

## Literary Extracts, &c.

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

### NATURAL HISTORY.

THE IVORY BILL'D WOODPECKER of North America. From Wilson's "American Ornithology."

This majestic and formidable species, in strength and magnitude, stands at the head of the whole class of *Woodpeckers* hitherto discovered. He may be called the king or chief of his tribe; and nature seems to have designed him a distinguished characteristic in the superb crest, and bill of polished ivory, with which she has ornamented him. His eye is brilliant and daring, and his whole frame so admirably adapted to his mode of life, and method of procuring subsistence, as to impress on the mind of the examiner, the most reverential ideas of the Creator. His manners have also a dignity in them superior to the common herd of *Woodpeckers*. Trees, shrubbery, orchards, rails, fence posts and old prostrate logs, are alike interesting to those, in their humble and indefatigable search for prey; but the royal hunter now before us, scorns the humility in such situations, and seeks the most towering trees of the forest, seeming particularly attached to those prodigious cypress swamps, whose crowded giant sons stretch their bare and blasted or moss-hung arms midway to the skies. In their almost inaccessible recesses, amidst ruinous piles of impending timber, his trumpet-like note and loud strokes resound through the solitary savage wilds, of which he seems the sole lord and inhabitant. Wherever he frequents, he leaves numerous monuments of his industry behind him.

We there see enormous pine trees, with cart loads of bark lying round their roots, and chips of the trunk itself, in such quantities as to suggest the idea that half a dozen of axemen had been at work there for the whole morning. The body of the tree is also disfigured with such numerous and so long excavations, that one can hardly conceive it possible for the whole to be the work of a *Woodpecker*. With such strength and apparatus so powerful, what havoc might he not commit, if numerous, on the most useful of our forest trees: and yet, with all these appearances, and much vulgar prejudice against him, it may fairly be questioned whether he is at all injurious, or at least, whether his exertions do not contribute most powerfully to the protection of our timber. Examine closely the tree where he hath been at work, and you will soon perceive that it is neither from motives of mischief or amusement, that he slices off the bark, or digs his way into the trunk—for the sound and healthy tree is not the object of his attention. The diseased, infested with insects, and hastening to putrefaction, are his favorites; there the deadly crawling enemy have formed a lodgment, between the bark and tender wood, to drink up the very vital part of the tree. It is the ravages of these vermin which the intelligent proprietor of the forest deploras as the soul perpetrators of the destruction of his timber. Would it be believed that the larvae of an insect, or fly, no larger than a grain of rice, should silently, and in one season, destroy some thousand acres of pine trees, many of them from two to three feet in diameter, and a hundred and fifty feet high? Yet, wherever passes from Georgetown to Charleston, in South Carolina, about twenty miles from the former place, can have striking and melancholy proofs of this fact. In some places, the whole woods, as far as you can see around you, are dead, stripped of their bark, their wintry looking arms and bar-trunks bleaching in the sun, and tumbling in ruins before every blast, presenting a frightful picture of desolation.

I looking over the accounts given of the ivory bill'd woodpecker by the naturalists of Europe, I find it asserted that it inhabits from New Jersey to Mexico. I believe, however, that few of them are ever seen in the north of Virginia, and very few of them in that state.—The first place I observed this bird at, when on my way to the south, was about 12 miles of Wilmington North Carolina. There I found the bird from which the drawing of the figure was taken. This bird was only wounded slightly in the wing; and on being caught, uttered a loudly reiterated and most piteous note, exactly resembling the violent crying of a young child, which terrified my horse,

so as nearly to have cost me my life. It was distressing to hear it. I carried it with me in the chair, under cover, to Wilmington. In passing through the streets, its affecting cries surprised every one within hearing, particularly the females, who hurried to the doors and windows with looks of alarm and anxiety.

I drove on; and on arriving at the piazza of the hotel, where I intended to put up, the landlord came forward, and a number of other persons who happened to be there, all equally alarmed at what they heard: this was greatly increased by my asking, whether he could furnish me with accommodations for myself and baby. The man looked blank and foolish, while the others stared with still greater astonishment. After diverting myself for a minute or two at their expense, I drew my *Woodpecker* from under the cover, and a general laugh took place. I took him up stairs, and locked him up in my room, while I went to see my horse taken care of. In less than an hour I returned, and opening the door, he set up the same distressing shout, which now appeared to proceed from grief, that he had been discovered in his attempt to escape. He had mounted along the side of the window, nearly as high as the ceiling, a little below which he had begun to break through. The bed was covered with large pieces of plaster; the lath was exposed for at least 15 inches square, and a hole large enough to admit the first, opened to the weather boards, so that in less than one hour, he would certainly have succeeded in making his way through. I now tied a string round his leg, and fastened it to the table and again left him. I wished to preserve his life, and had gone off in search of suitable food for him.

As I re-ascended the stairs, I heard him hard at work; and on entering had the mortification to perceive that he had almost entirely ruined the mahogany table to which he was fastened, and on which he had wreaked his whole vengeance. While engage in taking the drawing, he cut me in several places; and, on the whole, displayed such a noble and unconquered spirit, that I was frequently attempted to restore him to his native woods. He lived with me nearly three days, but refused all sustenance; and I witnessed his death with regret.

### FROM THE AURORA.

The following extracts from a letter from a young gentleman of Philadelphia, travelling in Great Britain, being from a fresh and unbiassed eye, may afford some amusement.

Oct. 23, 1821.

### THE SCOTTISH BORDER.

On my return to Oxford, I took the stage for Carlisle, and passed through a poor country, inhabited mostly by a poor peasantry, almost if not quite as wretched as the soil they cultivate.—There are, however, on the road, several considerable towns, where, if there be as much poverty, it is not so visible. Lancaster is celebrated for its courts; Preston for the fatal engagement which put an end to the hopes of the Stuart family in England. The battle is described in the *Waverley* novel, it is said, faithfully. Carlisle is one of the few fortified towns that remain. The land around it seems to be in somewhat better cultivation than that of Cumberland generally, in which county it is situated. It is much celebrated for the courts held there annually. I had a view of the courthouses, which really are very elegant buildings. Taking stage thence, I proceeded on the road for Edinburgh, which lies along the Scottish border, and has now become a kind of classic ground. Sir W. Scott has thrown a charm over every spot which was capable of fine description, and whilst I rode along the banks of the Eske, and had a view of Netherby hall, I could almost fancy myself riding with the young Lochinvar, and swimming the "Eske river, where ford there was none." But in truth it was not necessary that Walter Scott should have written in order to create a feeling of pleasure at the sight of such scenery. Had he never invoked the muse, these scenes would still have existed, and still would the mind have enjoyed the beauties, which on this spot nature has so bounteously lavished.

### AN ENGLISH CUSTOM HOUSE.

In Liverpool I passed my time rather more composedly than when there before. I had not now to pass through a custom house—of all adventures in this world, the most tedious and perplexing. The ancients in their description of the lower regions, have

caused the hero who visited them, to undergo much vexation, from a three headed dog, that was placed at the entrance. Had they thought of it, they would certainly have placed an English custom house there instead of Cerberus, for he never made half the difficulty that must be encountered with these custom house officers. If you can only fancy this custom house transfigured into a female, I think Milton's description of *Sin* would not be an inappropriate personification.

About her middle round  
A cry of hell-hounds never ceasing bark'd  
With wide Cerberian mouths full loud, and sung  
A hideous peal; yet, when they list, would creep  
If ought disturbed their noise, into her womb,  
And kennel there; yet there still bark'd and howl'd  
Within unseen.

### THE NOBILITY.

In travelling through England, I saw much to admire and to interest me. The great roads in particular are almost as even as a parlor floor; and travelling 50 miles a day at the rate of 9 or 10 miles an hour does not cause as much fatigue as half the distance in our country. I had expected to have found this country bare of woodland; but here are a great many beautiful groves, which however are principally preserved for the purposes of show and enticing game. On the nobleman's estates are very extensive parks. The duke of Marlborough has one that is 18 miles round; the whole of which is surrounded by a stone wall, of 6 or 8 feet high. I was under an impression that the nobility was greatly feared, and had an extensive influence; on mentioning this idea near the estate of the duke, incidentally, I was told, "we look upon him as a large dog with his teeth out—England's a free country, sir." The nobility here were as powerful as wealthy in former times—but it is now the reverse in both particulars. Their estates, which have been entailed from father to the eldest son for 300 years, are mostly involved in debt, and their incomes pledged to the payment of creditors. If the law of entails were broken—and in Scotland strong efforts are making for that effect—the British peerage would sink forever. In former times, under the feudal system, the whole territory, particularly Scotland, was portioned to the nobility, and the inhabitants held the lands at a certain *feu*, or ground rent. This is the true cause that has rendered Scotland so miserably poor, and so it must be where the entails hold, and as long as they endure.

The duke of Buccleugh's estate in Scotland is 22 by 21 miles square, and over it has almost absolute dominion. This territory has a certain number of votes in the house of commons, of which the duke has the entire control. If he happens to side with the Tories, he can send Tory members; if with the Whigs, the Treasury of England is his market, and he sends whatever suits the minister, if the minister suits him. Thus it is that the king, by his ministers, holds so much power in his hands; and it is thus this nation is—in poverty and debt.

### IDOLS.

The duke of Wellington is not generally liked—There was a time when he was all in all; and the establishments which still exist—the Wellington coaches—boots—surtouts—places, and bridges, shew to what extent infatuation may be carried, while it lasts—and how an idol may be worshipped during the delusion.—But the days of this idolatry have gone by, and those who formerly gave all the credit of the Waterloo victory to Wellington, now understand it better, and plainly see, that if it had not been for Blücher, the allied powers must have submitted to Napoleon. Parliament have granted a great sum of money to the duke to build a palace, but the palace is yet in imagination; as the duke does not appear to like the idea of so much money lying idle, and he therefore prefers drawing the interest of the money.

The death of Napoleon, and of the queen, did not make much excitement—the people think generally that both were poisoned—the affair is however blown over.

The author of the Scottish novels is the most fortunate writer of this or any age; and if the following statement can be relied on, each of his works must be a fortune to both author and bookseller.—His first editions are 20,000 copies, and to this is usually added another of 10,000. The following, then, is something like the account between him and his printer, for a novel of three volumes, of fifteen sheets each:

1,800 reams of paper, at 26s £2,340  
Printing forty-five sheets at £21 945

Advertising 100  
Commission and other expenses 600  
3,985  
Taking the returns at only £1 1s. per copy, the retail price being £1 11s. 6d. we have a nett produce of 21,000

Profit on first edition, £17,015

If to this be added £8,000 for the profit of the second edition, it appears that each of these novels, of three volumes, yields the enormous profit of £25,015.  
Eng. Paper.

## Religious.

FOR THE WESTERN CAROLINIAN.

THE THIRD ANNUAL REPORT of the Managers of the Auxiliary Bible Society of Asheville, N. C. embracing the operations of two years, presented July 26, 1821.

In recording the operations of the Society during the two last years, the managers feel much regret and embarrassment for the want of materials to furnish an interesting document. Their operations have been greatly impeded, and almost totally suspended, for the want of Bibles. The small stock on hand at the second annual meeting was soon disposed of; and the Board were not able to obtain another supply till recently. On the 31st of July, 1819, there were at the disposal of the Society only 31 Bibles. The Board had purchased 129, which were daily expected to arrive. These have not yet been received. Information of a recent date renders it probable that they may yet be obtained, and that in a few weeks.\* The regret and disappointment occasioned by this unexpected and extraordinary delay have been greatly lessened by the liberal and unsolicited regard of the parent Society. With great satisfaction the Board have to state the reception of 100 Bibles and 100 Testaments, a donation from the American Bible Society. After an unusual delay, these came to hand in the early part of last spring. The grateful acknowledgments of the Society are due for this timely and important supply of the Word of God. Our wants were known, and promptly relieved by the fostering hand of a kind Parent.

At the end of the second year there were on hand 31 Bibles, and there have since been received 100 Bibles and 100 Testaments. Of these there have been sold in the two years 44 Bibles and 4 Testaments, and 4 Bibles have been given to the indigent; making the whole number of Bibles and Testaments distributed since the Institution of the Society two hundred and fifty. There are at the disposal of the Society 83 Bibles and 96 Testaments. Thus feeble and limited have been the efforts of the Board on behalf of the Society, whose concerns they manage. But little exertion has been made, either in distributing Bibles or receiving funds. The want of Bibles for distribution, the pressure of the times, and especially the absence of zeal and co-operation in themselves and fellow Christians, have paralyzed their efforts. They have been too soon discouraged in the blessed work of doing good. Too sanguine in their expectations, the friends of the Bible Society were not prepared to encounter the opposition of a few, and the indifference of a vast majority of their fellow-Christians. Whether this Society, consecrated to a glorious purpose,—the diffusion of the "light of life," continue to languish, or become vigorous;—whether it exist, and sustain a part, though a very humble one, in the mighty works of evangelizing the world, or become extinct, and be blotted from the splendid and lengthened catalogue of religious and benevolent associations, must depend, under divine Providence, on the zeal and liberality of the friends of the Bible. An experiment is about to be made, fraught with important consequences as it regards the condition of that part of the church in which our lot is cast. Are there piety and liberality among the Christians of this county sufficient to preserve from annihilation an Institution which has for its exclusive object the glory of God, as connected with the temporal and eternal felicity of man? Shall we incur the reproach of having begun to build, and not being able to finish? Can we witness the moral desolations among us, and not contribute our mite to build the walls of Jerusalem? Do we witness every day the spiritual wants of our fellow-Christians, and the ignorance and misery of unnumbered millions of human beings dallying blind-fold on the brink of eternity, and suffer our compassion to evaporate in idle wishes? It must not be—it cannot be! The voice of Jehovah, the destinies of nations yet unborn, the groans of a sinking world, command us to give the Bible to sinful, dying man. The example and prayers of thousands of every clime and name, urge to activity and perseverance in this labor of love. The blood of Calvary cries to you in melting accents, to convey to sinners the knowledge of the great atonement. The prayer of every Christian, "thy kingdom come," is a solemn injunction to communicate, through the medium

\* They have since been received in good order.

of revelation, the blessings of that kingdom.

Whatever be the fate of this particular Institution, the Board have confidence that the cause of Bible Societies will be abundantly prospered. The Christian community are becoming more and more interested in the blessed cause of circulating the knowledge of the truth. Every year, every month, and every day, presents new trophies won by the servants of Christ, and laid as humble offerings at his feet. Their activity is indefatigable, their resources abundant, and their movements circumscribed only by the limits of the habitable globe. The light of divine truth is shining brighter and brighter, and will shortly usher in the perfect day. Rising above the deleterious influence of sectarian prejudice, the followers of Jesus bring their offerings into the sacred treasury, and water them with the prayer of faith. The devoted missionary of the cross is ready to receive the Bible at the hands of the church, and to convey to the farthest and most wretched corner of our sinful world its light, and life, and consolations.

In this stupendous work of mercy, the American Bible Society sustains an honorable and interesting participation. It is rising with pleasing rapidity into vigor; and will soon attain, under the smiles of Heaven, an elevated station among the great national Societies of Christendom. More than 230 auxiliaries have rallied around its standard, and afford efficient aid in the prosecution of its plans. The variety, beauty, cheapness, and durability of the Bibles printed by its agency, enhance the value and facilitate the circulation of the sacred volume. There have been issued in five years by the American Bible Society, 140,348 Bibles and Testaments. These have been extensively circulated through the American continent, in a variety of languages.

In the other quarters of the world, the most active and efficient measures are in vigorous operation. The agents of the British and Foreign Bible Society are employed with unremitting ardor in the prosecution of the works assigned to them. Every step of their progress is marked with the approbation of Zion's King. The circulation of Bibles, and the organization of new Societies, are effected by their agency, to the most gratifying extent. Unlike the march of the devouring locusts, before them is a wilderness, behind them the garden of Eden. Much, very much, has been done; but a great deal more remains to be achieved. The Bible is known, comparatively, to a very inconsiderable portion of the human family. Fewer still possess this blessed book; and very limited is the number of those whose hearts and lives are influenced by its heavenly doctrines. The universal promulgation of the oracles of truth, however, is an event secured by the purposes of God. As certainly as that the natural sun will rise to-morrow and dissipate the shades of night, so certainly will the Bible, the sun of the moral world, rise and shine on all nations. The Lord will accomplish, in due time, all his purposes of grace towards man. He works by means. Man is the honored instrument by whose agency this mighty object is to be achieved. The machinery of the moral and religious world will continue in harmonious and powerful operation, till the consummation of all the benevolent purposes of Jehovah be realized.

Christian brethren, can we remain indifferent spectators of the amazing scenes that are unfolding to our view? Can we witness unmoved the mighty impulse of Christian philanthropy which pervades the world? Shall others run the race, and win the prize? Shall we deliberately forego the rewards and consolations which result from a participation in this blessed work? It must not be. Let us remember that "he that watereth shall also be watered himself;" and he that "converteth a sinner from the error of his ways, shall save a soul from death." A single Bible may save many souls. Its saving efficacy may extend to generations yet unborn. A little industry and economy will enable even the indigent to cast into the treasury of the Lord the price of a Bible. Where is the man or woman, then, that bears the name of a Christian, or assumes the character of a philanthropist, who would not incur this trifling expense to save a lost world? God grant that all may be faithful stewards in the Lord's house; that when called to give an account of our stewardship, we may receive the gracious sentence of our Judge: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joys of thy Lord."

On behalf of the Board,

F. H. PORTER,

Cor. Secretary.

### DEPARTMENT.

A man may be strict, without being severe; reserved, without being artful; talkative, without being garrulous; he may be intrepid, without daring; have modest assurance, without effrontery; he may be active without intrigue; and honest, without indiscretion. In short, a man may be upright in every duty to God, to man, and to himself.

Zeno, of all virtues, made his choice of silence; for by it, said he, I hear other men's imperfections, and conceal my own.