

THE PENNY MAGAZINE

OF THE

Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY.

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MONTHLY PART.

PART IV.—JULY 7 to JULY 31, 1832, and SUPPLEMENT.

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MONTHLY NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

WE shall endeavour to give the information on the best modes of purifying water, which "A Constant reader" desires.

In answer to the inquiry of "A Subscriber," we announce that it is intended, upon the completion of Volume I. (that is, after sixty-four numbers have appeared), to publish a Title-Page and full Index;—and this portion of the volume will be presented to the Subscribers, without charge or diminution of the matter of the Number which it accompanies.

An account of "the impressions produced on the minds of savages, when they witness for the first time the products of the arts of civilized life," will be found in "The New Zealanders," a volume of the Library of Entertaining Knowledge. The story of Finow and the letter is there given, but we may probably reprint it.

A Correspondent at York has sent us the following paragraph, which we believe has appeared in a York Paper:—

"In a biographical sketch of the late John Flaxman, Esq., R.A., which is contained in the last number of the *Penny Magazine*, the writer has been led into an error respecting the place of his birth. He is therein stated to have been born in London, where his father, who was a moulder of figures, &c., kept a shop in the Strand. This is incorrect, our own city (York) claims the honour of the birth of this

eminent man, as may be ascertained by looking at the parish register of St Mary Bishophill Senior, where it is thus entered—'John, son of John Flaxman, was baptized July 6, 1755.' From Mr. F.'s own account he was removed from York in his infancy, and this may have given occasion to the mistake."

A Correspondent sends us the following calculation with regard to the Penny Magazine, which may amuse some of our readers:—

The paper comprising each number measures 23 in. by 15 in. = 345 square inches. As there are 64 Numbers published in the year, 345 in. multiplied by 64, and this product by 120,000 (the quantity issued of each number), gives 2,649,600,000 square inches, which is equal to 422 acres, 1 rood, and 24 poles. As the paper is printed on both sides, the letter-press only, without the margin, extended in a line so as to form one long column, would reach 19,394 miles nearly, which is more by 629 miles than three-fourths of the circumference of the globe at the Equator.

The Correspondent who wishes for a continuation of the articles on "The British Museum," is informed that we have been waiting for the opening of the *New Gallery* of the Elgin Marbles. That fine room is now completed, and the public may inspect its invaluable treasures of ancient art. Of these we shall immediately give a description.

SOCIETY FOR THE DIFFUSION OF USEFUL KNOWLEDGE,

INCORPORATED 1832.

ADDRESS OF THE COMMITTEE, 30th JUNE, 1832.

SINCE the last Meeting of the Society in June, 1831, his Majesty has been graciously pleased, by his Royal Charter, to constitute this a body corporate, by the name of the SOCIETY FOR THE DIFFUSION OF USEFUL KNOWLEDGE. By this incorporation its transactions will be facilitated, and its purposes materially aided.

The objects of this Society are now so generally known, that it is unnecessary to repeat them. By stating the result of their proceedings during the last year, the Committee will best show whether these objects have been successfully pursued.

THE LIBRARY OF USEFUL KNOWLEDGE has been continued with unvarying regularity, and two extra Treatises have been published. Of twenty-six numbers issued during the year, nine have been Historical, two purely Mathematical, two have treated subjects of Political Economy, and the rest have completed the second volume of a Series, entitled "Natural Philosophy."

The Committee have determined to complete the subject of Mathematics by the publication of extra numbers, in order that this necessary branch of instruction, which has always been included in their design of a Library of Useful Knowledge, may not prevent them from directing their attention to others of a less abstract nature. They do not intend in future to commence any Work, the numbers of which cannot be published at intervals of one month at the farthest.

THE FARMER'S SERIES has hitherto been continued at somewhat uncertain intervals. A work on "British Husbandry," and another on "Cattle," will soon be published in alternate numbers.

The publication of the MAPS resulted almost necessarily from that of the "Historical Treatises," and the Committee believe that they may allude to this part of their labours with unmixed satisfaction. Of several parts the sale has exceeded 14,000.

THE LIBRARY OF ENTERTAINING KNOWLEDGE was undertaken in order to obviate a complaint, that the works of the Society were not sufficiently attractive to induce those to read, whose principal motive would be amusement. During this year seven volumes of this Series have been published—of these the Committee think it right to direct particular attention to the one entitled "Criminal Trials," which reduces into a popular form very valuable constitutional knowledge.

It is intended to dedicate a portion of the "Library of Entertaining Knowledge" to subjects immediately connected with the Works of Art contained in the British Museum, with the view of furnishing visitors and others with fuller and more exact information than can be comprised within the limits of a common Catalogue; but to give both additional interest and value to these volumes, it has been thought advisable not to confine the description to a bare account of what the Museum contains; but to treat generally of the History of Art in connexion with the customs and manners of ancient nations, illustrating the text principally, but not entirely, by the specimens in the Museum.

In pursuance of this intention, two volumes on the "Antiquities of Egypt" are in a state of considerable forwardness, and will be followed at short intervals by others, including

The Elgin and Phigalian Marbles,
The Townley Marbles and Bronzes, and
The Terra Cottas and Vases.

The whole will be illustrated with Engravings on wood, from Specimens in the British Museum, and from other sources.

The Committee have attempted to render familiar some of the important facts of Political Economy, of Medicine, and of Domestic Economy, on the knowledge of which the happiness of the Labouring Classes greatly depends.

They have published a volume entitled "The Rights of Industry," by the Author of a former Volume of this Series, entitled "The Results of Machinery;" and another, entitled "The Physician."

THE ALMANACK of the Society has not succeeded in entirely extirpating the absurdity of some which have been long established—in many it has occasioned very material improvements, and has led to the publication of others similar in their contents and arrangements. The Companion to the Almanack has placed within the reach of all Classes a variety of the most useful statistical information.

TO THE JOURNAL OF EDUCATION the Committee at all times advert with the greatest satisfaction. It has enabled them to collect accounts of the systems of Education pursued in different parts of the World, and to direct public attention to a very important

Class of writings connected with Elementary Instruction. A number of this Work has been regularly issued every Quarter since its commencement, and it has, in every respect, answered the expectations of its Projectors.

The Committee advert with much satisfaction to the success of the PENNY MAGAZINE—its sale amounts at present to 130,000 Copies per Number, and its Circulation is still extending. In the remoter parts of the country, it is anxiously sought for.

The wide circulation of this Magazine amongst all Classes of the Community renders it a most effective instrument for the diffusion of knowledge. Fully convinced, however, that it is of the highest importance to insert in such a Publication nothing but sound and correct information, and to confine its contents strictly to the general objects of the Society, an arrangement has been made, by which the materials of each Number are subjected to the vigilant and constant superintendence of Members of the Committee.

The success of the Penny Magazine has induced the Committee to undertake the publication of a

PENNY CYCLOPÆDIA,

in Numbers and Monthly Parts. A work of such magnitude and novelty requires all the assistance which can be afforded it by the Members of the Society, both in London and in the Country, in order to give it publicity and circulation.

Since the last Report of the Committee, two numbers of the GALLERY OF PORTRAITS have appeared. Measures have been taken which will ensure the punctual appearance of this Series. The following PLATES are in such forwardness as to be published in the course of the present year:—

Boyle	Halley	Fox
Turenne	Lorenzo de Medici	Bossuet
Watt	Wollaston	Cornille
Molière	Michael Angelo	Buchanan
Newton	Fénélon	La Place
Wren		

It now remains only to advert to the FINANCES of the Society. The Treasurer's statement of Receipts and Expenditure is attached to this Report, and it may be well to repeat what was stated in a previous Address, as to the means of support which the Society has, and the nature of its Engagements with its Publishers.

The whole sum derived by the Committee from Life and Annual Subscriptions from the 1st of November, 1826, to the 1st of January last (five years), has been 15284; the average amount of yearly Subscriptions has been 1254, after deducting the expenses of Collection, and the price of the Treatises delivered to Subscribers. These Annual Subscriptions have gradually diminished. The Annual Receipts of the Society are chiefly composed of the Profits derived from the Sale of its various Works.

The arrangements which have been made with the Publishers since the commencement of the Society, have gone upon the principle of leaving the Committee, as far as possible, free from risk and unincumbered with Commercial Responsibility; but at the same time deriving a fair proportion of pecuniary advantage from the ultimate success of any undertaking.

The Publisher usually pays the Society a sum for Copyright in the first instance, sufficient to cover the Disbursements to Authors by the Committee; and after a certain limit of Sale has been attained, the Society further receives from the Publisher a rent calculated at a fixed rate per 1000 copies. In other cases, the Publisher himself incurs all the expense attendant upon the Authorship and Embellishments of the Work, and pays the Society a clear rent, determined by the sale beyond a given point. A large amount of the Profits accruing to the Society from works already published, is invested in future undertakings. These sums are not shewn in the Treasurer's Annual Report, because they are not brought into account, in many cases, till the publication of each particular work for which such advances to Authors and Artists are made;—but they nevertheless constitute a large amount of capital employed in the most efficient manner—namely, in making such extensive preparations as will ensure to the Society the best power of realizing their objects. By these arrangements, the Committee do not become involved in any of the uncertainties or liabilities of Trade. At the same time, they never renounce that superintendence and

control which it is their duty to exercise over all the Publications of the Society.

The annual expenses of the Society, upon an average of five years, have amounted only to 600*l*. They increase as the labours of the Committee extend. The estimate for the present year is 800*l*.

The Committee doubt whether any Society has done more with such small pecuniary assistance from the Public, and at so small an expense for management.

THOMAS COATES, *Secretary*.

Summary of Treasurer's Account of Receipts and Expenditure from 1st January, to 31st, December, 1831.

<i>Receipts.</i>			<i>Expenditure.</i>		
	£.	s. d.		£.	s. d.
Publishers for use of Copyrights	2949	4 7	Authors for Copyrights and Literary Assistance .	1667	5 0
Mr. Goldsmid (Loan)	150	0 0	Engravers, Artists and Draftsmen	366	15 0
Life Subscriptions	30	0 0	Salaries—Secretary	£250	0 0
Annual ditto	204	6 6	Clerks and Housekeeper... ..	213	16 6
Balance of Liverpool Subscriptions, after deducting			Furniture and Books	160	19 8
the Booksellers' Bills (through Mr. Mullineux)	37	17 0	Law Expenses	32	10 0
Sundries	40	0 0	Fire and Light	25	14 11
			Printing and Stationery	295	10 6
			Rent, Taxes, Insurance and Repairs	247	0 9
			Office Expenses, viz. Discount of Bills, Postages,		
			Housekeeper's Expenses, Parcels and Sundries	105	5 4
			Repaid Part of Loan referred to in last account	25	0 9
			Balance to Bankers	7	0 9
			Balance now in Banker's hands	14	9 8
	£3,411	8 1		£3,411	8 1

Audited,

HENRY WAYMOUTH.

WILLIAM TOOKE,

Treasurer.

Under the Superintendence of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge.

By C. KNIGHT, 13, Pall-Mall East.

THE WORKING-MAN'S COMPANION.

A LARGE number of the children of the labouring classes are now taught to read and write, and are instructed in arithmetic. In some schools they learn a little geography and astronomy, and are taught music or singing. But the difficulty they find when they leave school is to go on with anything which they have learnt; and for want of proper books they often quite forget what they were taught at school, without acquiring other knowledge of daily use. Books are yet wanting for the use of those who have little leisure for reading, and very restricted means of procuring information on matters connected with the details of humble life; yet much useful and pleasing knowledge might be associated with the working-man's daily occupations; and it would not be difficult to show him, on many occasions, how he might provide for worldly evils before they come upon him. The information proposed to be given in the Working-Man's Companion is entirely of this kind; and it will be written in a manner so plain and perspicuous as to be clearly understood by the readers for whose benefit it is designed. Thus the artisan, the domestic servant, and the labourer, may procure a great mass of valuable and interesting information, calculated to give them right notions of the things by which they are surrounded, and which, however common, are full of instruction; to lead them forward to other sources of knowledge, if they are willing to pursue them; to teach them how to extract the greatest advantages out of the situations in which they are individually placed, and to fit them for a right discharge of their private and public duties.

The matter of the Working-Man's Companion will be in great part original; illustrations in wood-cuts will be given where necessary; and each volume will contain 216 pages, of a pocket size.

The following Volumes are already published, price One Shilling sewed, or Fifteen-pence bound in cloth:—

1. The RESULTS of MACHINERY; namely, Cheap Production and Increased Employment exhibited.

2. COTTAGE EVENINGS.

Some of the volumes of the series of "The Working-Man's Companion" will be especially, though not exclusively, adapted to the Agricultural Population. This difference will be marked by the word "Cottage" being added to the title of the particular volume.

3. The RIGHTS of INDUSTRY; (CAPITAL and LABOUR.) Addressed to the Working-Men of the United Kingdom, by the Author of "The Results of Machinery."

"The great principles of that science which is generally known by the name of 'Political Economy,' ought, certainly, not to be sealed to the understandings of those who are chiefly affected by the operation of those principles—those, namely, who obtain a living by their labour. Matters affecting interests of every human being, and involving a variety of facts, having relation to the condition of mankind in every age and country, are not necessarily, as has been supposed, dry and difficult to understand, and, consequently, only to be approached by systematic students."—*Extract from the Introduction to the Rights of Industry.*

4. The PHYSICIAN:—1. The CHOLERA.

The volumes under this title are intended to convey in a cheap form such plain and useful information relating to medicine as may be serviceable to the working-classes, who, in the course of their ordinary occupations, incur many inconveniences, and often much suffering and loss, from which a little knowledge of the nature of different diseases would tend to protect them.

Works under the Superintendence of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge—continued.

The present volume contains a history and description of the Cholera, with plain directions for avoiding it.

The next volume of this series, which will be published in a few weeks, will be entitled FRUGAL COOKERY.

The second section of the RIGHTS of INDUSTRY—POPULATION—will shortly be published.

ALMANAC AND COMPANION.

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