Literacy.

From the Quarterly Review.

Woman; or Ida of Athens. By Miss Owenson, author of "The Wild Irish Girl," "The Novice of St. Dominick." 3 vols 12mo—London, 1809. Philadelphia, republished by Bradford and Inskeep, 2 vols 12mo.

"Bacchantes, animated with Orphean fury, slinging their thyrsi-spears in the air, striking their cymbals, and uttering dithyrambicks, appeared to surround him on every side." p. 5.

"That modesty which is of soul, seemed to diffuse itself over a form, whose exquisite symmetry was at once betrayed and concealed by the apparent tissue of woven air, which fell like a vapour round her." p. 23.

"Like Aurora the extremities of her delicate limbs were rosed with flowing hues, and her little foot, as it pressed its naked beauty on a scarlet cushion, resembled that of a young Hebe from its blushing tints, or that of a fugitive Atalanta from its delight." &c. &c. p. 53.

After repeated attempts to comprehend the meaning of these, and a hundred similar rhapsodies, in the compass of half an hour's perusal, we gave them up in despair. Our wits fairly turned; the leaves of the volume seemed to whirl, and the following lines grew in a moment "to the measure of our eyes." Many little works have

We are delighted that our facetious and classical poet has given the true *Roman* accent to this word. So Dean Swift, who was scrupulously accurate.

That old vertigo in the head
Will never leave him till he's dead.—*Pd. P. F.*

Literacy.

From the Quarterly Review.

Woman; or Ida of Athens. By Miss Owenson, author of "The Wild Irish Girl," "The Novice of St. Dominick." 3 vols 12mo—London, 1809. Philadelphia, republished by Bradford and Inskeep, 2 vols 12mo.

"Bacchantes, animated with Orphean fury, slinging their thyrsi-spears in the air, striking their cymbals, and uttering dithyrambicks, appeared to surround him on every side." p. 5.

"That modesty which is of soul, seemed to diffuse itself over a form, whose exquisite symmetry was at once betrayed and concealed by the apparent tissue of woven air, which fell like a vapour round her." p. 23.

"Like Aurora the extremities of her delicate limbs were rosed with flowing hues, and her little foot, as it pressed its naked beauty on a scarlet cushion, resembled that of a young Hebe from its blushing tints, or that of a fugitive Atalanta from its delight." &c. &c. p. 53.

After repeated attempts to comprehend the meaning of these, and a hundred similar rhapsodies, in the compass of half an hour's perusal, we gave them up in despair. Our wits fairly turned; the leaves of the volume seemed to whirl, and the following lines grew in a moment "to the measure of our eyes." Many little works have

Ida of Athens, a Greek girl, half ancient and half modern, falls desperately in love with a young slave; and, when he is defeated and taken prisoners in a fray more ridiculously begun and ended than the wars of Tom Thumb the Great, marries a "Disdar-aga," to save his life. This simple personage, instead of taking possession of his bride, whom he has "placed on an ottoman of down," *soulardevant*, rushes from the apartment "to see a noise which he heard;" and has scarcely thrust his head out of the street door, when, to his inexpressible amazement, it is dexterously sliced off "by an agent of the Porte;" and Ida, without waiting for her thirty-one jointly hours to her taller. Meanwhile the Greek slave, who had somewhat unpolitely looked through the Disdar-aga's "*casemate*," and seen Ida in the arms, very naturally takes it in dudgeon, and curls himself among the Janissaries. Ida, on her side, having no engagement on her hands, falls in love with an English traveller who offers her a settlement, which she very modestly rejects. A long train of woe succeeds. Her father is stripped of his property, and thrown into a dungeon; from which he is delivered by the Janissary on duty (the pining lover of Ida) who, without making himself known, assists them to quit the country, and embark for England. "They launch into the Archipelago, that interesting sea, so precious to the soul of genius;" iv, p. 45, and after many hair-breadth 'scapes, arrive in London. Here they are cheated, robbed, and insulted by every body; and the father, after being several days without food, is dragged to a squalling house, where he expires! Ida runs frantically through the streets, and falls into the arms of the English traveller, who is now become a lord, who very gallantly renews his offers, which are again rejected. In consequence of an advertisement in the publick papers, Ida discovers a rich uncle, who dies very opportunely, and leaves her "the most opulent heiress of Great Britain."

The fair Greek chuses her prosperity; but before her fortune and reputation are quite gone, the slave makes his appearance once more—not as Janissary, but as a general officer in the Russian service; and being now convinced that the familiarity of the Disdar-aga led to no unseemly consequence, marries his quondam mistress *for good and all*, and carries her to Russia, "a country *congenial by its climate* to her delicate constitution and luxurious habits; and *by its character*, to her tender, sensitive and fanciful disposition." iv. p. 286.

Such is the story, which may be dismissed as merely foolish; but the sentiments and language must not escape quite so easily. The latter is an inflated jargon, composed of terms picked up in all countries, and wholly irreducible to any ordinary rules of grammar or sense. The former are mischievous in tendency, and profligate in principle, licentious and irreverent in the highest degree.—To revelation Miss Owenson manifests a singular antipathy. It is the subject of many profound diatribes, which want nothing but meaning to be decisive. Yet Miss Owenson is not without an object of worship. She makes no account, indeed, of the Creator of the universe, unless to swear by his name; but, in return, she manifests a prodigious respect for something that she dignifies with the name of Nature, which, it seems, governs the world; and, as we gather from her creed, is to be honoured by libertinism in the women, disloyalty in the men, and atheism in both.

This young lady, as we conclude from her introduction, is the *enfants gate* of a particular circle, who see, in her constitutional sprightliness, marks of genius, and encourage her dangerous propensity to publication. She has evidently written more than she has read, and read more than she has thought. But this is beginning at the wrong end. If we were happy enough to be in her confidence, we should advise the immediate purchase of a spelling book, of which she stands in great need; to this, in due process of time, might be added a pocket dictionary. She might then take a few easy lessons, in "joined-hand," in order to become legible. If, after this, she could be persuaded to exchange her idle raptures for common sense; practise a little self-denial; and gather a few precepts of humility from an old-fashioned book, which, although it does not seem to have lately fallen in her way, may yet, we think, be found in some corner of her study; she might then hope to prove, not indeed a good writer of novels, but a useful friend, a faithful wife, a tender mother, and a respectable and happy mistress of a family.

* Wrong:—he turns sick as he is running after "the Capadiger Kesyassa," and dies in a ditch.—See vol iii p. 142. *Printer's Devil.*

Religious.

FOR THE STAR.

The Editors will oblige a correspondent by inserting in the Star the following Extract. CLARINDA.

JESUS WEEPING OVER JERUSALEM.

An extract from the Reverend Dr. Kollock's sermon on—Luke xix. 41 42.

"When he beheld the city, *he wept over it.*" Are you surprised to see the Saviour weep? Do you suppose this a weakness inconsistent with his dignity and elevation? Thus thought

AGRICULTURE.

"The first of Arts source of Domestic ease,
"Pride of the Land, and Patron of the Seas.

Some Experiments to shew Coal as a manure. By Thomas Ewell.

In the proposals I have issued, for the publication of a new work on chemistry, to be adapted for the use of the public in general, it is stated, that I would relate some experiments, instituted to throw light on the art of enriching impoverished lands. The result of several of these has so far exceeded my sanguine expectations, that I hasten to publish them; hoping to turn the attention of farmers to a subject by which their interests may be invaluably promoted.

From a train of reasonings, I was led to believe, that the common sea, pit, or mineral coal, which is so abundant in the United States, when finely pulverized, might prove a useful manure. To ascertain the truth of this, I made the following experiment.

In three small pots I put equal quantities of a yellow clay, which had lately been removed from several feet below the surface of the earth. To the first pot, a table spoonful of finely powdered pit-coal was added; to the second, the same quantity of powdered charcoal (blacksmith's coal) obtained from the common oak; and the third was left without any addition. The same number of sound grains of corn were planted in each; the same quantity of water daily added to each; and they were exposed in similar situations to the actions of light. The rapidity of the growth of the corn in the pot with sea-coal, exceeded any thing of the kind I ever witnessed. Many days did not elapse before this corn was four inches high, while at this time that with the common charcoal was not two inches high, and that with the clay alone, had only sprouted.

After this experiment was made, I procured several small pots, and in each put the same quantity of clay. To the first I added a drachm of sea-coal; to the second, a drachm of horse manure; to the third, the same quantity of plaster of Paris; and to the fourth, the same quantity of common ashes: the fifth was left without any addition. To each of these the same number of sound grains of wheat and corn were added. The precautions taken in the first experiment, were strictly adhered to in this instance. In a few days my great expectations from the pit-coal were somewhat lessened, by perceiving that the wheat in the horse manure was an inch high before that of the other pots appeared: however, this was but a short time; for the wheat in the pot with the sea-coal came up, grew to an equal height in a few days, and in a fortnight, although the weather was cold, *exceeded it by two inches.* The corn in the pot with coal, maintained a still greater superiority: it appeared more healthy, and was *more* than *twice* as large as the *largest* in the other pots. Several of my acquaintances were astonished, to see this great difference in vegetation, produced in so short a time.

Pit-coal must be cheaper than any article used as a manure, since it is found in so many parts of this country. The above experiments unquestionably show, that when powdered, its powder, in quickening the vegetation of corn and wheat, is much greater than any manure with which we are acquainted. Our knowledge of the effects of chemical bodies on growing vegetables, is but in its infancy.—Probably the discoveries which have been made are not as generally known as they should be. It may be owing to this cause,—for example, that an ounce of sulphuric acid is not added to every cart load of manure; which has long since been found, in England, to render it doubly valuable.

I congratulate my fellow-citizens of Virginia, on their prospect of renovating their large tracts of impoverished lands. By speedily using the coal in their inexhaustible mines, large fortunes of their farms will soon be the above procure the farmer will never be at a loss for manure. Let the farmer carefully yoke his steers in a close yard or stable, and not move them until they get sufficiently accustomed to the yoke, so that they will eat their food, when yoked, which will be in the course of a day. Let them be yoked again the second day, and a pair of gentle horses or oxen be fastened before them, in which station let them stand, until they become familiar with said horses or oxen, which will generally be effected in a day, excepting the steers should be unusually wild, which will occasion a second day's practice, after the same manner; and the third day, the steers may be yoked, the horses or oxen put before as usual, and let them be fastened to a waggon or any carriage; they following the carriage behind them, and being treated in the same manner as before, will proceed with it without being whipped or driven.

TURNIP ROOTED CABBAGE.

The following is extracted from an English publication (entitled Dundee's Minutes of Agriculture) and appears an extraordinary production of a vegetable. The Turnip Rooted Cabbage, from perhaps, is thought worthy of the attention of the American farmer.

The Turnip rooted Cabbage is a very hardy plant and is impenetrable by frost; a half an acre piece, though eaten of all winter long, produced at least 17 tons food in May, and sustained six Milch Cows (from which 1000 of butter was made) one heifer and one bull sixteen days on the herbage only. The same afterwards kept 162 sheep of a year old, 23 days, all in the utmost plenty. The crop amounting to 34 tons per acre, is a very large compared to the product of all other plants. A light soil, and pretty dry suits it best, but does no require very rich ground. It may be sowed as Turnips, either in rows or broad cast, but not quite so thick as Turnips. B. M'Mahon, author of the American Gardener's Calendar, directs them to be planted to the distance of 6 inches in the rows, but does not mention the distance the rows should be apart; however, that may be left to the discretion of the Farmer, according as he means to attend them either with the plough or hoe, but the great advantage is to have the ground well mellowed with the plough and harrow previous to planting, and afterwards kept clear of weeds.

This plant would be very valuable to those that keep many Milch Cows, over winter and attend market with milk, as it would enable them to give a considerable quantity more than they would upon hay.

RADISH OIL.

The scarcity of oil at Venice in 1807, occasioned by the distraction of olive-trees during the war, led to the introduction in that State of the Chinese Radish which, we understand, has of late been very successfully cultivated there. The oil is said to be superior to the already known, not merely for the table, but for producing light, and many medical purposes, particularly in pulmonary and rheumatic affections, and also in pleurisies and convulsive coughs. The practicability of a similar cultivation here is well worth the attention of the naturalist.—*Lon. paper.*

NURSERIES.

In travelling through our country, in every direction, I observe with regret one general error, that is, letting grass grow around young trees; and even in nurseries. The consequence is a very slow growth, and many die. No young fruit or forest tree will thrive well if grass is permitted to form a sward near the body of the tree.

To produce a quick growth, let the trees be set in holes much larger than the extent of their roots and the holes filled with fine loose earth; as soon grass or weeds grow, the earth must be turned over at least once in the summer, two or more feet from each tree, until they are least six inches in diameter.—By such culture, trees will generally grow more than three times as fast as in the common careless mode. And the fruit will be rich and abundant in the same proportion. It is indeed strange that an *error*, so obvious, has been and continues to be so *common*. The loss occasioned by it, is very great to the country in general.

OBSERVER.

Method of breaking Steers to the draught in a few days.

Let the farmer carefully yoke his steers in a close yard or stable, and not move them until they get sufficiently accustomed to the yoke, so that they will eat their food, when yoked, which will be in the course of a day. Let them be yoked again the second day, and a pair of gentle horses or oxen be fastened before them, in which station let them stand, until they become familiar with said horses or oxen, which will generally be effected in a day, excepting the steers should be unusually wild, which will occasion a second day's practice, after the same manner; and the third day, the steers may be yoked, the horses or oxen put before as usual, and let them be fastened to a waggon or any carriage; they following the carriage behind them, and being treated in the same manner as before, will proceed with it without being whipped or driven.