

Literary Facetiae.

No. 4. Continued.

Various indeed are the forms, under which genius may appear within the domains of literature, science and philosophy; but under whatever form it does appear, genius has its dark as well as its bright side—Like the sun, genius has its spots or like light, genius has its shadows, or like the stars, genius has its eccentricities. Genius is often accompanied with drawbacks to the possessor of it—Goldsmith was a genius but he was a sort of a fool, or in the language of Johnson, he was an inspired idiot. A genius may form a grand conception as the frame work of truth, and therein place shreds and scraps of thought from every quarter, and from every time, but so assisted by him as to form a clear demonstration of some principle in political economy or in any other species of pure knowledge; and yet he may be a perfect simpleton in the practical issues of every-day life. After the same manner, a genius may form a fine ideal, and place under it odds and ends, picked here and there, or everywhere, all diverse the one from the other, but all so arranged, and dovetailed into each other that their form is a unique whole and reflect beauty, the one upon the other; and yet compared with other men, he appears inferior to them in the common transactions of life. Again a genius may master phenomena, digest observations, and interpret facts, all published together, like Shylock's leave, in mysterious confusion; and yet he lacks self-knowledge, self-control, and self-respect. In a word, there is, it is said, a thin wall between genius and madness; but, in this as in many things, it is certain that the smallest physical causes may interfere with the operations of the mind. Let us substantiate all this by a reference to concrete realities in the life of such men.

(1) The lack of business habits among men of genius, showing their inferiority to other in the affairs of life. There is a good story told about the poet Moore when living in Kegworth, a Leicestershire village. The rural beauty waited upon him for his weekly order, and in response to the question, "What part shall I send you, sir?" the poet responded, "Send me a quarter of beef." "For or liver?" enquired Mr. Cleaver. "Hand," said Moore, who knew more about beef than most men, "the claudes than cows. The hind quarter of beef was afterwards deposited by the cart at his door, and the attendant of the hand when he beheld a mountain of meat, sufficient for a garrison, may be better imagined than described. He had heard of the phrase "a quarter of lamb," and supposed a quarter of beef was something similar in size.

(2) The passionate outbreak of feeling at the meeting, and parting of two men of genius betwining in them the common weakness of humanity. Dr. Chas. Marshall of Scotland, who was an intimate friend of James Hogg, has been contributing a pleasant series of "Recollections of Yarrow" to the *Arrossan Herald*, in which he relates several original anecdotes of the Ettrick Shepherd. Perhaps the most interesting of these is the one which gives the details of Hogg's well-known interview with Robert Tannahill at Paisley, as they were furnished in conversation by the Shepherd himself to Dr. Marshall while they were out fishing one day. Marshall had landed a fine trout from a deep, sluggish pool about twenty yards below Mount Denger Bridge. As the first lay casting on the bank, Hogg looked in the water and said to Marshall, "That pool eye reminds me of the pool of the Cart in which poor Tannahill drowned himself. Do you mind the story?" Marshall replied that Tannahill was dead before he was born. "Well," said Hogg, "I once travelled all the way from Edinburgh to Paisley alternately (that was an old Scotch word Hogg often used) to see him. I supposed that when I arrived at Paisley, I had only to ask for Tannahill, the poet, but to my astonishment nobody knew who he was. I was sent from one Tannahill to another and many others, but none of them the object of my search. At last I found him on his beam, one of a long range. He was a swarthy man, bearing no external indication of the intellectual lava tide that shimmered in his soul. I told him my name de plume, and I have never forgotten the look of absolute bewilderment, with which he regarded me as I told him how far I had come to see him; and how that I was waiting him with the same feelings now as when—"

"Johnson in Dr. Boucher's classic shade." During the whole of that night we sat together, and he sang many of his choicest melodies. In the morning, I was about to start by the coach for Edinburgh on my way home. Being somewhat late, I required to run some distance, Tannahill ran by my side. When about to part, he grasped my hand convulsively, and burst into tears. I said, "Hob, Robert dinna tak' things so serious; we shall often meet again, and if you'll no come to Edinburgh to visit me, I'll come back to Paisley to see you." "No, Hogg," he replied; "this has been the proudest day of my life; but it cannot be—and with this sob choked his utterance. I had scarcely reached Edinburgh before I read in the newspapers an account of his sad end."

The slender tie on which is suspended the power of thought. In Dr. Busch's "Book of Bismack," the Prince describes a horse accident he once had when riding home with his brother. He fell violently on his head. "I lost consciousness," he says, "and when I recovered it I had only half. That is, one part of my intellect was clear and good, the other half had gone." Finding (on examination) his saddle broken, he called for his groom's horse and rode home. When the dogs there barked, by way of salutation, he thought them strange dogs, and recited them angrily as such. Then he said the groom had fallen with the horse, and they should go and fetch him, and he became angry when they would not do that (because of a sign from his brother). He seemed to be himself and at the same time the groom. After eating and sleeping he was all right next morning. He points out that he had done all that was necessary in a practical respect: hence the fall had caused no confusion of ideas. "In short, it was a remarkable illustration of the fact

that in the brain lodges different mental powers; but one of these had been stupefied for some longer period of time by the overgrowth." Again, a gentleman is mentioned by Dr. Beattie, who, after a blow on the head lost his knowledge of Greek, but did not appear to have lost anything else. A frequent modification consists in putting one name for another, but always using the words in the same sense, thus a gentleman affected in this manner, when he wanted coals put on the fire, always called for paper; and when he wanted paper called for coals; and these words he always used in the same manner. Dr. Gregory used in his lectures, to mention the case of a clergyman, who, while labouring under an affection of the brain, spoke nothing but Hebrew—the last language he had acquired. Dr. Pritchard mentions an English lady who, in recovering from an apoplectic attack, always spoke to her attendants in French, as she had absolutely lost the knowledge of the English language. This continued about a month. The celebrated Dr. Bransome lost, after a slight apoplectic attack, the power of pronouncing substantive nouns, whether in French or Latin. Thus when he wished to pronounce apple, he described it by its qualities. When the noun was shown to him, written or printed, he immediately recognized it, but he had no power to designate it spontaneously. Cuvier, in his lectures, relates a similar case of a person who had only lost the memory of substantive nouns, but could pronounce all adjectives.

Weights and Measures.

The following are a few of the provisions of the law that it is well for every person, at all engaged in trade to know. (1) Wine measured will only be tolerated until the first of May next. Until that time traders using wine measures must distinctly inform parties purchasing from them that the measure used is wine measure. Should a trader sell by wine measure without stating the fact to the purchaser, he is liable to be fined in the penalty provided by the act. (2) 4 lb., 7 lb., 28 lb., and 26 lb. weights will only be tolerated until the first day of June next. (3) Spring balances will not be allowed at all, and any party using them in trade is subject to the penalty provided by the act. (4) Scales having both a disk and scoop a counterpoise being used to balance the scoop, are not allowed, and must be put away as the party using them is liable to penalty. (5) Nails driven in the counter or elsewhere, for measuring purposes, are not allowed, and should be replaced at once by ruled rules of substantial measurement. (6) Entered measures; measures coated with oil or other material, etc., must be exchanged for clean, sound, verified measures.

It is required that all weights and measures should have their denominations marked on them. Manufacturers of measures should make no more wine measures. Traders in scales and balances should buy no more of the condemned kind, and the public in general should endeavor, as soon as possible, to have one weight and one measure, and those correct. DRINK TO CORN MEATS.—Sixteen gallons of water, sixteen quarts of salt, one pound saltpetre, three pounds of best brown sugar. Boil the whole together for ten or fifteen minutes, stirring it well and repeatedly. Remove the scum as it rises. When cold it is ready for use. Cleanse the meat, put it into the brine, place a weight on it to keep the meat submerged. The weight must be of such a kind that the salt will not act on it. The meat will be cured in eight days. When the brine has been used for four pickings, boil and skim it again. When cold it is fit for use. This may be repeated three times before fresh brine is needed. Brine for pickling is said to be fit for use so long as it will bear up an egg.

BAR DRINKING.—A well-known lawyer, of Belleville, Mr. N. B. Falkner, who knows whereof he speaks, has entered the field as an opponent of the drinking; usages of the country, by inaugurating a new temperance movement. He pledges no man to abstain from the use of liquor, but he pledges all parties to abstain on their honor or as men, absolutely from drinking in bars, saloons, restaurants and all places where liquors are publicly sold.

The lower jaw of a human being said to have belonged to the primitive races, has been dug up on the banks of Lynx Creek, in Arizona. The jaw never had more than six teeth, and from its configuration the possessor subsisted wholly on fruits and grass. The hungry dream of feasts, the thirst of water, the dread of drowning, the sick of health, to enjoy health, beware of every ailment, and if suffering from diseases of the kidneys, etc., use Victoria Buchu and Uva Ursi. If taken in time, this great medicine will prevent Bright's disease of the kidneys, diabetes, etc., it is a positive specific in all diseases of the urinary system. For sale by all dealers.—1878.

It is reported that a prominent wholesale house in Hamilton recently wrote for a statement of the affairs of a Seaford grocer, and received in reply the following very satisfactory answer: Assets—\$38,715. Disbursements—To man in charge, twenty days, \$40; official assignee, \$96; official discharge, \$25; expenses of selling, \$90; solicitor's fees, \$63; sundries, \$97. Total, \$380.15.

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REMOVAL. THE subscriber begs to inform that he has removed his business to his old shop, near Edge Mills, where he has been for many years. He is pleased to attend to the wants of his customers. WM. CALDWELL, Durham, Nov. 6th, 1879.

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