

FOR THE STAR. SPRING—A FRAGMENT.

But Spring returns and scatters for grace round, The hills and plains with verdant flowers are crown'd...

ALEXIS.

Reply to "I would it I could," published in page 76 of the Star.

"O, we would, if we could," say many men, "be married," but this sure is sporting...

KATY.

LITERARY.

From the Boston Anthology.

WEBSTER'S GRAMMAR, DICTIONARY, &c. &c.

In my former number, I submitted some remarks on Mr. Webster's manner of introducing his "Discoveries," and concluded with a promise to investigate the matter of the discoveries themselves.

At the very threshold of his edifice Mr. W. appears to me to have wofully stumbled. In the first page of the preface to his Dictionary, he remarks: "To men who have been accustomed to repose almost implicit confidence in the authors of our principal dictionaries and grammars, it may appear, at first, incredible that such writers as Johnson and Lowth should have mistaken many of the fundamental principles of our language; but that such is the fact will appear certain to any man who will read a few pages in a Saxon author."

Noah Webster) have sunk their learning into neglect, have left sufficient warning against the rising ambition of teaching arts in a new language."

Dr. Johnson was one of the last men who would have shrunk from the task of altering our grammars, if he had cause to believe that any real utility, and not harm, would result from it.

He perceived that "though, perhaps, terms more proper might sometimes be invented," yet he evidently considered this to be uncertain; and as those already in use were well understood, he was decided against such an injurious innovation.

It was a reasonable remark of Sterne that he had "no objection to his friend riding a hobby-horse, provided he himself was not compelled to get up and ride behind."

To borrow the manner of Mr. Webster, "I am prepared by a minute examination of this subject to affirm" (and surely one man has as good a right to affirm as another) that the great revolution which the present age has witnessed has not been productive of more evils in the political world, than the revolutions which such speculative men, give them full scope, would produce in the literary.

I do not deem it necessary to offer many reasons to convince any reflecting mind that the tendency of such innovations on "respectable, national, and present use," is to place us on an ocean that has no shore. To the genuine principles of orthography, grammatical construction, and the interpretation of words, Mr. W. is in direct hostility.

Murray also, in his recent edition of the grammar in two volumes octavo, has very ably and satisfactorily discussed this subject. "If fanciful or learned etymologists," says he, "are to decide for us by their remote researches and discoveries, our improvements are at an end. We have nothing to do but to inquire what was the practice of ancient writers, and to submit to the rude phraseology of authors, who were far inferior to us in science and literature."

English words, whatever may have been their origin, claim now, by prescription, the right of being considered as English. If not, why has Mr. Webster deviated from his rule in many of his definitions in his dictionary?

Now to my second proposition. Mr. Webster is of all men possessed of the fewest qualifications for the great task of improving

the English language. Should any man doubt this fact, all his skepticism would vanish, could he but take a survey of the scene which the table before me exhibits. It is loaded with the literary lumber of Noah Webster, jun. Esq. "Spelling Books," "Old Grammars," "New Grammars," "First Parts," "Second Parts," "Third Parts," "Elements," and again, their "First Parts," "Second Parts," "Third Parts," iterumque, iterumque; puffs direct, puffs oblique, puffs collateral, with plans for suppressing all projects but his own in New York Spectators, Boston Centinels, Albany Gazettes, and Hartford Courants; octavo volume of Fugitiv Peeces ritten at various times az will appear "in the improved mode of spelling;" two octavo volumes on Pestilence, another on the English language; one letter on religion, another to Dr. Ramsay on the "Hotentot" Johnson, & his "wretchedly imperfect" dictionary; a COMPENDIOUS DICTIONARY with FIVE THOUSAND WORDS MORE than can be found in the best English Compend; a little Dictionary not so big; and proposals for another, a GREAT DEAL BIGGER!—"confusion worse confounded"!!

THE ARTS.

FOR THE STAR.

Mears, Editors.—I send you for publication a New Invention of mine in Distilling Brandy, for which I intend making application for a Patent Right. As the season for distilling fruit is now at hand, and believing that Farmers will find a considerable advantage in pursuing this method, I am willing that those who are desirous of carrying it into execution shall do so, provided they consider themselves bound to pay the price of the Patent right (in case the same shall be obtained) whenever called on.

Have two tubs made of the same size, (oak timber and very thick staves) place these tubs not more than 4 or 6 inches apart; the tub that contains the worm of the still, in the usual way, should be confined with a close head at top as well as bottom; this may be done with a head crozed in after the worm is fixed in the tub, or it may be done with a lid something like that of a churn, and can be taken off should it be necessary. The other tub, which has no worm, should be fixed in the same way. In the side of these two tubs, near the bottom, a pipe or tube must be fixed, that will convey the cider or mobby you are about to distil, from one tub to the other.

By following the above plan a saving of at least one third of the time will be made; much less wood or water will be required; and what will be a greater advantage to most farmers, is, that the expedition of this mode enables them to save their crop of fruit with fewer stands, the want of which not unfrequently is the cause of the loss of a great portion of the fruit.

PETER ARRINGTON.

Nash county, July 20, 1810.

A New Manufacture.—We understand that the true pectine and kaolin, (the earthy substances used in the manufacture of China) have been discovered in the United States; and that China, equal to that imported from the East-Indies, has been made.

Aurora.



MISCELLANY.

"Omnes undique fosculos, carpanus atque delibemus."

The Night blooming Cereus.

The flower of this plant expands in the evening only, shuts up before morning, and never opens again.

Several Ladies and Gentlemen were gratified with a sight of this rare, magnificent and beautiful flower, which displayed itself on the night of the 9th inst. at the seat of Mr. Ezekiel Hersey Derby, in South Fields, Salem, Massachusetts. It began to open about 6 o'clock, P. M. in the green-house, and was soon after carried into a large room in the house, to accommodate the company with a view of the progress of its evolution.

about 3 inches in length, and 1 broad at the upper end. From the centre of the flower proceeded a vast number of stamens, surrounding the stile, appearing to issue from the bottom of a funnel, like a skein of thread. This funnel was formed by the calyx, consisting about one inch and an half below the base of petals, and by candle-light it appeared of a beautiful pea-green. The flower was supported on an imbricated stalk, 6 inches long, and from 3/4 to 1 inch diameter, hairy, and filled with sharp-pointed leaflets. It shot out horizontally from the plant; which is not more than half an inch diameter, and is 5 feet high, having in some parts 5 in some 7 angles. Like the prickly pear (cactus opuntia) it has no leaves, but is beset with clusters of spines. The flower was observed in its full beauty and vigor till after one o'clock, when the company retired, and in the morning it was wholly closed, in the form and size of a large goose's egg, and in the course of the day withered and shrivelled up. When dissected, was internal organization excited as much admiration as its external beauties had before.—Salem Gazette.

Manufacture of Paper.—It is pleasant enough to consider the changes that a linen fragment undergoes in the manufacture of paper. The finest pieces of holland, when worn to tatters, assume a new whiteness more beautiful than their first, and often return in the shape of letters to their native country. A lady's handkerchief may be metamorphosed into blotting-paper, and come into her possession a second time. A beau may peruse his cravat after it is worn out, with greater pleasure and advantage than ever he did in a glass. In a word, a piece of cloth, after having officiated for some years as a towel or a napkin, may by this means, be raised from a dunghill, and become the most valuable piece of furniture in a Prince's Cabinet.—Addison.

THE BOOK OF JOB.

This book is the most astonishing of all literary phenomena. Its author is totally unknown. It is not even known in what part of the world it was written. Moses is supposed to have written it when in exile in the land of Midian. But Josephus tells us that Moses was much more of a soldier than a poet in those days. Why ascribe it to Moses? If there be a resemblance of style, between the "songs" of the Hebrew lawgiver and any part of the book of Job, it must be but a faint one. Both are tinged with the same gloomy hue of antiquity. In nothing else are they alike. It is believed that, in the book entitled "Job," there is not one decidedly Jewish allusion, unless the hint of the genealogy Elishu the son of Barachel the Buzite, of the kindred of Ram, is so to be considered. Where was the land of Uz? It is thought in Arabia. In the 36th chapter of Genesis, we read of Uz, the son of Dishan, of the dukes of the Horites, the children of Seir in the land of Edom. In the 25th of Jeremiah we read of Pharaoh King of Egypt, and his servants, and his princes, and all his people, and all the mingled people, and all the kings of the land of Uz. Job must have been an Ishmalite or an Edomite. And yet he appears to have had a plainer revelation of our saviour than the most favoured of the Hebrew prophets. "For I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth; and tho' after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another." Job xix, 25, 26, 27.

Domestic Calamity.—It has seldom, if ever, occurred to us, to notice so calamitous a train of misfortunes as that which has lately occurred in the family of captain C. of the East Budeigh Regiment of local Militia. An affectionate anxiety towards a nephew, who was seized with a fever, at a boarding-school, near his residence, induced captain C. to remove him to his own house, but the efforts of medical care were unavailing, and he fell a victim to the disorder. The infection remaining in the house, capt. C's eldest daughter, a most excellent and accomplished young lady, about 22 years of age, soon fell a sacrifice to its malignity. Another daughter, 18 years of age, had scarcely followed her sister to the grave, before she herself became a corpse through the same fever. Intelligence, at this unhappy juncture, also reached the wretched parents, announcing the death of a son, sixteen years of age, in the East Indies; & confirming a prior account of the shipwreck of another son (their eldest) in the Bay of Bengal; and that this cup of woe should want nothing of its bitterness, it was the will of providence that another daughter, a lovely girl of seven years of age, should be seized with illness on Good Friday last, soon after leaving church, where she had been in apparent health; and on Saturday night, her short and innocent career of life was also terminated! These appalling events have all transpired within the last two months. The afflicted parents, supported by a correct sentiment of duty toward their few remaining offspring, and strengthened by a habitual sense of religious feeling uphold themselves under their dreadful visitation of domestic misery, with becoming fortitude; and although the Powers of Heaven are thus fiercely pouring upon them, evince a corresponding sanctity with that Heaven-ward ejaculation, which says, "Thy will be done!"

A Jew, supposing himself injured by a chant, happened to meet him in a coffee-house. An altercation ensued, in which the Jew, a Levite challenged his opponent to meet him at a convenient place, and settle the matter in an honourable manner. I shall not enter into the challenge, (said the merchant.) I will fight a duel with a Jew.—Then you are a Jew, (said a venerable old man, who was reading the Gazette) for I am certain you will never be challenged by any christ