

MISCELLANEOUS

ON A HUMAN SKELETON.

Behold this ruin! 'twas a skull,
Once of ethereal spirit full!
This narrow cell was life's retreat;
This space was thought's mysterious seat.

What beauteous pictures fill'd this spot,
What dreams of pleasure, long forgot!

Nor love, nor joy, nor hope, nor fear,
Has left one trace or record here!

Beneath this mouldering canopy
Once shone the bright and busy eye;
But start not at the dismal void!
If social love that eye employ'd,
If with no lawless fire it gleam'd,
But thro' the dew of kindness beam'd
That eye shall be forever bright,
When stars and suns have lost their light!

Here, in this silent cavern, hung
The ready, swift and tuneful tongue;
If falsehood's honey it disdain'd,
And where it could not praise was chain'd:

If bold in virtue's cause it spoke,
Yet gentle concord never broke;
That tuneful tongue shall plead for thee,
When death unveils eternity!

Say, did these fingers delve the mine
Or with its envied rubies shine?
To hew the rock or wear the gem,
Can nothing now avail to them;
But if the page of truth they sought,
Or comfort to the mourner brought,
These hands a richer meed shall claim
Than all that waits on wealth or fame!

Avails it whether bare or shod
These feet the path of duty trod?
If from the bowers of joy they fled
To sooth afflictions humble bed;
If grandeur's guilty bribe they spurn'd,
And home to virtue's lap return'd;
These feet with angel's wings shall vie,
And tread the palace of the sky!

From the Plymouth Memorial.

"*Procul O! Procul este profani!*"
We bipeds, made up of frail clay,
Alas, are the children of sorrow;
And, tho' brisk and merry to-day,
We all may be wretched to-morrow.
For sunshine's succeeded by rain,
Then fearful of life's stormy weather,

Lest pleasure should only bring pain
Let us all be unhappy together.

I grant, the best blessing we know
Is a friend—for true friendship's a treasure:
And yet, lest your friend prove a foe,
O taste not the dangerous pleasure.
Thus friendship's a flimsy affair;
Thus riches and health are a bubble;
There's nothing delightful but care,
Nor any thing pleasing but trouble.

If a mortal would point out that life
That on earth should be nearest to heaven,
Let him, thanking his stars, choose
a wife,

To whom truth and honor are given:
But honor and truth, they are rare,
And roses have thorns that will tingle,

And with all my respect for the fair,
I'd advise him to sigh and live single.

It appears from these premises plain,
That wisdom is nothing but folly;
That pleasure's a term that has pain
And that joy is your true melancholy.

That all those who laugh, ought to cry;
That 'tis fine frisk and fun to be grieving;

And that since we must all of us die,
We should all be unhappy while living.

From the Newbern Sentinel.

EPISCOPAL CONVENTION.

The Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church of North-Carolina, assembled in Williamsboro', Granville county on the 6th May. Besides the bishop, there were 7 presbyters belonging to the diocese; one presbyter from the diocese of Pennsylvania, and a deacon from that of New-Jersey; together with lay delegates from ten congregations. This Convention was one of the greatest interest to the members of the Church, as the first in which the venerable diocesan presided.—

The Convention was opened with an impressive discourse from the Bishop; and divine service was performed and a sermon delivered by some of the clergy, till the adjournment of the convention, on the morning and evening of every day, except Sunday, when three services were performed. On Saturday night, confirmation was administered to several persons as preparatory to receiving the Holy communion; and on Sunday morning to some others, who, on the night previous were not able to enjoy the benefit of this Apostolic rite.—On Sunday morning the Holy Communion was administered to a number of attentive recipients. One new candidate for orders was received, and three new congregations admitted into union with this Convention. We have great reason indeed, to bless Almighty God for the prospect we have of the increase and prosperity of this portion of His visible church. Oh that every member thereof may "adorn the doctrine of God their Saviour in all things." The Convention was conducted with the greatest harmony and affection; and was closed with singing the 133d Psalm, and prayer and benediction from the Bishop.

Graphic Kaleidoscope.—An invention of great importance in the arts, and particularly in Bank note engraving, has lately been perfected by Mr. William J. Stone, of Washington, by which an endless variety of figures can be produced, in a manner that we believe to be inimitable. We cannot give the reader a better idea of the peculiar powers of this machine, than to compare it to a kaleidoscope, in forming combinations of the most beautiful figures that can be imagined. They are formed of one continued line, crossing and entangling themselves in the richest variety.

This apparatus is composed of two cylinders, on the surface of which leaves are attached, with moveable fulcrums in the evolutions, which give motion to another lever of a singular construction, and to which a chisel is attached for cutting the figure. Nothing that we are acquainted with, in the whole circle of the arts, presents such a formidable obstacle to forgery; and we are assured by the inventor himself, that no two machines of this description can ever produce the same work.

Here, then, it is probable, is the desideratum so long sought for by the Bank of England, and for which so tempting a premium has been offered. The inventor, we are told, is so confident of the utility of his discovery, that he intends to repair to London, for the purpose of submitting it for inspection in that metropolis.—*Wash. Gaz.*

American Bible Society.—The 8th anniversary of the American Bible Society was held in the city of New-York on the 13th ultimo.

There have been issued from the Depository of this Society the past year, 60,439 Bibles and Testaments. The N. Y. Daily Advertiser states that "there have been printed during the 8th year, at the Society's Depository in New-York, 76,875 Bibles and Testaments;—700 Bibles and Testaments, in different languages, have been received as donations from the British and Foreign Bible Society, and 2000 have been printed with stereotype plates belonging to the Society at Lexington in Kentucky—making a

total of four hundred and three thousand, three hundred and three thousand, three hundred and fifty-two Bibles and Testaments, or perhaps of the latter, printed from the stereotype plates of the Society, or otherwise obtained for circulation, during the first eight years of the Society's existence."

Raleigh, May 25.—About three weeks ago, a daughter of Mr. S. in this city, 7 or 8 years of age, while sewing, with her work fastened to her clothes with a needle, hastily rose to join her playmates, who came about her, when she suddenly exclaimed that something had stuck in her leg. On examination, a red point was discovered a few inches below the knee, the needle was missing, but there was no other evidence of its having entered the leg. She shortly ceased to complain of the injury, and in a day or two, walked to the Academy as usual. For two or three days past she has spoken of a pricking sensation in the calf of the leg, directly opposite the puncture. On Friday morning a physician was requested to examine it. He found a slight elevation of the skin, which he suspected was produced by the advance of the lost needle, and on making an incision, discovered its point, with a pair of small forceps the entire needle was extracted. It measured something more than an inch, and was perfectly black.—*Register.*

Rumford Premium.—The number of the Boston Journal just published, contains a notice of Count Rumford's donation to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, made in the year 1797. The donation consisted of five thousand dollars United States' three per cent. stock, the income of which was directed to be granted every two years as a premium to the author of the most important discovery, or useful improvement on heat or light, that shall be made public in any part of the continent of America during the preceding two years. The Academy has repeatedly announced the fact, that it was ready to award the premium to any person who should show that he was entitled to it, on the terms of the donation, but no discovery or improvement of the kind described, has ever been brought to the notice of the Academy, which they have considered entitled to the premium. The interest has therefore from time to time been added to the principal, which at this time consists of \$7,261 19 in six per cent. stocks, and \$7,050 in seven per cents. The income on the whole sum, for two years, constitutes the premium now offered. A period of two years will expire at the next quarterly meeting of the Academy, which will be held on the 25th inst. at which time they will be ready to award the premium to any person who shall appear to be entitled to it.

The Koran.—The Pacha of Egypt has given a construction to the Koran, at once novel and ingenious. His highness maintains that the part of the religion of the Prophet, which is supposed to preclude the use of spirits is misunderstood—that Mahomet only prohibited the use of the fermented juices of the grape or cane, but not of those liquids produced by distillation, which was entirely unknown at the period when he communicated the doctrines of his religion. In consequence of these liberal

sentiments the distillation of Rum was progressing with every prospect of considerable success, throughout the empire!!

An Englishman's view of the United States.—A Liverpool paper gives the following concise view of the U. States:

"There are half a million of scholars at the public schools throughout the United States, and more than three thousand students at the Colleges which confer degrees. There are about twelve hundred students at the medical schools; five hundred at the theological seminaries, and more than a thousand students at law. There are about ten thousand physicians, and upwards of six thousand lawyers. There are about nine thousand places of worship, and about five thousand clergymen. About four thousand four hundred patents have been taken out for new and useful inventions, discoveries and improvements in the arts. Between two and three millions of dollars' worth of books are annually published in the United States. A thousand newspapers are published. There was more than one hundred steam-boats, comprising more than four thousand tons, navigating the Mississippi. The vessels of the United States by sea perform their voyages on an average, in one third less time than the English. There are five thousand post-roads, and twelve thousand miles of turnpike roads. There are three thousand legislators."

Indian War prospect.—The Nashville (Tenn.) Gazette, of the 30th April, says: "Since our last we have had an interesting conversation with a gentleman from the neighborhood of Franklin, Missouri, now here, from whom we have learned in addition to items of Indian hostility heretofore published, that the general department of the savages of the Northern tribes on their visits to the immediate neighborhood of the whites, whether for business or observation, is marked by insolence and a freedom with small articles of property, which by old settlers on Indian frontiers, are known to be the certain precursor of hostilities. The inhabitants of thin settlements in some parts of the country, had become so much alarmed at the visible indications, as to give up their situations and remove into more populous districts. Our informant adds, that the measures of defence best to be adopted in case of attacks have frequently been the subject of conversation between himself and his neighbors, whose general opinions, that in a short time they will become necessary. Our opinion is, that the attention of the government cannot too soon be turned to the situation of affairs in that quarter—and that the approaching summer will not pass away without much blood shed on the borders of the Missouri."

Forgery and perjury.—A peculiar case was tried at the Superior Court, in Amherst, N. H. last week. It was an appeal from the decree of the Judge of Probate on a Will, and involved not only much property, but, as the Amherst Cabinet says, what is infinitely more valuable, the character of the parties and witnesses. The will had been proved by the Probate Court, both in Middlesex county, in Massachusetts, and in New-Hampshire, and it is now alleged to have been originally forged and

its probate obtained by the detestable crime of perjury. One of the witnesses, after having sworn in the Probate Court to the validity of the will, now swears it to have been, from the beginning, a vile and wicked system of fraud, forgery and perjury. Two others attempted to maintain the validity of the will by their oaths. The Chief Justice, in charging the jury, deprecated the wickedness and depravity brought to light by the trial. The jury found a verdict against the will; so that the executor and three witnesses to the will stand guilty of gross fraud, forgery and perjury.

Charleston, May 17.—A Canal Boat, belonging to Mr. Samuel S. Saylor, from this city bound to Columbia, with a valuable cargo of merchandize, was blown up in the Santee canal, near the plantation of Dr. Reenel, on Friday last. The boat, and most of the cargo, including an elegant new piano forte, were destroyed. The crew, which consisted of five negro men, were all more or less injured by the explosion, some of them dangerously.—From the statement of the patron, it appears that a carboy of ether, or vitriol, must have burst in the hold—on hearing the explosion, he opened a slide between the cabin and the hold, and on putting in his lantern to discover the cause, fire was instantly communicated by the candle to the foul air. The crew hastened to get off the hatches, but while in the act of doing so, a quantity of gunpowder, which was below, exploded, and literally blew the boat to pieces.

Lord Erskine.—This great lawyer, when at the bar, was always remarkable for the fearlessness with which he contended against the bench. In one of his contests with the judges, he explained the rule of his conduct at the bar in the following terms:—"It was the first command and counsel of my youth, always to do what my conscience told me to be my duty; and to leave the consequences to God. I shall carry with me the memory, and trust the practice of this paternal lesson to the grave. I have hitherto followed it, and have no reason to complain that my obedience to it has been even a temporal sacrifice. I have found it, on the contrary, the road to prosperity and wealth, and I shall point it out as such to my children."

The wife.—An eloquent author thus describes the solacing tenderness of his partner in life's joys and vicissitudes:—"At a time, alas! when every thing displeased me; when every object was disgusting; when my sufferings had destroyed all the energy and vigor of my soul; when grief had shut from my streaming eyes the beauties of nature, and rendered the whole universe a dreary tomb; the kind attentions of a wife were capable of conveying a secret charm, a silent consolation to my mind. On! nothing can render the bowers of retirement so serene and comfortable, or can so sweetly soften all our woes, as a conviction that woman is not indifferent to our fate."

If you would be known, and not know, *vegetate* in a village; if you would know, and not be known, *live* in a city.—*Lacon.*

Printing neatly executed