ORIGINAL POETRY.

THE MAIDEN'S WAIL.

I CANNA lo'e the haddie less,
Tho' he is far frae me!
I think I feel his warm caress,
Then tears drap frae my e'e!
When stan'in' on his fav'rite knowe,
Whar aften we ha'e been,
I see the tide whar boattoe row,
Then tear drops fill my e'en.

The fatey thorn—the breezy bree,
Whar we would meet at e'e,
Are after'd quite, an' fills wi' woe,
This heart is doom'd to grieve!
For there ane bonnie grew the flow'rs!
Ere yet my heart knew care,
But noo, how wither'd! ane the hours,
Since he's nae longer there!

The very birdies on the spray,
Now sing a dolefu' sang,
Their morain' ditties seem to say,
"He's fairer maiden amang!"
Fairer an' richer they may shine,
But still I think and know,
Their love can never be like mine,
Wi' a' their gaudy show.

Ho was the first—the only youth
I ever learn'd to prize—
His heart is virtue, honour, truth;—
A' ithers I despise.
His want o' gould, an want o' grace,
Has dir'd on my ee,
Free them wha couldna, fane to face,
Made but the first appear!

My mither's childin', night and day,
Has fore'd him ow'te the sea,
To work for good he's far awa'ey,
Will glitter in her o'e;
But does the silly body ken
Her ailin' made it sae!
An' aye she praises *riskier* men,
Which only breaks my heart!

I kon fu' weel that want o' wealth
Has fore'd him ow'te the tido—
When fortune smiles, if blest wi' healthy,
I'll be his happy bride!
An' then no langer will I mourn,
When ance his face I see—
An' daily wish his safo return,
He's every thing to me!

A. M.

Greyabbey.

SION MILLS, COUNTY OF TYRONE.

(From Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Hall's "Ireland."—Part XIX.)

In the county Tyrone, and within a distance of little more than three miles from Strabane, is to be found one of the most interesting establishments it has ever been our good fortune to visit in any country. We have inspected manufactories of much greater extent than the "Sion Mills," but have never witnessed with greater gratification the practical and efficient working of a fine moral system. The Mills are situated on the river Mourne, which rushes along with a rapid and continued current, and is about one of the best water-powers in Great Britain. The supply is long and ply large, but constant. About eighty horse power is now employed to drive eight thousand spindles; yet but a small portion of the water is necessary for the purpose. Instead of the hot furnace, long chimney and dense smoke, rendering still more unhealthy the necessarily close atmosphere of manufactories devoted exclusively to the spinning of flax and tow into linen yarn, there is a clean, handsome, well-ventilated building, more nearly approaching to a mansion of a peasantry, which, before the establishment of this manufactory, were starving and idle—not from choice but necessity—are now constantly employed; and the air is as pure and as fresh as on the borders of the wildest prairie, or the boldest coast. The bare fact of such a population being taught industrious habits, and receiving *full* remuneration for their time and labour, is a blessing; but not the only one enjoyed by this favoured peasantry; agricultural labour is not neglected, because five out of seven hundred are women and girls—creatures, who but for the spirit and enterprise of the Mulholland family, would be, for the Mulhollands of Belfast, Tyrone is indebted for this establishment,) would be found cowering over the embers of their turf fires, or begging along the way-sides for morsels of food. But little system is required for social intercourse in not, as we have said, the only advantage enjoyed at Sion Mills. Cottages, of simple construction, but sound and comfortable, have been built for their family; and a school established, and to which the Sunday-school the Messrs Herdman themselves attend, taking the greatest interest in the educational progress of their work-people, and distributing *morices* to improvement, lavishly and judiciously. Is not this the true system? and in the idea that "the people" may derive benefit from the introduction of more refined tastes into the business of every day life. The traveller's ear is refreshed if by accident on the long evenings in winter, or the bright cheerful ones of summer, by the music of a full band; and instead of the saddened hearts and saddened features he has been led to suppose inseparable from the crowded factory, he hears a chorus of cheerful voices, or the echoes of dancing feet.

The Messrs. Herdman are also anxious that the minds of their "operatives" should not only be softened, but expanded, and have purchased for their institution a splendid apparatus for the exhibition of astronomical diagrams.

We visited several of the factory dwellings, and found that, in many instances, they contained a small combination of town wants with the peculiar advantages of country cottages. We never saw a more healthy population, and the watchful care of the proprietors has effectually prevented the growth of immorality, supposed to be inseparable from the "factory system." Of this we had some very cheering proofs. One girl, whom we heard called only "Mary Anne," had long been remarkable as a vigilant Sunday-school teacher, and had acquired the entire confidence of her scholars. She lived in the purchase of a few books; but a serious misfortune deprived her of the power of possessing any more treasures of his kind; her mother died, and her last act was to place her infant in Mary Anne's arms, and request her to act towards it as a mother. From that hour the poor girl, who was not then seventeen, set herself diligently to the discharge of her new duties, and, by the help of brothers and sisters to attend to, and also to alleviate the sorrow of her distracted father. She did not falter in her resolve to take her mother's place; we never saw a small household under better regulation—the hens—the children were clean, well fed, and happy, and they seemed to watch every word she spoke with more than sisterly attention; the youngest was a sort of spectacled child, and bestrid her self-assumed office with a gravity unconscious that in devoting her thoughts and energies to her family—nay, in even shunning the addressof several young men, who justly appreciated the graces of her character, she was fitting herself for a higher station.

Whether she ever became a wife, she had done anything extraordinary; her invariable observation was, "Deed, and sure they're my own flesh and blood; and if they were not, sure my mother placed the child in my arms." It was a pleasure to observe that many of the persons employed were fully conscious of the advantages they enjoyed; and though less eloquent than our friends in the south, their words were firm and reasonable, their manners self-possessed, and they were better off than they were formerly, and we had been long enough in the north to know that to convince the *reason* of a northern is always to gain your object—in the south, you must appeal to the feelings—in the north the reason is your stronghold.

In this immediate neighbourhood we met a cottager whose story so completely verified our own opinion as to the admirable effect of the system, and upon the habits and prosperity of the people, that, simple as are the annals of the poor, it seems worth recording. He had been a day labourer, employed regularly, and receiving the usual rate of remuneration—enough "to starve upon." "I feared God," he said, "to send him seven children, and he had often sat down among them when there were only four potatoes to each, and they were bad ones. God knows," he added, "I used to think myself a selfish wretch for eating even one, when the children's hungry eyes were on them; but I was hungry too, and faint from work. My poor wife would go into Strabane, and some times would do her a good turn of a hard summer's day or winter; and she had a better command over the hunger than I had, for she would purtend sickness of some sort or other after she'd threw the potatoes out on the table, and she and her son, may-be, would eat of them, and strive to keep it away. My eldest boy was more weakly than the others, and he had a great relish for learning, and a gentleman took him an' a boy besides, to do a little of everything and learn when about the place, to do a little of everything and learn when he could, which he did, poor fellow; still there were eight of us on tenpence a day, and the morsel of garden! All of a sudden, came the talk of great buildings that were to be, and some said they were for good, while others said harm would come of them, which I could not understand, for all the country grew alive, and the rate of wages was raised, and it was then we began to feel what hunger was; and seeing how there was a chance of all the country doing better, the gentry took heart to relieve the poor more than they used, knowing that there was a way for the strain upon them coming to an end, for soon the poor would be able to help themselves; and my second boy and myself were took on, and well paid; and the building flourished, and my poor wife used to say that the very water of the Mourne rolled stronger through the country; and then there was no need for her to go away when her children fed, for though we had little but the potatoes, we had enough of them. From the day the first stone of the Sion Mills was laid, we nor mine ever knew hunger. I never could account for it," he continued, after a pause, and passing his rough hand across his brow, "but she who had stood out so manfully against all trouble—when the hard, bitter, cruel trouble was in it—failed, when she was getting better of. Sped bring one dinner down to the works, and bid God bless our labour, with as bright a smile as the sunbeam on the waters of the Mourne, and yet the tears would be in her eyes, and she'd gather our little ragged girls round her, and tell them what turned out as true as gospel—that in two or three years they'd be able to earn better clothes for themselves than ever their parents wore; and one evening after she had said this, the poorest, nor even her five shillings a week of Mr. Herdman's money, clung her arms around her neck, and 'My own darling Mammy,' cries the poor child, 'the first coat I earn I'll get for you.' Darling, darling, sure the next day, 'I shall have a coat of green before that,' and there was a meaning in her face when she said it which they could not read, but I could, and to hide my grief I went out to the garden to prayed, but the Lord did not see fit to take the sorrow from me, and by that day twelvemonths, when the power of the waters that had wandered idly through the lands for so many years—like ourselves, able only to grind corn, if we were only put in the way of it—turned the spindles; and two of our girls had constant employ, and put their earnings to mine after I returned to field work; though we had plenty, and I would bring her the life of three, and a cake of white bread from Strabane, yet by that day twelve months she was gone. I am proud the children all remembered her, and the *oconoch* who wanted to buy her the gown sold her money back, and gave me a Sunday hat, and instead of poverty we have plenty, and the boy that got the learning is an overseer, and the other might have done as well, but he never would go to the Sunday-school so hard labour is before him, but not the labour I went through, for it is just as if the Lord had put away hunger and misery from all around the mills. My children are employed and happy, and with such learning to give instead of taking all—*not that we ever grudged it*," and there spoke the true Irish spirit, "but that we hadn't it. If the Lord took me to-morrow I would bless him, for I should go to joy, and leave no sorrow behind me, but the coat will be as green as *hers* before very long, and my last prayer will be for the prosperity of the Sion Mills."

Certainly an establishment such as we have endeavoured to describe has been productive of blessings; as the Sion Mills are in a healthy and open district—over a factory pent up, as it were, in a populous town. The difference consists not only in the healthier atmosphere, to which sufficient value is not attached, but the people have opportunities for the cultivation of *moral health*, which enables them to be more efficacious, because more conscientious, workmen We are too prone to regard the people being what we designate "mere machinery," as one upon whom *moral* culture is thrown away; and the very persons who reproach the *industrious* instruments of their wealth, are often those who most assiduously endeavour to keep them the "mere mechanics" they contemn.

SIGN MILLS, COUNTY OF TYRONE.

His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant and the Countess de Grey, gave a state ball, on Tuesday evening, at Dublin Castle, in honour of her Majesty's birth-day.

ULSTER RAILWAY.—The traffic on this Railway (24 miles open) during the week ending 26th May, 1842 was—passengers, 9,754, £332, 5s 2d; goods, £79, 3s 9d; total, £411, 8s 11d.

ESTABLISHED CHURCH.—The Rev. John Reid, Curate of Portmagarvey, has been appointed, by Earl de Grey, to the living of Ballee, in the diocese of Down, vacant by the death of the late Rev. Mr. Bond.

INSOLVENT DEBTORS' COURT.—CARRICKFERGUS, 1st JUNE.—To-day, Mr. Commissioner Curran entered the Court, at ten o'clock; and by two, had adjudicated upon 35 petitions, brought before him for hearing. The aggregate amount of debts was upwards of £10,000. Mr. Daniel Mulholland was present for all the insolvents. Of the 35 petitions, one only was dismissed, and one remanded for five months.

At the Insolvent Court on Wednesday, a motion was made for Mr. Dunn to give bail in the matter of C. P. Gardner, son of the Earl of Blessington. The debts of the insolvent exceeded £30,000, but property was returned which, after payment of all debts, would leave a surplus of upwards of £150,000, the depositors having been willed to him.

KILKEEL.—A monthly fair is about to be established in this flourishing town.

Butter shipped from Limerick, between the 1st of May, 1841, and the 1st May instant, 71,530 firkins.

LAMENTABLE CATASTROPHE.—On Saturday night last Mr. George Healy, a gentleman possessed of about £5,000 a-year, was burned to death, in his own residence, Johnstown, County Kilkenny. The fire, it is believed, was altogether accidental.

BELFAST MECHANICAL ASSOCIATION.—This Association held their weekly meeting, in the Corn-Exchange, on Tuesday last. The amount of the rent was announced to be £165, 3s. 5d.; £25, of which had been received from the "New-York Young Men's Repeal Association."

Four cases of game-cocks for the Marquis of Waterford were landed at Waterford from the Osprey from Bristol on Saturday. They were immediately taken on to Curraghmore.

Mr. Williams, of the City of Dublin Inland Steam Navigation Company, has contracted for two splendid steamvessels to ply on the Shannon. The works are completed, to go at the rate of fifteen miles an hour.

UNIVERSITY INTELLIGENCE.—The examination for Sizarships was held on Tuesday and Wednesday last, when the following candidates were elected:—Classical Sizarships—Evans, Heron, Murphy, O'Flaherty, Short, Macdonagh, Doyle, Nugent, Smith, Beattie. The Hebrew and Science Sizarships were adjudged to Friell and Jacob respectively.

PUBLIC REJOICING.—On Friday evening last the tenantry on the Drumbanagher and Acton estates celebrated, by a general illumination, the birth of the infant heir to the worthy landlord and his benevolent lady, Colonel and Mrs. Close, to their residence at Drumbanagher, after an absence of nearly twelve months.

SUICIDE.—Catherine Hyland, a female pauper in this town, who had been for some time in a deranged state of mind, was found, on Wednesday last, in a plantation, with her head and one of her legs separated from her body. The knife was found near her, by which it is supposed she cut her throat, and the head and legs were, it is presumed, torn from the body either by pigs or dogs. She left four children.—*Clare Journal.*

THE LATE RIOT AT BALLYMENA.—On Friday last, a meeting of the inhabitants of Ballymena was held in the Court-house of that town for the purpose of devising some means whereby the public peace might be preserved and such disgraceful proceedings as that of Saturday last put down. The meeting was peaceable, and it is gratifying to state that the utmost harmony prevailed throughout.

THE HORSE AFRICA.—Colonel Anson has, it is said, won by the Derby stakes, £22,000; Lord Chesterfield, £12,000. The horse Attila—the winner—was taken by Colonel Anson in exchange for a doubtful debt of £120, or £140. His first winning was £3,000, his second £8,000, so that, in all, he has returned the lucky possessor £33,000, a profitable enough exchange for a suspicious or bad debt.

COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH—FRIDAY, May 27.

PRESBYTERIAN MARRIAGE CASE.

The Queen at the prosecution of the Attorney-General, v. James Carroll.

Sir THOMAS STAPLES, Q.C. in this case appeared on behalf of the CROWN, to support the validity of a marriage performed by a Presbyterian Clergyman, between the prisoner Carroll, and Sarah Robison, both of whom were Episcopalian Protestants. The traverser Carroll was tried for bigamy, at the last Armagh Assizes, when the Jury found a special verdict to the following effect:—That the Rev. Joseph Kelso did, on the 6th of May, 1841, in the town of Lisburn, celebrate a marriage between James Carroll and Sarah Robison, both members of the Church of England; that the said Rev. Mr. Kelso was a Presbyterian Minister, ordained in 1809, and was placed over the Magheragall Congregation, whose duties of which he performed for a period of twenty years, until he resigned his office as such Minister of that Congregation, ten years ago. The Jury further found, that he did not consider the fact of his resigning that charge a cessation of his duties as a Presbyterian Minister, and