

What is Noble.

BY CHARLES SWAIN.

What is noble? To inherit
Wealth, estate, and proud degree?
There must be some other merit
Higher yet than that for me!
Something greater far must enter
Into life's majestic span;
Fitted to create and centre
True nobility in man!

What is noble? 'Tis the finer
Portion of our mind and heart;
Link'd to something still diviner
Than mere language can impart:
Ever prompting—ever seeing
Some improvement yet to plan;
To uplift our fellow being,
And, like man, to feel for Man!

What is noble? Is the sabre
Nobler than the humble spade?
There's a dignity in labor
Truer than e'er pomp arrayed!
He who seeks the Mind's improvement
Aids the world in aiding Mind;
Every great commanding movement
Serves not one—but all mankind.

O'er the forge's heat and ashes,
O'er the engine's iron head,
Where the rapid shuttle flashes
And the spindle whirls its thread;
There is labor lowly tending
Each requirement of the hour,
There is genius still extending
Science—and its world of power!

'Mid the dust, and speed, and clamor
Of the loom-sped and the mill;
'Midst the clink of wheel and hammer
Great results are growing still!
Though too oft by Fashion's creatures,
Work and workers may be blam'd,
Commerce need not hide its features!
Industry is not ashamed.

What is noble? That which places
Truth in its enfranchis'd will;
Leaving steps, like angel traces,
That mankind may follow still!
E'en through Scorn's malignant glances
Prove him poorest of his clan,
He's the Noble—who advances
Freedom, and the cause of man!

[From the Boston Traveler, Dec. 4.]

EGYPT.

GOVERNMENT—PUBLIC WORKS AND ENTERPRISE—SOURCE OF THE NILE—WATER IN THE DESERT OF SAHARA.

BEIRUT, Aug. 20, 1856.

Editor of the Traveler:—The first modern ruler of Egypt who had any idea of improving the condition of the country by constructing works of public utility, was the celebrated Mehemet Ali. Having been elevated to the rank of Pasha from a humble position and with a foreign origin, as he was an Albanian and not a Turk, and had embraced the Turk's religion for the sake of office and ambition, he was sent to Egypt by the Sultan as a province suitable for a man of his energy and restlessness.

Irritated by provocations from the Porte, conscious of his great executive powers, and yielding to the promptings of his ambition, he made Egypt his own independent kingdom; and throwing off his allegiance to the Sultan invaded and conquered Syria and Palestine, and was about to take possession of Constantinople itself, and make it the capital of his empire instead of being that of the Sultan, when the allied fleets of England, France, and Russia, drove him back to Egypt at the moment Turkey lay at his feet.

The Porte and its allies stipulated that he and his heirs should have the government of Egypt henceforth to all future time, independent and undisturbed, upon the payment of annual tribute to the Porte of about \$300,000, and be dignified with the title of Viceroy. The no less celebrated Ibrahim Pasha, under whom he won most of his victories and made most of his conquests, was not the son of Mehemet Ali, as generally supposed, but of one of his numerous wives.

Abbas Pasha succeeded to the vice-royalty upon the death of Mehemet Ali, and the present Pasha, Mohammed Said, upon the decease of Abbas. The present Viceroy is said to be a man of great energy and large views, but sometimes cruel to his subjects, capricious in his movements, and given to luxurious habits which must shorten his life, if they do not indeed, as most predict who know him, soon end it.

Said Pasha, however, from mingling freely with the English and the French, has conceived ideas as humane as they are expansive; and should he be able to carry out his projected measures, he may bring back to Egypt something of its ancient glory. The internal improvements and public works projected, and in some instances completed or commenced by Mehemet Ali, he has adopted as his own, and designs not only to carry them out fully, but to add to them largely. His alleged cruelty is not exhibited, so far as I can learn, in acts of ill nature, passion, jealousy, or malice towards individuals.

He does not crowd his prisons upon mere suspicion, like the king of Naples, nor like him wear out his victims in dark, damp dungeons, or send them, after sham trials, away to execution. His cruelty is the conscription of young men for the army, who are seized without notice, and wherever found after sunset, and hurried away to the army without permission to bid farewell to those they love the most. Forced labor is also common upon the public works, in which great suffering is often endured, with sickness and death.

There are not wanting traits of humanity, how-

ever, in the Viceroy, as the following facts will show:—He has an only child, a son, not above three years old, whom he has committed entirely to the care and training of an English governess. Not long since, on the occasion of a great festivity, when numerous Pashas and high officials were present, he ordered the governess to bring his child into the presence of the distinguished guests, and she remained with her charge for some time in such strange company. The child clung confidently and affectionately to his guardian in view of such an array of beards and swords, while the governess made herself as easy as in an English parlor.

So bold a deed on the part of the Viceroy, indicating a paternal heart and his approval of European usage in the social intercourse of the sexes, naturally created a great deal of wonder in the land of the Pharaohs. Besides this, Said Pasha has manifested a tolerant spirit in religion. Not only have the native Christian sects had the fullest liberty of worship, but English and American missionaries are allowed to prosecute their work without molestation, and recently the Viceroy ordered that all Christian soldiers in his army should be allowed to hold religious services in their own way.

In the late war he furnished a strong auxiliary force for the Porte, for which service the Sultan recently sent him a costly sword by one of his Ministers of State, with a letter of thanks in his own hand. It is suspected by some that the Viceroy's ambition and energy suggest the thought of independence at some no distant day, of which some of his public works are in anticipation.

Saying nothing of the ship canal projected across the isthmus of Suez, within two years only the Viceroy has introduced the following administrative measures, besides others of the same character:—The abolition of slavery; discharging all the villages of arrear taxes; liberty of commerce and trade, instead of the former system of monopoly; the payment of taxes and duties in money instead of payment in kind; the amelioration of the army; the extinction of all the old debts of the State; the equal liability of men of all religions and races to conscription; and the decision of a great mass of matters for a long time in litigation by arbitration instead of the tedious process of law.

The railroad from Alexandria to Cairo is a work of more than two years' standing, but the fruit of the present Pasha's enterprising spirit. In addition to this, he has built two branches in the Delta, and is engaged in extending the main line from Cairo to Suez, on the Red Sea, which when completed will make a line above 200 miles long.

A telegraphic line is built along the railroad from Alexandria to Cairo, and for some months has been in operation; with the completion of the railroad it will be extended to Suez, and connected with a line to Constantinople, and another along the coast of Africa to Algiers, and thence across the Mediterranean to Europe. Lighting Cairo and Alexandria with gas, an expedition to the sources of the Nile, the re-organization of schools, and especially of the Medical School, and the cleaning out of the Mahmoudieh canal, are also among the honorable and useful acts of the Pasha within the last two years 1819 by Mehemet Ali, connecting Alexandria with the Nile.

The length of the canal is 61 miles, with a depth of 18 feet and a width of 90. It was navigable only during the overflow of the Nile, and for eight months was dry. It is stated that 150,000 men, impressed into the service by the Viceroy, completed the work in a year, though tens of thousands of the laborers perished from excessive toil, insufficient provisions and accommodations, and a pestilential air. Being neglected for a long period, the canal partially filled up again, and made the navigation impracticable.

Seeing this, Said Pasha resolved to throw out the earth which had fallen in, and restore it to its original use. Purposing to do the work in a month, if possible, he inquired of his engineer the number of men necessary to accomplish it, who gave 67,000. Every village and locality were required to furnish their proper contingents, to whom a certain portion of the new excavation was assigned, with the assurance the quicker it was done the sooner they might return.

As the time of harvest was approaching, and the cleaning of the canal must be finished by the end of April, officers, overseers and laborers understood the importance of haste; and when the forces deployed along the line of the canal, they were found to number 150,000 instead of 67,000. As soon as a party reached its "claim," hoes, shovels, pick-axes and baskets were found awaiting them.

One used the hoe or shovel; another filled the basket, and three bore it away and emptied out its contents. A great number were up to their waists in water, and at night the ground was their bed, the heavens their curtains, and the stars the guardians which watched over them. The labor went on in the midst of joyful shouts, the workmen vying with each other to see who could first execute the task assigned them, and putting forth all their strength to the sound of music,—for every province and every village had brought their eminent performers, such as are called for on great occasions, as the birth of a child, the rite of circumcision, marriage, and the feast days of the Moslem saints, or saints; for the Mahomedan calendar is as rich in the names and days of such characters as the Catholic.

When the engineers and officers passed by in inspecting the works, they saluted them in the Arabic form: "God preserve your days!" Near by markets were located at suitable intervals, at which the laborers procured onions, nuts, dates, figs, cheese, eggs, &c.; while every morning fresh bread was distributed by the government. Thus these Egyptian peasants, called fellahs, converted the period of their hard toil into a long festivity.

Through the precautions taken by the authorities and the good spirits of the workmen, there was not a single case of mortality in this immense

multitude of 150,000 men, whilst the instances of sickness were not more than five in a thousand.—Thus with little expense to the government, (for such labor is unpaid) this important canal was cleaned out, deepened, and enlarged, though sixty miles long, between April 10th and May 3d. A government and people capable of much well-directed energy are able to construct the proposed ship canal from sea to sea, and any other works which public utility may require.

The common day wages of the Egyptian peasants are sixteen cents, they furnishing their own provision!

The railroad already constructed and in operation between Alexandria and Cairo is more than 100 miles in length, and though the speed would fail to satisfy the go-ahead Yankee, a full day being required to pass over it, the utility, public and private, incalculable. The conduct of Said Pasha is often vexatious to travelers; for when he is traveling he will sometimes detain the train for a day at some depot on the route, whenever the fit comes over him, whatever the inconvenience and loss to the passengers.

The road is in the process of construction from Cairo to Suez, on the Sea, a distance less than that from Alexandria to Cairo, and will be completed by the end of the year. The line of electric telegraph will be extended to the same point and at the same time, where it is intended to connect it with the long line projected to the East Indies.

Another enterprise projected by the Viceroy, and sustained at his own expense exclusively, is a scientific expedition to discover the source of the Nile. The expedition will be composed of scientific men of different countries, and be conducted by a young traveler already favorably known by his African explorations. From the strong influence of the Viceroy in London, and from the fact that the government of that country is in the hands of another son of Mehemet Ali, it is thought the expedition will encounter no obstructions in pursuing their object and be able to solve a grand problem of ancient and modern geography, which has hitherto defied the most ardent zeal and resolute self-devotion. Preparations for this enterprise are already in progress, whose results will be awaited with much interest by the scientific world.

In this connection it may be proper to add, that the Sardinian government has lately received a letter from Mr. Brun Rollet, Vice Consul of Sardinia at Khartum, in Nubia, dated from the banks of the Misselad, in which he states that after a month's exploration he had succeeded in reconnoitering the lake by which the waters of the Misselad and the Madj communicate with those of the White Nile; and that having found the mouth of the Misselad, which flows into the lake, he had, under the escort of twenty-three Egyptian soldiers, penetrated to the river, and ascended it to the distance of 120 miles when he wrote. His intention was to go up the river as far as he possibly could; and he declares that from its width and depth he has no doubt it is the real Nile.

Mr. Rollet's opinion on such a subject is said to be entitled to great respect, from the fact that he has made numerous excursions up both the Blue Nile and the White Nile. From what the natives told him, it appears that the Misselad, in the rainy season, overflows an immense extent of country. As far as he had gone, the vegetation on the banks was luxuriant, and the reception given him by the natives, though not always favorable, was not hostile.

As I may not be nearer to the Desert of Sahara for some time to come, I will here add, that under the direction of a French General of Algiers, a boring has been made in the desert for water with the most complete success. The Artesian well is 180 feet deep, and the spring furnishes about 1000 gallons of water per minute, which is clear and of an excellent quality. The engineer who conducted the work exhibited great energy and resoluteness. For thirty-nine days and nights the work went on without the least interruption, notwithstanding the thermometer sometimes stood at 115 degrees!

Should the same process be followed in the desert between Mount Sinai and the Holy Land, which is as utterly without wells and fountains as in the days of the Israelites, though in some places puddles of brackish water are found, which neither man nor animals can drink, probably the same success would follow, and travellers be saved the necessity of carrying water in skins for about twenty days' march. Perhaps water could be found in the great American desert by the same operation, and thus an immense waste be made inhabitable by millions of human beings. At any rate it is worth while to make the experiment.

W.

Literature of Wales.

The correspondent whose enthusiastic devotion to the old Welsh culture our readers had an opportunity of considering last week, adds,

"Wherever Welsh families settle together they maintain the habits and language of their country. In the very midst of London, a large community of Welsh people has cherished from generation to generation the religious literature of Wales.

Liverpool has become a sort of Welsh metropolis to the Principality.

Beyond the Atlantic, in the city and state of New York, a digest of all the periodical publications of Wales is circulated, under the name of Y Detholydd (The Selector), besides original periodicals, called, Y Ceadwr, (The Messenger), Y Cyfaill o'r Hen Wlad, (The Friend of the Old Country), Y Seren, (The Star), Y Cyfaill, (The Friend,) and many others.

The language is so copious, energetic, and flexible, that almost all things gain fresh strength and power when translated into it, while they gain also in conciseness of expression. For instance, the Welsh summaries of political news are models of comprehensive and succinct writings. Multitudinous as they are, it would be comparatively easy

to enumerate Welshmen of the past and present generations who have risen to eminence and conferred benefits and honor upon Britain by the exercise of their several talents; but it would be a long and difficult task to track the obscure course of native genius, widely yet silently working the diffusion of blessings within the compass of their own peculiar land.

Any biographical dictionary will furnish hundreds of the former: the latter must be traced when dead through their influence on survivors. The names of many who are now alive and at work are well known to us; but we feel that we should be guilty of an unjustifiable and injurious act in dragging such disinterested local laborers into unsought and undesired celebrity.

The enduring prevalence of the Welsh language, notwithstanding the active measures which have been taken to suppress it, is very commonly, though very erroneously, attributed to a counter-active opposition, while it actually and spontaneously proceeds, in fact, from the working of natural causes. It is the life of the Welsh language, as the breath of a nation's feelings and affections, which preserves it.

We may just as wisely attempt to uproot, or to fuse the granite mountains, in order to make way, by their rapid disintegration, for more productive soils, as to change by determination the living speech of 600,000 or 700,000 people.

Conformably to His will who dispersed the builders of Babel, the Cymry still speak the language of their progenitors. Whether that language shall continue or cease depends upon circumstances too complex for calculation, and alike beyond our foresight and control; but certainly no other living language can surpass it in wealth of words and power of forcible and exact expression.

It is commonly argued that Welshmen, who have not a thorough acquaintance with English, must, of necessity, be impeded in the career of life, and tethered down, as it were, to that inferior social rank in which they were born; yet Welshmen have proved, when casually impelled by worldly ambition, that they well know how to climb even to the woolstack and to the archiepiscopal throne. But the desire for personal advancement is not a national characteristic of the Cymry.

It seems strange, indeed, that alteration of language should be urged as a provocative of that desire, when we consider that the original diversity of tongues was the first signal judgment upon man's worldly ambition.

The Cambrian peasant seldom fails to compute aright the relative value of threescore years and ten and of immortality. To be useful in his own sphere, not to start out of it—steadily to enlighten each his little system—of kinsmen, friends, and dependents—not to glare forth as a meteor to be wondered at—to acquire knowledge, and to use it for God's glory and for his neighbor's good—to render the improvement of his faculties conducive to the exaltation of his spiritual being; this is the main object of the true Cymro's ambition, and it is, incontrovertibly, the highest purpose of human life.

Disguise it as we may from others or from ourselves, it is undoubtedly true, that the restlessness of secular aspirations is reserved only for those who, 'failing,' as Lord Bacon expresses it, 'to exalt their nature, are in perpetual estimation to exalt their place.' It might be well for pseudo-philosophers, who scoff at the Cymraeg as a 'non-literary language,' to study ethies in its archaic treasures, and also to take a few theological lessons in a Welsh Sunday School. If our true province has been rightly defined by Butler to be 'virtue and religion, life and manners, the science of improving the temper and making the heart better,' then is the Welshman cultivating at home a field capable of yielding life's richest and noblest harvests."—[Athenaeum.]

A Hit at Congress.

The following broad burlesque of the 'Proceedings of the American Congress' is from Punch:

TUESDAY, June 10—On the motion for the second reading of the Old Hoss and Bankum Railway Extension Bill.

Mr. Glaggs (Ga.) said that he should consider it a personal insult to himself and his colleague if the motion were put. The bill was the audacious spawn of a crawling sycophancy, which ought to be kicked to bottomless blazes.

Mr. Binckes (S. C.) concurred in what had fallen from the honorable speaker, and wished he had the same commanding eloquence in which to embody the unutterable disgust which he felt for the framers of the bill, and for all the despicable wretches who had dared to speak in its favor.

Mr. Samuel X. Sloddy (Pa.) had not thought much of the bill, but was now 'convinced of its goodness, when two such contemptible snags as Glaggs and Binckes howled against it.

Senator Binckes here crossed the floor, and, taking off his coat and throwing it on the table, began to whip Senator Sloddy some, but was felled to the dust by a ruler in the hands of that patriot, Owkins of Mass. He was at first stunned, but having liquored, resumed his coat and seat.

Mr. Legume (Va.) hoped the debate might be procrustinated until more specific information was before them. It was unworthy of the majestic genius of America to slogdologize.

A Voice.—Who's slogdologizing?
Another Voice.—Greased snakes! Jerusalem! (Sensation.)

Mr. Hactaris, Penn.—The bill had been carefully discussed on a previous occasion, and there was no excuse for delay. He would not impute motives to its opponents, but would like to know where the honorable Senator Glaggs obtained the dollars that paid his extravagant hotel bill yesterday.

Mr. Glaggs.—You are a mean, dastardly spy.

Mr. Hactaris.—You are a liar.
The senator from Georgia here fired four shots at the honorable speaker without any other casu-