

C. M. M. George Street Parramatta

# THE STAR,

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

## AND WORKING MAN'S GUARDIAN.

No. 1.

SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 1844.

Price 1d.

### THE STAR.

We hail with unfeigned pleasure the welcome appearance of the STAR, amid the thickening gloom that obscures the prospects of the Working Man, involving him in almost impenetrable darkness. It will cheer him on his benighted path, and guide him by its lucid rays to that goal of peace and competence to which he has been, for many dreary months, a stranger. It portends the advent of a glorious change in the aspect of things, and an ultimate revolution in the whole system of political economy, as regards his future destinies in this, the land of his adoption.

In the production of a newspaper, for the small charge of one penny, whereby its cheapness, by rendering it accessible to all, extends, incalculably, the sphere of its usefulness, and the amount of good the dissemination of its independent principles is calculated to effect, we behold a striking illustration of the gigantic projects the fertility and energy of the human mind can plan and carry into operation, when necessity, the mother of invention, suggests the means. Among the multifarious and manifold sources of convenience and luxury which adversity hath taught us to go in quest of lately, to repair our almost ruined fortunes, the discovery of the art (hitherto unknown in New South Wales) of publishing a penny newspaper in Australia, is not the least remarkable, or beneficial, to the interests of the community.

So many abortive attempts have been made by needy adventurers, under the specious pretexts of morality and virtue, and the cloak of hypocrisy, to gull the Sydney Public, by the publication of disgraceful *catch-penny* prints, more calculated to mislead and vitiate the mind than to enlighten or direct it to objects of utility or profit; that we are ashamed to avow, in appropriate language, and energy commensurate with our feelings, the zeal and honesty of purpose by which we are prompted (it may be at a ruinous sacrifice,) to enter the list, as champions of the oppressed, the defenceless, and the destitute; or our unalterable determination to "conquer or die" in defence of so righteous a cause. Suffice it to say, "by our fruits shall ye know us," and if we fulfil not your expectations by constancy and efficacy in upholding your rights and redressing your wrongs then, and not till then, denounce and abandon us to the fate of our miserable predecessors, who have flattered and betrayed you.

### General News.

**FROLIC ON BOARD A STEAMER.**—On Tuesday afternoon as the Kangaroo steamer, was off Goat Island, on her passage to Parramatta, two brothers, who had been apart for upwards of nine years, unexpectedly met. One of them was intoxicated, and in the course

of conversation he happened to say, he would think no more of doing such a thing, than he would of jumping overboard. The other taunted him jocularly about his doing so, when he suddenly threw off his cap, and jumped into the water. The steamer was immediately stopped, and a boat manned, and sent after him. But, when it overtook him, the man (being an excellent swimmer) dived under, and came up on the other side, swimming lustily out seaward. After much persuasion, he was induced to return to the steamer, and change his clothes. His subsequent conduct, however, was so violent as to endanger, not only his own life, but the lives of all on board, and Captain Morris ordered some constables on board to handcuff, and take charge of him, until he arrived at Parramatta, when Captain Morris let him go, thinking the ducking he got sufficient punishment for his folly.

**CRICKET MATCH.**—On Monday next a cricket match will come off on the cricket ground, Hyde Park, between the Cumberland and Australian Clubs, for £11 a side.

**SUDDEN DEATH.**—On Monday morning about half-past ten, a man named Thomas Gordon expired suddenly, in Mr. Chapman's sale-room. It appears the deceased was an out-patient of the Dispensary, and was labouring under an enlargement of the heart and disease of the lungs.

An English mail was received at the Sydney Post Office on Monday, which had been despatched from London, by the Royal George, nearly three years ago, by which vessel it was taken back to England in mistake, and thrown into the sea off the coast of Kent by the mate, from whence it was recovered by some fishermen, and forwarded to London, and has now been received by the Sultana.

A despatch has been received by his Excellency containing her Majesty's disallowance of the Act of the Legislature of this colony, 6th Vic. No. 1, namely, 'An Act to permit goods, the produce or manufacture, of New Zealand or Van Diemen's Land to be imported into the colony of New South Wales, free of duty, and to indemnify certain officers for certain acts already done.'

On Monday evening, the eighth anniversary of the foundation of the Australian Grand Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows was celebrated at the Lodge, King-street.

Mr. Cooper has been elected to the office of Assessor to the Sydney District Council, who, conjointly with the Treasurer, will proceed to value the property in the district, with a view to levying and assessment.

A highway robbery was committed in the middle of the day, on the 23rd ult., in the neighbourhood of the Waterloo Mills, Botany-road.

In the wholesale markets a very heavy advance is expected on all articles of British import, arising from

the continued advices of the Sydney merchants, to their constituents, not to ship any more goods.

A boy three years of age, whose parents reside in Cumberland-street, was killed by falling into his father's lie-tub, on Saturday last.

A new steamer will soon commence running between Miller's Point and Balmain.

At the Flower show this season the exhibition was perhaps inferior in variety to those of previous years, while in some particulars it evinced a decided improvement especially in Colonial Floriculture.

**NEW LONDON PAPER.**—We have received from our London news-agent the first number of a new weekly paper called the "League," published expressly for the advocacy of the abolition of the Corn Laws in England.

**DANGEROUS PRACTICE.**—We beg to caution the constables against the practice of bringing fire arms into court loaded to the muzzle, and handling them in the awkward way they are in the habit of doing. The fire arms should have their charges drawn to ascertain their contents, of which a constable could give evidence, without endangering the lives of her Majesty's liege subjects, by producing them in court loaded.

**QUIT RENTS.**—A requisition is in course of signature, to call an early meeting of the leaseholders of lands given under grant by Sir Thomas Brisbane, in the district of Parramatta, for the purpose of petitioning the Legislative Council for an extension of time for the payment of the quit rents, which will be due on them in June next; and to save the ruinous sacrifice of property that must inevitably attend their rigid exaction at that period. We understand Mr. James Macarthur will be requested to take the chair at the meeting; and the petition is to be entrusted to H. H. Macarthur, Esq., the member for this town, for presentation to the Council, early in next sessions.

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.**—We understand the only business that will come before the Legislative Council on Tuesday and the following days of the next week, will be the passing of bills of indemnity to secure the Cumberland Magistrates from civil actions, and other liabilities incurred by them, when adjudicating under the old commission. The Council will then adjourn until May next, when the regular sessions will commence.

**HIGHWAY ROBBERY.**—About eight o'clock on Tuesday morning information was received by the Parramatta Police, that Mr. Crawford, of Hill End, Western Road, was stopped early on the same morning, on his way to Parramatta, by two armed men, who robbed him of his watch, and all the money he had about him, after which they struck into the bush and disappeared. Five, with the whole available Police force on the spot, were despatched in the direction they were supposed to have taken; but they returned quite unsuccessful in their search, and the men are still at large.

Two vessels are now loading with cattle and horses for New Zealand.

ENGLISH NEWS.—The only English news received by the Penyard Park is that a true bill had been found by the Grand Jury, at Dublin, against Mr. O'Connell and the other patriots. It is supposed the trials would commence on the 13th November, and were expected to last a month. A general collection was to be made throughout Ireland, on Sunday the 19th November, under the title of the "O'Connell Compensation Fund." The Rebecca riots in Wales continued to be exceedingly violent and destructive, in spite of the exertions of the London Police, which had been sent to that locality. Trade remained good: wool may be said to have risen seven and a half per cent. on last year's prices.

The steamer Victoria, which formerly ran between Sydney and Maitland, is now plying between Singapore and Pinang.

The ship Wallace has arrived at Port Phillip, with 307 Bounty Emigrants, the greater portion of whom were selected from the midland counties of England, and the remainder from the north of Ireland.

Mr. Brown, of Dapto, has completed his arrangements for rendering down sheep and cattle by a steaming process, and will commence operations in a few days.

The "Canton Press" says the American schooner, O. C. Raymond, obtained a freight of treasure, value ninety thousand dollars, at Chusan for Macao, and although three months have nearly elapsed since her departure, she has not since been heard of.

Per the schooner Hawk and brig Dorset we have received importations of wheat from South Australia, which place may now be considered to stand in the rank of an export colony, and is in a flourishing state.

The subject of the councillors to be elected in May, for the Singleton District Council, already engrosses considerable interest in that locality.

The Brisbane Water District Council has made the following assessment:—on land 0½d. per acre, on cattle 0½d. per head, on horses 3d. per head, on the clearance of all vessels leaving the port 2s. 6d. each, on drays, whose owners act as carriers, £1 each, on householders who do not pay taxes to the amount of £1, and whose holding is of the annual value of £20, 20s. per annum.

All the tobacco in the vicinity of the creeks and rivers in the Dungog district is ruined—it is, in fact, rooted up and carried clean off the ground by the late rains. This will be a death blow to some of the small settlers.

#### PARRAMATTA.

BURGLARY.—On Monday afternoon the premises of Mr. Mark Hillas, of Church-street, next door to Mr. M'Roberts, the Odd Fellows Arms, were broken open, and a double-barrelled percussion gun, a superfine jacket, and two shirts stolen therefrom. Mr. Hillas has offered five pounds for the conviction of the thieves.

SEASONABLE GIFTS.—We are daily receiving complaints from individuals, who have contributed money to funds, for various purposes, in Parramatta, and who are anxious that some public call should be made upon the trustees, collectors, and committees of the different institutions which have received these monies, to give some account of them. Amongst them have been named the collections for the erection of a second church, over the water; for a testimonial to Mr. James Macarthur; for the completion of the Scotch Church in Church-street; and for the organization of a Total Abstinence Band. Perhaps the parties alluded to

will take this gentle intimation in good part, and come forward with an account of their stewardship.

APPREHENSION OF JOHN BROWN.—This man, a description of whom appeared in our last paper, was apprehended by Mr. Chief Constable Ryan, at Mr. Tuckwell's, at Castle-hill, on Sunday last. We believe Mr. Ryan will receive a reward of £50 for the service he has rendered the public. It appears he is a native of Quebec, in North America, and not a Frenchman, as he had represented himself, and that he is a runaway from the Australian Agricultural Company, from whose establishment, at Newcastle, he absconded, two years ago.

ATTEMPTED HIGHWAY ROBBERY.—On Friday night (23rd instant), between the hours of nine and ten, Mr. Stewart, tailor, of Church-street, was stopped on the Dogtrap Road, when returning from Liverpool, with a sum of money, in his care for another party, by a man supposed to be one Richard Hughes, who lives in a hut, a little way off the road, near the place where he was stopped, and professes to carry on the business of a horse dealer. Mr. Stewart gave information to the police on his arrival in Parramatta, and Hughes was apprehended on the following morning, when a canister of powder, a quantity of ball, a bullet-mould and two pistols, one of which was primed and loaded, were found locked up in a box in his bed-room on searching the house; but as Mr. Stewart would no undertake to swear positively to the man, when brought before the bench, he was discharged. A more detailed account of the case will be found in our Police Reports in another column.

THE SCOTS' CHURCH.—Our attention has been drawn to the state in which the new Scots' Church, in Church-street, is allowed to continue without the trustees making an exertion to have it completed. Now that the dissensions in the Presbyterian Church of Parramatta have ceased with the secession of the Rev. Mr. Allen from that church, and the union of the Presbytery and the Synod in this town, the trustees can have no possible plea for longer delaying to carry on to completion an edifice, whose architectural beauty is creditable alike to the taste of the architect, and the liberality of the Presbyterians.

THE TRETOTALERS.—On Wednesday next a meeting of the Parramatta Total Abstinence Society will take place in the Court House. We hope the Committee will make arrangements to secure competent speakers to address the meeting.

### Port of Sydney Shipping Intelligence.

#### ARRIVALS.

From Adelaide, on Friday, 23rd ult., having left the 4th ult., the brig Dorset, Captain Walsh, with wheat, &c.

From Adelaide, on Friday, the 23rd ult., having left the 7th ult., the schooner Hawk, Captain Brown, with grain, &c.

From London, via Torbay, on Saturday, having left the former on the 26th October, and the latter on the 12th November, the barque Penyard Park, Captain Weller, with a general cargo.

From London, on Monday, having left the Downs the 15th October, the ship Sultana, Captain Lyall, with a general cargo.

From Port Phillip, on Wednesday last, the cutter Thomson, Captain Birkinshaw.

From Launceston, on Thursday, having left on the 22nd instant, the schooner Mary Ann, Captain Brown, with wheat and flour.

From the Whale Fishery, the ship Panama.  
From Moreton Bay, on Thursday, the steamer Sovereign, Captain Cape, with 103 bales wool.

#### DEPARTURES.

For London, on Friday, the 23rd ult., the barque Hamlet, Captain Wilson, with colonial produce.

For Adelaide, on Saturday last, the brig Emma, Captain Fox, with sundries.

For Lima, on Saturday last, the ship Elizabeth, Captain Moffatt, with sheep, &c.

For the Mauritius on Saturday last, the brig City of Sydney, Captain Williams, with sundries.

For Hobart Town, on Saturday last, the brig Caroline, Captain Loten, with sundries.

For London, on Monday, the barque Palestine, Captain Sim, with colonial produce.

For London, on Tuesday, the ship Kelso, Captain Roxburgh, with colonial produce, &c.

For Port Albert and Port Phillip, on Tuesday, the schooner Coquette, Captain Cummins, with a general cargo.

For the Whale Fishery, on Tuesday, the ship Serin-gapatam.

For Auckland, on Wednesday, the cutter Vixen, Captain Winter, with sundries.

For Norfolk Island, on Wednesday, the brig Governor Phillip, Captain Boyle, with stores.

For the Whale Fishery, on Thursday, the ship Rebecca Sims, Captain Ray.

#### NEW INSOLVENTS.

John Gray, of Queanbeyan. No schedule filed.—John Morris, official assignee.

John Richard Rouse, of Mudgee, grazier. Debts, £2288 14s. 8d. Assets—landed property, £40; personal, £1904. Balance deficiency, £341 14s. 8d.—John Walker, official assignee.

George Green, of King-street, Sydney, innkeeper. No schedule filed.—Hutchinson and Bell, official assignees.

James Newlands, of No. 516, George-street, Sydney, tailor and draper. Debts, £1019 12s. 1d. Assets—personal property, £300; outstanding debts, exclusive of bad and doubtful, £640 11s. 5d. Balance deficiency, £259.—Edward Knox official assignee.

Doucie Sawkins, late of King-street, butcher, now of George-street, Sydney, corn-dealer. Debts, £107 19s. 4d. Assets—personal property, £5 15s.; outstanding debts, £9 19s. 5d.; bad debts, £6 17s. Balance deficiency, £94 12s. 11d.—John Walker official assignee.

John Webber Millett, of Castlereagh-street, Sydney, builder. Debts, £359 9s. Assets—landed property, £50 outstanding debts, £176 19s. Balance deficiency, £107 10s.—John Walker, official assignee.

William Lees, of the Punchbowl-road, Cook's River, yeoman. Debts, £225 11s. 3d. Assets—landed property, £122; personal ditto, £15 10s.; bad debts, £2. Balance deficiency, £88 1s. 3d.—Hutchinson and Bell, official assignees.

William Kelliker, of Brougham-place, Sydney, plasterer. Debts, £115 13s. 1d. Assets—personal property £2 15s.—Balance deficiency, £112 18s. 1d.

Hugh Lindsay, of Pitt Town, labourer. Debts, £141 13s. Assets—personal property, £35; outstanding debts, £1 14s. Balance deficiency, £107.—John Morris, official assignee.

Arthur Devlin, of Sydney, master mariner. No schedule filed.—John Morris, official assignee.

James Reynolds, publican and butcher, George-street Sydney. Debts, £358 18s. 2d.; Assets—landed property, £104; personal property, £15; good debts, £235 1s. 4d. Balance deficiency, £4 16s. 10d.—John Walter, official trustee.

## PARRAMATTA POLICE.

Henry Lewis, a native of the colony, was charged with stealing one bullock, value £5, the property of William Blackman, of Mudgee. From the evidence of the prosecutor it appeared, that a person named Phillips, in the neighbourhood, had informed him that he saw the beast in question driven from the prisoner's station with a herd of the prisoner's fat cattle; in consequence of which the prosecutor traced it from hand to hand, until he found it in Mr. New's paddock at Prospect, where it had been sent by the owner Mr. Edrop of Sydney. Mr. Gowland, on behalf of the prisoner, subjected the prosecutor to a searching cross-examination as to the brands, and the time when he discovered the loss of his bullock, but elicited nothing satisfactory. The prisoner, it appeared, was already under bail to answer a similar charge preferred against him by the aforesaid Phillips. The prisoner was remanded for ten days and refused bail. A copy of the depositions was also refused.

## British Extracts.

An assessment to the poor-rate having been made by the overseers of Hillfarrence on the Bristol and Exeter Railway Company to a considerably greater amount than was deemed just, the Directors resisted payment. A warrant was in consequence issued, and one of the locomotive engines was distrained upon for the claim. It was put up for sale by auction on Saturday last, and having been bought in by an agent for the company, under a protest, the amount claimed was paid and the point in dispute will be tried at the ensuing quarter-sessions.—"Bristol Mirror."

A trial of an immense machine for cutting railroads, named by the inventor, Mr. Cochrane, a native of the United States, "The Railway Excavator," was made yesterday in the premises of Messrs. Varrall and Co., the engine and machine makers, in the Avenue Trudaine. A large heap of hearth and stones was placed at one extremity of the yard, and the machine having been set to work by means of a steam-engine of twenty horse power forming part of it, the greater part was cut through and the rubbish thrown aside in a few minutes. One of these machines is, we understand, now in use on the Eastern Counties Railroad.—"Galvani's Messenger."

The "Hampshire Advertiser" says that the French steamer, Pluton, is, both in size and general appearance, handsomer than any of our own, and that the little "Napoleon" is a perfect model, the most perfect specimen ever seen at Portsmouth.

The number of priests in the London district, in the year 1836, was 91; the number in 1843 was 135; giving an increase in seven years of 44.—"Tablet."

SPURIOUS TEA.—An important seizure has been made by Her Majesty's officers of Excise. In consequence of information received, they proceeded to Anchor-yard, St. Luke's, where, on entrance, they found a complete manufactory fitted up for the purpose of drying and colouring old leaves. It consisted of two large furnaces, drying-pans and plates, for the final process of drying; colouring matter, drugs, and a quantity of "tea" ready to vend out, with some in the process of transformation from green to black. Not a particle of good tea was to be found, although the quantity amounted to nearly a ton in weight. It is supposed that the persons owning it must have made their escape during the entrance of the officers, as no person was to be found on the premises, and as the state of the pan proved that they had been very recently

at work. Messrs. Spurgin and Rolandson took possession of the whole of the stock, and a van being procured, they conveyed it to the chief office in Broadstreet, where it will be disposed of by her Majesty's commissioners. The capture of these spurious articles, it is hoped, may have the effect of checking other evil doers who have long been instrumental in retailing poisonous tea to the poor.

PENTONVILLE PRISON.—This prison, which has been erected within the last four years, at the expense of £85,000 to government, is designed as a great school of discipline for convicts, preparatory to their transportation to Van Diemen's Land. Instead of despatching convicts, as formerly, fresh from their trial, and consequently without any improvement in their feelings and habits, it is proposed they shall in future go through a period of instruction and probation at Pentonville previous to their departure. Convicts between the ages of 18 and 35, and under sentence of transportation for periods not exceeding 15 years, are considered suitable inmates. The period of probation is limited to 18 months. Like the prison at Parkhurst, in the Isle of Wight, for juvenile offenders, this at Pentonville for adults must be viewed as an academy of purification, not as a jail of oppressive or vengeful punishment. The convict, on entering the establishment, is told to bid adieu to his accustomed scenes and practices, and is made to feel that he is entering on an entirely new career; he is informed that he will be afforded ample opportunity of learning any art which will enable him to earn his bread by honourable industry; that moral and religious knowledge will be imparted to him as a guide for his future life; that, at the end of eighteen months, when a just estimate can be formed of the effect produced by the discipline on his character, he will be sent to Van Diemen's Land, there, if he behave well, at once to receive a ticket-of-leave, which is equivalent to freedom, with the certainty of abundant maintenance, the fruit of industry; that if he behave indifferently, he will be transported to Van Diemen's Land, there to receive a probationary pass, which will secure to him only a limited portion of his own earnings, and which will impose galling restraints on his personal liberty; and that if he behave ill, he will be transported to Tasman's Peninsula, there to work in a probationary gang, without wages, deprived of liberty, and an abject slave. Such is the view presented to the prisoner on the day when he enters Pentonville, and which is never lost sight of until he leaves the prison for embarkation; when, according to the register kept of his conduct, the governors will determine in which of the three classes he shall be placed.

As an instance of the alarming tone which the feeling of the people in Wales is taking, it is alleged that a grave has been dug in Dynevor-park, near Llandilo, the seat of Lord Dynevor, the father of Colonel Trevor, the Vice-Lord-Lieutenant of the county, and a notice has been sent to Colonel Trevor that it is intended for him, and that he was to be laid in it before the 10th of October.—"Welshman."

A great Chartist Convention is to meet in London, in April next, with Feargus O'Connor, Esq. at its head, and which, from the long preparation, is looked upon with great interest.

THE BRITISH QUEEN STEAMER.—The "British Queen" steamer left the Broomielaw, with passengers for Greenock and Helensburgh, about four o'clock on Wednesday, and although the weather was very wild, made her passage down the river to Greenock in less than two hours. She lay at the quay about ten minutes, and was with some difficulty got away from it, from the freshness and fury with which the north-east wind

blew upon the harbour. Upon leaving the quay, the vessel, which is iron built, was found to strike twice or thrice, but this created little notice at the moment, and she made her way across the Frith in the teeth of the wind, until she was about a mile out, and nearly opposite the buoy at the tail of the bank. At this moment the Captain got the alarming intimation that the water was rushing in by a leak in the stern, with such rapidity, that it would in a very short period prove fatal to the vessel. He immediately gave orders to put her about for Greenock, which was fortunately effected, although with the greatest difficulty, the exertions of four men being necessary to manage the helm. To the fact that the vessel obeyed the helm may be attributed the preservation of the lives of all on board. The "British Queen" ran for the shore with all her steam power, but the leak increased so rapidly that she was found to be settling fast by the stern. On one or two occasions the vessel gave such lurches that it was feared that she had gone on her beam ends, but fortunately she righted, and was forced along by the power of her steam. The bell was rung furiously as a signal for help, but from the wildness of the night and its deepening darkness, there was not a soul to be seen on the land or on the waters, and it seemed at one time not improbable that the passengers and crew would perish within hail of the quays of Greenock. The water had covered the floor of the cabin; it was fizzing in, and extinguishing the fires, and the engine was ceasing to play; but fortunately the vessel had sufficient way upon her to reach the West Dock, where she was run aground, and thus the crew and passengers were saved from almost certain destruction. The steamer speedily sank by the stern, leaving her forepart only uncovered by the water. The accident, there is little doubt, was caused by the vessel striking heavily on the rocks close in upon Greenock quay, of the very existence of which few are aware.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES.—Thursday night, between the hours of seven and eight o'clock, the entire country was literally covered with fires. From every eminence throughout the counties of Limerick, Clare, and Tipperary, a fire blazed, and all shot into light almost simultaneously. In several instances the fires blazed on the public roads, and torches were to be seen borne along by the country people in every direction. It was really wonderful to witness the exactness with which each fire, for miles round, blazed into light, almost at the same moment, and the organization displayed by the incendiaries in lighting these signal fires was almost incredible. The meaning of those fires we cannot ascertain, but we are certain, that they were intended for no good purpose.

CRIM. CON. EXTRAORDINARY.—Information has been received by the police, that a woman forty-five years of age, named Mary Jukes, the wife of the landlord of the Golden Cross, Hales Owen, Shropshire, had absconded from her home with a sweep, named Henry Copestoft, who is described as being thirty-two years of age, of middle height, stout built, large features, and dark complexion. It appears that the guilty pair took care that poverty should not too soon damp the ardour of their love, and accordingly conveyed away with them a new feather bed, a pair of new blankets, a new white coverlid, several fine shirts, a new mahogany tea-chest, a cruet stand, and £100 in money. The description given of the frail fair one is too rich in itself to be omitted. Her stature is low, her shoulders are round, she has a remarkable scar on her chin, her hair is grey, but she hides it with false curls hanging down her face, and most of her front teeth have disappeared.—London Paper.

## Colonial Literature.

ORIGINAL SCOTCH SONG.  
(From a Correspondent.)

Tho' distant far our native hames,  
Our country dear an a' that,  
In mem'ry lives her hills an streams  
Fresh as when last we saw that.  
For a' that, an a' that,  
Our country dear an a' that,  
In mem'ry lives our hills an streams  
Fresh as when last we saw that.

O' her Wellington let Ireland boast  
His thousand fields an a' that,  
Hills, Coltons, Coles—a gallant host—  
Wi' pride may England shaw that.  
For a' that, an a' that,  
Her Nielson, Howe an a' that,  
Auld Scotland claims her Duncan's, Gra'ams,  
Hope's, Murray's, Moore's and a' that.

And tho' now mute Scott's magic lute,  
Our Burns' lyre an a' that;  
An o'er Hogg's bier big sorrows tear,  
Tho' full an fast doth fa that.  
For a' that, an a' that,  
Our Allan's pipe an a' that,  
Their Murray is to Scotia dear,  
An lang shall be for a' that.

But while we claim her sons o' fame,  
Her sons o' sang an a' that,  
Misfortune's son we ne'er disown,  
Our brither Scot we ca' that  
For a' that, an a' that,  
His wants an waes an a' that,  
His heart to cheer our pume strings here,  
'This night we'll freely draw that.

## THE SISTERS.

"On some fond breast the parting soul relies."

GRAY.

The sun was sinking behind the distant hill which bound on either side that varied and picturesque valley well known northward as the flourishing district of M. The approach of night, added to the departing rays of day, had tinged with a mellow light every herb and flower, and nothing interrupted the harmony of the scene save the gentle murmur of the rippling brook, winding its way through the vale, which, added to the stillness of the hour, enhanced the beauty of the scene. Returning homeward from the avocations of the day, and ruminating on the visible changes which had been wrought in that rural spot since my last visit, which had been some years previously, my attention was suddenly arrested by a group of persons at an opposite angle of the bank of the stream, apparently busied around a spot in the centre of the circle, whose gestures at times, as they relaxed their labour in earnest conversation, convinced me that something unusual had occurred. Curious to know the probable cause, yet unwilling to interrupt their proceedings, I remained irresolute for some time, but resolving to gratify my curiosity, I joined the party. I must now deviate from the course of the narrative and claim the reader's attention to incidents connected with the foregoing, and which occurred some years previous. It was in the early part of the year 1837 that the family of Eleanor and Helen B—— arrived in this colony among other respectable adventurers. Enjoying in England a comfortable living, though far from affluence, but allured by the representations, at that time so currently set forth as to the inexhaustible resources for acquiring wealth in Australia, they were, along with their family, induced to emigrate from their native land, with their father, in the evening of his days, seek their bread on a foreign shore. Providence, however, befriended them in their research, and they soon became once more permanently established in a second home. Though not of that class which we should deem likely to adorn the

higher branches of society, yet were they not of that low and servile state which would render their presence unwelcome among respectable and even influential yeomen; suffice it to say, that the unpretending and affable demeanour of the sisters soon endeared them to all their acquaintance, and rendered them objects of their affection. It was about this time that Edward L—— first saw and became enamoured of Eleanor the elder sister; though in person he was not handsome yet he possessed that frank and courteous elegance of manner, added to a degree of sentiment easily affected, which could not fail at once to please and flatter the natural simplicity and kindness of Eleanor's disposition. Perceiving that he was not altogether regarded with indifference he became doubly assiduous in his attentions and efforts to please. Often in those joyous hours when the pale moon shone clear and cold, deriving a diviner light from hosts of minor worlds, were the sisters seen mingling in sweet communion their kindred affections; their hearts knit by ties more lasting than those transitory bonds which link the destinies of those in higher life, as each stem of ivy clings to the crumbling ruin, and increasing in growth entwine their tendrils more firmly, deriving mutual support, so weve these sisters of affection, united by bonds more holy and indeparable from their adversity. One only shared their meditations on the present and the past, and when ruminating on the future then would he pour forth the eloquence of his soul, his indissoluble affection and unceasing love; again would he change his joyous tone and speak harshly of his own unworthiness, until the gentle chidings of the fair object of his unhallowed affection would calm the heavings of his troubled breast: again would he speak contemptuously of ratified bonds and earthly ties, admitting only that those affections were lasting which found their being in the heart, and those eternal which claimed their heritage in Heaven. It would be needless on my part to enter more fully into the varied details of the growing friendship and final surrender of Eleanor's affections to the object of her idolatry, or, on the other hand, the base and subtle means resorted to on his part to foster the serpent of vice in the bosom of virtue. By what slow and unguarded steps that frail being erred and finally fell from her estate is not for me to determine, never having ascertained the facts I should be unable to do them justice; if she erred intentionally her sufferings have amply expiated the offence; but if, as there is little reason to doubt, the fault was that of her unprincipled seducer then indeed her sorrow was severe, and doubly bitter must be his cup of woe. Scandal, that ruthless sting of chastisement, was busy with her name; the pallid cheek and hollow voice indicated but too plainly her load of misery; day after day forsaken by her dear Edward, as still she loved to call him, and attended only by the gentle Helen, her now inseparable companion, would she mourn, the alienation of his affection sternly investigating every incident from their first acquaintance which she could call to remembrance, under the delusive impression that at some period she had offended him, and for which she suffered his neglect. Sometimes indeed he came, and the cold enquiry coming from lips which she revered, rankled still deeper in her wounded breast, still she strove in vain to please him, and even on her knees implored his forgiveness if she had done ought to deserve his coldness. Time passed on, and her wrongs became the topic of strangers' conversation; she knew and felt all that she had sacrificed, and yet did she not regret its cost, so deep and unfathomable was her affection for him she deemed the sole being of her thoughts, that as the cankerworm knawed upon her vitals she endeavoured

to affect a silent resignation to all her sorrows, till the wan and livid cheek betrayed too keenly the tumult of her soul. It was on a cold and stormy night, the pelting rain and howling winds allied with impenetrable darkness cast a loneliness over the scene. In an apartment of a small cottage where the flickering rays of a lamp shed a pale halo as it penetrated the mists of night, sat a man of comely appearance, apparently in deep thought, suddenly and involuntarily would he occasionally start from his reverie as the stings of conscience ever and anon probed his hard breast, till gradually his gestures became more settled, his heaving brow more calm, and as the dying light shed its last expiring ray his anguish had passed away, the expression of his features resumed their wonted cheerfulness, and his determination was irrevocably fixed. It was some months after the previous incidents occurred, one mild and beautiful evening, that the sisters were again seen where they once were wont to pass so many happy hours; Helen was supporting the tottering form of her sister, and endeavouring to soothe her sorrows with the healing balm of consolation. "Eleanor," said the former, while a tear stood trembling in her eye, "by sin fell our first parents from the favor of their God, and for their crime have we to reap the bitter fruits of toil and care, your sorrows indeed are great, but what are they compared to those borne by our great Redeemer. Were this frail world the summit of our hope, this dismal void any other than the extent of our allotted probation, were there not some higher and holier joys beyond the grave which inspire our minds with fortitude to bear the ills of life, then indeed you might have cause to grieve; forget the memory of one unworthy of your regard, and place your affections on things above, where there can be no change." "Helen, my own dear friend, how sweet; how soothing are thy words, but to me they seem to say 'prepare.' I who have forsaken the paths of virtue, I who have spurned the commandments of our God, can I hope for pardon and for peace; no, my sister, I have erred, and something here within my breast demands the expiation of my crime; my burden indeed is heavy to be borne, and fain would I bury all in the darkness of the grave. See these flowers which this morning were so fresh and beautiful glittering with the dews of Heaven, how changed and altered are they now, emblems of my own blighted prospects and deadened affections. Often in the silent hours of night, when sleep forsakes my pillow, do I think of the future and of the grave of that eternity and its endless fruition, which even in childhood we are taught to venerate, there, and there only, can I ever again experience the joys of heavenly consolation; once I had hoped to live long in happiness with him whose memory, sooner or later, must end its work; a little while and my name will vanish from the earth, and should I never see him more hereafter may we meet in Heaven."

(TO BE CONCLUDED IN OUR NEXT.)

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