

THE STAR OF THE NORTH

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Sir Launcelot and Queen Guinevere.

BY ALFRED TENNYSON.

Like souls that balance joy and pain,
With tears and smiles from Heaven again,
The maidens spring upon the plain
Came in a sunlit glade to rain.
In crystal vapor everywhere
Blue eyes of Heaven laughed between,
And far in the forest deep unseen,
The mostloftiest gathered green
From draughts of balmy air.

Sometimes the linnet piped his song;
Sometimes the thrush whistled strong;
Sometimes the sparrow wheeled along,
By grassy cypresses, with fuller sound;
In curves the yellowing river ran,
And dropping chestnut buds began
To spread into a perfect fan,
Above the teeming ground.

Then, in the boyhood of the year,
Sir Launcelot and Queen Guinevere,
Rode through the covers of the deer,
With blissful treble ringing clear,
She a part of joyous spring;
A gown of grass-green silk she wore,
Buckled with golden clasps before,
A light green taff of plumes she bore
Closed in a golden ring.

Now on some twisted ivy net,
Now by some tinkling rivolet,
On mosses thick with violet,
Her cream white mule her paster set; [plains
And now more fleet she skimmed the
Then she whose sparrow wheeled along,
By night to her airy whirling,
When all the glimmering moorland rings
With jingling bridle reins.

As she fled fast through the sun and shade,
The happy winds upon her played,
Blowing the ringlet from the braid;
She looked so lovely as she swayed
The rain with dainty finger tips;
A man had given all other bliss,
And all his worldly worth for this,
To waste his whole heart in one bliss
Upon her perfect lips.

REPORT,

Of the Common Schools of Columbia Co., for the year ending June 1st, '56.

In September and October last, appointments were made in the respective districts to meet and examine teachers; but the attendance was small on these occasions. The teachers seemed shy of a public examination, and most of them came afterwards to my office, for a private one. I have urged directors to insist upon a public examination in every case where it is practicable.

A few more certificates were issued (in addition to the permanent ones of last year) than there were schools taught, but this happened from the fact that some of those who received certificates went out of the county; a few sought other employments, and others, with high figures on their certificates, would not ask for a school.

During the past year I visited one hundred and twenty-four schools, being all in the county which were in operation, except seven. Two of these seven were inaccessible by reason of snow, when I was in the district, and five were not in session when I was in their neighborhood. Some I visited twice—Every available day, between the 12th of December and the 15th of March, was spent by me in this business.

My visits were spent by listening to classes, suggesting improvements to teachers, organizing new classes in mental arithmetic, orthography, concert-reading, rhetorical reading, writing from dictation, practical grammar, or the manufacturing of sentences, as well as the anatomy of language, and in addressing the scholars. The greatest cause of backwardness in our schools is the mechanical method of instruction, by which dry, dull tasks are substituted, to repulse and weary the scholar, when intelligible oral illustrations, from the every day practical affairs of life in the world, ought to be furnished to tempt and lead the scholar to a pleasant and friendly familiarity with the principles of science. There ought to be less parrot-like recitations, and more thinking in the schools. I have found many cases where orthography was understood only as arbitrary spelling, instead of being the anatomy of words, and where reading was only practiced as the monotonous pronunciation of words, instead of being, as it should, the expression of ideas and thoughts.

School Houses.—The condition and location of the buildings used for schools are not so objectionable as the method, or, rather, want of method, of teaching within them. Of the school houses in this county, twenty-nine are well adapted, in every respect, for the use made of them. Only thirteen are entirely unfit to be used; and all the others may be included in a middling, which, by a little labor and expense, might be right well adapted for the training places of youth. Some of these only need to have one end of the room coated for a blackboard; others want some little fixtures to perfect ventilation; and yet others only need a few shade trees planted around the building.

In no district can all the school houses be included in the first class. Scarcely more good houses than any other district. Montour has three excellent brick houses, and

they only need one wall blackened and a few shade trees planted around one, to make them perfect for their purpose. The towns of Catawissa, Berwick and Millville have good school houses.

The ceilings of our school houses are from seven to twelve feet high; and the most common aids to ventilation are the cracks and cranies of the weather boards, and a corresponding hole in the plastering which lines the building. In many the boards over head have just cracks enough to let out the vitiated air.

There are, in my report, twelve brick, five log and one hundred and thirteen frame school houses. About one half are warmed with coal and the other with wood, for fuel. None have furnaces for heating purposes or ventilation.

Furniture.—The only school house in the county which has the requisite furniture, is the upper grade school in Light Street. The citizens have furnished it with a planetarium, an orrery, a tellurian, and useful mathematical instruments and tables. This school is also the only one which furnishes chairs for seating the scholars. No other school has any other means than the blackboard to illustrate lessons, and forty-seven schools have not even a black-board.

There are twenty-three school houses with desks for two, arranged in rows, having aisles through the middle of the room, and long desks and benches alternately extending from this aisle to the wall. But sixty houses are upon the plan of long boards edged along three of the walls, and seats without backs in front of these apologies for desks. The small scholars, in these cases, have lower seats, mostly with backs to them and without desks. These are arranged in an inner circle, or sometimes around the stove. Ten cases I cannot classify in either of these descriptions. Only about a dozen houses have proper ante-rooms for the disposition of hats, bonnets and cloaks. Others have a small ante-room, used for keeping the fuel dry.

The School.—My aim has been to have the primary branches thoroughly taught, rather than hurry up a superficial smattering of every thing. It is only in the towns that the upper grade schools have been established, and in these, composition, elocution, astronomy, natural philosophy, algebra, geometry, and music have been introduced. Perhaps the best judgment can be formed of the success of the schools from the fact that last winter, while they were in operation, there were only two private subscription schools in the county, and one of these was a primary school; so that the poor man's high school superseded every select seminary of learning but one.

There is more uniformity of books than last year; but no school was found in which there were as many grades of readers as compose the series of many of our reading books lately published, which is, in most series, five. I found no case in which all the reading scholars could not have been arranged in three classes, so that no mind, in either class, would have been beyond the reach of all others. And in country schools where many branches must be taught, to sub-divide them further than this not only embarrasses the teacher and checks his usefulness, but entails an expense for books upon parents, which forms a subject of complaint against the common school system—unreasonable, it is true, but yet to be avoided; for while it is objectionable to have too many kinds of text books on the same subject, it is nearly as far wrong to form too many classes by having too many grades of books. The trouble seems to grow out of a little too much eagerness to make and sell books. And while every system of education is liable to such accidental errors—and they are by no means necessarily incident to our common school system—yet, considering the sensitive state of the public mind on this subject, a great deal of forbearance and moderation is necessary on the part of those who teach and superintend, and a great deal of caution and circumspection in avoiding error, and even in dealing with prejudices.

In every school, so far as inquiry was made, corporal punishment was or would have been resorted to when other means failed to preserve discipline; but no cases have been presented where any punishment has been used with unwarrantable severity.

The general rule is to have school open from nine to twelve o'clock in the forenoon, with fifteen minutes intermission; and again, from one to four, or from half-past one to half-past four o'clock in the afternoon, with a like intermission. In some cases there is no intermission for all the school at once.

Teachers.—During the past year I issued thirty-two permanent certificates and ninety-eight temporary ones. Nine applicants were refused certificates. Of the teachers, one was under seventeen years of age, thirty-eight between the ages of seventeen and twenty-one, fifty-four between the ages of twenty-one and twenty-five, twenty between the ages of twenty-five and thirty, seven between the ages of thirty and forty, seven between the ages of forty and fifty, and three over fifty years of age. Only three have graduated at college, and none at any State Normal School. Only eight were born out of Pennsylvania.

Since an examination has become requisite, the poorest of the old teachers have sought other employments, and some of our youngest teachers are our best. A new class of instructors is called for in the best districts, and twenty-nine teachers have not yet taught a year; fifty-seven have taught from one to three years, twenty-five have taught from three to six years, nine have taught from six to ten years, seven have taught from ten to

twenty years, and three have taught over twenty years. So it will be seen that the objection sometimes urged against the new law, is not true here—that the same old teachers are employed, and that there is no improvement. A new class of teachers is coming into the profession as fast as possible; and these only need a little experience to prove themselves entirely superior to those formerly employed, and to give general satisfaction.

It is only to be regretted that to persons of liberal education the profession does not present better encouragement. Not more than fifty of those examined design to teach permanently, and only fifty-two have read useful educational works with a design to improve and fit themselves for teaching. Of the whole number, forty four gave full satisfaction for ability to teach and govern, sixty-two may be ranked in a medium class, and twenty-four must be confessed so very poor that it is desirable to supply their places with better material, if we could only get it. Nothing is more needed to make the common school system work successfully and harmoniously, than competent teachers; and it is to be hoped that Normal schools will spring up in every county, by a demand for good teachers. In my judgment, the same amount of money cannot in any other way secure so much practical advantage as by the establishment of a teachers' school in every county of the State. It should be made the duty of every County Superintendent to hold each year a teachers' school of at least two weeks. The expense would be small compared with the advantages. Much good might be done in this cheap way, until we can get a State Normal school.

Examinations.—Before the past year there had been no public examinations or exhibitions in the public schools of the county; but this year the public schools of Light Street and Berwick presented to parents such exercises at examinations and exhibitions, as equalled those of the select schools we have witnessed in the county. The effect in these has been to awaken interest and honest pride in parents, scholars and teachers.

I found but few districts where the directors had visited the schools, and still fewer where parents did so. In Scott, Bloom and Benton, the directors visited and took a friendly interest in the schools, and in Light Street the citizens repeatedly visited the upper grade schools. The districts of Bloom, Scott, Catawissa, Orange and Westmoreland, by various means, and more especially by a compact population, are best able to have good schools. The other districts are thinly settled, and almost entirely by a population engaged in agriculture and lumbering. In some of these the schools are small, so that I found as few as eight scholars in a log school house which stood in the woods, out of the sight of any human habitation and surrounded by snow two feet deep, through which most of the scholars on the list had more than a mile and some over two miles to travel, between their homes and the school. On another visit I traveled one morning through and over snow banks six feet high, while the thermometer stood at twenty-one degrees below zero. In such districts I recommend more school in the summer, ever if there must be less in the winter. Fishersburg and Main districts deserve special commendation for maintaining very good schools, against difficulties and circumstances almost equal in discouragement to any in the county. In Maine the first district teachers' association in the county was formed last winter, and it awakened considerable interest. The teachers' association of the county held three meetings with in the past year, and I have a hope that its objects and advantages are becoming understood.

Progress.—In my visits of the first year's service I found only two districts in which any effort had been made to grade schools; last winter there were graded schools in six districts. The first year music was taught in two schools of one district; last winter I found it a pleasant exercise in five districts, and in some very artistically taught and practiced. The first year arithmetic was taught by oral exercises in classes, only in two districts; in the past year I found it successfully taught in nine districts, and organized classes in others. The first year, under the new law, thirty-three certificates were granted to persons who did not understand geography; and forty-six to teachers who did not understand grammar; the past year only thirteen are blank in geography, and the same number in grammar.

In Beaver township the requisitions of the school law were never complied with; though under the old system, the State appropriation was drawn. Last December the directors were removed by the court, and others appointed. These laws have gone on in good faith to open the schools, but under very great difficulties. Mr. Pleasant has not acted under the school law during the year just past, but is doing so for that upon which we have entered. Roaring Creek alone is inflexible.

R. W. WEAVER,
County Superintendent.
Bloomsburg, July 14, 1856.

From Macaulay's History of England.

THE END OF TITUS OATES.

The general result of the election exceeded the most sanguine expectations of the court. James found with delight that it would be unnecessary for him to expend a farthing in buying votes. He said that, with the exception of about forty members, the House of Commons was such as he himself should have named; and this House of Commons it was in his power, as the law then stood, to keep to the end of his reign.

Secure of parliamentary support, he might now indulge in the luxury of revenge. His nature was not placable; and while still a subject, he had suffered some injuries and indignities which might move even a placable nature to fierce and lasting resentment. One set of men, in particular, had with a baseness and cruelty beyond all example and all description, attacked his honor and his life, the witnesses of the plot. He may well be excused for hating them, since, even at this day, the mention of their names excites the disgust and horror of all sects and parties.

Some of these wretches were already beyond the reach of human justice. Bedloe had died in his wickedness, without one sign of remorse or shame. Dugdale had followed to the grave, driven mad, men said, by the torments of an evil conscience, and with loud shrieks imploring those who stood round his bed to take away Lord Stafford—Carstairs, too, was gone. His end was all horror and despair; and with his last breath, he had told his attendant to throw him into a ditch like a dog, for that he was not fit to sleep in a Christian burial-ground. But Oates and Dangerfield were still within the reach of the stern justice which they had wronged. James, a short time before his accession, had instituted a civil suit against Oates for defamatory words, and the jury had given damages to the enormous amount of a hundred thousand pounds. The defendant had been taken in execution, and was lying in prison as a debtor, without hope of release. Two bills of indictment against him for perjury had been found by the grand jury of Middlesex a few weeks before the death of Charles. Soon after the close of the elections the trials came on.

Among the upper and middle classes Oates had scarcely a friend left. All intelligent Whigs were now convinced that, even if his narrative had some foundation in fact, he had erected on that foundation a vast superstructure of falsehood and imposture. A few numbers of low fanatics, however, still regarded him as a public benefactor. These people well knew that, if he were convicted, his sentence would be one of extreme severity, and were therefore indefatigable in their endeavors to manage an escape.—Though as yet in confinement only for debt, he was put in irons by the authorities of the King's Bench prison; and even so he was with difficulty kept in safe custody. The mastiff that guarded his door was poisoned; and, on the very night preceding his trial, a ladder of ropes was introduced into his cell.

On the day on which he was brought to the bar, Westminster Hall was crowded with spectators, among whom were many Roman Catholics, eager to see the misery and humiliation of their persecutor. A few years earlier, his short neck, his legs uneven as that of a baboon, his purple cheeks, and his monstrous length of chin, had been familiar to all who had frequented the courts of law.—He had been the idol of the nation. Wherever he had appeared, men had uncovered their heads to him. The lives and estates of the magnates of the realm had been at his mercy. Times had now changed; and many who had formerly regarded him as the deliver of his country, shuddered at the sight of those hideous features on which villany seemed to be written by the hand of God.

It was proved beyond all possibility of doubt, that this man had, by false testimony, deliberately murdered several guiltless persons. He called in vain on the most eminent members of the Parliament which had rewarded and extolled him to give evidence in his favor. Some of those whom he had summoned absented themselves. None of them said any thing tending to his vindication. One of them, the Earl of Huntingdon, bitterly reproached him with having deceived the houses, and drawn on them the guilt of shedding innocent blood. The judges browbeat and reviled the prisoner with an intemperance which, even in the most atrocious cases, ill becomes the judicial character. He betrayed, however, no sign of fear or shame, and faced the storm of invective which burst upon him from bar, bench, and witness box with the insolence of despair. He was convicted on both indictments. His offence, though in a moral light, murder of the most aggravated kind, was, in the eyes of the law, merely a misdemeanor. The tribunal, however, was desirous to make his punishment more severe than that of felons or traitors, and not merely to put him to death, but to put him to death by frightful torments. He was sentenced to be stripped of his clerical habit, to be pilloried in Palace Yard, and to be led round Westminster Hall with an inscription declaring his infamy over his head, to be pilloried again in front of the Royal Exchange, to be whipped from Aldgate to Newgate, and, after an interval of two days, to be whipped from Newgate to Tyburn. If, against all probability, he should happen to survive this horrible infliction, he was to be kept a close prisoner during life. Five times every year he was to be brought forth from his dungeon and exposed on the pillory in different parts of the capital.

This rigorous sentence was rigorously executed. On the day on which Oates was pilloried in Palace Yard, he was mercilessly pelted, and ran some risk of being pulled in pieces; but in the city his partisans mustered in great force, raised a riot, and upset the pillory. They were, however, unable to rescue their favorite. It was supposed that he would try to escape the horrible doom which awaited him by swallowing poison. All that he ate and drank was therefore carefully inspected. On the following morning he was brought forth to undergo his first flogging. At an early hour an innumerable multitude filled all the streets from Aldgate to the Old Bailey. The hangman laid on the lash with such unusual severity as showed that he had received special instructions. The blood ran down in rivulets. For a time the criminal showed a strange constancy; but at last his stubborn fortitude gave way. His howlings were frightful to hear. He swooned several times; but the scourge continued to descend. When he was unbound, it seemed that he had borne as much as the human frame can bear without dissolution. James was entreated to remit the second flogging. His answer was short and clear. "He shall go through it if he has breath in his body." An attempt was made to obtain the Queen's intercession, but she indignantly refused to say a word in favor of such a wretch. After an interval of only forty-eight hours, Oates was again brought out to his dungeon. He was unable to stand, and it was necessary to drag him to Tyburn on a sledge. He seemed quite insensible, and the Tories reported that he had stupified himself with strong drink. A person who had counted the stripes on the second day says that they were seventeen hundred. The bad man escaped with life, but so narrowly that his ignorant and bigoted admirers thought his recovery miraculous and appealed to it as a proof of his innocence. The doors of the prison closed upon him. During many months he remained ironed in the darkest hole of Newgate. It was said that in his cell he gave himself up to melancholy, and sat whole days uttering deep groans, his arms folded, and his hat pulled over his eyes. It was not in England alone that these events excited strong interest. Millions of Roman Catholics, who knew nothing of our institutions or of our factions, had heard that a persecution of singular barbarity had raged in our island against the professors of the true faith, that many pious men had suffered martyrdom, and that Tyburn was the scene of a bloody execution. A few numbers of low fanatics, however, still regarded him as a public benefactor. These people well knew that, if he were convicted, his sentence would be one of extreme severity, and were therefore indefatigable in their endeavors to manage an escape.—Though as yet in confinement only for debt, he was put in irons by the authorities of the King's Bench prison; and even so he was with difficulty kept in safe custody. The mastiff that guarded his door was poisoned; and, on the very night preceding his trial, a ladder of ropes was introduced into his cell.

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RECEIPTS, &C.

TO CURE THE QUINSY.—Make a poultice of common white Lima beans, and apply it to the throat hot.

TO CLEAN KID GLOVES.—Wash them in a mixture of equal quantities of Ammonia and Alcohol. Then rub them dry. The above solution will also remove stains and grease from silk and cloth.

TO DESTROY MITES IN CHEESE.—A piece of woolen cloth should be dipped in sweet oil, which should be well rubbed on the cheese. If one application is not sufficient to destroy the mites, the remedy may be used as often as they appear. The cheese shelves should be washed with soap and water.

INCrustATIONS IN CULINARY VESSELS, can be removed readily by boiling a few potatoes in them. This has been known for half a century; but there are always young housekeepers starting upon their career who may not know this important fact, where hard water prevails.

TO CLEAN WALL PAPER.—Soiled wall paper may be made to look as well almost as new in most cases, by the following expedient:—Take about 2 qts. of wheat bran, tie it in a bundle of coarse flannel, and rub it over the paper. It will cleanse the whole paper of all description of dirt and spots, better than any other means that can be used. Some use bread but dry bran is better.

TO REMOVE INK SPOTS FROM LINENS.—Ink spots can be removed by saturating them with lemon juice, and rubbing on salt, and then putting them where the sun will shine upon them hot for several hours. As fast as it dries put on more lemon juice and salt. When the lemon juice cannot be obtained, citric acid is a good substitute. Iron-mould may be removed in the same way.

A DANGEROUS COSMETIC.—The use of balladonia, we have seen advertised to give brilliancy and fascination to the eye. This is a dangerous drug to use for this purpose. It is true that it gives to the eye an extraordinary brilliant appearance by contracting the iris, and enlarging the pupil; but this tends to weaken and destroy the delicately beautiful action of the organ of sight.

DRESSING WOUNDS.—Nine times out of ten will a wound heal quicker if done up in its own blood than any other way. As for a burn, whatever will entirely exclude the air, will cure it. A piece of oiled silk, if stuck down at the edge by any kind of sticking-salve. Put nothing on a burn to heal it. Nature will soon do it when the air is excluded, and the pain will almost immediately cease.

POLISHING.—The ladies are very fond of keeping the door knobs, spoons, plates, &c., in brilliant order. Now, if instead of chalk and water and such preparations, ladies will use rotten stone and camellia, a far brighter, more durable, and quicker polish can be obtained than in any other way. Camellia is the article now used for producing the exquisite polish of daguerotype plates; and nothing has been found to equal it.

SLEEPING POSTURES.

Like most other things, sleep has its unpropitious aspects. Indeed, few sleepers caught in the act, are quite the reverse. Most sleepers are like the proverbial man, as Shakespeare has painted her, dreaming of Posthumus and better days to come, is not an every-day vision. A Christabel laid down in her loveliness, is not a type of common place humanity asleep. Of course Inogen did not snore, nor utter inarticulate sounds at periodical intervals. Of course Christabel did not lie with her mouth open, and an expression of hopeless vacuity on her face, oh, call it fair or pale; or twist her shape into quite nondescript postures, to be told in rhyme or explained by reason. But this is what your ordinary sleepers do. They snore to the top of their feet, and that in some temperaments is *admirabile*. They utter broken mutters, most absurdly compounded of hissing, moaning and nasal constituents. They lie sprawling to an extent utterly incompatible with the sublime and beautiful. They are to be seen, too, curled or collapsed into positions really worthy of study, as showing the eccentricities of *postures plastiques* possible to the human form, not less diversified than allegorical.

Leigh Hunt has remarked, that though he may look as proud and self-possessed as he pleases; though he may walk proudly, sit proudly, eat his dinner proudly; though he may shave himself with an air of infinite superiority, and in a word, may show himself grand on the most trifling occasions, he is reduced to most ridiculous shifts when once felled by the leveler, Sleep. "Sleep plays the petrifying magician." He arrests the proudest lord as well as the humblest clown, in the most ridiculous postures; so that if you could draw a gaudier from his bed no lumbering fool in a pantomime would create wilder laughter. Imagine a despot lifted up to the gaze of his valets, with his eyes shut, his mouth open, his left hand under his right ear, his other twisted and hanging helplessly before him like an idiot's, one knee lifted up, and the other leg stretched out, or both knees huddled together, or both knees huddled together—what a scarecrow to lodge majestic powers in? Few sleepers, in effect, show to advantage after they have come to years of discretion; it is only in infancy and early childhood that will bear examination, as artistic studies of grace when the senses are steeped in forgetfulness.

None of us like the crying of another person's baby. Our own alone is musical.

Prosperity is a blessing to the good, but a curse to the evil.

PLAGIARISM.

Poets, philosophers, and even divines, all seem at times to manifest a propensity to plagiarism. For fifty years, Paley has stood at the very head of all original writers on Natural Theology, and his work on that subject will last as long as time lasts, in all probability. Where is the man of education who has not admired its wonderful lucidity, the simplicity and force of its argument, the beauty of its illustrations. From the watch picked up on the beach, with which he commences, to the astronomical arguments with which he concludes, all is seemingly perfect. But alas, the whole argument, the watch, wheels, works and crystal, were all stolen from a Dr. Nieuwenhuis, a philosopher, who lived in Holland, and published the entire substance of the book a hundred years before. That work too had been translated into English and published in London in 1718. There are passages copied almost verbatim, and the plan of the whole work is seemingly a great and wilful plagiarism.—As if to bring the theft home to him, he even refers in one edition to the original work of Dr. N. as his authority for a particular statement while making no other acknowledgment of indebtedness.

A few years ago, Dr. Keith brought out a treatise on the fulfilled prophecy. Every one admired it, until the Quarterly Review showed that it was but a recast of Newton on the Prophecies.

The poets are equally guilty. One of the finest things Lord Byron ever wrote, was on the death of Kirk White, where he represents him by a streak eagle stretched upon the plain, viewing his own feather on the arrow, the plumage that had warmed its nest, drinking the last life drop of its blood. The whole of these lines are copied, not quite verbatim, but nearly so, including almost every rhyme, from an old English poem, who clearly got the idea of his figure from the Greek poet two thousand years before.

The "Hymn of Life" is charged with the same want of originality, even in that inimitable figure.

"And our hearts, though stout and brave,
Still like muffled drums are beating
Funeral marches to the grave."

Even Jefferson, who wished for no other epithet than "The Author of the Declaration of Independence," was not the author, but rather the editor of that document, from a long-existing declaration, drawn up the year previously, and which contained the same essential features, and indeed many of the same paragraphs.

The fable so beautifully told by Dr. Franklin, to entice charity,—about the old man whom Abraham drove from his tent for idleness, until it was shown him that since the Lord had borne with him seventy years, he might well afford to endure him for one night—is all clearly taken from Jeremy Taylor, who avowedly got it from some Rabbinitical work.

But it is by no means certain that these parties were morally guilty of any plagiarism whatever. On the contrary, there is hardly anything about which a more false opinion reigns in the community. For any man to pretend to write nothing but what was absolutely original in thought and expression, would be absurd. An idea is scarcely ever perfected by the man who conceived it—Paley for example, did not compose his work on Natural Theology, until thirty years after he had first declared the substance of it in the form of a lecture before the University. These lectures would of course be mere compilations, and it is easy to suppose he may have forgotten the sources of his ideas. It is also perfectly certain that the charming style in which he clothed the thoughts, is what has carried them home to men, and given them their real value to themselves.

Byron cared little where he got his rhymes so that they pleased his own ear, all he knew was that he drank the gin and water, and the verses jingled from his fingers' ends. He may often have reproduced what he had read thus without knowing it. It frequently happens that men read facts, and thoughts, and even sentences, and write and tell them as their own, without knowing, thinking or caring where they came from, because so much more engrossed with conveying the idea. Many an author has written twice over the same thoughts, in almost the same words, without the least knowledge that he was thus, as it were, plagiarising from himself. Coleridge thus abstracted from himself, and from the German writers, thoughts and pages, without knowing what he was doing. In fact his whole life and philosophy was a grand reconstruction of other men's thoughts.

Further than this, it should be distinctly observed that the labor of polishing up an old thought, and setting it forth in a clear and lucid connection and style, is often great and gives their chief interest to many of these productions. The additional value thus conferred is too much lost sight of by those who accuse of plagiarism in such cases. Where an author knowingly conceals his indebtedness to those who have gone before it is an act unworthy of a great mind. But this is not so often the case as is supposed.—*Pub. Ledger.*

During the year 1856, 362 persons died of scarlet fever in Boston,—187 males, 175 females. The oldest person deceased of this disorder was 40. The largest number of deaths in any one month was in December, when 115 died.

The best college for a young man to graduate in is adversity.