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MISCELLANEOUS.

LAST HOURS OF SIR WALTER RALEIGH.

From the Second Series of D'Israeli's Curiosities of Literature. Raleigh one morning was taken out of his bed, in a fit of fever, and unexpectedly hurried not to his trial, but to a sentence of death.

He declared that now being old, sickly, and in disgrace, and "certain were he allowed to live, to go to it again, life was wearisome to him, and all he treated was to have leave to speak freely at his farewell, to satisfy the world that he was ever loyal to the king, and a true lover of the commonwealth; for this he would seal with his blood."

Raleigh, on his return to his prison, while some were deploring his fate, observed that the world itself is but a large prison, out of which some are daily selected for execution."

The last night of his existence was occupied by writing what the letter writer calls "a remembrance to be left with his lady," to acquaint the world with his sentiments, should he be denied their delivery from the scaffold, as he had been at the bar of the King's Bench.

Even so is Time, that takes on trust Our youth, our joys, our all we have, And pays us but with age and dust, Who in the dark and silent grave, When we have wandered all our ways, Shuts up the story of our days."

He has added two other lines expressive of his trust in his resurrection. Their authenticity is confirmed by the writer of the present letter, as well as another writer, enclosing "half a dozen verses which Sir Walter made the night before his death to take his farewell of poetry, wherein he had been a scribbler even from his youth."

At this solemn moment, before he lay down to rest, and at the instant of parting from his lady, with all his domestic affections still warm, to express his feelings in verse was with him a natural affection, and one to which he had long been used. It is peculiar in the fate of Raleigh that having before suffered a long imprisonment with an expectation of a public death, his mind had been accustomed to its contemplation, and often dwelt on the event which was now passing.

Go, soul! the body's guest, Upon a thankless errand, &c.

is attributed to Raleigh, though on uncertain evidence. But another, entitled "The Pilgrimage," has this beautiful passage:

"Give me my scap-shell of quiet, My staff of truth to walk upon, My scrip of joy immortal diet, My bottle of salvation, My gown of glory, Hope's true gauge, And though I take my pilgrimage, While my soul, like a quiet Palmer, Travellith towards the land of Heaven."

Raleigh's cheerfulness was so remarkable, and his fearlessness of death so marked, that the Dean of Westminster, who attended him, at first wondered at the hero, reprehended the lightness of his manner; but Raleigh gave God thanks that he had never feared death, for it was but an opinion and an imagination; and as for the manner of death he had rather die so than of a burning fever; and that some might have made shows outwardly, but he felt the joy within.

On the morning of his death, he smoked as usual, his favorite tobacco, and when they brought him a cup of excellent sack, being asked how he liked it, Raleigh answered, "As the fellow that, drinking of Saint Giles's bowl, as he went to Tyburn, said 'that was good drink if a man might tarry by it.'" The day before, in passing from Westminster hall to the Gate-house, his eye had caught Sir Hugh Beeston in the throng, and, calling on him, requested that he would see him die to-morrow.

His dress, as was usual with him, was elegant, if not rich. Oldys describes it, but mentions that "he had a wrought night cap under his hat," which we have otherwise disposed of; his ruff band, a black wrought velvet night-gown over a hair colored satin doublet, and a black wrought waist-coat; black cut taffety breeches, and ash colored silk stockings.

He ascended the scaffold with the same cheerfulness he had passed to it, & observing the lords seated at a distance, some at windows, he requested they would approach him, as he wished what he had to say they should all witness. This request was complied with by several. His speech is well known; but some copies contain matters not in others.

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He embraced all the lords and other friends with such courtly compliments as if he had met them at some feast," says a letter writer. Having taken off his gown, he called to the beads-man to show him the axe, which not being instantly done, he repeated, "I pray thee let me see it; dost thou think that I am afraid of it?" he passed the edge lightly over his finger, and smiling, observed to the sheriff, "This is a sharp medicine, but a sound cure for all diseases," and kissing it, laid it down.

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He was once more, to speak in this world with the same intrepidity he had lived in it—for, having in some minutes on the block in prayer, he gave the signal; but the executioner, either unmindful or in fear, failed to strike, and Raleigh, after once or twice putting forth his hands, was compelled to ask him, "Why dost thou not strike? Strike man!" In two blows he was beheaded; but from the first, his body never shrunk from the spot, by any discomposure of his posture, which, like his mind, was immovable.

"In all the time he was upon the scaffold, and before," says one of the manuscript letter writers, "there appeared not the least alteration in him, either in his voice or countenance; but he seemed as free from all manner of apprehension as if he had come thither rather to be a spectator than a sufferer; nay the beholders seemed much more sensible than he did he, so that he hath purchased here, in the opinion of men, such honor and reputation as it is thought his greatest enemies are they, that are most sorrowful for his death, which they see is like to turn so much to his advantage."

The people were very deeply affected at the sight, and so much that one said that "we had not such another head to cut off," and another wished the head and brains to be upon Secretary Natton's shoulders." The observer suffered for this; he was a wealthy citizen, and great news-monger, and one who haunted Paul's Walk. Complaint was made, and the citizen summoned to the privy council. He pleaded that he intended no disrespect to Mr. Secretary, but only spake in reference to the old proverb, that "two heads were better than one." His excuse was allowed at that moment; but when afterwards called on for a contribution to St. Paul's cathedral, and having subscribed 100 pounds, the Secretary observed to him, "that two are better than one, Mr. Wiemark." Either through fear or charity the witty citizen doubled his subscription.

Thus died this glorious and gallant cavalier, of whom Orsborne says, "his death was managed by him with so high & religious a resolution, as if a Roman had acted a Christian, or rather a Christian a Roman."

After having read the preceding article, we are astonished at the greatness and the variable nature of this extraordinary man, and his happy genius. With Gibbon, who once meditated to write his life, we may pause, and pronounce "his character is ambiguous;" but we shall not hesitate to decide, that Raleigh knew better how to die than to live. "His glorious hours," says a contemporary, "were his arraignment and execution;" but never will be forgotten the intermediate years of his lettered imprisonment.

New York, June 13.

Diamond.—In the Statesman of Friday evening is given an account of some experiments made by Professor Silliman, with the philosophical instrument called the Deflagator, invented by Professor Hare, of Philadelphia, by which we are given to understand that charcoal, plumbago and anthracite have by the power of this instrument been fused and converted into Diamonds. It has been known for a long time that by subjecting diamonds to a great heat, they may be converted into pure carbon. But it has heretofore been beyond the reach of art to convert charcoal into diamonds; every reason is given us to believe that it has remained for America to produce a chemist who has succeeded in a discovery of nearly, if not quite as much importance, if it should be fully confirmed, as that of the philosopher's stone would be.

On the end of the prepared charcoal, and occupying frequently an area of a quarter of an inch or more in diameter, were found numerous globules of perfectly melted matter entirely spherical in their form, having a high vitreous lustre and a great degree of beauty. Some of them, and generally they were those most remote from the focus, were of a jet black like the most perfect obsidian; others were brown, yellow, and topaz coloured; others still were greyish white, like pearl stones, with the transluence and lustre of porcelain; and others still limpid like flint glass, or in some cases like hyalite or precious opal, but without the iridescence of the latter."

and easily scratched not only flint glass, but window glass, and even the hardest green variety which forms the aqua fortis bottles. The globules which had acquired this extraordinary hardness, were formed from plumbago, which was so soft that it was perfectly free from resistance when crushed between the thumb and finger."

FOREIGN.

FROM EUROPE.

The London Packet ship London, Capt. Candler, has just arrived, in 34 days from the Isle of Wight, and brings us London papers one day later than were before received, and Paris dates two days later. We have only time to make a very concise summary.

The news that Mina has succeeded in gaining the rear of Marshal Moncey, is confirmed. This the French Ultra calls retreating; but when the General succeeds in effecting what his adversary vainly endeavors to prevent, it has very much the appearance of an advance. The Pilote announces the communications on the road from Irum to Vittoria as having need of protection; several detachments of troops have been withdrawn from the army besieging St. Sebastian, for that service.

The garrison of St. Sebastian have made a sortie, which the French papers very modestly say "has put into their power a number of French prisoners." Two new Guerrilla Chieftains have presented themselves, one named Mendaca, ex-aid-de-camp to General Porlier, the other, Col. Pablo, surnamed Chapalangara. The latter has specially undertaken to scour the route leading from Vittoria through Salvatierna to Pampeluna. One of the sons of Count Espelette, ex-viceroy of Navarre, is also in that province, at the head of a Guerrilla party.

The Bayonne papers mention that 10 waggons heavily laden with money, for the supply of the French, have passed that place.

The advance of the French army, which our last intelligence left in Valladolid, have made a retrograde march to Burgos. The reason for this movement is alleged to be to avoid a collision with the Portuguese army, with whom the French are not at war.

A convoy of goods, chiefly for the French army, to the amount of 8 millions, left Bayonne on the 9th under a good convoy.

It is again stated, that the factions Portuguese under Amarante, were on their way to join the French. Rego has written that he shall not cease to pursue them. These rebels had taken the road to Astorga, to avoid Morillo, who had left Valladolid with some cavalry.

A later paragraph states, that at a Council of War, the Portuguese Constitutional army judged it not prudent to penetrate Spain any further, and had commenced a march home again. There are no later despatches from the French head quarters, at Burgos, than the 10th—not as late as were before received. The provisional junta, (or Regency) was to leave Burgos for Vittoria. This does not look much like going to Madrid as soon as they had anticipated.

The King's health is so much better, that no bulletin was issued on the 17th. It is said in the south of France many malcontents were anxiously waiting the arrival of the Spanish force, to hoist the tri-coloured flag.

Great uneasiness prevailed in Paris, and the funds continued to decline. The French Frigate Juno had captured a Spanish armed brig of 14 guns, on the coast of Catalonia, and sent her to Marseilles.

Paris, May 15.—"Letters from Bayonne, dated May 10th, announce the arrival of the Spanish and Portuguese forces in the environs of Valladolid. The French troops previously advanced as far as that place had fallen back. It is said the Portuguese army is from 18,000 to 14,000 strong."

Paris, May 15, 4 o'clock P. M.—Mina has entirely outgeneralled his antagonist—both the French and Spanish Royalists—both regular officers and men of the Faith. A dispatch arrived this morning from Marshal Moncey, dated the 13th inst. in which the Marshal announces a severe check to the invading army. It was the intention of the commander of the united French and Spanish forces to compel Mina to fight near Vich, or to drive him within the walls of Barcelona. For this purpose all the divisions of their army had been maneuvering for ten days.

The Constitutional General saw their intentions, and entirely defeated them. Instead of retreating by Olot and Castelfollit, upon Campredon, as was at first said, Mina turned right upon Ripoll, drove before him Ramagosa, and a division of French troops, and with the greatest part of his force has march-

ed upon Berga. He has now a free passage into Arragon. Having gained the valley of the Segura, he can either proceed to Lerida, occupy Cerdagne, or threaten the rear of the allied troops in Catalonia.

This able movement excites the admiration of his antagonists. Some of these antagonists will be reprimanded, and others most likely recalled for allowing themselves to be so outgeneralled. Curial, D'Eroles, and Donnadieu, have got orders to exert themselves to repair the fault which they have committed; but that will not be in their power. Mina and his troops are accustomed to the mountains and the climate. The French are already suffering from heat, scanty subsistence and fatigue, and there is no chance now that they can do any thing in Catalonia."

London, May 17.

Courier Office, 12 o'clock.—We have just received by express, the Etoile of yesterday morning. The following are extracts:

Paris, May 16.—The Count d'Espagne is appointed Viceroy of Navarre. Letters from Lisbon of the 1st inst. confirm what we had announced, that Gen. Rego had returned to Portugal, after having pursued Aguilar as far as Leon, not having been able to overtake him.

They write from Seville that San Miguel has set out to rejoin the Constitutional army. The decline of the English funds has influenced the French Rentes; that is the cause of their fall, and not the defeat of General Donnadieu, which was yesterday currently reported.—Mina, by advancing upon Berga, has merely retarded his ruin. All the divisions of the French and Spanish army, burn with impatience to encounter him.

The following letter has been intercepted: Translation of a letter addressed by Mina to Mina, and which was seized upon his emigration.

Sainte Coloma de Sere, at 7 o'clock in the morning, May 5, 1823.

"My estimable Friend and Companion: Notwithstanding the advantages of this position, I am obliged to abandon it, and to retire upon St. Celoni, because the enemy are within two leagues of my left, and because I have no doubt they will this day occupy St. Harro. In this position, if I had been attacked in front, it would have been impossible for me to accomplish my retreat without experiencing a great loss.

"I am of opinion that you ought to retire upon Saint Felien-del-Pirno, or its neighborhood. By this means we support each other; and be assured we shall not obtain any advantage over them until we are united—that is to say, you at the Colde Mancado, and I in the Concarria, and its defiles. From these positions we could obtain from Barcelona every kind of artillery, besides several thousand men whom we might unite, without the possibility of being taken in flank.

"The General who commands is Aaron d'Eroles. All the artillery and the army are upon my front, about two leagues and a half distant.—Let us not be tardy in our retreat, but try to unite. Such is the opinion of your sincere friend. (Signed) "MILANS."

FROM FRANCE.

New-York, June 24.

The packetship Montano, Capt. Smith, from Havre, arrived last evening—having brought Paris papers and private intelligence to the 19th of May—being three days later than was received yesterday via London. For the following translations we are indebted to the Editors of the American:

Among the passengers who came in the Montano, was the honorable ALEXANDER GALBRAITH, American Minister at the Court of St. Cloud.

Paris, May 18.—The report yesterday circulated, of the complete defeat of a corps of Royalist Spaniards, 3000 strong, commanded by Romagosa, by Mina, who fell unexpectedly upon them, becomes to-day more probable. It is said that the plan of Mina, was to attack in order to disperse the two divisions of Eroles and Romagosa, before coming to hands with the French army. It is said that Gen. Quesada, who was blockading Santona with 3 or 4000 men of the Army of the Faith, having attempted to cause some soldiers to be shot, for want of discipline, was suddenly abandoned by his whole corps d'armee. It is even said that there was a sort of mutiny, and that the General of the Faith was obliged to fly, accompanied only by a single aid-de-camp.

According to the same story, several battalions had been detached from the French army in the vicinity, in order to keep up the blockade of Santona. It is said that the Marshal Duke of Albu-