

Eds. Chronicle—In your paper of the 2d inst, there is a paragraph which contains a quotation from a little poem that I have been trying to find for the last five and twenty years. Can you tell me who is the author of the poem, or in what book it is to be found? It commences,

'In slumber of midnight the sailor-boy lay,' &c.

[We are unable to answer the queries of our correspondent. The piece has been floating about, 'a wail and estray' in the fields of literature, for a number of years.]

—*California Chronicle*.

The piece of poetry alluded to is cred-
ited to DIXON, and can be found in the "New American Speaker," by J. C. Zachos, page 226. We have read the piece per-
haps a hundred times, and consider it one of the best things in our language. For
this reason, we think it worthy a place in the columns of *The Argus*.

The Sailor-Boy's Dream.

In slumbers of midnight, the sailor-boy lay;
His hammock swing loose at the sport of the wind;
But, watch-worn and weary, his ears flew away,
And visions of happiness danced o'er his mind.
He dreamt of his home, of his dearest bowers,
And pleasure that waited on life's merry morn.
While memory stood silent, half covered with flowers.

And restored every rose, but scented its thorn.
Then fancy her magical phantasies spread wide,
And bade the young dreamer in ecstasy rise—
So far behind him in the green waters glide,
And the eot of his foemen bleeds his eyes.

The jessamine chambers in flower o'er the thatch,
And the swallow sings sweet from her nest in the wall;

All trembling with transport, he raises the latch,
And the voices of loved ones reply to his call.

A father bends over him with looks of delight,
His cheek is impaled with a mother's warm kiss,

And the lips of the boy in a love-kiss units
With the lips of the maid whom his bosom holds dear.

The heart of the sleeper beats high in his breast,
Joy quenches his pulse—all his hardships seem o'er.

And a murmur of happiness steals tho's rest—
'O God, thou hast beat me—I ask for no more.'

Ah! whence is that flame, which now bursts on his eye?

Ah! what is that sound which now laments his ear!

'Tis the lightning's red glare, painting hell on the sky!

'Tis the crash of the thunder, the groan of the sphere!

He springs from his hammock—he flies to the deck;

Anzamut confronts him with images dire—
Wild winds and mad waves drive the vessel a wreck—

The mists fly in splinters—the shrouds are on fire!

Like mounts the billows tumultuously swell—

In vain the last watch calls on mercy to save;

Unseen hands of spirits are ringing his knell;

And the death-angels flaps his broad wings o'er the wave!

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the beginning. But God, from the beginning, chose His people, when the unnavigable either was yet unfamed by the wing of a single angel, when space was shoreless, or else unborn; when universal silence reigned, and not a voice or whisper shocked the solemnity of silence; when there was no being, no emotion, and naught but God Himself alone in His eternity; when, without the attendance of even a cherubim, long ere the living creatures were born, or the wheels of the chariot of Jehovah were fashioned—even then, "in the beginning was the word," and in the beginning God's people were one in the world, and "in the beginning He chose them all unto eternal life."

Occupation! what a glorious thing it is for the human heart. Those who work hard seldom yield themselves entirely up to fancied or real sorrow. When grief sits down, folds its hands, and mournfully feeds upon its own tears, weaving the dim shadows, that a little exertion might sweep away, into a funeral pall, the strong spirit is shorn of its might, and sorrow becomes our master. When trouble flew upon you, dark and heavy, toll not with the waves—wrestle not with the torrent! rather seek by occupation to divert the dark waters that threaten to overwhelm you, into the thousand channels which the duties of life always present. Before you dream of it those waters will fertilize the present, and give birth to fresh flowers that may brighten the future—flowers that will become pure and holy, in the sunshine which penetrates to the path of duty, in spite of every obstacle. Grief, after all, is but a selfish feeling; and most selfish is the man who yields himself to the indulgence of any passion which brings no joy to his fellow-men.

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