

The Muse! whose'er the Muse inspires,
My soul the tuneful strain admires... SCOTT.



TO THE EDITORS OF THE WESTERN CAROLINIAN.

GENTLEMEN: If you deem the following lines, the amusement of a leisure hour, worthy a place in your interesting paper, they are at your service. A SUBSCRIBER.

O. F. Rowan County, Nov. 13, 1830.

TO MY PIANO FORTE.

FRIEND of my lonely hours! whose strain
So oft doth mitigate my pain;
Whose aid I ne'er implored in vain
My mind to calm:
Thy power assuasive long retain,
And grief disarm.

A balm for every earthly woe
Thy sweetly plaintive sounds bestow,
How oft this bosom's fervid glow
Thou hast allay'd:
Thy solace may I ne'er forego
When cares invade.

If throbs with joy my heart elate,
Or pensive droops, with adverse fate,
Responsive still thy chords vibrate
In sympathy;
Thy strains do ever emulate
Most feelingly!

The pressure of a hand profane
May ne'er thy tuneful keys sustain:
Insensate, who could e'er disdain
Thy melody,
Or those who list to thy sweet strain
With apathy.

When erst I proudly call'd thee mine,
I bow'd submissive at fashion's shrine;
In all her frolics pantomime
I bore a part:
Her gayest train full oft would join
With guileless heart.

But e'er I yield thee up her prey,
Forever I'll renounce her sway:
What tho' her votaries inveigh
With scornful leer;
Regardless I pursue my way,
Devoid of fear.

Dear partner of my hours of leisure,
Thou never-failing source of pleasure,
How oft hast thou, in sweetest measure,
My cares beguiled;
Whilst, cheer'd by thee, my heart's lost treasure
Has fondly smiled.

Memento of those hours so sweet,
Companion of my lone retreat,
Ne'er, while the pulse of life doth beat,
From thee I'll part:
Those notes so valued still repeat
To cheer my heart.

And when, by earth's cold mantle prest,
This woe-worn heart shall sink to rest,
May yet remain one faithful breast
To mourn for me:
That friend, perchance, with feeling blest,
Will cherish thee.

HARMONICAL.

* These Piano Fortes which the writer saw in New-York, and elsewhere, about two years since, were constructed, externally, very differently from what they were twelve or fourteen years ago.

Literary Extracts, &c.

Variety's the very spice of life,
That gives it all its flavor.

ANECDOTE

Towards the History of the Spanish Inquisition.
When Gen. Lassade entered Toledo, he immediately visited the Palace of the Inquisition. The great number of the instruments of torture, especially the instruments to stretch the limbs, the drop baths (already known) which cause a lingering death, excited horror even in the minds of the soldiers hardened in the field of battle. Only one of these instruments, singular in its kind, for refined torture, disgraceful to reason and religion in the choice of its object, seems to deserve a particular description. In a subterranean vault adjoining the secret audience chamber, stood in a recess in the wall, a wooden statue made by the hands of monks, representing—who would believe it?—the Virgin Mary—a gilded Glory beamed around her head, and she held a standard in her right hand. It immediately struck the spectator, notwithstanding the ample folds of the silk garment which fell from the shoulders on both sides, that she wore a breast plate. Upon a closer examination, it appeared that the whole front of the body was covered with extremely sharp nails, and small blades of knives with the points projecting outwards. The arms and hands had joints, and their motions were directed by machinery placed behind the partition.

One of the servants of the Inquisition, who was present, was ordered by the General to make the machine *manœuvrer*, as he expressed himself.—As the statue extended, its arms gradually drew them back, as if she would affectionately press somebody to the heart; the well filled knapsack of a Polish grenadier supplied for this time the poor victim. The statue pressed it closer and closer, and when, at the command of the General, the director of the machinery made it open its arms and return to its first position, the knapsack was pierced two or three inches deep, and remained hanging upon the nails and knife blades.

EDUCATION.

The following extracts from Gov. CLINTON'S speech to the Legislature of New-York, at the opening of the session on the 7th instant, gives a very flattering and interesting account of the flourishing state of the elementary and higher schools in that powerful and respectable member of the American Union. The sun of public patronage has warmed into existence these numerous conservatories of public morals, and nurseries of patriots and statesmen; and the increasing advancement of the moral and political character of the state will demonstrate the wisdom of the liberal appropriations for the support of these important institutions, and the rapid development of its power and resources will be the inevitable consequence.

EXTRACTS:

The flourishing condition of our seminaries of education, furnishes additional inducements to continue and extend the patronage of the state. In the common schools, organized under the act for their establishment, three hundred thousand children are taught, and 160,000 dollars are annually appropriated to the compensation of the teachers. I am informed by the useful and able officer who presides over this department, that the number of pupils at present taught in our schools, is equal to nine-tenths of the whole number of children between the ages of 5 and 15 years, which approximates to one-fourth of our whole population. There are probably twenty schools in this state conducted on the Lancasterian system exclusively, and several others which follow it partially, but not so far as to assume a distinctive character. In some of these establishments, several young men have been recently instructed as Lancasterian teachers; and it is to be hoped that this system will be carried into the most extensive operation. There are now upon an average about fifty scholars for every schoolmaster under the present plan of common schools; and whether the number be great or be small, the introduction of the Lancasterian method is of importance: for, admitting in all cases the competency of the teacher to attend to all his pupils, yet when we consider the rapidity of acquiring instruction under that system, and reflect on the useful habits which it forms, and the favorable impressions which it makes on the minds and the morals of those who participate in its benefits, we cannot hesitate to give it a decided preference. The education of youth is an important trust, and an honorable vocation, but it is too often committed to unskilful hands. Liberal encouragement ought, unquestionably, to be dispensed for increasing the number of competent teachers.

In thirty of the forty incorporated academies, there were the last year two thousand two hundred and eighteen students, of which six hundred and eighty-eight were engaged in learning Latin and Greek. The fund appropriated for the benefit of these institutions is about 320,000 dollars.

In Columbia, Union, and Hamilton Colleges, there are five hundred and twenty-two students; and in the two Medical Colleges, one hundred and ninety-six. The grants to these establishments amount to upwards of 720,000 dollars: and perhaps the whole appropriation for the promotion of education, may be estimated at two millions and a half of dollars. Although this sum may appear highly liberal, yet when we look at the resources, population, and extent of the state, and consider that knowledge is essential to the happiness and dignity of man—to the existence of republican government, and to national power and glory, we must feel persuaded that more munificent dispensations ought to be afforded for its encouragement and diffusion. And I would particularly recommend the education, at the public expense, of youth distinguished and selected for moral superiority, or pre-eminence of talents and character. A measure of this nature is strictly in unison with the genius of our government, and would have a tendency to restore the equilibrium of society—to mitigate those prejudices which spring up in the freest communities—to develop intellectual resources, which would otherwise be lost to the world, and to excite a spirit of emulation propitious

to the interests of knowledge, and promotive of the fame and prosperity of our country. When I contemplate the vast resources of the state, and particularly the immense revenue which will accrue from the completion of its great plans of internal improvement, I entertain a confident expectation that the rising and all future generations, will experience the continued and increased munificence of government, exercised in different ways and through various channels, for the promotion of instruction and the propagation of knowledge.

BRITISH HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The following statement exhibits, as near as possible, the present constitution of the British House of Commons:—

Members returned by 87 Peers in England and Wales,	218
by 21 Peers in Scotland	31
by 35 Peers in Ireland	51
144	300
by 90 Commons in England & Wales	137
by 14 Commons in Scotland	14
by 19 Commons in Ireland	20
by Governmental Nomination	16
Total returned by nomination in which the people have no vote	487
Independent of Nomination	171
Total House of Commons,	658

A Majority of the above members is actually nominated by 189 individuals; and this majority decides all questions in the name of the whole population which amounts to nearly fourteen millions. Of this population, it is calculated, that the number of persons qualified to vote did not exceed 122,084. The city of Glasgow, with a population of 100,784, has not a single representative in Parliament. This is also the case with Manchester, Birmingham, Leeds, and Sheffield, the population of which extends from 35,000, to 98,000. There are upwards of 20 other cities, none of which have less than ten thousand inhabitants, that have no voice in the national representation. One city, Bath, with a population of 31,469, has only 30 persons qualified to vote, and these send two members to Parliament. Gatton, and Castle Rising, in which there are only four dwelling houses, together with old Sarum and Midhurst, in which there are no dwelling houses, return four members!

But this shameful inequality is not the only feature in the English representation deserving of reprobation. All the ministers of the king and many of their clerks have seats in one or other of the houses of Parliament; and by an official document, printed by order of the House of Commons, dated in May, 1809, it appears that 76 members of the then parliament received in salaries and pensions, free from all deductions, no less a sum than £164,003 sterling, or \$728,137 per annum. The ancestors of the present race of Englishmen had enacted "that no person who has an office or place of profit under the King, or receives a pension from the crown, shall be capable of serving as a member of the House of Commons." They had also declared, that "it is a high infringement of the liberties of the Commons of England, for any lord of parliament or lord lieutenant to take any concern, or in any way interfere with the return of members to that house." These salutary declarations proceeded upon the principle, that a servant of the crown could not at the same time be a faithful servant of the people, and that a member ought not to be allowed to spend the money which he is expressly deputed to save. It was left to the profligate ministers of the last and the present reign to violate these correct principles. Even the selling of seats in the House of Commons, which a member openly declared to "be as notorious as the sun at noon-day," has been vindicated by the very virtuous ministers of the no less virtuous George the IV. [Nat. Adv.]

Intemperance.

The following extract is from an address delivered by the Hon. John Holmes, before the members of Saco Lodge, on the last Anniversary of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist.—Eastern Arg.

"TEMPERANCE is a masonic virtue. And let it be held in everlasting remembrance, that intemperance is a most fatal and destructive vice. The temptations and delusions of this adversary of our peace, the treacherous arts by which it flatters us from the paths of rectitude, and the syren song, by which it lures us into its foul embrace, surpass the powers of description. The cursed, fascinating, fatal charm by which it binds the faculties, captivates the heart and perverts and paralyzes the understanding, is matter of the profoundest astonishment.—Before the danger is discovered, escape is hopeless and the willing victim irretrievably lost. Floating gently down a smooth and delightful current, towards the brink of a tremendous cataract, he sees no

necessity of resisting its force, perceives not its increase, nor reflects that he is approaching the danger. Every moment the power and inclination to resist diminish, while the danger is increased. He approaches, perceives the dashing, hears the roaring and feels the trembling.—The current is accelerated, it becomes irresistible, he is hurried to the brink, the abyss yawns, he is swallowed in the vortex and lost forever. Is the charm irresistible? Does the malady admit no cure? Is the calamity inevitable? Can nothing be done by man's to prevent it? Yes. Let them beware that they never countenance or indulge an intemperate brother. Let them administer correction with the hand of friendship. Let the admonition be honest, faithful and reasonable. To provide against possible danger, let them often try the experiment upon themselves, to discover the first symptoms of the contagion.

They will pardon my zeal, for it is in the cause of humanity: I am pleading for the disconsolate mother, the hapless orphan and the broken-hearted and distracted wife. I come with the tears of disappointed love and the anguish of the wounded heart. I plead in the name and behalf of suffering virtue, neglected and abandoned for revel and riot. I imagine I hear a voice from the dark and dismal mansions of the dead, saying, "O ye sons of dissipation and excess! ye prodigals, who riot and wanton with the gifts of a bounteous Providence! come and behold the companions of your revels, the victims of your folly. See the father's pride and mother's joy, snatched from their embrace and hurried headlong to an untimely tomb. See the flower of youth and beauty shedding its fragrance and displaying its glory; but ere the morning dew has escaped on the breeze, it sickens, withers and dies. Here the object of virtuous affection: there the promise of connubial bliss; this the hope of his country, and that the encouragement and consolation of religion—all poisoned by intemperance, all doomed to a premature and disgraceful death. Look at these and be admonished."

Religious.

EXTRACT FROM DR. GRIFFIN'S SPEECH, Delivered at the Fourth Anniversary of the American Bible Society.

The time has come when HOLINESS TO THE LORD should be written on all our powers and on all our possessions; when the people of these states should arise as one man, to a mighty and continued effort, and never rest till they have lodged a Bible in every house from Canada to Cape Horn.

And they will arise. A little while and those scenes shall be displayed which glowed under the pencil of enraptured seers. Not always shall wealth be regarded chiefly as the means of power and pleasure—but the rich shall account it the highest happiness of their distinction, that they have something to give to Him who created and redeemed them. We, or if not we, our posterity, will regard the silver and gold as the Lord's, and will cast into his treasury such offerings as past ages never witnessed. The rich shall bring their thousands, and the poor their willing mite. The gold of Ophir and the topaz of Ethiopia shall be brought; the flocks of Kedar and the rams of Nebaioth shall be devoted. The Bible shall have dominion over the world; a dominion more extensive than that of Alexander, and more benignant than that of Alfred. Under its holy and pacific reign, "officers shall be peace, and exactors righteousness." "Violence shall no more be heard in the land, wasting nor destruction within its borders." "They shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid, and the calf, and the young lion, and the falling together, and a little child shall lead them."—You, sir, will see it, but not here. That morning shall chase the darkness from a thousand lands. The day shall pour its radiance into the cells of Hindoo superstition, and into the midnight of poor unpeopled Africa. The light, breaking from Mount Zion, shall glance from the Apennines to the Andes, and thaw and irradiate the poles. "The light of the moon shall be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun shall be seven-fold as the light of seven days;" and "the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea." Every man shall then possess a Bible, and every man shall press the Bible to his heart. Then shall be known the mighty work which the word of God was sent on earth to accomplish, and the prodigious influence on the happiness of men which it exerted. Then may you see the work of Bible Societies lie finished by their side. And when this glorious consummation of their labor shall appear, then may they come in and meet in a common centre, from America and Russia, and China and the Southern Islands; and sing their triumphs on Mount Zion.

The safe and general antidote against sorrow is employment. Sorrow is a kind of rust of the soul, which every new idea contributes in its passage to scour away. It is the putrescence of stagnant life, and is remedied by life and industry.