

STANZAS.

BY THOMAS MORRE, ESQ.

A beam of tranquillity smit in the west,
The storm of the morning pursued us no more,
And the war, which it welcom'd at the moment of rest,
Said, "I have been a warrior, but I am now a dove!"
Serenely my heart took the line of the hour,
In passion was sleeping—were mute as the dead,
And the spirit becalm'd, but remember'd their power.
As the billow, the force of the gale that was fled!
Thought of the days, when to pleasure alone
My heart ever gravitated a wish or a sigh;
When the saddest emotion my bosom had known,
Was pity for those who were wiser than I!
Felt how the pure intellectual fire
In luxury loses its heavenly ray;
How slow, in the lashing cup of desire,
The pearl of the soul may be wasted away!
And I pray'd that that Spirit which lighted the flame,
That pleasure no more might its purity dim;
And that, sullied but little, or brightly the same,
I might give back the gem I had borrow'd from him!
The thought was extraneous! I felt as if Heaven
Had already the wreath of eternity shewn;
As if, passion all chasten'd, and error forgiven,
My heart had begun to be purely its own!
I look'd to the west, and the beautiful sky,
Which morning had clouded, was clouded no more:
"Oh! thus," I exclaimed, "can a heavenly eye
Shed light on the soul that was darken'd before!"

ON SOUNDS INAUDIBLE BY CERTAIN EARS.

A very interesting paper on this subject has been recently communicated to the Royal Society by Dr. Wollaston. Some of our readers are, no doubt, acquainted with the celebrated paper of our townsman, Mr. John Dalton, on certain peculiarities of vision to which he, and several other individuals, are subject. To test Dr. Wollaston's communication, an excellent counterparty, and the facts which he has stated, respecting the kindred sense of hearing, are equally singular and striking. As the subject is one of general interest, we need not apologise to our readers for presenting them with an abridgement of the paper.

The Dr. observes, that persons labouring under deafness usually hear acute sounds better than grave ones; and he has found that all ears may be reduced, by artificial means, to the same insensibility to low tones. When the mouth and nose are shut, the tympanum may be so exhausted by a forcible attempt to take breath by expansion of the chest, that the pressure of the external air is strongly felt upon the membrana tympani, and, in this state of tension from external pressure, the ear becomes insensible to graver tones, without losing in any degree the perception of sharper sounds.

To a moderate extent the experiment is not difficult, and well worth making. The effect is singularly striking, and may be aptly compared to the mechanical separation of larger and smaller bodies by a sieve. If a table is struck with the end of the finger, the whole board sounds with a deep dull note. If it is struck with the nails, there is also at the same time a sharp sound produced by quicker vibration of parts around the point of contact. When the ear is exhausted, it hears only the latter sound, while, in the exhausted state, it hears only the deeper note of the whole table. In the same manner, in listening to the sound of carriage wheels, the deeper rumbling noise of the wheels is no longer heard by an exhausted ear; but the rattle of a chain or loose screw remains at least as audible as before exhaustion.

He has tried the experiment at a concert with singular effect. None of the sharper sounds are lost, but, by the suppression of a great mass of louder sounds, the shriller ones are so much more distinctly perceived, even to the rattling of the keys of a bad instrument, or scraping of catgut unskillfully touched.

The state in which the ear is thus reduced by exhaustion may even be preserved for a certain time, without the continued effort of suction, and without even stopping the breath; since, by sudden cessation of the effort, the internal passage of the ear becomes closed by the flexibility of the Eustachian tube, which acts as a valve, and prevents the return of air into the tympanum. As the defect thus occasioned is voluntary, so also is the remedy, for the unpleasant sensation of pressure on the drum, and the partial deafness which accompanies it, may at any instant be removed by the act of swallowing, which opens the tube, and, by allowing the air to enter, restores the equilibrium of pressure necessary to the due performance of the functions of the ear.

Those who attempt exhaustion of the ear for the first time, rarely have any difficulty in making themselves sensible of external pressure on the tympanum; but it is not easy at first to relax the effort of inspiration with sufficient submissiveness to close the Eustachian tube, and thus maintain the exhaustion; neither is it very easy to refrain long together from swallowing the saliva, which instantly puts an end to the experiment.

All this is very extraordinary; and the comparative insensibility to *grave* sounds, in individuals whose hearing is otherwise perfect, is, perhaps, still more astonishing. We will give, in Dr. Wollaston's own words, his account of this singular phenomenon.

"It is now some years since I first had occasion to notice this species of particular deafness, which I at that time supposed to be peculiar to the individual in whom I observed it. While I was endeavouring to estimate the pitch of certain sharp sounds, I remarked in one of my friends a total insensibility to the sound of a small organ pipe, which, in respect to acuteness, was far within the limits of my own hearing, as well as of others of our acquaintance. By subsequent examination, we found that his sense of hearing terminated at a note four octaves above the middle C of the piano-forte. This note he seemed to hear rather imperfectly, but he could not hear the F next above it, although his hearing was, in other respects, as perfect, and his perception of musical pitch as correct, as that of any ordinary ears.

"The casual observation of this peculiarity in the organ of hearing, soon brought to my recollection a similar incapacity in a near relation of my own, whom I very well remember to have said, when I was a boy, that she never could hear the chirping that commonly occurs during a summer's evening, which I believe to be that of the *gryllus campestris*.

"I have reason to think that a sister of the person last alluded to had the same peculiarity of hearing, although neither of these was in any degree dead to common sounds.

"The next case which came to my knowledge was in some degree more remarkable, in as much as the deafness in all probability extended a note or two lower than in the first instance. This information is derived from two ladies of my acquaintance, who agree that their father could never hear the chirping of the common house sparrow. This is the lowest limit to acute hearing that I have met with, and I believe it to be extremely rare. Deafness even to the chirping of the house cricket, which is several notes higher, is not uncommon. Inability to hear the piercing squeak of the bat seems not very rare, as I have met with several instances of persons not aware of such a sound. The chirping, which I suppose to be that of the *gryllus campestris*, appears to be rather higher than that of the bat, and accordingly will approach the limit of a greater number of ears; for, as far as I am yet able to estimate, human hearing in general extends but a few notes above this pitch. I cannot, however, measure these sounds with precision; for it is difficult to make a pipe to sound such notes, and still more difficult to appreciate the degree of their acuteness.

"The suddenness of the transition from perfect hearing to total want of perception, occasions a degree of surprise, which renders an experiment on this subject, with a series of small pipes among several persons, rather amusing. It is curious to observe the change of feeling manifested by various individuals of the party, in succession, as the remarks for his dexterity in shooting bats, but was never able to hear their cry, though, in other respects remarkable for acuteness of hearing.—Ed.

sounds approach and pass the limits of their hearing. Those who enjoy a temporary triumph, are often compelled, in their turn, to acknowledge to how short a distance their little superiority extends. "Since there is nothing in the constitution of the atmosphere to prevent the existence of vibrations incomparably more frequent than any of which we are conscious, we may imagine that animals like the *gryllus*, whose powers appear to commence nearly where ours terminate, may have the faculty of hearing still sharper sounds, which at present we do not know to exist; and there may be other insects hearing nothing in common with us, but endowed with a power of exciting, and a sense that perceives, vibrations of the same nature indeed as those which constitute our ordinary sounds, but so remote, that the animals who perceive them may be said to possess another sense, agreeing with our own solely in the medium by which it is excited, and possibly wholly unaffected by those slower vibrations of which we are sensible."

Nothing is said in this paper as to a coincidence between the ordinary pitch, or the compass, of the voice, and the extent to which acute sounds are audible. To reason from analogy, we should suppose that individuals who are remarkable for their power of hearing sharp sounds, would either have shriller voices in ordinary conversation, or would be able to sound higher notes, than those persons whose ears are pitched lower. In any future experiments on the subject, it may, perhaps, be worth while to examine whether any such coincidence exists.

SETTLEMENT AT ALGOA BAY.

The following extracts of letters, just received from one of the recently-formed settlements in Southern Africa, are addressed by a Lady of the name of Francis, who accompanied her husband as one of the settlers, to her friends in this country, and give a melancholy picture of the hardships to which she and her many others who so rashly quitted their native shores, have been exposed. The first letter is dated Frommator, near Assagaya Bush, and is addressed to "Mrs. Blackburn, Laytonstone, Essex."

"My beloved Sister, I have the pleasure to tell you, after all my perils and adventures, that I have at last gained a shelter. We have been here ever since the 12th of October till we could get a room built. I suffered beyond expression, and the weather was so stormy, that for one whole month it rained incessantly, accompanied with the most dreadful tempests of thunder and lightning. You can have no idea of its effect, enclosed as we are on all sides by high mountains. It would give us both pain were I to relate all that I have felt. God grant that you may never know by experience the miseries of so long; yet, in comparison to hundreds of others, I am not to be distressed at any price, except that served out by government, and that is most execrable stuff: there is the bread bran, and whole grains of wheat, with a mixture of peas and Indian corn; but all this I do not consider for myself, as I do not eat more than would satisfy an infant. I have been very ill for some weeks, and my spirits are dreadfully depressed; I hope time will reconcile me to my situation. If I had society, I would endeavour to make myself easy, but there is not an English settler nearer than seven miles, and I know none of them but Mr. Latham, who returned from Clan William, with many others, chiefly Irish; he has been our frequent visitor, but he is as miserable as myself, and detests this country as much as I do. When I reflect that it was on this day, twelve months I parted from you, my heart is like to break! Why did I ever leave you, my poor mother, and my dear Patty? Never shall I see you and my dear native country again! Yet the thought of staying in this miserable solitude is dreadful;—debarred from all social intercourse—not one female friend to converse with—not a doctor within fifty miles—no clergyman or church in the whole country—no post-office nearer than Graham's Town, which is a wretched place, and the road to it terrible. I am more wretched than I can describe; but what are my miseries compared to the miseries of those that went to Clan William;—they are absolutely starving, and the government will do nothing for them, because they would not come up here. I do not think any one will stop a year in this wretched country that can help it, many have already left it, and others are going. What will be the end of it, God only knows, but I dread the worst. There is little short of a famine now; great numbers have nothing to eat but nutmeg; they can get neither bread nor vegetables, and wine and spirits are out of price. Not an ounce of tea or sugar is to be got at Graham's Town for a 'love or money,' except now and then, as every thing is to be brought from Cape Town, and the conveyance is very uncertain. We have indeed been miserably deceived, both as to the soil and climate. Oh, if any thing would but turn up, that I might once more return to England, I would not care if I lived on bread and water, for I envy the poorest servant there. The wretched thought of ending my days in this savage wilderness, surrounded by wild beasts, and every thing that is horrid, quite distracts me. As for poor David (Mr. Francis), he is well in health, but almost mad; he has lost the life of a day; for as much as he endures, the cattle are no sooner over the hills than they are out of sight. He has lost a horse, and four bullocks, and also three sheep, which I suppose, were picked off by the wolves. It is the same by all the settlers; they have all lost cattle. I am afraid you will think I am a croaker;—but, believe me, I have not told you of half our miseries. Oh, how different from the account I first wrote to you on our arrival in this country! but then the weather was mild, and every thing seemed enchanting. I was surrounded by friends, by whom I was beloved. Now I am separated from all, and know not where to turn for help. I am afraid you will think I am a croaker;—but, believe me, I have not told you of half our miseries. Oh, how different from the account I first wrote to you on our arrival in this country! but then the weather was mild, and every thing seemed enchanting. I was surrounded by friends, by whom I was beloved. Now I am separated from all, and know not where to turn for help.

The second letter is dated Jan. 22d, 1821, near Assagaya Bush, Nossar River, near Graham's town, and is directed to "Mrs. Galabin, 12, Old Jewry, London."

"My dear Fanny, I expected long before this I should have had the pleasure of receiving a line from you; but that, as well as every other consolation, is denied me. I have received but two letters from England, both from my dear sister, the last dated the 10th of August. I must break up to my sister a short time since, and explained to her my uncomfortable situation in this miserable solitude. I thought my situation had enough then, although I told her that I wanted for nothing, being provided by the government for twelve months, or more if required. All the parties that came off with us were upon the same terms, as some remuneration for the very great expense and loss of time we had incurred. For this we had the governor's verbal promise, as well as a circular letter. We have now received a communication that all rations are to be stopped, unless paid for, or unless undeniable security be given for payment hereafter. This is a blow which, if persisted in, must break up the whole enterprise, as it is impossible to procure corn at any price, the whole of the crops having failed in every part of the colony. As for me, you would hardly think I was the same creature. When I arrived at the Cape, I had grown fat and strong—the sea voyage had entirely restored my long lost health, and I fondly looked forward to happiness. But alas! my dear friend, this is the last place in the world where I could expect to find it for the country, from every part we have seen

of it, is the most barren and desolate you can imagine, except some spots near Cape Town, which have been long made, at a vast expense, and are occupied by the Dutch merchants, and the few monied people, for almost every estate in the country is deeply mortgaged. As a proof of the poverty of the soil, vegetables are sold in the capital at the most extravagant price. One can give half-a-crown for a cabbage, and 3s. 6d. for a cauliflower, a pound for fresh butter, and every thing else in proportion. And it was the same at Simon's Bay; but I had very good friends there, who were mostly English.

And is this the place in which I am to live out the remainder of my wretched existence? Forbid it, Heaven! I find I cannot live on such terms. To be buried like a dog in a place surrounded by wild beasts—to me, who have been used to every comfort! Think of my sensations, when I hear the wolves howling round our dismal dwelling. You can have no idea of the dismal yell they make, as loud as a cow bellowing; add to this, the barking of the jackals, and the howling of the porcupines, and the wailing of the vultures and reptiles. I have had a snake yard long coiled up by my bedside, and a mouse, as large as a small rat, in my bed, when I was lying very ill. We cannot see a single article of provisions out of the way, but it is covered with millions of ants, some of them an inch long. The state of my mind is such, that I cannot work for half an hour. I do nothing but cry, and read over and over again the books and old newspapers. I have read a hundred times before—Poor David blames himself continually for bringing me out, and has promised, that if I am not more reconciled in a year, he will send me to England; but I shall never live that time. And if the government do not assist us, it will be impossible that any one can stay.

If I was near you, I could be happy to sit and work from morning to night. David has written a long letter to Colonel Strutt, explaining his situation. I envy this paper, because it is going to England; and I declare, rather than stay here, I would leave the country in an open boat.

(Signed) "ANNA FRANCIS."

The originals of the above letters, and others of the same character, are in the hands of Dr. Baruch.

THUNDER STORM.

On Wednesday evening, about one o'clock, after a forenoon unusually sunny for the season, several very heavy showers of rain fell in Liverpool and the vicinity, accompanied by loud claps of thunder: the darkness of the atmosphere being increased, and succeeded by uncommonly bright gleams of sunlight. During one of these showers, the electric fluid was used to pass along the south end of Edge-hill. In its progress it knocked down several workmen, one of whom was violently affected in the back of the head, that for relief he had recourse to bleeding; and a girl in a garden had her arm suddenly lifted up by its effect, and felt it bunched for some time after. The coachman of Mr. Duff was struck on the arm whilst on the box, but was merely stunned. A lady near Islington, who was sewing at the time, felt the fingers in contact with the needle a sensation resembling that of a slight electric spark. The electric fluid entered the house of Mrs. Clare, in Edge Vale, where its progress was not less alarming; to the inmates, than destructive to the premises; and we have never heard of any person escaping, than that of the several individuals dispersed in a house, of which almost every room was filled with the ravages of the uncontrollable element. It appears probable, from an examination of the apertures which the fluid has made, and the direction in which the bricks, timber, &c. have been forced, that, attracted by the iron railing in front of the house, it entered the wall on one side the door, where it has shattered the bricks, torn to pieces the wood and brick-work between the door-pillar and the arch-way of the door; lifted the burning part on the top; shook the fan-light to pieces, and burst open the door, and leaving a black soot on the paint-works, it passed up through the arch door, splitting the bricks and the stone at the bottom of the middle window, the glass of which was shattered to pieces, and the whole frame dislodged and forced into the house. Over the window it forced, in its way to the roof, a large hole, above which the soot appears exactly as if flames had issued from it. This course appears next to have been towards the chimney: the eaves were shattered to pieces; the ridge stones displaced; many bricks and much cement torn from the wall; and the lead in many places forced up. It probably reached the rooms below by the chimney. In the lower room the stucco, plaster and paint were in several places broken, and the fluid, as if searching its way, scorched the gilding of the chimney glass, and peeled the top ornaments, but did not disturb the polished fire-irons, just below. Six squares of glass were driven out in this room. In the room above, in one corner, stood a bundle of rods, to which it made its way, perhaps from the chimney, between the fathoms and the wall, as it forced off the plaster, and shot a quantity of it against a chest of drawers, eleven or twelve feet distant, evidently with amazing force. In this room a young lady was standing; she felt as if her head were pressed by a weight to her shoulder, but received no further injury than that resulting from extreme alarm, at the noise of the fluid in its passage, which resembled cannon, and filled the room (and indeed the whole house) with a sulphurous smoke. On going to the door, she found it fast, the bolt having been forced, as if it were partly locked, probably from its having attracted the fluid. From this room it seems to have passed through the window and entered another at a right angle from it in the back part of the house, the glass and strong frame of which were broken and forced in. In another front room on the first floor, in which there were no marks whatever, another young lady, who was using a pair of scissors, was struck down, and was deprived, for a short time, of the use of one of her legs: she was seriously hurt, but, we are happy to say, is recovering. A female servant was driven to one end of the kitchen, and a nail in the door, on which her bonnet hung, was drawn out, and the bonnet torn to pieces. From the kitchen the electric current seems to have escaped by the upper part of the door, where the bricks and lime are loosened. The alarm occasioned to the female inmates, by this terrific visitation, need not be described. The house appeared to be filled with vivid flame and smoke, and they fearfully anticipated its falling on their heads. Two men and a boy, who had taken refuge at the end of the house, were thrown fifteen or twenty feet from the door where they stood; one of them was taken up insensible, but is now recovering. The breast and back of the boy are severely scorched in red branching stripes, as if produced by the blows of a switch. In the next house (that of Mr. Mortimer), in a room, the door and windows of which were closed, the frame of a large pier glass was perforated, as if by a pistol ball; round which, as from a centre, the gilding was regularly stroked with soot: the glass was not broken. A person was in the room, but was not aware of the circumstance when it happened. The greater part of the ceiling of a room above was also stripped off. No other accident, we believe, has occurred.

HANGING BY DEPUTY.—An unfortunate, yet somewhat laughable affair recently occurred at Canton, and for a short time has attracted the attention and intercourse between the English and the Chinese. It appears that one of the latter was accidentally shot, at a bear hunt, by an officer of the Company's ship London; and as there exists a law in China, that the death of a man, even though accidental, can only be expiated by blood, the Chinese Government demanded the offender, and laid an embargo on the ships in the harbour, until the demand should be complied with. This excited very serious alarm amongst the English; but they were determined not to surrender their countryman to suffer an unjust death. From this casus belli a dilemma was forced: either to execute a singular manner. One of the crew of the London, who had been sentenced to undergo the punishment, hung himself in a fit of despair. His body was sent on shore as a peace-offering, and was immediately accepted by the Chinese, who only wanted a man to be hanged, and did not trouble themselves about his identity with the offender. The embargo was immediately removed; and the affair terminated to the satisfaction of both parties.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MANCHESTER GUARDIAN.

The annexed Report of the state of Charitable Education in this Town and the immediate Vicinity I communicate, in the expectation that you will consider it of sufficient importance and interest to entitle it to publication. No document of a similar nature has yet been laid before the public. At all times, such information as it contains is valuable; because, without knowing the extent to which education, and particularly the education of the labouring classes, prevails, the best opinions which can be formed of the condition and future progress of society must necessarily be incorrect. But, independent of general considerations, such a document seemed called for at the present juncture, by the legislative measures with which Mr. Brougham is threatening the country, and which appear to me to be a practical consequence of the ignorance which exists on this subject. The facts on which Mr. Brougham makes out the necessity for his Education Bills, are, as he is reported to say, "the numerical results of an inquiry, 'carried on for years among the persons best able to report the state of education in each village and hamlet of the island. Those persons have, by the most minute details of matters within their own knowledge, enabled him to state the exact numbers of schools actually existing, and the number of children actually taught in each.' The persons whose qualification and knowledge are thus extravagantly and (taken in connection with the real facts of the case) ridiculously praised, are the Clergymen of the Church of England, who made up the reports that compose the Education Digest. In the district to which the following report refers, I find the statements are attributed to four respectable Clergymen, who are, I believe, as competent as any of their brethren for the performance of such a task. Them it would be severe to censure for the imposition of their return; they were bound by the orders of the Education Committee to communicate only what they knew; and I am not aware that they were obliged, or *ex officio*, to know even so much as they have communicated. I do not, therefore, hold them accountable for the great inaccuracy which appears in the Digest; but it may be reasonably objected to Mr. Brougham, that he ought not to have pledged himself quite so strongly in support of his informants, as 'persons best able to report the state of education,' and of their information, as containing 'the exact numbers of schools actually existing, and the numbers of children actually taught in each.' That the public may judge, I have extracted the official returns that correspond with the district included in the following Report.—Vol. I, p. 444. LANCASHIRE; TABLE.

Parishes or Chapelries.	Names.	Population in 1811.	Poor in 1815.	Endowments.			Unendowed Day Schools.		Unendowed Sunday Schools.	
				No.	Children.	Revenue.	No.	Children.	No.	Children.
Manchester		85,828	2899	1	155	£ 1800	3	2200	3	8000
				1	80	2000	4	88		
				1	50	200				
				1	10	100				
				1	none	40				
Ardswick		5344	129							
Salford		19,114	791				4	600	8	200
										700

From this it appears, that there are only seven Sunday Schools, containing 8000 scholars, in Manchester, Salford, and Ardswick. Such is the statement given by four resident Clergymen of the Church of England, who are, as Mr. Brougham thinks, "best able to report the state of education," while the fact is, that the number of the *Caravan* Sunday Schools alone, is 19; and of the Dissenters, 46; making together, 65; and affording gratuitous education to 23,000 children. If to this number be added the day-scholars and boarders of the public and private schools, it would appear, that, with respect to this town and neighbourhood at least, there is no necessity for any legislative proceeding whatever; and I am persuaded, that there is as little necessity in any part of the manufacturing districts of the country. In the agricultural districts, the case may be different. With respect to them, some legal provision might be useful; but Mr. Brougham's bills are too obnoxious to the liberal spirit of the times, to produce any thing but evil in any part of the kingdom. As *disfranchising* acts, they ought not to pass into laws; and they will not, unless the Dissenters negligently disregard the protection of their own rights. My object, however, is not to discuss the provisions of Mr. Brougham's bills; but merely to call attention to the errors which exist in the Education Digest, and to express an earnest wish, that similar reports may be made up for other large towns, to the publication of which, I trust, your columns would be open. N. H.

DAY SCHOOLS.—Establishments	Boys	Girls	Total	Ann. Exp.	Remarks.
Grammar School	155	155	310	1800	Taught, clothed and boarded. } Endowments.
Blue Coat ditto	80	80	160	2000	
Green Coat ditto	50	50	100	200	
Collegiate Church ditto	50	50	100	40	
Strangeways ditto	10	10	20	100	
St. Mary's ditto	12	12	24	40	(Suppose)—Taught and clothed. Funds arising from Sacramental Offerings
St. John's ditto	9	9	18	40	(Suppose)—Expenses raised by voluntary Subscription.
St. Paul's ditto	20	20	40		
Ladies' Jubilee	30	30	60	250	Taught, clothed and boarded, by voluntary Subscription.
Back King-street	21	21	42	40	(Suppose)—Taught and partly clothed. This School is supported by the benevolence of a single individual.
NATIONAL SCHOOLS, Granby-row	194	119	313	600	Voluntary Subscription, and Collections at Churches.
Bolton-street, Salford	300	170	470		