person was instantly in motion. The river had been rising rapidly for several days; huge trees were continually drifting down, with a velocity which almost rivalled the sweeping rapidity of the Mississippi.

"It was with great difficulty that the little flotilla of flat boats from Louisville stemmed the rapid current of the river, and effected a landing on the Northern bank of the river.

"The hardy warriors were much astonished at the death-like stillness which reigned throughout the fort; they feared much that all was over, and that nothing would be left for them except vengeance for the slaughter of their allies.

"They cautiously crept forward in Indian file; suddenly a low whistle of the leader caused them to halt. A man was dimly discovered through the gloom, and was easily recognised as a white man.

"They therefore give notice, that they were to be held in readiness to defend the fort, and refused to listen to them at all. Whether or not the massacre had been intended for the Indians, they may be

"We have already noticed the arrival at this port, of Capt. Back, of the Royal Navy, who has been engaged in conferring rewards or soliciting punishment. Whether in raising moneys and largesse, I have assisted the people and wasted property. Whether in the moment of defeat, I have failed to save the persons, and to secure the acts of government have been petty and vexatious to the people. Whether persons have been unjustly inflicted or not. Whether I have imposed heavy means of appeal? Whether in placing heterodox sects, the innocent have been persecuted. Whether or not the masses have insulted or pugnaciously refused to listen to them at all. Whether the death-like stillness which reigned throughout the fort; they feared much that all was over, and that nothing would be left for them except vengeance for the slaughter of their allies.

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at Peking, July 29th, it is stated, that after the Emperor had fasted, and offered the prayer, given above, before the altar dedicated to heaven—at about 8 o'clock on the same evening, thunder, lightning and rain were intermingled; the rain falling in sweet and copious showers. The next day, a report came from Iron Shantzeefoo, indicating that the losses had fallen, and on successive days, near the imperial domain, a quantity fell equal to four inches. For this manifestation of heavenly compassion, the Emperor, in an order published, expressed his devout adoration and intense gratitude; and the 2d of August is appointed as a day of thanksgiving. Six kings are directed to repair to the altar, dedicated (1) to heaven, (2) to earth, (3) to the gods of the land and grain, (4) to the gods of heaven, (5) to the gods of earth and (6) to the gods of the revolving year.

"Capt. Back is accompanied by Mr. King, of the Royal College of Surgeons, London, in the capacity of surgeon and naturalist to the expedition, and also by three of his former companions. At Great Slave Lake he will be joined by a party of Hudson's Bay people, in addition to the voyageurs which he will take with him from Canada. It is most gratifying to state, that the Hudson's Bay Company have extended every facility to the enterprise, and given Capt. Back a commission, investing him with full command through their extensive territories, and unlimited authority over all their servants, the Governor alone excepted.

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