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FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 1859.

Modern Satire.

During the past year, three out of the great English *Quarterlies* have contained articles lamenting the decay of Modern Satire. They have referred, one and all, to the collection called "Poetry of the Anti-Jacobin," comprising the celebrated political and satirical poems, parodies, and *jeux d'esprit* of GEORGE CANNING, Lord CARLISLE, Marquis WELLESLEY, JOHN HOOKHAM FRERE, WILLIAM GIFFORD, WILLIAM PITT, GEORGE ELLIS, and others. As there seems to have been some doubt about the *Anti-Jacobin*, whence this selection was made, English, as well as American, readers having often considered that it was a Review, we may as well state that it was a weekly newspaper, published in London during the year 1797, under the editorship of WILLIAM GIFFORD, the satirical author of "The Baviad" and "The Mæviad," published separately in 1794 and 1795, but the sixth edition of which appeared in 1800, in one small volume. Nor have they since been separated.

The Baviad, a poetical satire, in imitation of the first satire of PERSIUS, was specially directed against the Della Cruscan rhymesters at Florence—Mrs. PIOZZI, ROBERT MERRY, &c.—while the Mæviad, an imitation of HORACE, was severe upon the dramatic authorship of the time. GIFFORD, who was constitutionally irritable, had obtained so much repute, as a satirist, by these poems, that when the high Tory or anti-Jacobin party among English statesmen of the end of the last century, determined to have a journal of their own, they unanimously appointed him to conduct it. He had so much volunteered aid from the proprietors and friends of the paper, that he wrote very little in it himself. CANNING was by far the most efficient of these occasional writers. In his "Loves of the Triangle" he amusingly ridiculed DR. DARWIN'S "Loves of the Plants," while his parodies (the Weary Knife-grinder and the Inscription over Mrs. Brownrigg's cell in Newgate) upon certain poetical platitudes by SOUTHEY, retain rank, to this day, as among the more racy and stinging satires in the language.

The satirists of the *Anti-Jacobin* possessed good animal spirits, the consciousness of intellectual strength, the confidence arising from having successfully battled in the war of politics, considerable knowledge of the world, and a certainty that the hearts of the people were with them—for what were then called French principles were not generally in vogue at that time. These men were scholarly, too, and wrote like gentlemen, remembering SHERIDAN'S hint, that wit, like a sabre, should be polished as well as keen. Scarcely one among them but had won a high position in the world's race for fame and power. WILLIAM PITT, for example, although under forty at the time, had been Prime Minister for more than twelve years. GEORGE CANNING, after running a distinguished career at Eton and Oxford, where his wit, eloquence, and scholarship made a reputation which preceded him to London, and immediately obtained him the entrée into the highest political society, was now in his under-secretaryship of State, (obtained through PITT'S liking for him,) and then aged twenty-seven, was considered the handsomest and most gentlemanly among rising officials. Indeed, a few years later, at the age of thirty, he married JOAN SCOTT, a co-heiress with the handsome fortune of £100,000, paid down on the nail when the marriage-settlements were signed. Twenty-seven years later, this same CANNING died, having won the Premiership, the ambition and aim of a lifetime, and having enjoyed it for only four months. The Marquis of WELLESLEY, who was made Viceroy of India during the publication of the *Anti-Jacobin*, was another elegant scholar. FERRE, who had been CANNING'S coadjutor in the *Microcosm*, at Eton, was another of this corps of contributors, and, not having died until 1846, outlived them all. Lord CARLISLE—he whose "paralytic puling" was ridiculed by BYRON, his kinsman, in *English Bards and Scotch Reviewers*—was something of a man of letters, occasionally making a happy hit. GEORGE ELLIS, the correspondent and friend of WALTER SCOTT, was not the least brilliant in this circle. And, over all, exercising the most complete autocracy over every contribution—adding here, and curtailing there, striking out one hit and putting in another—was WILLIAM GIFFORD, who relished satire as much as MITHRIDATES was fabled to, have loved poison, thriving upon what would have destroyed other men. A few years later, he had ample scope, and a wider field for his peculiar talent, as was evidenced by the manner in which he conducted the all-dreaded *Quarterly Review*.

We have particularly alluded to CANNING'S parodies upon certain early compositions which ROBERT SOUTHEY wrote, in his hot youth, when he was avowedly a red-hot republican, and seriously contemplated becoming one of the founders of a Communist settlement somewhere in the far and fertile West of this great country of ours. Afterwards, changing his opinion, SOUTHEY became a Conservative, declaring, however, that he "was no more ashamed of having been a republican than he was of having been a boy." In 1797, at the age of twenty-three, and glorying in his ultra-liberal principles, SOUTHEY was looked upon as fair game, and CANNING pounced down upon him. He had written an "Inscription for the Apartment in Chepstow Castle, where Henry Martin, the regicide, was imprisoned for thirty years," and the lines ran thus:

For thirty years, secluded from mankind,
Here Martin lingered. Often have these walls
Echoed his footsteps, as with even tread
He paced around his prison. Not to him
Did Nature's fair varieties exist;
He never saw the sun's delightful beams,
Save when, through yon high bars, he poured a sad
And broken splendor. Dost thou ask his crime?
He had rebelled against the king, and sat
In judgment on him; for his ardent mind
Shaped goodliest plans of happiness on earth,
And peace and liberty! Wild dreams! but such
As Plato loved, such as, with holy zeal,
Our Milton worshipped. Blessed hopes! awhile
From man withheld even to the latter days,
When Christ shall come, and all things be fulfilled

Now, this is really a good poem, and was written, we doubt not, with as much sincerity as force. CANNING, however, imagined—or pretended to imagine—that SOUTHEY desired to assert and vindicate the abstract principle of the shedding of human blood. There is a good deal of humor in the parody which CANNING wrote for the *Anti-Jacobin*, calling it an "Inscription for the door of the cell in Newgate where MRS. Brownrigg, the Prenticide, was confined previous to her execution." It reads thus:

For one long term, or ere her trial came,
Here Brownrigg lingered. Often have these cells
Echoed her blasphemies, as with shrill voice
She screamed for fresh Geneva. Not to her
Did the blythe fields of Tothill, or thy street,
St. Giles, its fair varieties expand;
Till, at the last, on slow-drawn cart she went
To execution. Dost thou ask her crime?
She whipped two female 'Prentices to death,
And hid them in the coal-hole. For her mind
Shaped strictest plans of discipline. Sage schemes!
Such as Lycurgus taught, when at the shrine
Of the Orthyan goddess he bade flog
The little Spartans; such as erst chastised
Our Milton when at college. For this act
Did Brownrigg swing. Harsh laws! But time shall come
When France shall reign, and all laws be repealed.

This is one of the closest parodies ever made, and is said to have had the effect of casting unprecedented ridicule upon the poet whose original it so saucily laughed at.

With the exception of BYRON'S *English Bards and Scotch Reviewers*, and, from ten to thirty years later, THOMAS MOORE'S transient newspaper squibs, there has been nothing like real, stinging satire in English literature, since the reckless days of the *Anti-Jacobin*, over sixty years ago. BYRON'S onslaught upon the critics who had stung him, and the contemporary writers who had won the reputation which was denied to his own feeble and often puerile "Hours of Idleness," was a terrible outbreak of anger; but its bitter personality is more observable than its wit. He tried his hand a second time, and wrote "Hints from Horace" in cold blood, but these rhymes were not considered worthy of publication by any one (except the author), and never were printed, in fact, until some seven years after BYRON'S death. MOORE'S "Two-penny Post-bag," and other poetical *brochures* had their day, but require to have done for them what Mr. THOMAS WRIGHT did very ably, for MURRAY'S last edition of BYRON—namely, to be elucidated by notes detailing the circumstances and the persons glanced at. Some of MOORE'S newspaper squibs are equal to the most sparkling *jeux d'esprit* of the *Anti-Jacobin*, but they relate to ephemeral subjects, and a generation ignorant of the subjects which suggested them must read them with diminished pleasure, from want of fully understanding them. With the exception of BYRON and MOORE, the present and last generation of English poets have produced no satire worthy of the slightest regard.

In this country there has as yet existed only one poet who has effectively pointed the barb of satire. This is JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL, whose "Fable for Critics," and "The Biglow Papers," published ten years ago, are at least equal to the entire "Poetry of the Anti-Jacobin," and immeasurably superior to all other satire published since. Mr. LOWELL'S hits at persons and politics are discriminating, sharp, and witty, besides being good-humored and genial. As you read LOWELL, you perceive that, laugh as you may, *he*, also, must have luxuriated in the fun while he was writing it. "Nothing to Wear," by Mr. BUTLER, is a pleasant satire, of more recent production, but it is disfigured by so many bad rhymes, and, what is worse, by so many *cockney* rhymes, that it deserves reprobation on that account, rather than praise. In Mr. DUGANNE'S Poems, lately collected and republished in this city, there is a stinging satire, in the *English Bards'* manner, which falls upon a great many American writers, with severity and force. As a poetical effusion, this satire is very good, but there is one leading defect—it is deficient in discrimination and analysis, and does not sufficiently temper condemnation with eulogy. In a word, Mr. DUGANNE is much too fierce—one half the wrath would have made a more effective satire.

We take no account here of the various satires, in prose and verse, written by THEODORE HOOK and Dr. MAGINN. They were amusing at the time, but the interest has perished with the passing away of the circumstances which suggested or provoked them. Hook went in "for the fun of the thing," as he used to say, but MAGINN was fiercely, angrily bitter; and few can sympathise, in or out of print, with an angry man. We do not name DICKENS or THACKERAY among the satirists, though both have been satirical. One is genial, the other cynical; but surely DICKENS, whose writings have led to many great social and political reforms in England, must rank higher than the clever writer who laughs at every thing. JERROLD and the *Punch* contributors we scarcely know how to class. *Punch*, it seems to us, is as much individualized as the *Anti-Jacobin* itself.

As a literary satirist, FRANCIS MAHONY, author of "The Reliques of Father Prout," originally published in *Fraser's Magazine*, now holds foremost rank in England. His quizzical attempts to prove that MOORE'S best songs were translated from little known ancient and foreign poets are said to have driven MOORE almost to frenzy. Of late, he has been heard little of, and, indeed, we were lately asked whether he was not dead. He lives, however, and has for some time been the Paris correspondent of the London *Globe*, which he had previously conducted. He has lately shown that he is alive.

In the last number of the *Quarterly Review* is an article, attributed to Mr. JAMES HANNAY, upon Horace and his Translators. In this article is to be found that translation, by the Earl of DERBY, of the most celebrated of all the Odes of Horace, (the well-known *Donec Gratus*,) which we published in THE PRESS some time ago. Lord DERBY'S translation, however, is rather a paraphrase. Mr. GLADSTONE, who is one of the best scholars in England, as well as a leading and eloquent politician, has also made a translation, more literal and terse. It is as follows:

HORACE. While no more welcome arms could twine
Around thy snowy neck than mine—
Thy smile, thy heart, while I possest,
Not Persia's monarch lived as blest.

LYDIA. Whilst thou didst feed no rival flame,
Nor Lydia next to Chloe came,
O then thy Lydia's echoing name
Excelled e'en Ilia's Roman fame.

HORACE. Me now Threician Chloe sways,
Skilled in soft lyre and softer lays;
My forfeit life I'll freely give,
So she my better life may live.

LYDIA. The son of Grynius inspires
My burning breast with mutual fires;
I'll face two several deaths with joy,
So fate but spare my Thurian boy.

HORACE. What if our ancient love awoke,
And bound us with its golden yoke;
If auburn Chloe I resign,
And Lydia once again be mine?

LYDIA. Though brighter than a star is he,
Thou rougher than the Adrian Sea,
And fickle as light bark; yet I
With thee would live—with thee would die.

Immediately after this appeared in the *Quarterly*, a corrected copy of it, (that given here,) was published in the *Times*. Mr. GLADSTONE'S scholarship was piqued at two errors of the Press having crept into the copy given in the Review. In the *Globe*, a few days after, appeared a parody, which has been generally attributed to "Father Prout." To understand and fully appreciate its point, it should be remembered that Lord DERBY and Mr. GLADSTONE were colleagues in PEEL'S second Ministry; that they went out of office together in 1845, rather than support PEEL'S Free-Trade views; that, while DISRAELI continues Ministerial leader of the House of Commons, GLADSTONE will scarcely consent to hold office with, or, rather, *under* him; that, as an ultra-Tory, GLADSTONE has some proclivities approaching the ultra-Liberalism of JOHN BRIGHT, as extremes often meet; and that there has been some rumor of DISRAELI being sent out as Viceroy of India, on which event GLADSTONE would probably succeed him as Chancellor of the Exchequer and leader of the Commons. With these points in mind, here is the parody attributed to FRANCIS MAHONY:

DERBY. While Peel's old Ministry could twine
Thy lot political with mine—
Ere yet on corn we disagreed,
As colleagues we were blest indeed.

GLADDY. Whilst thou didst feed no rival flame,
Nor Gladdy next to Dizzy come,
Oh then thy Gladdy's echoing name
Excelled its since Homeric fame.

DERBY. My heart from Peelite loves outworn
By Dizzy's corkscrew curls is drawn;
My forfeit life I'll freely give,
So Diz—my better life—may live.

GLADDY My bosom burns to yield possession
Of all my charms to Bright next session;
I'll face two several deaths with joy,
So fate but spare my broad-brimm'd boy.

DERBY. What if our ancient love awoke,
And bound us with its golden yoke:
If Diz were sent some Indian venture,
And Gladdy his old place re-enter?

GLADDY. Bright as the *Morning Star* in B.,
Thou rougher than the Adrian Sea,
And fickle as light bark; yet I
With thee would live—with thee would die.

We are inclined to endorse the opinion, expressed by one of the critical tribunals in England, that this is, of its kind, far superior to any thing that ever appeared in the *Anti-Jacobin*.

AN AGREEABLE SURPRISE.—Two or three nights ago an agreeable incident occurred at a wedding in New York. The father of the bridegroom was sick and not able to attend the wedding, but desired to see the bride in her bridal dress. So, immediately after the performance of the ceremony, the "happy pair" stepped into a carriage and drove to his residence. On their arrival they found the sidewalk, steps, halls, and stairs covered with flowers, and, in addition to the warm congratulation of the old gentleman, the bride received the deed of an elegant new house, superbly furnished and elegantly fitted up in every respect.

ADDRESS OF VICE PRESIDENT BRECKINRIDGE,

On the Removal of the Senate from their Old Chamber.

SENATORS: I have been charged by the committee to whom you confided the arrangements of this day with the duty of expressing some of the reflections that naturally occur in taking final leave of a Chamber which has so long been occupied by the Senate. In the progress of our country and the growth of the representation, this room has become too contracted for the representatives of the States now existing and soon to exist; and, accordingly, you are about to exchange it for a hall affording accommodations adequate to the present and the future. The occasion suggests many interesting reminiscences; and it may be agreeable, in the first place, to occupy a few minutes with a short account of the various places at which Congress has assembled, of the struggles which preceded the permanent location of the seat of Government, and of the circumstances under which it was finally established on the banks of the Potomac.

The Congress of the Revolution was sometimes a fugitive, holding its sessions, as the changes of war required, at Philadelphia, Baltimore, Lancaster, Annapolis, and Yorktown. During the period between the conclusion of peace and the commencement of the present Government, it met at Princeton, Annapolis, Trenton, and New York.

After the idea of a permanent Union had been executed in part by the adoption of the Articles of Confederation, the question presented itself of fixing a seat of Government; and this immediately called forth intense interest and rivalry.

That the place should be central, having regard to the population and territory of the confederacy, was the only point common to the contending parties. Propositions of all kinds were offered, debated, and rejected, sometimes with intemperate warmth. As early as the 7th of October, 1783, the Congress being at Princeton, whither they had been driven from Philadelphia by the insults of a body of armed men, it was resolved that a building for the use of Congress be erected near the falls of the Delaware. This was soon after modified by requiring suitable buildings to be also erected near the falls of the Potomac, thus fixing the residence of Congress right at the extreme between those places. The question was not allowed to rest, and at length, after frequent and warm debates, it was resolved that the residence of Congress should continue at one place; and commissioners were appointed, with full power to lay out a district for a Federal town on the falls of the Delaware; and in the meantime Congress assembled alternately at Trenton and Annapolis; but the representatives of other States were unremitting in exertions for their respective localities.

On the 23d of December, 1784, it was resolved to remove to the city of New York, and to remain there until a building on the Delaware should be completed; and accordingly, on the 11th of January, 1785, the members met in that city, where they continued to hold their sessions until the Confederation gave place to the Constitution.

The commissioners to lay out a town on the Delaware reported their proceedings to Congress; but no further steps were taken to carry the resolution into effect.

When the bonds of union were drawn closer by the organization of the new Government under the Constitution, on the 3d of March, 1789, the subject was revived and discussed with greater warmth than before. It was conceded on all sides that the residence of Congress should continue at one place, and the prospect of stability in the Government invested the question with a deeper interest. Some members proposed New York, as being superior to any place they knew for the orderly and decent behavior of its inhabitants. To this it was answered that it was not desirable that the political capital should be in a commercial metropolis. Others ridiculed the idea of building palaces in the woods. Mr. GERRY, of Massachusetts, thought it highly unreasonable to fix the seat of Government in such a position as to have nine States of the thirteen to the northward of the place; while the South Carolinians objected to Philadelphia on account of the number of Quakers, who, they said, continually annoyed the Southern members with schemes of emancipation.

In the midst of these disputes, the House of Representatives resolved "that the permanent seat of the Government of the United States, on some convenient place on the banks of the Susquehanna," and the introduction of a bill to give effect to this resolution much feeling was exhibited, especially by the Southern members. Mr. Madison thought if the proceeding of that day had been foreseen by Virginia, that State might not have become a party to the Constitution. The question was allowed by every member to be a question of great importance. Mr. Scott said the future tranquility and well-being of the United States depended as much on this as on any question that ever had or could come before Congress; and Mr. Fisher Ames remarked that every principle of pride and honor, and even of patriotism, was engaged. For a time any agreement appeared to be impossible; but the diplomatic genius of the country finally prevailed, and on the 28th of June, 1790, an act was passed containing the following clause:

"That a district of territory on the river Potomac, at some place between the mouths of the eastern branch and Connogochegue, not exceeding ten miles square, be and the same is hereby accepted for the permanent seat of the Government of the United States."

The same act provided that Congress should hold its sessions at Philadelphia until the first Monday in December, 1800, when the Government should remove to the district selected on the Potomac. Thus was settled a question which had produced much sectional feeling between the States. But all difficulties were not yet surmounted; for Congress, either from indif