

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



FROM MOORE'S SACRED MELODIES.

Go, let me weep—there's bliss in tears,  
When he who sheds them, inly feels:  
Some ling'ring stain of early years  
Effaced by every drop that steals.  
The fruitless showers of worldly wo  
Fall dark to earth, and never rise;  
While tears that from REPENTANCE flow,  
In bright exhalation reach the skies.  
The warmest sigh that pleasure heaves  
Is cold, is faint, to those that swell  
The heart, where pure repentance grieves  
O'er hours of pleasure, lov'd too well!  
Leave me too sigh o'er hours that flew  
More idly than the summer's wind,  
And while they pass'd a fragrance threw,  
And left no trace of sweets behind.

ABSENCE.....BY CAMPBELL.

'Tis not the loss of love's assurance,  
'Tis not doubting what thou art,  
'Tis the too, too long endurance  
Of absence that afflicts my heart.

The fondest thoughts two hearts can cherish  
When each is lonely doom'd to weep,  
Are fruits, on desert isles, that perish,  
Or riches buried in the deep.

What, though untouch'd by jealous madness,  
Our bosom's peace may fall to wreck;  
Th' undoubting heart, that breaks with raptures,  
Is but more slowly doom'd to break.

Absence! is not the soul torn by it,  
From more than light, or life, or death:  
'Tis Lethe's gloom, without its quiet,  
The pain without the peace of Death.

### Literary Extracts, &c.

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

#### DEBATING CLUBS.

We insert the following extracts on the utility of Debating Societies, at the suggestion of a friend. We do it more willingly, as there is an institution of the kind in Salisbury, which was organized some time since, by a few spirited young gentlemen, who are ambitious to become distinguished in something more laudable than sensual gratification,—but which, owing to the remissness of some of its members, the inquisitorial and prying curiosity, and officious prognostics of wisacres unconnected with it, is now in rather a languishing condition:

“Dr. Franklin was always a warm supporter of Debating Clubs, and was one of the first who advocated their efficacy in this country. He founded one of them in this city which existed upwards of thirty years, composed of a numerous body of respectable citizens.

“Societies of this nature have been frequently objected to upon a plea that they are beneficial to none but professional Lawyers, &c.—but this unwarrantable prejudice cannot be indulged for a moment in a reasonable mind, if the least consideration is bestowed upon them. I affirm that they are advantageous to every person. It is not exclusively the oratorical powers which may be improved by them; the intellectual powers of the mind are expanded commensurately with the improvement of the voice, action and gesture. And who, in public or private life, will deny the necessity of mental improvement?

“In the discussion of Historical subjects considerable benefits must arise; the mind is necessarily led to history for information which would not perhaps otherwise be acquired. Self-resolution to study does not prevail. And without that animation which a spirit of contention always excites, we frequently become languid, and disregard the essential knowledge of literature. Debating Societies fertilize the ideas—add fluency to the speech—promote confidence in the timid speaker—and, in short, to take them for all in all, they represent to us a mass of information, without a counteracting objection, which the most sceptical understanding cannot presume to deny.

“In the various vicissitudes of life, it is not unnatural to suppose that nearly every individual at some future period, will be under the necessity of promulgating his sentiments upon matters of public or private import; for where is the person who could tacitly listen to the unreasonableness and fallacious dictates of another? But who would be enabled to stand before a numerous and critical audience, *fari quæ sentiat*, without the benefit of experience?

“It always conveys a pleasing sensation to the reflecting mind to witness an association of young Gentlemen, stimulated by a fervid

desire of distinguishing themselves in mental qualifications. It convinces us that they are exalted with a superior sense of the infinite bounties of their Creator—and that their minds soar above the elements of mediocrity.”

“It is an old adage that ‘large oaks from trifling acorns grow,’ which is very obviously exemplified in the exaltation of the human mind. Let the above maxim be verified; and let every young person persevere in a course of so much utility. While success and prosperous precedents point out the path, let us steer upon the unerring criterion—and the auspicious zephyrs will waft the bark to shores of prosperity and fame. AMICUS.”

### EXTRACT.

The rise, aggrandizement, decline, and fall of the Roman power, are included within the compass of twelve centuries. The mighty empire, like the majestic temple that adorned her capital, was broken into fragments, and divided among numerous nations. At the end of that period, by the incursions of foreign armies, the first foundations of those kingdoms were laid, which are now the most distinguished in the history of the western world. The Saxons contended successfully with the natives for the possession of Britain. Gaul and Spain were divided between the Franks, Visigoths, Suevi, and Burgundians; Africa was exposed to the Vandals and Moors; and Italy was filled by an army of northern barbarians. Constantinople, which continued for some centuries after the reign of its celebrated founder, to give an imperfect representation of imperial splendor, was finally taken by the Turks with its dependent territories. The Roman empire resembled the Danube, which, after pouring a grand and impetuous flood, and receiving the supply of large rivers, is divided into various streams, before it mixes with the ocean.

The Romans, illustrious as they were for the dignity of their character, their martial prowess, and the extent of their empire, hold forth a splendid light for the guidance of mankind. Their virtues in the prosperity of the Commonwealth, and their vices in its decline, furnish examples and cautions to persons of all succeeding times. In those kings and emperors, who were remarkable for purity of character, monarchs may find examples worthy of their imitation; and commonwealths may be taught, from the disorders of their factions, what limits to prescribe to the ambition of the wealthy, and what curb to impose upon the licentiousness of the populace. To be conversant with this important history is to view mankind engaged in the fullest exercise of patriotism, courage, and talents; or to contemplate them enervated by luxury, debased by corruption, and sunk into the most abject disgrace.

.....O Luxury!  
Bane of elated life, of affluent states,  
What dreary chance, what ruin is not thine?  
How dost thou bowl intoxicate the mind,  
To the soft entrance of thy rosy bower  
How dost thou lure the fortunate and great!  
Dreadful attraction! while behind thee gapes  
The unfathomable gulf, where Ashur lies  
O'erwhelm'd, forgotten, and high-boasting Cham,  
And Elam's haughty pomp, and beauteous Greece,  
And the great Queen of Earth, imperial Rome.

BYER'S FLECK.

FROM THE NEW-HAMPSHIRE PATRIOT.

And God said, Let there be light; and there was light.  
Light is one of the most astonishing productions of the creative skill and power of God.—It is the grand medium by which all his other works are discovered, examined, and understood, so far as they can be known. Its immense diffusion and extreme velocity are alone sufficient to demonstrate the being and wisdom of God.—Light has been proved, by many experiments, to travel at the astonishing rate of 194,188 miles in one second of time! and comes from the sun to the earth in eight minutes 11 43-50 seconds, a distance of 95, 13,794 English miles.

On the nature of the Sun there have been various conjectures. It was long thought that it was a vast globe of fire, 1,384,462 times larger than the earth; and that it was continually emitting from its body innumerable millions of fiery particles, which being extremely divided, answered for light and heat, without occasioning any ignition or burning, except when collected in the focus of a convex lens or burning glass.—Against this opinion, however, many serious and weighty objections have been made; and it has been so pressed with difficulties, that philosophers have been obliged to look for a theory less repugnant to nature and probability. Dr. Herschel's discoveries, by means of his immensely magnifying telescopes, have, by general consent of philosophers, added a new habitable world to our system, which is the SUN. Without stopping to enter into detail, which would be improper here, it is sufficient to say, that these discoveries tend to prove, that what we call the sun is only the atmosphere of that luminary; that this atmosphere consists of various elastic fluids, that are more or less lucid and transparent; that as the clouds belonging to our earth are probably decompositions of some of the elastic fluids belonging to the atmosphere itself, so we may suppose that in the vast atmosphere of the sun, similar decompositions may take place, but with this difference, that the de-

compositions of the elastic fluids of the Sun are of a phosphoric nature, and are attended by lucid appearances, by giving out light. The body of the Sun he considers as hidden generally from us, by means of this luminous atmosphere; but what are called the macula or spots on the Sun, are real opening in this atmosphere, through which the opaque body of the Sun becomes visible—that this atmosphere itself is not fiery or hot, but it is the instrument which God designed to act on caloric or latent heat; and that heat is only produced by the solar light acting upon and combining with the caloric or matter of fire contained in the air, and other substances which are heated by it.

### BALANCE OF TRADE.

The New-York Literary and Scientific Repository, for April, 1821, contains a review of a new work, entitled “An Examination of the new Tariff proposed by the Hon. Henry Baldwin, a representative in Congress,” from which we have selected the following remarks on a subject which has been productive of much windy debate and gloomy prophecy, viz. *balance of trade*. Quite a different view is given of the subject from that exhibited in the speeches and writings of the advocates of a farther increase of the duties on foreign manufactures.

This balance of trade, although an object of unceasing alarm to statesmen of a certain description, can never be detected by its actual presence. We are generally directed to search for it in the books of the treasury department; and if we there find our imports to exceed our exports, we are confidently assured that this mysterious influence is exerting itself hostilely to our interest. A simple illustration of the application of this theory, will show the wisdom of this mode of estimating national profit and loss. A vessel clears from Baltimore for Liverpool with a cargo of cotton, the first cost of which is ten thousand dollars: As we retain a sufficient quantity of the article for our home consumption, the surplus is useless to us: In England the cotton is sold, and the proceeds laid out in their manufactures, which are taken to Lima and there exchanged for copper, which is brought to this country and sold for 20,000 dollars. Now, the greater the profits of the voyage are found to be, the more the imports will exceed the exports;—& the balance of trade is thus made out to be against us, in the same degree that the voyage has added to the aggregate wealth of the country. The whale and sea fisheries, and the foreign carrying trade, in which no exports appear, and their returns are all profits, are proved, by this ingenious theory, to be the most ruinous of all possible commercial adventures. We refer the reader to the perspicuous view of this subject, which the work before us contains. We extract his concluding remarks.

‘It would be an endless task to follow the capital of this country, winding its way through a thousand channels, borne on the wings of enterprise, and guided by profit, until it finally reaches that spot upon the globe, where it may be profitably vested in the articles which are most wanted in the United States, and where the best may be bought at the cheapest rate; or seeking through the medium of exchange, that nation, among the nations of the earth, to which the United States may at the moment be indebted. And is it in the power of any Secretary of the Treasury in the world; is it in the power of any man, to ascertain what becomes of the cargoes shipped from the United States, after they have left the country? to watch a thousand ships on every ocean and every sea? to follow every bale of cotton, barrel of flour, bushel of corn, or hogshead of tobacco, until it reaches the market, where the American merchant parts with it for ever? Is it in the power of man to collect from a million of traders the nett amount which each invoice produced in the foreign country? Until the American merchant parts with his goods, the property is still his, it still is a part of the property of his country. And is it not folly, after this property, under the direction of Americans, has been transferred from place to place for years, (probably accumulating some profit on each voyage,) and is at last received into the United States,—is it not downright folly, to make up our account with the world, and charge it against commerce, as augmenting the balance of trade against us?

In taking an enlarged view of the business of this nation with the world, there seems to be an absurdity in the very idea of a balance of trade against it. It is admitted by all that this is the most flourishing country in the world, and that its wealth is increasing, in a ratio to its capital, more rapidly than that of any other nation. When we see her doubling her wealth; when we know that she is receiving an annual increase of population and wealth from the old nations in the world, it is impossible to believe that an unfavorable balance of trade can exist.’

If the imports of a nation exceed its exports, it only shows that more property comes into the country than passes out of it. If this mode of doing business can be continued by us for a series of years, the conclusion is inevitable, either that

the condition of those countries with whom we trade is such as to compel them to purchase of us in a manner highly to our advantage, or that we possess means of giving advantage to our credit abroad, independent of the mere value we export. Now, we maintain, that we are standing the chance of distress, and are suffering in our ears, we do enjoy both of these advantages.

### LITERARY.

We have perused a letter from an accomplished gentleman in London stating, amongst other things, that there are two manuscripts in the possession of the mysterious Author of *Waverley*. Mr. Washington Irving's *Sketch-Book* has passed to its fourth edition. The publisher, Mr. Murray, has observed that the sale of this work is unparalleled—considering the high price of the volumes—and that the author has been heretofore unknown to fame. Mr. Irving has been travelling in France with a view to new Sketches. The picture recently painted by our young countryman, Mr. G. S. Newton, and sold to Mr. Hogg in London, has been so admired, that with the owner's consent, it is to be engraved by one of the best artists who applied to him for that purpose. One of the publications is noticing the merits of the painting observes, that “it does honor to the country where the author was born, and to the British school, where he was educated.” *B. & L.*

### Religious.

THE HOLY SCRIPTURES  
(SELECTED.)

In the volumes of sacred history there is an impartiality of narrative, which is an undoubted characteristic of truth. If we read the *Lives of Pictarch*, or the *History of Livy*, we soon discover that these writers composed their works under the influence of many prejudices in favour of their respective countries. A veil is thrown over the defects of their heroes, but their virtues are placed in a strong light, and painted in vivid colours. In the Scriptures, on the contrary, both of the Old and the New Testament, the strictest impartiality prevails. The vices of David, Solomon, and their successors, are neither concealed nor palliated. There is no ostentation of vanity, no parade of panegyric; virtue charms with her native beauty, and vice acquires no disguise to conceal her deformity. The characters of persons are sketched, and the effects of the passions are represented without reserve or concealment, and the moral to be drawn from each description is so obvious, as to account for the frequent omission of remarks and applications. The abject condition of the Jews, when prohibited the use of weapons of war by the victorious Philistines; their relapses into idolatry, their perverseness of disposition, and their various defeats and captivities, with every circumstance of private as well as public disgrace, are recorded without palliation or reserve. Always rising superior to the motives which induce other authors to violate the purity and degrade the majesty of truth, these writers keep one great and most important end constantly in view, and show the various methods by which the providence of God effected his gracious designs; how he produced good from evil, and employed the sins and follies of mankind as the instruments of his gracious purposes.

To peruse the holy Scriptures is one of the first employments of childhood. We cannot fail to congratulate ourselves that our time has been thus occupied, when our judgment is sufficiently mature to form a comparative estimate of the various productions of literature, and we are fully able to determine their usefulness. And it will be found, as life is verging towards its close, when every other book begins to be insipid and uninteresting, that the HOLY BIBLE, which includes the most ancient records of time, the clearest evidences of a divine revelation, and the joyful promises of eternal happiness, will attract us more and more, as old age advances, and will afford us that divine solace and inexpressible satisfaction which no other writings can give.

“I durst appeal to the judgment of a candid reader, that there is no history so pleasant as the sacred. Set aside the majesty of the inditer, none can compare with it for the magnificence and antiquity of the matter, the sweetness of compiling, the strange variety of memorable occurrences: and if the delight be such, what shall the profit be esteemed of that which was written by God for the salvation of men? I confess no thoughts did ever more sweetly steal me and time away than those which I have employed in this subject: and I hope none can equally benefit others; if the mere relation of these holy things be permitted, in such a case, when it is reduced to use?” *Bishop Hall's Meditations.*

Speed in bestowing doubles a gift.