



THE MUSE.

THE LONELY HOME.

BY C. SWAIN.

There's none to say 'good night' to me— No friend my little fire to share; The old horse clock ticks drearily, And makes the silence worse to bear. Gone! all are gone! the fondest, best, And loveliest, that I called mine own; After brief suffering they're at rest; They—they they lived not to wait alone!

THE VOICE OF SPRING.

BY MRS. HEMANS.

I come, I come! ye have call'd me long, I come over the mountains with light and song; Ye may trace my step o'er the waking earth, By the winds which tell of the violets birth, By the primrose-stars in the shadowy grass, By the green leaves opening as I pass.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE LEOPARD.

The Leopard of Southern Africa is known among the Cape colonists by the name of Tiger; but is, in fact, the real Leopard, the *felis jubata* of naturalists. It differs from the Panther of Northern Africa in the form of its spots, in the more slender structure of its body, and in the legs not being so long in proportion to its size. In watching for its prey the Leopard crouches on the ground, with his fore-paws stretched out and his head between them, his eyes rather directed upwards. His appearance in his wild state is exceedingly beautiful, his motions in the highest degree easy and graceful, and his agility in bounding among the rocks and woods quite amazing. Of this activity no person can have any idea by seeing these animals in the cages in which they are usually exhibited, humbled and tamed as they are by confinement and the damp cold of our climate.

The Leopard is chiefly found in the

mountainous districts of South Africa, where he preys on such of the antelopes as he can surprise, on young baboons, and on the rock badgers or rabbits. It is much dreaded by the Cape farmer also, for his ravages among the flocks, and among the young foals and calves in the breeding season.

The Leopard is often seen at night in the villages of the negroes on the west coast; and being considered a sacred animal, is never hunted, though children and women are not unfrequently destroyed by them. In the Cape Colony, where no such respect is paid him, he is shyer and much more in awe of man. But though in South Africa he seldom or never ventures to attack mankind, except when driven to extremity (unless it be some poor Hottentot child now and then that he finds unguarded,) yet in remote places, his low, half-smothered growl is frequently heard at night, as he prowls around the cottage or the kraal, as the writer of this notice has a hundred times heard it. His purpose on such occasions is to break into the sheepfold, and in this purpose he not unfrequently succeeds, in spite of the troops of fierce watch-dogs which every farmer keeps to protect his flocks.

The Leopard, like the Hyæna, is often caught in traps constructed of large stones and timber, but upon the same principle as a common mouse trap. When thus caught, he is usually baited with dogs, in order to train them to contend with him, and seldom dies without killing one or two of his canine antagonists. When hunted in the fields, he instinctively betakes himself to a tree, if one should be within reach. In this situation it is exceedingly perilous to approach within reach of his spring, but at the same time, from his exposed position, he becomes an easy prey to the shot of the huntsman.

The South African Leopard, though far inferior to the Lion or Bengal Tiger in strength and intrepidity, and though he usually shuns a conflict with man, is nevertheless an active and furious animal, and when driven to desperation becomes a truly formidable antagonist. The Cape colonists relate many instances of frightful, and sometimes fatal encounters between the hunted Leopard and his pursuers. The following is a specimen of these adventures. It occurred in 1842, when the present writer was in the interior of the colony, and is here given as it was related to him by an individual who knew the parties engaged in it.

The African farmers, returning from hunting the hartebeest, (*antelope bubalis*), roused a leopard in a mountain ravine, and immediately gave chase to him. The Leopard at first endeavored to escape by clambering up a precipice; but being hotly pressed, and wounded by a musket ball, he turned upon his pursuers with that frantic ferocity peculiar to this animal on such emergencies, and springing on the man who had fired at him, tore him from his horse to the ground, biting him at the same time on the shoulder, and tearing one of his cheeks severely with his claws. The other hunter seeing the danger of his comrade, sprang from his horse, and attempted to shoot the Leopard through the head; but, whether owing to trepidation, or the fear of wounding his friend, or the quick motions of the animal, he unfortunately missed. The Leopard, abandoning his prostrate enemy, darted with redoubled fury upon his second antagonist, and so fierce and sudden was his onset, that before the boor could stab him with his hunting-knife, the savage beast struck him on the head with his claws, and actually tore the scalp over his eyes. In this frightful condition the hunter grappled with the Leopard; and struggling for life, they rolled together down a steep declivity. All this passed far more rapidly than it can be described in words. Before the man who had been first attacked could start to his feet and seize his gun, they were rolling one over the other down the bank. In a minute or two he had reloaded his gun, and rushed forward to save the life of his friend. But it was too late. The Leopard had seized the unfortunate man by the throat, and mangled him so dreadfully, that death was inevitable; and his comrade (himself severely wounded) had only the melancholly satisfaction of completing the destruction of the savage beast, already exhausted with the loss of blood from several deep wounds by the desperate knife of the expiring huntsman.

LARGE CHESTNUT TREE.

One of the most celebrated trees in the world, is the great chestnut tree of Mount Etna; it is known by the name of *Castagno de cento cavalli* (the chestnut tree of a hundred horses.) A tradition says, that Jane, Queen of Arragon, on her voyage from Spain to Naples, landed in Sicily, for the purpose of visiting Mount Etna; and that being overtaken by a storm, she and her hundred attendants on horseback, found shelter within the enormous trunk of this celebrated tree. At any rate the name which it bears, whether the story be true or not, is expressive enough of its prodigious size.

We extract the following passage, descriptive of this tree, from the article "Etna," in the Penny Cyclopædia: "It appears to consist of five large and two smaller trees, which, from the circumstance of the barks and boughs being all outside, are considered to have been one trunk originally. The largest trunk is thirty-eight feet in circumference, and the circuit of the whole five, measured just above the ground, is one hundred and sixty-three feet; it still

bears rich foliage, and much small fruit, though the heart of the trunk is much decayed, and a public road leads through a wide enough for two coaches to drive abreast. In the middle cavity a hut is built for the accommodation of those who collect and preserve the chestnuts.

This is said, by the natives, to be 'the oldest of trees.' From the state of decay, it is impossible to have recourse to the usual mode of estimating the age of trees by counting the concentric rings of annual growth, and therefore no exact numerical expression can be assigned to the antiquity of this individual. That it may be some thousand years old, is by no means improbable. Adanson examined in this manner, a Boab tree (*Adansonia digitata*) in Senegal, and inferred that it had attained the age of five thousand one hundred and fifty years; and De Candolle considers it not improbable that the celebrated Taxodium of Chapultepec, in Mexico, (*Cupressus disticha*, Linn.) which is one hundred and seventeen feet in circumference, may be still more aged."

It is evident that if the great chestnut tree were in reality a collection of trees, as it appears to be, the wonder of its size would at once be at an end. Brydson, who visited it in 1770, says—

"I own I was by no means struck with its appearance, as it does not seem to be one tree, but a bush of five large trees growing together. We complained to our guides of the imposition; but they unanimously assured us, that by the universal tradition, and even testimony of the country, all these were united in one stem; that their grandfathers remembered this; when it was looked upon as the glory of the forest, and visited it from all quarters; that for many years past it had been reduced to the venerable ruin we beheld. We began to examine it with more attention, and found that there was indeed an appearance as if these five trees had really been once united in one. The opening in the middle is at present prodigious; and it does indeed require faith to believe, that so vast a space was once occupied by solid timber. But there is no appearance of bark on the inside of any of the stumps, nor on the sides that are opposite to one another. I have since been told by the Canonico Recupero, an ingenious ecclesiastic of that place, that he was at the expense of carrying up peasants with tools to dig round the *Castagno de cento cavalli*, and he assures me, upon his honour, that he found all these stems united below ground in one root."

Houel, in his 'Voyage Pittoresque des Isles de Sicile,' tome ii, p. 79, 1784, has given a plate of this tree. He appears to have taken great pains to ascertain the fact of there being only one trunk, and to have completely satisfied himself that the apparent divisions have been produced, partly by the decay of time, and partly by the peasants continually cutting out portions of the wood and bark for fuel.

[The following description of the immense flights of wild pigeons, often seen in their migrations from place to place in various parts of the United States, is condensed from Audubon's splendid and celebrated work on American Ornithology.]

THE PASSENGER PIGEON.

The multitudes of these birds almost past belief. In the autumn of 1813, Audubon left his house at Henderson, on the banks of the Ohio, on his way to Louisville. Having met the pigeons flying north-east to south-east in greater numbers than usual, he felt an inclination to enumerate the flocks that would pass within the reach of the eye in the course of one hour. He dismounted, and, seating himself on a small eminence, began to mark, in his pocketbook, a dot for every flock which passed. Fading, however, that this was scarcely possible, and feeling unable to record the flocks as they constantly increased, he rose, and, counting the dots already put down, found that one hundred and sixty-three had been made in twenty-one minutes. He travelled on, and still met more the farther he went. The air was literally filled with pigeons; the light of noonday came dim, as during an eclipse. While waiting for dinner at the Sun, he saw, at his leisure, immense legions still going by, and he says:—"But I cannot describe to you the extreme beauty of their aerial evolutions, when a hawk chanced, to press upon the rear of a flock. At once, like a torrent, and with a noise like thunder, they rushed into a compact mass, pressing upon each other toward the centre. In these almost solid masses, they darted forward in undulating and angular lines, descended and swept close over the earth with inconceivable velocity, mounted perpendicularly, so as to resemble a vast column, and, when high, were seen wheeling and twisting within their continued lines, which then resembled the coils of a gigantic serpent." Before sunset he reached Louisville, distant from Henderson fifty-five miles; the pigeons were still passing in undiminished numbers, and continued to do so for three days in succession. Audubon attempts to reckon the number of pigeons in one of these flocks, and the daily quantity of food consumed by it. He takes, as an example, a column of 1 mile in breadth, and supposes it to pass over us, without interruption, for three hours, at the rate of one mile per minute. This will give us a parallelogram of one hundred and eighty square miles; and, allowing two pigeons to the square yard, we have one billion one hundred and fifteen millions one hundred and thirty-six thousand pigeons in one flock; and, as

every pigeon consumes fully half a pint per day, the quantity required to feed such a flock must be eight millions seven hundred and twelve thousand bushels per day. He thus describes the appearance of the pigeons at one of their roosting-places:—"The sun was lost to our view, yet not a pigeon had arrived; but, suddenly, there burst forth a general cry of, 'Here they come!' The noise which they made, though yet distant, reminded me of a hard gale at sea, passing through the rigging of a close-reefed vessel. As the birds arrived, and passed over me, I felt a current of air that surprised me. Thousands were soon knocked down by the men provided with poles. The current of birds, however, kept still increasing. The flocks were lighted, and a most magnificent, as well as a wonderful and terrifying sight, presented itself. The pigeons, coming in by thousands alighted every where, one above another, until solid masses of them, resembling hanging swarms of bees, as large as a hoghead, were formed on every tree, in all directions. Here and there the perches gave way under the weight with a crash, and, falling to the ground, destroyed hundreds of the birds beneath, forcing down the dense groups with which every stick was loaded. It was a scene of uproar and confusion. I found it quite useless to speak, or even to shout, to those persons nearest me. The reports, even of the nearest guns, were seldom heard; and I knew only of the firing by seeing the shooters reloading. No person dared venture within the line of devastation; the hogs had been penned up in dust, the picking up of the dead and wounded being left for the next morning's employment. Still the pigeons were constantly coming; and it was past midnight before I perceived a decrease in the number of those that arrived. The uproar continued, however, the whole night; and, as I was anxious to know to what distance the sound reached, I sent off a man accustomed to perambulate the forest, who, returning two hours afterward, informed me he had heard it distinctly when three miles from the spot. Toward the approach of day, the noise rather subsided; but, long ere objects were at all distinguishable, the pigeons began to move off, in a direction quite different from that in which they had arrived before; and, at sunrise, all that were able to fly had disappeared. The howlings of the wolves now reached our ears; and the foxes, lynxes, cougars, bears, raccoons, opossums, and pole-cats were seen sneaking off from the spot; while eagles and hawks, of different species accompanied by a crowd of vultures, came to supplant them, and enjoy their share of the spoil. It was then the authors of all this devastation began their entry among the dead, the dying, and the mangled. The pigeons were picked up and piled in heaps, until each had as many as he could possibly dispose of, when the hogs were let loose to feed on the remainder."

JUNGLE FOWL.

The bird known by this name among the English in India, is the "Wild Cock" of Sonnerat, who was the first to describe it in his 'Voyage aux Indes Orientales.' This naturalist maintained with considerable zeal that this bird formed the stock whence most of our races of domestic fowl have proceeded. He concurred in the opinion of Buffon, that most of our varieties of domestic fowl have proceeded from a single type, and that the differences which we perceive among them have resulted from accidents of climate, domestication, and crossings of varieties. Sonnerat, who did not or would not know of any other species of wild cock than this—for he speaks slightly of the authority of Dampier, who mentions that he saw wild cocks in the Indian Archipelago—naturally enough concluded that in this jungle-fowl he had found the primitive stock. Subsequent inquiries have, however, confirmed the statements of Dampier, not only as to the existence of species of wild fowl in the Indian Archipelago; but it is also admitted that the *Bap-kia* species in Java, and the *Jago* species in Sumatra, more nearly approximate to our common fowl than that now under consideration, and to which Sonnerat's statements refer. Upon the whole, it seems that our varieties of domestic fowl proceed from mixtures of original species. Practical observers arrive at much the same conclusions on this point with scientific naturalists. It is thus, for instance, considered, in India that our game cock originated from a mixture of the jungle cock with a wild species in Malaya and Chittagong. Altogether, however, it must be admitted that, on this disputed point, very little is actually known; and the domestication of the bird ascends to such remote antiquity, that it seems hopeless to determine the era, and still more hopeless to ascertain the original species with precision. It is proper to add that the jungle fowl, which we now proceed to describe, are quite distinct in India from the domestic races reared by the natives, which do not in any respect differ from the domesticated varieties in all parts of the world.

The jungle cock is about one-third less in bulk than our common village cock. Its length from the point of the bill to the extremity of the lowered and extended tail, is about two feet four inches; and its height from the level of the feet to the top of the head, without including the crest, is fourteen inches and a half. The head is furnished with an indented comb, and the wattles resemble those of the domestic cock, but the naked space around the eyes and on

the throat is larger than in that bird. The feathers of the head and neck grow longer as they approach the body, and in their form and substance are different from those which cover the same parts in other cocks, whether wild or domestic. The quill is thick and flattened, forming a white stripe; the whole length of the feather, as far as the extremity, where it ends in a dilated cartilaginous substance, is rounded form, thin, highly polished and white. The feathers of the back, and those of the tail-coverts, are long and narrow, and are of a dusky brown colour, varied with spots of a brighter hue, the whole having white spots down their shafts. The breast, the belly, the sides, the thighs, and the abdomen are dusky, tinged with green. The greater quill feathers are dull black, with green reflections. The lesser and middle wing-coverts have the shafts of their feathers flattened, and their tips furnished with a thick and solid cartilaginous plate, of the same general appearance. The colour of the tail-coverts is deep violet; they are lengthened out and arched over the two vertical planes of the tail, which is composed of fourteen feathers, separated in two portions inclined towards each other, and forming an acute angle. The two middle feathers are longer than the others, and form an arc, the convexity of which is turned from the body of the bird. The feathers of the tail are of a black hue, with green reflections. The feet are of a grey colour, the beak horn-coloured; the fleshy appendices of the head are red, more or less deep.

The female of this species is much less than the male, and has scarcely any comb or wattles. The throat is covered with feathers, and this forms a remarkable distinction from the domestic hen, which has that part nearly naked. The circumference around the eye is naked and reddish. The whole of the plumage of the lower parts of the body resembles that of the male, except that the colours are less brilliant. The feathers of the neck are but slightly lengthened, and, as well as those of the wings, are destitute of the singular cartilaginous tips with which those of the male are furnished. The whole of the upper part of the body is grey, more or less dusky, with the shaft of each feather white. It deserves to be remarked, that in this, as well as in all other Indian wild species, the female do not differ among themselves in the colour of their plumage, like our domestic hens. The females also of those primitive species resemble each other individually, which, as is by no means the case with our domestic hens, the differences between the individuals of which sometimes extend to characteristic attributes, such as the absence of crest, of gills, great difference of size, &c. This is a strong fact against the opinion of Buffon, who considered that a white plumage must be the attribute of the primitive race, and imagined that hens, originally white, became varied from white to black, assuming all the intermediate colours in succession. But our acquaintance with wild species which were unknown in Buffon's time, enables us to conceive it more probable that the primitive hens are brown, red, or grey indifferently, and that white and black colours are among the consequences of domestication for all the wild hens which have hitherto been observed have the intermediate colours.

The cry of the jungle fowl is in some measure different from that of the domestic species; but there is much resemblance in their habits and dispositions. The following lively statement on this subject is from 'Excursions in India,' by Captain Thomas Skinner, published in 1832:

"In some parts of the forest we saw several jungle fowl; they have exactly the same habits as the domestic poultry. The cock struts at the head of his hens, and keeps a strict watch over their safety. Whenever they were disturbed by our attempts upon them, he flew to the highest branch of some tree beyond our reach, and crowed with all his might, while his dames ran into holes and corners to escape our attacks; they are so cunning, that we found it impossible to get within shot of them with all the caution we could use. While intent upon capturing at least one, as we were creeping after them upon our breasts, lying occasional y like riflemen under the cover of the unevenness of the ground to catch them *en passant*, we came suddenly upon an ambuscade that very soon put an end to our sport.

"We were about midway up the face of a hill that was thickly covered with trees, and much clogged by shrubs and creepers that wound in all directions. On reaching the foot of the enemy's position, still advancing upon our breasts, and bending a keen eye upon the birds strutting before us, up rose, with a growl that denoted an offended spirit (for we had literally touched his tail) a large black bear, and turning round, looked us in the face with the most undisguised astonishment. It was the most unthought as well as the most promising introduction I had ever met with. There was no time for parley, and getting upon our legs, we at once stood upon the defensive. This sudden metamorphosis completed his surprise, and, yelling louder than before, he set off as fast as he could shuffle from the extraordinary animals that had so unaccountably sprung up before him. We determined that discretion was the better part of valour, and began to retrace our steps, leaving the jungle fowl to benefit by the interruption."

The following is the process which the Sheccarries—or natives of low-cas-

tle in India, who gain a livelihood by catching birds and animals—employ for the purpose of taking the jungle fowl:—"Two or three of these men go for this purpose together, and proceed in this manner. A line of thirty or forty yards long is fastened to the ground with wooden pegs at each extremity, and is then elevated by props to the height of about eighteen inches. To this 'prop nooses of horse-hair are fastened at distances about two feet from each other, and when the birds attempt to pass under the line, they are caught in the nooses by their necks. Sometimes a similar line is fastened to the ground, and left flying there with all the nooses spread, and as the birds pass over them they are caught by the legs.—These lines are never spread where there is much jungle. When the line of lines are ready, the men go off to a considerable distance, and beat the bushes in the direction towards them.

CURIOUS CLOCK.

The most curious thing in the Cathedral of Lubeck is a clock of singular construction, and very high antiquity. It is calculated to answer astronomical purposes, representing the places of sun and moon in the ecliptic, the moon's size, a perpetual almanac, and many other contrivances. The clock, as an inscription sets forth, was placed in the church upon Candlemas day in 1405. Over the face of it appears the image of our Saviour, and on either side of the image are flying doors, so constructed as to fly open every day when the clock strikes twelve. At this hour; a set of figures representing the twelve apostles come out from the door on the left hand of the image, and pass by in review before it, each figure making its obeisance by bowing as it passes that of our Saviour and afterwards entering the door on the right hand. When the procession terminates, the doors close.—*Clarke's Travels in Scandinavia.*

JOHN WESLEY.

In disposition, John Wesley was kind, placable, and affectionate. He practised a strict economy, not with any sordid motives, but for the purpose of administering extensively to the wants of the poor. His integrity was unimpeachable; and money would have been of no value in his estimation, but that it afforded him the means of increasing his utility. He passed six months in Georgia without possessing a single shilling; and when, as it has been surmised, from his own account of a young man at Oxford, his income was thirty pounds per annum, he gave away two; "next year receiving sixty; he still lived on twenty-eight, and gave away thirty-two; the third year he received ninety, and gave away sixty-two; the fourth year he received a hundred and twenty; still he lived as before, on twenty-eight, and gave away ninety-two." In the plenty of his power, the commissioners of excise, supposing that he possessed plate, which, in order to avoid the duty, he had not returned, wrote him a letter on the subject. Wesley replied, "I have two silver spoons in London, and two at Bristol; this is all the plate that I have at present, and I shall not buy any more while so many around me want bread."

Blarney.—In the highest part of Blarney Castle, in the county of Cork, is a stone usually pointed out to the visitor, which is said to have the power of imparting to the person who kisses it, the unenviable privilege of hazarding, without a blush, that species of romantic assertion which many term falsehood.—Hence the name of Blarney, applied to such violations of accuracy in narration. *Brewer's Beauties of Ireland.*

It was said, with truth, by Charles the twelfth, of Sweden, that he who was ignorant of the arithmetical art was but half a man. With how much greater force may a similar expression be applied to him who carries to the grave the neglected and unprofitable seeds of faculties, which it depended on himself to have reared to maturity, and of which the fruits bring accessions to human happiness—more precious than all the gratifications which power or wealth can command.

Journeymen Printers.

ONE OR TWO Journeymen Printers, who can work either at Press or Case, will meet with employment, by applying immediately at this Office. July 9.

Notice.

THE Co-partnership heretofore existing under the firm of COLLIER & WATSON, was dissolved by mutual consent on the 12th of March last. All those indebted to the firm are requested to make immediate payment to J. J. COLLIER, and those having claims against the same will present them to him for liquidation. J. J. COLLIER, JONES WATSON, Chapel Hill, July 1, 1836.

Tax Lists.

THE subscriber having been appointed at the last term of Orange County Court to receive the Lists of Taxables in St. Thomas's District, informs all those whom it may concern, that he will attend at Chapel Hill, and at the residence of B. Check, Esq. on the respective tax-gathering days appointed by the Sheriff, for the purpose of receiving said Lists. JOHN W. MCGEE, July 2, 1836.

JOHN H. RHODES.

Barber and Hair Dresser. RESPECTFULLY informs the citizens of Chapel Hill and its vicinity, that he has opened a Shop next door to the Eagle Hotel, where he will be happy to extend his professional services to gentlemen, at all times. It will afford him great pleasure to wait on those who prefer it at their own rooms; and transient gentlemen can be served at the shortest notice. Those who prize the advantages of personal beauty and comfort he sincerely hopes will not neglect to give him a call; and, if they should not, he is well satisfied that they will favor him again in the same way. June 18, 1836.