



## Poetic Necess.

### SOLITUDE.

BY RICHARD HOWITT.

At early youth, I shunned mankind,  
From books alone to store my mind;  
In woods and ruins moss o'ergrown,  
I sat, and read, and thought alone.

An impulse did I feel, a flame,—  
I never questioned whence it came:  
A feeling as powerful as unknown,  
That urged me still to be alone.

I clomb the mountain through the cloud,  
Midst lightning and the thunders loud:  
Thence looked around as from a thone,  
And triumphed I was there alone.

At midnight deep in torrent caves,  
I listened to the dash of waves,  
Down horrid chasms darkly thrown,  
And felt an awful joy alone.

The earliest flush the morning gave,  
Soft trembling o'er the ocean wave,  
Thence crimson'd, through the darkness  
blown

Mists flying mists, I met alone.

Ever in darkness and in light,  
At cheerful noon, at pitchy night,  
Around me like an Iris thrown,  
Was joy, that still I walked alone.

In sleep was heard the sound of streams,  
The sun-set mingled with my dreams;  
The weltering ocean had the tone,  
Which live in slumbering ears alone.

With passing years a change there came,  
Tho' Nature's charms were still the same:  
No more that impulse strong, might speed  
My steps to mountain or to mead.

The wood, the stream, the rock, the tree,  
The bud, the blossom, bird and bee,  
Still were—but were no more desired—  
My mind into itself retired.

My soul was full of Nature's light;  
In vain the morn was dewy, bright;  
In vain to win my gaze did eve  
Its long and lingering shadows weave.

For, with an overflowing mind,  
I turned from Nature to my kind:  
From all things was the freshness down—  
I could not bear to be alone.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

We extract the following humorous story from "Hodge & Bayliss's Almanac," published at Halifax, N.C., as far back as 1828:

A HOLY PACK OF CARDS.  
One Richard Middleton, a soldier, attending divine service with the rest of the regiments in a church in Glasgow, instead of pulling out a bible to find the parson's text, spread a pack of cards before him. This behavior was observed by the clergyman and sergeant of the company to which he belonged.

The latter ordered him to put up his cards, and on his refusal conducted him after service before the mayor, and preferred a formal complaint of Richard's indecent conduct. Well, soldier, said the Mayor, what excuse have you to offer? If you can make an apology it is well, if not, you shall be severely punished. Since your honor has been so good, replied Richard, as to permit me to speak for myself, it won't please your worship, I have been eight days on the march with the bare allowance of six pence per day, and consequently could not have a bible or any other good book; on saying this, Richard drew out his pack of cards and presenting one of the aces to the Mayor, or, continued this address to the magistrate as follows: When I see an ace, may it please your honor, it reminds me that there is only one God, and when I look upon two or three, the former puts me in mind of the Father and Son, and the latter of the four Evangelists, Matthew, Mark Luke, and John; a five, the five wise virgins who were ordered to trim their lamps, (there were ten indeed, but five, your worship may remember, were wise and five were foolish); a six, that is six days God created heaven and earth; a seven, that on the seventh day he rested from all that he had made, an eight, of the eight righteous persons who were saved from the deluge, viz Noah and his wife and three sons and their wives; a nine, of the lepers cleansed by our Saviour, (there were ten, but only nine offered his tribute of thanks); and a ten, of the ten commandments.

Richard then took the knife, placed it before him, and passed on to the queen, on which he observed as follows: the queen reminds me of the queen of Sheba, who came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, as her companion the king does of the great King of Heaven, and King George the Second.

Well, returned the Mayor, you have given me a good description of all the cards except the knife. If you will not be angry with me, returned Richard, I can give you the same satisfaction on that as any in the pack. No, said the Mayor. Well, returned the soldier, the greatest knife I know is the sergeant who brought me before you. I don't know, replied the Mayor, whether he be the greatest knife or not, but I am sure he is the greatest fool. The soldier then continued as follows: When I count the number of dots in a pack of cards there are 365; so many days are there in a year. The cards in a pack are 52; so many weeks are there in a year. When I reckon how many tricks there are in a pack, I find there are 13; so many months are there in a year. So that this pack of cards is both little, enormous, and prayer book to me. The

Mayor called his servants, ordered them to entertain the soldier well, gave him a piece of money and said he was the cleverest fellow he ever heard in his life.

THE ALPHABET OF REQUISITES FOR A WIFE.—*By an Elderly Bachelor.*—A wife should be amiable, affectionate, artless, amiable, accomplished, beautiful, benign, benevolent, chaste, charming, candid, cheerful, complaisant, charitable, civil, constant, courteous, dignified, elegant, easy, ingenuous, enterprising, faithful, fond, faultless, free, good, graceful, generous, governable, good-humored, handsome; harmless, healthy, heavenly-minded, intelligent, interesting, industrious, ingenuous, just, kind, lively, liberal, lovely, modest, merciful, mannerly, neat, nimble, obedient, obliging, pretty, pleasing, peaceable, pure, righteous, sociable, submissive, sensible, temperate, true, virtuous, well-formed, and young. When I meet with a woman possessed of all these requisites, I will marry.

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Yours respectfully, MARY.

CROWS IN CEYLON.—These birds are so numerous, says Mr. H. Innes, that all persons who desire to be secure from their marauding depredations must be very careful neither to leave their doors nor windows open without being watchful.

When the natives are carrying home baskets of provisions on their heads, they are frequently attacked by a flock of these voracious birds, which pounce upon the contents; nor will they desist from the work of spoilation until the basket is set down and they are driven away. They plunder children still more mercilessly, actually snatching the food from their hands, and it is amusing to witness the art they use to dispossess a dog of its bone. No sooner has the animal laid himself down to enjoy his meal, than a predatory covey descend and hover over him; one more daring than the rest then alights, and advances towards him with the self-possession of an invited guest; when the dog lets fall his bone and makes an indignant snap at the pertinacious intruder, which dexterously eludes the bite, while at the instant the dog's attention is diverted, another crow, which has been vigilantly watching the opportunity seizes the coveted treasure and bears it off.

SCENE OF THE MISSISSIPPI.—The number of boats on the Mississippi river is said to be rapidly increasing. Six or seven steamboats frequently pass one point in a day, and in the boating season 25 or 30 flat-boats are seen fast hauled down the river in a line, a hundred or more of the latter frequently pass in a day.

G. L. & E. PENN & CO., Edgefield, March 14, 1838. *ft 6*

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