

Under these circumstances we have not the heart to indulge in severe criticism of his first production. In some respects it is credible and gives evidence of decided talent, but the merit lies in the promise rather than in the performance.

The author's education is defective. This fact is apparent on almost every page of the little volume he has had the temerity to send forth upon the wings of the press.

He has not studied closely the rules of versification. His lines have not the musical flow of a skillful poetic artist. The metre is often false, and frequently an unnecessary word is used in order to make the rhymes jingle. Take, for instance, the following stanza from a short poem addressed "To Emma"—

"The hues of the iris—the token
That dawn's pouring waters shall cease
Match not with thy soft cheek's unbroken
And yet voiceless language of peace."

We do not comprehend the meaning of "thy soft cheek's unbroken," nor can we see any sense in the passage quoted. In fact we might multiply quotations after quotations to show that Mr. Stafford has sacrificed sense to sound; however, it is not our purpose to particularize the demerits of his work.

It would be flattery to say that the volume before us is destined to take a high rank among the poetical productions of the day. The defects of style will cause many to form an unjust opinion of its merits. Mr. Stafford should have submitted his work to some literary friend before rushing so suddenly before the public. He will not be able to protect his effusions from the scalp of the critic which will find abundant material on almost every page of his first production.

Mr. Stafford may possess the divine affluence of the true poet; but he should give his days and nights to the rules of prosody before he again ventures into print. We do not believe in the signs of a great poet as described by a Chinese Journal, the Golden Tulip, as follows: "A great poet must have externally the majesty of the elephant, in his face the vivacity of the partridge, in his face the light of the full moon, and in his legs the activity of the stag."

We do assert, however, that the laws of rhythm should be carefully studied by all persons of taste and genius who expect to gather bright flowers of fame in the fields of poetic literature.

Mr. Stafford's volume consists of ninety-eight pages—embracing twenty-six different themes. Most of his pieces are short. The largest, "Appolita," is a legend of an Indian fight—the scene of which is laid on Mary's Creek, west of Haw River, in Albemarle county.

The following is from "For Music," one of the shorter pieces:
"Oh! tell me out of sorrow,
Oh! tell me out of pain!
Oh! speak me of the snow
That covers up the green again."
My soul is lifted over
All petty human grief;
I am no more a lover,
My passion has been brief."

The following from "O! Lovely Spring," is poetical, if not rhythmically correct:
"O! lovely spring! open thy bright blue sky,
And paint again thy honey-suckle dew,
The tender things that frost compelled to die,
Bring forth to life, and all the early flowers
The hawthorn shall his snowy flow'ers wave,
The hilly rose in the aerial stream shall have,
The snow-bow and new in yew petals fair,
The nimbler than within the clear sweet stream,
Shall play about its clear and pebbly bed;
Its silvery armor in the sunlight gleam,
And leaves a smiling track when it has fled."
"Audacious thoughts" contain some of the author's faults as well as merits:
"The stormy wind sighs mournfully,
The leafless trees their branches wave;
All nature seems to weep with me,
O'er sister's grave."

As Mr. Stafford is a mere youth, we cannot expect poetic thoughts and expressions in his poems. As he has not been blessed with educational advantages, we need not be surprised at ungrammatical sentences, faulty similes and violations of metrical rules. When he is older—when his taste

becomes more critical—when his mind is more thoroughly disciplined—when his reading is more extensive, he will in all probability endeavor to buy up all the copies of his first book that may be extant, in order to consign them to the flames.

Our advice to him is to persevere, and not to be discouraged by having his faults of style pointed out. If he is possessed of true ambition, he will endeavor to overcome these faults, and to accomplish something worthy of genuine praise. Mr. Stafford's book is for sale by J. H. Ennis, of this city.

IMPORTANT COTTON SUIT.
The claim of Mrs. Hambleton, of Georgia, against the Government, for the value of twenty-one hundred and forty-three bales of cotton, taken from her mother by agents purporting to represent the Government in 1865, is now being argued in Washington City, before Commissioner Banfield.

This is an important case, as its decision will settle hundreds of others of a similar character. Claims involving over twenty millions of dollars have been preferred by persons in the South, whose property was taken by so-called Government agents soon after the close of the war.

Judge Cochran, in the course of his argument in favor of Mrs. Hambleton, denounced these agents as a set of plunderers and thieves.

RAILROAD MONOPOLIES.
We yield a portion of our editorial space to-day to the following comment on a recent editorial in the News. We give our correspondent, who is a gentleman of high character and a personal friend, a full hearing, but we do not think he has touched the question. His premises are not well taken, and therefore his conclusions are inadmissible.

We will reply to him hereafter, as we have not the space this morning to do so.

NOTICE
Books of Subscription to the CAPITAL STOCK OF THE Old North State Life Insurance Company have been opened in Raleigh, at the Law office of Messrs. Batcher, Edwards & Batcher.

NOTICE
Twelve thousand immigrants arrived in the city of New York last week. London supports 120,000 paupers, one in twenty eight of her population.

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THE MAYORALTY.
I respectfully announce myself as an independent candidate for the office of Mayor of the City of Raleigh, at the election on the 1st of May next.

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A good PRINTER to work on a country Newspaper will be required to do Press and Job Work. Address immediately to Rocky Mount, N. C.

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Though only five years old, has the largest daily circulation of any newspaper in the State, and a circulation in Wilmington fifty per cent. larger than that of any other paper.

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We are now offering for sale, the valuable property belonging to the Roanoke Literary Society situated in the Town of Weiden. The lot fronts First street on 70 feet, measuring about 75 feet on each side and is bounded by the Society. Parties wishing to make a good investment would do well to all examine the premises, or correspond at once with the undersigned committee.

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Fayetteville Street.
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The Spring Stock of Fancy Goods, Notions, Confectioneries, Fruits, &c., Toys, Musical Instruments, &c.

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of Gold and other small fish is constantly replenished with the most beautiful of the finny tribe.

PARASOLS AND Ladies Umbrellas,
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40 Boxes, 20,000 lbs. Bulk Sides, 25 Half Kegs Lard, 25 Buckets Lard.

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MONSIEUR E. BESSON,
Has just received a fresh stock of FRENCH AND ENGLISH CASSIMERES OF THE LATEST STYLES.

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Has just returned from the northern markets with the largest and most complete stock of every grade of gentlemen's goods ever received in Raleigh.

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Takes this opportunity of announcing to his friends and patrons that he has now on hand a complete and carefully selected stock of

500 CASES BRANDY PEACHES
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Persons in delicate health, often find it difficult to obtain a Pure Stimulant when prescribed by their Physicians, and it is only stamper and other first-class trade mark Druggists and their first-class trade mark that

CENTURY WHISKEY
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Dissolution of Copartnership
The Partnership heretofore existing between the undersigned Messrs. A. G. LEE & CO., is this day dissolved by mutual consent.

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The firm of A. G. Lee & Co., having been dissolved by limitation, Mr. WILLIAM B. DOUGLASS, has been appointed to settle up the affairs of the late firm.

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In accordance with the above notice, I will continue the A. G. LEE & CO. business at the old stand, and with the same facilities as the old firm.

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