[ORIGINAL.

Night.

Gently, O Night! as falling snow
Or dropping flowers and waters flow,
O Thy wing is cast!
And calm and deep thy shadows lie,
As only thoughts that cannot die
Within Thy Pall.

And now, in yon blue vault on high,
The countless priesthood of the sky,
Serene and still,
With holy incense, pure and free,
Rejected from Eternity,
Their concern fill.

Whence comest thou, O solemn Night!
With speaking winds and words of light,
A voice from land?
Or art Thou, as the poet sings,
Our Presence wing, as sunbeams' dew,
Our souls to fan?

My soul's deep aspirations to
The Spirit Land
Dim with the hues of earthly birth,
Lead heavy with the dust of earth,
The weight of Time,
My struggling spirit draws from thee
Power to contend with memory—
Strong in its strife.

Thy shadows o'er my burning brain,
Fall as the drops of cooling rain
On the parched dust
And gratefully I kneel to pray
For a brave heart to tread life's way—
For changeless trust.

OUR PORT FOLIO.

PERSEVERANCE.—One of the great evils in this country is a certain restless, roving disposition, which leads young men to change their pursuits in life as often as they meet with any ill-success in one business, or are allured by the prospect of greater gains in another. Hence we frequently hear of those, who have passed through all the learned professions even at quite an early age—who have been physicians without patients, lawyers without clients, and preachers without congregations. In the mechanical arts, too, we see the cobbler, the carpenter, the printer, and the painter, and many other trades, all followed in succession by the same individual, and all in turn abandoned to take up with some other. Then, as for the shop-keepers and merchants, what is more common than to see the grocer of to-day commencing the dry goods business to-morrow, and the broker and money-changer to-morrow-and-the-broker-and-money-changer-to-morrow, and so on, from heavy speculations on the ocean to real estate, or in some other way, wholly disconnected with his accustomed business?

This versatility of our countrymen has been remarked by foreigners, and we have been highly complimented thereupon. They have overlooked, however, the great evil which arises from this course—namely, that while our artists, and our professional and business men thus engage in so many different avocations, a great degree of skill is seldom attained in either, and the individuals are thus, in the end, as well as the public, great sufferers. For ourselves, we incline to advocate the system of apprenticeship, by which no person is permitted to pursue a trade, or practise a profession, without serving at his trade, or studying his profession, for a given number of years. A man who has thus spent a period of his life must acquire a degree of skill which is a capital to him from commence the world upon, and which he will not readily abandon and give up, for the sake of a more flattering employment.

In connection with this subject we may remark, that Michael Angelo, full of the great and sublime ideas of his art, lived much alone, and never suffered a day to pass without handling the chisel or his pencil. When some persons reproached him with living so melancholy and solitary a life, he replied: "Art is a jealous thing—it requires the whole and entire man."

OLDEN TIME FASHIONS.—Watson's Annals of Philadelphia inform us that the good people of our city, in former times, had a mode of expressing their opinion of certain fashions in dress, which was altogether more effectual than the present one of attacking it in the newspapers. Compare the ineffectual efforts of the best wits of our day with the effectual ones of the more practical geniuses of the olden time:

"Our forefathers (says the annalist) were occasionally fine, practical, satirists on innovations in dress. They lost no time in paraphrastic verbiage which might or might not effect its aim; but with most effective appeal to the populace, they quickly carried their point by making it the scoff and derision of the town. On one occasion, when the ladies were going astray after a passion for long red cloaks, for which their lords had no affection, they succeeded to ruin their reputation by concerting with the executioners to have a female felon hung in a cloak of the best ton! On another occasion, in the time of the Revolution, when the tories had a mode of dressing their hair resembling Babel-like to the skies, the growing enormity was effectually depressed by the parade through the streets of a tall male figure in lady's attire, decorated with the odious tower gear, and preceded by a drum! At an earlier period one of the intended dresses, called a "trollopee," became a subject of offence. The satirists who guarded and framed the sumptuary code of the town, procured the wife of Daniel Pettitean, the bangman, to be arrayed in the full dress trollopee, &c., and to parade the town with rude music! Nothing could stand the derision of the populace. Delicacy and modesty shrank from the gaze and sneers of the multitude, and the trollopee, like the others, was abandoned."

BARBERS.—If not so numerous as the dealers in oysters and clams, the gentlemen of the spiral pole and the wig-block are of no less consequence in the community. They are men of character—honest—and of great information. Who is so much trusted as a barber? Other people are indeed trusted with money, goods, and chattels; but who except the barber is entrusted with throats? The perquinier and the hair-cutter are employed about men's heads, and it depends on them, solely whether a man is to look like a buffalo or a bald eagle.

"Out the *head* is the standard of the man."

It is true, Watts says the *mind*, but we have an idea that Watts was mistaken. The mind, as everybody knows, is dependent upon the head, and the head depends upon the wig-maker and hair-dresser. *Ergo* . . . . . The head is the standard of the man."

But the smoothing of chins and the operation upon heads are, for the most part, united in the same person, which gives him an importance that belongs to few other classes of men. Then, too, he is a man of information. He is well acquainted with all passing events; thoroughly read in the newspapers; himself of anecdote and chit-chat; an oracle in politics; a critic in taste; and a dictionary in the use of polite terms.

STERNE'S ONE OFFICER.—In Harriott's "*Struggles through Life*," a volume now out of print, we came across the following:

"There wanted nothing but the *Croix de St. Louis* to complete the reality of Sterne's picture, in the daily appearance of a veteran French officer at a corner of the Fly Market in New York, having a neat basket of rich heart cakes, made by his wife and daughter, and which he thus attended to sell. Thousands besides myself, must have seen him within the years 1794-6, though they may not have noticed him so much. With a high cocked hat, he stood upright as a soldier, under arms, holding the basket before him, without saying a word, only in answer. The features and muscles of his countenance seemed fixed, as if recollecting what was due to his former rank in life, nor could I ever perceive the faintest approach towards a smile. I could not pass him without some of those sensations which Sterne so irresistibly creates by his inimitable description, and I became a constant customer, either to his basket, when any of my children were with me, or to his snuff-box, in which I usually dropped a piece of silver, requesting he would replenish it against my next call."

PIN AND NEEDLES.—Needles, we are assured by Andrews, in his "History of Britain," first made their appearance among the manufactures, which were sold in Cheapside, during the reign of Mary. A Spanish negro had made them, but as he refused to discover his art, the nation received little benefit from him. In 1566, however, the manufacture of needles was again commenced, and directed by one Elias Grouse, a German.

The first mention of pins that occurs in the English statute-book is found in the act of Parliament, of Richard III, A. D. 1483, prohibiting certain foreign manufactures. Soon after which, the art of making them appears to have been introduced from France. By an act of Parliament, passed in 1543, the mode of the production was regulated in a particular manner. The pin was ordered to be double-headed, and to have the head soldered fast to the shank; to be well smoothed, the shank well shaven, and the point sharp and round filed, cauted, and sharpened." But a more ingenious and expeditious manner of making them being introduced, the statute was repealed three years afterwards.

CONSERVATION OF AFFECTION.—It has been observed of mothers, that they always show the most affection for such of their offspring as happen to be the most imbecile; inasmuch that if there be an idiot in the family, he is, above all others, the mother's favorite. Dickens has beautifully elaborated this idea, in his creation of the character of Barnaby Rudge, and the all-pervading affection for him which filled his mother's bosom. This peculiar kind of attachment may be on the principle ascribed by the author of Lacon to Dame Fortune, who, he says, "has been considered the guardian divinity of fools; and on this score she has been accused of blindness. It should rather be adduced as proof of her sagacity, when she helps those who certainly cannot help themselves."

A HIGHER COURT.—There is a story told of a wealthy farmer in the State of New York, who, having been sued by Mr. Havens, wrote the following classical epistle to his attorney:

"Dear Sir: I find that suits of *Heaven's* cross with me. I want to carry it up to a higher court, for God knows I don't owe him one cent."

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