

ELECTRA:

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BELLES LETTRES MONTHLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

MAY, 1883, TO MAY, 1884.

"The shades of night were falling fast,
As through an Alpine village passed
A youth who bore through snow and ice
A banner with this strange device,
EXCELSIOR!"

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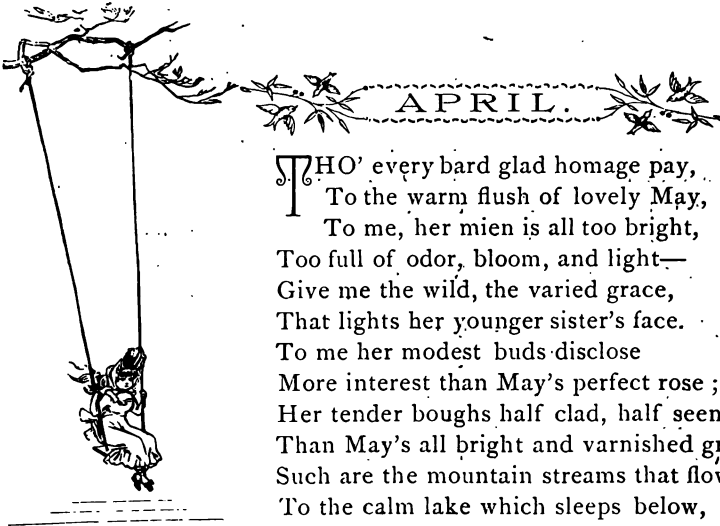
ELECTRA:

A BELLES LETTRES MONTHLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

VOL. I.

APRIL, 1884.

No. 12



WHO' every bard glad homage pay,
To the warm flush of lovely May,
To me, her mien is all too bright,
Too full of odor, bloom, and light—
Give me the wild, the varied grace,
That lights her younger sister's face.
To me her modest buds disclose
More interest than May's perfect rose ;
Her tender boughs half clad, half seen
Than May's all bright and varnished green.
Such are the mountain streams that flow
To the calm lake which sleeps below,
Or such young hope, still beckoning on,
Compared to joys when come, or gone.
Then tell me not how clouds do chase
The burnished sunbeams from her face,
Ere we can point how heavenly fair,
How fairy-like they're reveling there.
For thee the wild birds sweetest sing,
Health flutters on thy busy wing,
And many a flower that feeds the bee,
Unbinds its velvet folds for thee ;
For thee the cowslip decks the plains,
The daisy loves thy fickle rains,
Pomona's thousand tribes are thine,
And the first buddings of the vine.
Spoiled bantling of the varied year,
To me, thy very whims are dear.

because he could not, even in his imagination, find a model which fully satisfied him. This, like most of his finest paintings, is best known to us through copies or engravings from the originals, or descriptions by early writers, and it is sad to think how little has escaped the hand of time and other vandals, to tell us of the master mind and master touch of Leonardo da Vinci.

 SIR HENRY'S CAT.

Sir Henry Wyatt lay in ward,
 A trusty knight was he;
 Unto the cause of the Red Rose
 He bent a loyal knee.

Just north of London's famous bridge,
 The tower you may see;
 There, many a spirit brave and bold,
 Has languished miserably.

And here, Sir Henry pined in want,
 His cell was chill and bare,
 Both fire and light to him denied,
 And slender was his fare.

But God who bade the ravens
 The prophet old to feed,
 Failed not to send his servant
 A helper in his need.

One day as faint and shivering,
 Within his cell so dim,
 A cat crept through the grating,
 And straightway came to him.

Glad of this dumb companion,
 With her soft, friendly purr,
 Sir Henry held her in his arms,
 Warmed by her coat of fur.

Eftsoon she sought the grating,
 And vanished from his sight,
 Like others, he thought sadly,
 Who left him in his plight.

But quick again beside him
 Her cordial purr was heard,
 And in her mouth, to his surprise,
 He saw she bore a bird!

“ Now, God be thanked ! ” the prisoner cried,
 “ In spite of cruel men,
 By humble things, the Lord will work
 To save me in this den ! ”

And when the keeper made his round,
 Sir Henry did him greet ;
 “ Kind keeper, will you dress my fare,
 If I supply the meat ? ”

“ Right willingly, Sir Knight, ” he said,
 “ I know your case is sore,
 And gladly, if I durst, would give
 Thee somewhat from my store. ”

From day to day did faithful puss
 Her office strange pursue ;
 The keeper dressed the food that came,
 From whence he never knew.

And when, at last, Sir Henry's days
 Of durance were at end,
 And he went forth, you may be sure
 He bore his faithful friend.

So down to Allington she went,
 And in the castle there,
 No dainties ever graced the board,
 Too good for Puss to share.

And ever after when the knight
 For painted portrait sat,
 The artist sure must find a place
 For that strange, loving cat.

SOMETIME during the early part of the last century, there lived two men in the town of Dumfries, in Scotland, the history of whose descendants presents a singular instance of the mutations of human affairs. They were men in the lower walks of life, and were stone masons by trade. The name of one was Patterson, the other Kirkpatrick. Each had a son, who on attaining manhood emigrated, the one to the city of Baltimore, Maryland, the other to the city of Malaga, in Spain; both prospered as

merchants, and in time became wealthy men. The daughter of Patterson married Jerome Bonaparte; the son of Kirkpatrick married a wealthy Spanish lady, and their daughter married a Spanish grandee; the late Empress Eugenie, the wife of Napoleon III., was the fruit of that marriage. Patterson was the original “ Old Mortality,” immortalized by Scott, and he and Kirkpatrick lie in the same churchyard in Dumfries.

I saw this statement related some years ago in the *Scottish American Journal*.

ASIA.

COUNTRIES.	GOVERNMENT	CHIEF EXECUTIVE.	TITLE.
ASIATIC TURKEY	Empire	ABDUL HAMID II.	<i>Sultan.</i>
ARABIA	{ Tribes, nominal allegiance to Turkey }	CHIEFS	{ Called <i>Emir, Sheik,</i> or <i>Iman.</i>
PERSIA	Empire	NASSR-EN-DIN	<i>Shah.</i>
BELOOCHISTAN	Tribes	CHIEFS	{ Called <i>Khan,</i> or
AFGHANISTAN	Tribes	CHIEFS	{ <i>Khetat.</i>
CEYLON	{ Colony of Gt. Britain }	SIR J. R. LONGDEN	<i>Governor.</i>
HINDOSTAN	British India		
BURMAH	Kingdom	THEIBAN	<i>King.</i>
SIAM	Kingdom	CHULALON KORN I.	<i>King.</i>
LAOS	Tribes		<i>Chiefs.</i>
ANAM	Empire		<i>Emperor.</i>
MALACCA	British India		
CHINA	Empire	KWANG SU	<i>Emperor.</i>
KONG KONG	{ Colony of Gt. Britain ceded by China. }	SIR G. F. BOWEN	<i>Governor.</i>
COREA			
MONGOLIA			
THIBET			
TARTARY			
ASIATIC RUSSIA	Empire	ALEXANDER III.	<i>Czar of Russia.</i>
JAPANESE EMPIRE	Empire	MUTSU HITO	<i>Emperor.</i>
Besides these there are numerous other islands.			
INDIA	{ Divis'n of India under Brit'sh ad- ministration. }	{ G. F. S. ROBINSON, Earl de Grey and Ripon }	<i>Governor-General.</i>

AFRICA.

COUNTRIES.	GOVERNMENT	CHIEF EXECUTIVE.	TITLE.
<i>NORTHERN AFRICA—</i>			
MOROCCO	Empire	MULEY-HASSAN	<i>Sultan.</i>
ALGERIA	{ Province of France }	M. LOUIS TIRNIAN	<i>Governor.</i>
TUNIS	{ Virtually Independ- ent . . . }	SIDI-ALI	<i>Bey.</i>
TRIPOLI, BARCA, and FEZZAN	{ Belong to Turkey . }		
EGYPT	{ Pays Trib- ute to Turkey . }	MOHAMMED TEWFIK	<i>Khedive.</i>
ABYSSINIA			
<i>EASTERN AFRICA—</i>			
ZANZIBAR	Independent.	SEYYED BURGASH	<i>Sultan.</i>
MOZAMBIQUE and Dependencies	{ Belong to Portugal. }	RANAVALONA III.	<i>Queen.</i>
<i>SOUTHERN AFRICA—</i>			
CAPE OF GOOD HOPE and De- pendencies	{ Colonies of Great Britain . }	SIR H. G. R. ROBINSON	<i>Governor.</i>
<i>WESTERN AFRICA—</i>			
Includes Benguela, Angola, Con- go, Loango, Sierra Leone, Gaboon, Gold Coast, Senegambia.	{ Colonies of France, Gt. Britain and Port- ugal . }		
LIBERIA	Republic	ANTHONY W. GARDNER	<i>President.</i>

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