

Fennysonian.

Two Extracts from the New Volume of the English Poet-Laureate.

The New York Independent has received by cable two extracts from Tennyson's new volume. The first, which is reputed one of the best of the short poems, is as follows:

EARLY SPRING.
Once more the heavenly power makes all things new,
And domes the red-plowed hills with loving blue;
The blackbirds have their wills—the throistles, too.

Opens a door in Heaven. From skies of glass
A Jacob's ladder falls on green grass;
And o'er the mountain walls young angels pass.

Before them fleets the shower and bursts the buds,
And shine the level lands and flash the floods.
The stars are from their hands flung through the woods.

The woods with living airs, how softly fanned!
Light airs from where the deep, all down the sand,
Is breathing his sleep, heard by the land.

O, follow leaping blood, the season's lure;
O heart, look down or up, serene, secure,
Warm as the crocus bud—like snowdrops pure.

Past, future, glimpse and fade through some slight spell,
A gleam from yonder vale some far blue fell;
And sympathies how frail in sound and smell.

Till at thy chuckled note, thou twinkling bird,
The fairy fancies range and lightly stirred.
Ring, little bells of change, from word to word.

For now the Heavenly powers make all things new
And throws the cold and fills the flower with dew.
The blackbirds have their wills—the poets, too.

The second extract is from the poem on Tiresias, who gives its name to the volume. Tiresias, while wandering in the forest, happened to see Minerva bathing, and was punished by the angry goddess with loss of his sight. The life of seven generations was accorded him, and his gift of prophecy, like Cassandra's, was so cursed that no one might believe him. Tiresias speaks:

Then, in my wanderings, all the lands that lie
Subjected to the Heliconian ridge
Have heard this footstep fall, although my wont

Was more to scale the highest of the heights,
With some strange hope to see the nearer God.
One naked peak, the sister of the sun,
Would climb from out the dark and linger there.

To sliver all the valleys with her shafts.
There once, but long ago, five times thy term
Of years, I lay. The woods were dead for heat;

The noonday crag made the land burn and sick
For shadow; not one bush was near. I rose,
Following a torrent till its myriad falls
Found silence in the hollows underneath.

There in a secret olive glade I saw
Pallas Athena climbing from the bath
In anger. Yet one glittering foot disturbed
The lucid well. One snowy knee was pressed
Against the margin flowers. A dreadful light
Came from her golden hair, her golden helm,
And all her golden armor on the grass,
And from her virgin breast and virgin eyes,
Remaining fixed on mine till mine grew dark
Forever; and I heard a voice that said:

"Henceforth be blind, for thou hast seen too much;
And speak the truth that no man may believe."

Mrs. Hulscamp.

The New York *To-day* says: "Conversing with a lady of my acquaintance recently, the daughter of Signor Morosini, shed a curious and melancholy light upon the domestic life from which she found refuge in the romantic fashion already fully described by the press. She said: 'Imagine the life we led up there and in the city and I do not think you will blame me for what I did. We had a beautiful home, and were entirely shut out from the world by its walls. We enjoyed every luxury possible, but had to enjoy them all alone. We met at breakfast, and papa read his papers and then went to the city and left us to ourselves. We met at lunch. In the afternoon papa came home and read his papers. Then we met at dinner, and after amusing ourselves as best we could for the evening we went to bed. This was our life day after day the year round. We had few visitors and were not permitted to visit. When we attended the opera we sat upright in a box, looking neither to right nor left, and were hurried there and hurried home again as if there was a pestilence in the streets. We had no gentlemen friends, and were permitted none of the most innocent intercourse with the few gentlemen who visited us. It was like living in a jail or a nunnery, with no one to talk to, no one to talk to you—a perfect machine of a life that always went the same way. Papa was kind, but so stern in his ideas that he seemed to regard it as a crime for us to think or act for ourselves in the most trifling things. It was as melancholy as a constant funeral.'"

MISCELLANEOUS.

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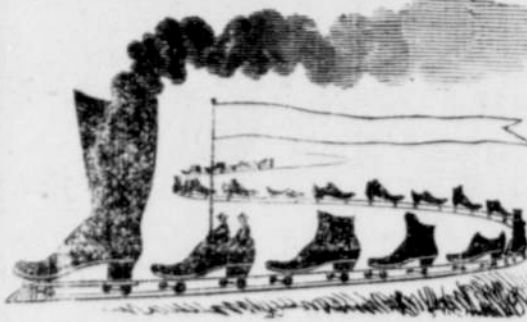
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