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JOURNAL
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HOWITT'S JOURNAL

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LITERATURE AND POPULAR PROGRESS.

EDITED BY

WILLIAM AND MARY HOWITT.

VOL. I.

People's journal

LONDON:

PUBLISHED (FOR THE PROPRIETOR) BY WILLIAM LOVETT, 171, STRAND.

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CONTENTS OF VOLUME I.

	PAGE		PAGE
ADDRESS, an, to Friends and Readers, by William and Mary Howitt	1	Germain's, St., and its Fête, by H. T. Ryde... ..	268
Address, an, to the Working Classes of the United Kingdom on their duty in the present state of the Sanitary Question, by Dr. Southwood Smith	3	Gipsy Mother, the	296
American Slave, an, in London, by Elihu Burritt	147	Have Patience, by Mrs. Hodgson	203
Andersen's, Hans Christian, Boots, by Mary Howitt	8	Health of Towns Association	237
Anti-Climax, by R. H. Horne	232	Heidelberg	338
Anti-Land-Law League, an, by Isaac J. Varian	206	Howitt's, William, Sunday Ramble with a Poor Man of Ayr	53
Appeal, an, for Clothing the Naked and Destitute Irish	58	Indian Somnambule, the, by J. A. Heraud... ..	131
Associated Homes, by Mary Gillies	171	Instructive Badinage, by J. A. Heraud	358
Associated Homes for the Middle Class, by Mary Gillies	270	Ireland: the imperative necessity of a universal and energetic popular Agitation in its behalf, by William Howitt... ..	90
Author v. Critic. W. Howitt and the Athenæum	109	Ireland, the State and Condition of, to the People of the United Kingdom on, by William Lovett	220
Battle, the, of the Posters, by a Literary Policeman	54	Joe Oldoak's Revenge, by Mrs. White	299
Beginning, the, and End of Mrs. Muggeridge's Wedding Dinner, by Mary Howitt	25	Labourer's Home, a, by Mary Gillies	61
Bob Racket's Search for Shoes, by Edward Youl	91	Labours of Love in Manchester	194
Bristol Ragged Schools, by M. C.	142, 293	Life in Manchester; Libbie Marsh's Three Eras; by Cotton Mather Mills, Esq. :—	
British Museum, the, closed, by W. J. Fox	30	St. Valentine's Day	310
Canker, the, and the Cure, by Silverpen	75	Whitsuntide	334
Caspar Hauser, the Hereditary Prince of Baden	257, 273, 282	Michaelmas	345
CHILD'S CORNER, THE, by Mary Howitt:—		Life's Contrasts, or New Year's Eve, by Silverpen	4
Seasonable Tales for Children: Spring. Of the Pantry-door Key being lost, and then found	138	Lind, Jenny, a Brief Memoir of, by One of her Old Friends	170
The Joy of Engele	223	LITERARY NOTICES:—	
The Young Turtle-Dove of Carmel	303	A Classification of the Leading Branches of Human Knowledge	252
Comment on Lord Roden's Letter to the Gentry of Ireland, by R. H. Horne	48	A Financial, Monetary, and Statistical History of England, from the Revolution of 1688 to the present time, by Thomas Doubleday, Esq.	322
Comments on Mr. Spooner's Bill, by Silverpen	339	A Popular Life of George Fox, the first of the Quakers	153
Common Lodging-houses, and a Model Lodging-house for the Poor, by Amigo	82	A Tract for the Times, by John White	280
Controversy, Last Words of	126	An Appeal for the Irish Peasantry, by Jasper W. Rogers, C.E.	179
Conversazione, the	282	An Encyclopedia of Facts, Arguments, Anecdotes, and Illustrations, in support of the principles of Permanent and Universal Peace, by Edwin Paxton Hood	7
Co-operative Band, the, by Silverpen	144, 156	Andre, by George Sand, translated by Matilda M. Hays	180
Corcumroe Abbey, by R. H. Horne	80	Aunt Carry's Ballads for Children, by the Hon. Mrs. Norton	23
Cottage Garden, the, April	210	Azeth the Egyptian	210
Dapper Little Londoner, a, by John Strides, the Literary Policeman	108	Baron Dercesenyi's Researches for a Philanthropic Remedy against Communism	266
Earliest Flowers of the Season, by William Hincks, F.L.S.:—		Characteristics of Men of Genius	70
No. I.—The Winter Aconite	105	Children's Books—Songs for the Nursery, New Nursery Rhymes, The Tiny Library, The Boy's own Library	196
No. II.—The Sweet Violet	151	Cicero, a Drama, by the Author of Moile's State Trials	120
No. III.—The Primrose	205	Death's Soliloquy, a Poem, by Thomas Eagles	181
No. IV.—The Hyacinth	245	Extinction of Pauperism, by Prince Napoleon Louis Bonaparte	196
No. V.—The Hawthorn, Whitethorn, or May	301	Gatherings from Spain	55
No. VI.—The Danube	324	Handel's Songs, Duets, Trios, etc.	252
Early Closing Movement, the, by Silverpen	208	Healthy Skin, by Erasmus Wilson, F.R.S.	308
Earth's Worst Tragedy, by Silverpen	260	Hearts of Steel, by Dr. M'Henry	252
Education, on the Duties and Rights of Society as to; Report of a Lecture, by W. J. Fox	241	Heroic Odes and Bacchic Melodies, by George St. Edmonde	98
Everybody's Duty	215	Home Influence, by Grace Aguilar	250
Exhibition of the British Institution... ..	125	Homes and Haunts of the most eminent British Poets, by William Howitt... ..	68
Fast, the, and the Famine, by William Howitt	181	Household Surgery, by John F. South, one of the Surgeons of St. Thomas's Hospital	308
Flint, the, and Hart Matronship, by Silverpen	18, 36	Knight's one-volume edition of the Works of William Shakspeare	322
Free Libraries, a Scheme of, by Dr. Smiles	119	Lucretia, or the Children of Night, by Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton	7
Free Trade Recollections, by John Bowring, LL. D. M. P.:—		Missionary Labours, by Robert Moffatt	180
No. I.—Tuscany and Rome	31	New and cheap edition of Handel's Oratorio of the Messiah, and Haydn's Oratorio of the Creation	154
No. II.—Isle of Man	58		
No. III.—Syria... ..	116		
No. IV.—Belgium	174		
No. V.—The Greeks	248		
No. VI.—The Danube	324		
French Medal, Engraving of a	223		

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	PAGE		PAGE
Sand, George, by Dr. Smiles	128	Thoughts on the Present System of Irish Charities	362
Scenes, two, on the Danube, by Hans Christian Andersen	83	Three Funerals, the, by Miss Pardoe	229
Scene, a, on the Danube. The Swineherds, by Hans Christian Andersen	209	Tracts, the Diffusion of, the Great Promoter of Truth, by Joseph Barker	212
Sights in South Germany, by Abel Paynter:—		Trip, a, to Texas, by Franklin Fox	186
No. I.—The Terrors of Ratisbon—The Danube	149		
No. II.—Down to Vienna—Mölk; its Priests and its Wise Men	213	United Service Family Associations, by Goodwyn Barmby	344
No. III.—Popular Sports at Vienna	263	Universal Language and Phonography, by Goodwyn Barmby	94
No. IV.—Romance in Vienna. Popular Safeguards, and Paternal Recreations	305		
No. V.—Music and Memory in Austria	359	Ventriloquism and Mr. Love	168
Sketch, a, of Famine, by Mrs. Hoare	233	Visit to O'Connell at Derrynane, by William Howitt	328
South Africa, Letter from	74	Visits to remarkable Places, by William Howitt:—	
Susan Lee's Birthday Adventure, by Edward Youl	217, 230	Visits to Places in London: the New Market at Islington	72
		The Haunted House at Willington, near Newcastle-on-Tyne	289
Temperance Reformation, the, Indirect Advantages resulting from, by Philip P. Carpenter, B.A.	76		
Temperance Reformation, the, On the Evils indirectly connected with, by Philip P. Carpenter, B.A.	313	Werther's Charlotte	240

ILLUSTRATIONS.

<i>Engravings.</i>	<i>Artists.</i>	<i>Engravers.</i>	<i>Engravings.</i>	<i>Artists.</i>	<i>Engravers.</i>
New-Year's Eve	Franklin	G. Measom.	Madonna and Child	Murillo	W. Measom.
January	Kaulbach	—	The Rivals	Sonderland	W. G. Mason.
Prince Metternich	Sir Thos. Lawrence	W. Measom.	Morning	J. Sant	W. J. Linton.
The British Museum on a Holiday	—	G. Measom.	French Medal	—	—
The Wild Huntsman	Sonderland	W. Measom.	Werther's Charlotte	Kaulbach	W. Measom.
Pope Pius the Ninth	—	—	May	—	G. Measom.
Islington Cattle Market	—	G. Measom.	Portrait of W. Lovett drawn by Anelay	—	Alfred Harral.
February	Kaulbach	—	The Fête at St. Germain's	—	H. Harrison.
Portrait of the late J. J. Gurney	Richmond	W. J. Linton.	The Conversazione	O. Oakley	W. G. Mason.
The Lover	Sonderland	G. Measom.	The Haunted House at Willington	W. Scott	G. Measom.
Peep into the Odenwald	—	W. Measom.	The Gipsy Mother	Wilkie	W. Measom.
George Sand	—	W. J. Linton.	The Poet's Children drawn by J. Absalom	—	—
March	Kaulbach	G. Measom.	The Mountain Piquet	F. Y. Hurlstone	—
J. Pounds in his Ragged School	—	W. Measom.	June	Kaulbach	G. Measom.
Coming Spring	—	—	The Emigrant	—	Walmsley.
Jenny Lind	—	—	Derrynane Abbey	—	H. Carter.
Ebenezer Elliott	Margaret Gillies	W. J. Linton.	Heidelberg	J. B. Pyne	W. Measom.
April	Kaulbach	G. Measom.	Portrait of Hans Christian Andersen	Carl Hartmann	Alfred Harral.

WEEKLY RECORD.

January 2.

Introductory Address.
Subscription of Society of Friends for the Irish.
Destitution in the Highlands.
Mr. Dempster, the American Singer.

January 9.

Prosperity of Co-operative Cause.
The Leeds Co-operative League.
Mesmerism in India.
Orphan Working School, City-road, London.

January 16.

Letter from Well Wisher.
Progress of Co-operative League in London.
Establishment of New Athenæum at Warwick.
Letter from Nottingham.

January 23.

Soirée of Mechanics' Institute in Liverpool.
Soirée of Leeds Redemption Society.
Famine in Ireland.
Inhalation of Ether.
Birmingham Mercantile and Literary Institute.

January 30.

Public Meeting at Sheffield.
Health of Towns Association.
Guano Streams.
People's International League.
Frederick Douglass no longer a Slave.
Progress of Co-operative Principle.
Temperance.

February 6.

People's Colleges.
Proceedings of Co-operative League.
Project of a Roscoe Club in Liverpool.
Early Closing Movement.
Tithes.

February 13.

Give us our Daily Bread.
Juvenile Delinquency.
The Edinburgh Mechanics' Institution.
Anti-Enclosure Association.
The Hutchinsons at Philadelphia.
Madame Laffarge.

February 20.

School of Industry for Juvenile Delinquents.
Co-operative League.
Temporary Residence of Governesses.
Tyne Polytechnic Society.
Abolition of Capital Punishment.
Mosaic Code of Punishments.
Instruction Society, Birmingham.
Publications of the Isle of Man, etc.

February 27.

First Grand Soirée of Whittington Club.
Second Soirée of Working Upholsterers.
Operatives' Mutual Life Assurance, etc.
The Ashton Athenæum.
People's College at Mellourne.

March 6.

Wealth of the People.
Early Closing Movement.
Plymouth Working Men's Association.
Meeting of Anti-Slavery League in the Provinces.
Orphan Working School Bazaar.

March 13.

The Influence of Women.
Co-operative League.
Society of Odd Fellows.
Movements of the Italian Refugees.

March 20.

Brunetti's Ancient Jerusalem.
Punishment of Death.
National Education.
On the proposed London Trades Hall.
On Charitable Bazaars.
Labour's Ditty.
Letter from Phonopen.

March 27.

Plan of People's National Co-operative League.
Movements of Co-operative League.
Plymouth Working Men's Association.
New Athenæum in Glasgow.
Literary and Scientific Institution, John-street, Fitzroy-square.
Islington New Cattle Market.
Anti-Enclosure Association.
Roby Mutual Improvement Society, Manchester.

April 3.

Edinburgh Slaughter Houses.
Free Church Anti-Slavery Society.
Mutual Emigration Societies.
Co-operation in Bingley.
Travelling on Foot on the Continent.
Elihu Burritt's Visit to Ireland.

April 10.

Improvement of the Social Condition of Women.
Co-operative League.
Roscoe Club.
Kilmarnock Races.
Subscription to the Wilderspin Testimonial.
Hunslet Joint-stock Flour Mill.
Ladies' Association, Belfast.
Journemen Tailors' Appeal to the Public.
Leeds Redemption Society.

April 17.

Frederick Douglass and the Cambria.
Health of Towns Bill.
The Pope and Morgan's Commonwealth.
Progress of Mechanics' Institutes.
Sunderland Mechanics' Schools, etc.
Newcastle and Gateshead ditto.
Ditto, in Yorkshire.
Progress of Co-operative cause.
National Alliance.

April 24.

Frederick Douglass and Steam Press.
Illustrations of American Slavery.
Anti-Slavery League and Temperance Societies.
What is doing at Kilbarchan?
New Athenæum at Wolverhampton.
Wakefield Mutual Improvement Society.
Ninth Grand Concert of Euterpion Society.
Manchester Mutual Improvement Society.

May 1.

Early Closing.
Co-operative Attempts by Working Men.

May 8.

Operative Bakers' Early Closing Movement.
Early Closing Advocate.
Co-operative Brickmaking.
Trowbridge—Fast and Famine.
Hints for Reformers.
Printer's Phonetic Alphabet.
Woodhouse Temperance Literary Institute.
Odd Notions.
Fast and Famine.

May 15.

Co-operation.
Birmingham Co-operative League.
Manchester Peace Society.
Meetings for the Abolition of Capital Punishment.
Anti-Land-Law League.
Co-operative Baking.
Capital Punishments.
Plan for Diffusing Knowledge.
Improvement of Social Condition of Women.
Bristol Young Men's Society.
Frances Wright.

May '22.

National Distress.
Bermondsey Literary Institution.
Ragged School, etc., Plymouth.
The Douglass Testimonial.
Ten Hours Bill.
Lecture against American Slavery.

May 29.

Quarterly Return of Health.
New Co-operative Enterprise.
The Cooper Festival.
Journemen Tailors of Dundee.
Co-operative Land Company.
The Key of Fortune.
Co-operation.
Blackheath Literary Institution.
South London Phonetic Society.

June 5.

Ten Hours Bill.
Proposal for the Extinction of Monopoly.
Continued Extension of Co-operation.
Juvenile Delinquency.
Plan for Diminishing Suffering in the Slaughter of Animals.
Rochdale Peace Society.

June 12.

Health of Towns Bill.
O'Connorville Festival.
Short Hours Movement among the Bakers.
The Wilderspin Testimonial.
Bristol Temperance Festival.
Co-operative Excursion.
Song of the Tramp.

June 19.

Food and Fisheries.
Testimonial to F. Douglass.
Co-operative Trading Society at Limehouse.

June 26.

Wants a Situation.
Post office Discussion.
Shildon Literary Institution.
Nottingham Co-operative League.
Stockton-on-Tees Co-operative Corn-mill Co.
The New Journal of Progress in Rome.
Cruelties in Newgate Market.
Sonnet by a Son of Toil.



HOWITT'S JOURNAL

WILLIAM AND MARY HOWITT'S ADDRESS

TO THEIR

Friends and Readers.

A HAPPY New Year to all our friends and readers! Amongst the many means for realizing this seasonable wish, which seems to carry in its very sound the spirit of its own accomplishment, we trust that HOWITT'S JOURNAL will prove not the least efficient. So far as in us lies, there shall be wanting no exertion, as there is wanting in our hearts no zeal and enthusiasm, for the purpose. For years it has been our resolve to devote ourselves by such a periodical to the entertainment, the good, and the advancement of the public. We thought a year ago that the time was come for the experiment. It proved not to be the case. There were obstacles to be overcome, a forest of thorny experience to be cut through, limed twigs above, and beams in the darkness, to stumble over below. These are past; we are come out into the open air, free-handed and free-hearted, "no jot of hope or heart abated;" and look over the champaign of our future life as devoted to the people and their cause.

We are bound to no class, for we believe that in the cultivation of the whole, lies the harmony and the happiness of the whole. Where there needs the greatest effort, thither our efforts shall be most immediately and zealously directed. Amid the million there lies enormous need of

aid, of comfort, of advocacy, and of enlightenment; and amongst the million, therefore, shall we labour, with hand and heart, with intellect and affection. To promote their education, and especially their self-education—a process full of the noblest self-respect and independence—to advocate their just rights, to explain their genuine duties, to support the generous efforts of those many wise, good, and devoted men and women who are now everywhere labouring for their better being and comfort: these will be the dearest employments of our lives, the truest pleasures that we can experience. It is with a most grateful feeling that we acknowledge that the people at once perceive and reciprocate what is genuine love of their cause; and the delightful confidence which they every day more and more manifest in our humble endeavours on their behalf, will, of itself, stimulate us to a more active watchfulness for their true interests, and a bolder, yet not the less prudent, championship of their rights. To all the onward and sound movements of the time—a great and glorious time!—to the cause of Peace, of Temperance, of Sanatory reform, of Schools for every class—to all the efforts of Free Trade, free opinion; to abolition of obstructive Monopolies, and the recognition of those great rights which belong to every

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UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

THE WEEKLY RECORD

(OF FACTS AND OPINIONS CONNECTED WITH GENERAL INTERESTS AND POPULAR PROGRESS.

In this department of our Journal we mean not only to state candidly our own earnest opinion on any matter of importance, but shall endeavour, as far as in us lies, to form and guide public opinion, as every honest journalist should do; and with equal sincerity we solicit the opinions of others of all classes—be they rich or poor, be they masters or men, be they men or women. We work FOR all, and we desire to work WITH all.—EDS.

THE WEEKLY RECORD of Howitt's Journal ought to be, and we trust will prove to be, perhaps the most important portion of it. In it, in a condensed form, we shall endeavour to deal with the varied passages and topics of the time. Longer articles upon any matter introduced here will, from time to time, appear in the general pages of the Journal; but here every fact and question of social improvement, of redress of social evils, of encouragement to public good, may again and again present itself in a summary shape. It is the glorious feature of our age that it is the age of progression; that Christianity, in the heart of civilization, now moves obviously and speaks audibly; that the spirit of war and of oppression is dying out before the spirit of general intelligence, and of what may now, without a fear of a burlesque turn, be seriously called the Majesty of the People. That majesty consists in the patience of the people under suffering; in the industry of the people in educating themselves; in the zeal of the people in cooperating in every object which has for its aim the extermination of cruelty, the eradication of vice, the union of numbers for the continuance and establishment of great public virtues. Peace, Temperance; the Extension of Schools and Libraries; the Early Closing of Shops; the Abolition of Slavery; the Elevation of Women in the scale of intelligence and comfort; the opening of Athenæums, and Literary Institutions, where the industrious classes can find, in their few leisure hours, at once relaxation and mental growth; the defence, and reform, and rescue of the unhappy victims of seduction; the Protection of the young in mines and factories; the Abolition of the Punishment of Death; in all these, and a host of other questions, all they who mix privately with, and address publicly the people, know how instantly, how cordially, nay, how rapturously, they respond and cooperate. They are alive to these great questions as rights, they feel them as sympathies. Where their own personal interests are directly involved in them, they are prompt, firm, but patient; where they affect the interests of others, and perhaps distant sections only of their class, they are not the less, nay, they are, in fact, still more zealous in their demands, and impetuous in the expression of their wishes. This is a noble ground to work upon; with this we are sure of the rapid and triumphant career of the cause of man.

But this is not the only source of encouragement. The same spirit has breathed its influence into every other class. The prime minister of the conservative section goes out of office, announcing that Public Opinion is the ruler of England. The prime minister of the moderate reformers comes in, declaring that the three paramount questions for the consideration of the British Legislature, are Ireland, National Education, and Sanitary Reform. This is a grand announcement on the part of both regnant parties of the political world, that a new day has not merely dawned, but has arisen. That the day is past when war and taxation were the only topics of moment, and that the day is

come when peace and all its improvements must occupy statesmen as their main labour. Is this no new thing, O spirits of Henry VIII. of Pitt and Castlereagh? Is there not another new world discovered since your time? Has not a second Columbus steered his adventurous barks into a new ocean—the New Pacific—and laid open a new land, the *Terra Incognita*, after which all ages and sages, all prophets and poets, have sighed? A land where the Palm grows; where the Tree of Knowledge is indigenous; where the dove of affection broods in the branches, and where the spirits of just men made perfect, do not wait for the putting off of their terrene garments for their perfecting?

And then see how many of these glorified inhabitants are already walking about in this new and great region. How thickly stand there now the spiritual descendants of Hampden and Pym, of Marvell and of Falkland, of Howard, and Mrs. Fry, of Brainard and Elliott; of Raikes and Lancaster! What city and what village has not now its self-devoted labourers for the public good? What place has not its Cobdens, and Brights, and Foxes, to break down monopolies; its George Thompsons, its Garrisons, and its Burritts, to denounce slavery, and proclaim peace; its Father Mathews to exhort to Temperance; Ashleys and Southwood Smiths, to insist on better houses and domestic conveniences, on more health and more life to the poor? In every class, and in every quarter, we are not beginning to feel, but feeling strongly that we must no longer live for ourselves, but for our kind. The divine precept of the Divine Regenerator is becoming the precept of social philosophy and the law of nations, "*Love thy neighbour as thyself.*"

If we were to enumerate only the catalogue of the institutions raised and maintained by the Love-thy neighbour principle in England, it would fill the remainder of the columns of this Record; if we could call forth all the soldiers and the Amazonian ones too of the great army of peace and improvement, which under many colours and in many cohorts exists in England, it would be the greatest army that ever marched on the bosom of the earth. In this army we aspire only to the rank of humble but zealous pioneers. We care not who commands, or under what banner or party device who marches; be they only bent on alleviating wretchedness, advancing knowledge, and annihilating ignorance and bitterness, for them we will wield the axe or spade of preparation, and in the zealous corps of our fellows cut through the thorny woods of error, or pave the path of truth over the morasses of delusion.

So far as our space allows we shall, in short, endeavour to notice every new step in the universal progress, whoever makes it; and we shall, as far as possible, not only notice what is just past, but shall cast the shadow of coming events before; or in plain terms, announce the approach of particularly important and interesting meetings and measures. Let the humblest open his heart to us if he think he has but a mite to cast into the great treasury of human blessing; let the highest

and wisest philanthropist give us his views and his thoughts, for they are not for us but for all.

Subscription of the Society of Friends for the Starving Irish.—The Society of Friends, ever foremost in the march of benevolence, are setting a splendid example to the English public in behalf of the destitute in Ireland. They have already raised amongst their leading members about 12,000*l.* and there is little doubt but that the subscription will amount to 20,000*l.*

Destitution in the Highlands of Scotland, appears to be nearly as general as it is in Ireland, and its immediate cause, the failure of the potato crop. At a public meeting held in Edinburgh to propose a subscription for the relief of the sufferers, it was stated, "that there were 350,000 individuals deprived of their usual means of support; 200,000 requiring immediate assistance, and if not assisted, they would have to become paupers. But there were 130,000 requiring food immediately, to prevent them from dying of starvation."

This appeal also has been nobly responded to both in Scotland and London.

It is not now the time to go into the entire causes of this state of distress both in Ireland and the Highlands; the first and imperative thing is to relieve it. But it will be necessary to press, in the next place, on the government and the public, that the fault lies deeper than in the season. The races of Ireland and the Highlands are akin, and their treatment has been akin. There is something wrong in the tenure of land, in the treatment of the population by the landholders, which will want well investigating, and some grand and lasting remedy applying, if, with every inauspicious season, we do not mean to expose so large a mass of our fellow-men to the like evils.

In early numbers of the Journal we intend to draw attention to this important question, as well as to the treatment of the poor in our workhouses.

Mr. Dempster, the American vocalist.—The United States of America continue to send us over not only cotton and flour, but rich contributions to our means of entertainment. There is something in the character of these contributions that is extremely gratifying;—a native simplicity, a spirit of pure intellect and poetry, which come like a breeze from a transatlantic forest, like a sudden view of a far-western champaign, or the rolling strength of one of their great rivers. There are those who go to witness the power and passion of Miss Cushman, who complain that she has not softness and finish enough for them; there are those who listened to the Hutchinsons who exclaimed, "Oh, there is no science there!" there will be those who will go to listen to Mr. Dempster, who will make the wonderful discovery that he is not Tamburini, or Lablache. We should be sorry to find that Miss Cushman, or the Hutchinsons, or Mr. Dempster, were anything but what they are. They are representatives of the best portion of American artists. They make no pretensions to the superb accomplishment of Europe; they do not carry coals to Newcastle all the way from the Alleghanies; they do not bring the finest quavers from Alabama, or the most long-drawn or high-soaring flights of song from Buffalo. They know better. They bring us that which we need, and not that which we do not need,—soul, and thought, and simple truth, and a sentiment deep and pure as the springs of their forest hills. We have heard a great deal from our travellers of the conceit, and the 'cute impertinence of Americans; how delightful is it then to find in all the parties just named the very opposite of those qualities. To find, as we do, such true simplicity, such genuine worth, and so natural a possession of the noblest poetic temperament. In them we discover the total absence of that worldly knowingness which so much repels us in actors and singers who have lived too much amongst the crowds and the lamp smoke of London. There is a delightful freshness about them; a love of the beautiful and the noble, which gives a charm to their acting or their

singing, which we fail to feel in many others of far higher pretension. We are becoming fastidious towards art without sentiment; we long for the earnest expression of the true, the beautiful, and the tender; and seem it a singular assertion, as it may, we can perceive already, that the entertainments of Mr. Dempster will be marked by the presence of that portion of the public who possess a high and pure taste, rather than by that of the ordinary worshippers of the names in vogue. We have had the pleasure to be present at the two concerts already given by him at the Princess's Concert Room, and his second was not only extremely well attended, but by an audience which showed a true and rapturous appreciation of the beauty and the soul of the performance. The music is wholly of Mr. Dempster's composition; the "May Queen," by Alfred Tennyson, and others sung by the Hutchinsons, being from his hand. Amongst his most beautiful songs, we would mention the "Indian's Lament," the words by Eliza Cook; "John Anderson my Jo;" the "Blind Boy;" and Tennyson's "May Queen," a splendid cantata in three parts. We have also had the pleasure of hearing in private the "Dying Child," one of Mrs. Howitt's "Lyrics of Life," to which he has composed one of the most thrilling, and we will venture to say, sublime melodies which we ever heard. We foresee for Mr. Dempster a great popularity with the true lovers of genuine music.

The Editors are happy to announce that they have secured the able assistance of the following eminent writers:—

HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN, (<i>Copenhagen.</i>)	DR. HODGSON, (<i>Liverpool.</i>)
PHILIP BAILEY, (<i>Author of Festus.</i>)	R. H. HORNE.
GOODWYN BARMBY.	RICHARD HOWITT.
MISS BREMER, (<i>Stockholm.</i>)	LEIGH HUNT.
DR. BOWRING.	DOUGLAS JERROLD.
MRS. CHILD, (<i>New York.</i>)	MRS. LEE, (<i>Boston, U. S.</i>)
HENRY F. CHORLEY.	J. R. LOWELL, (<i>America.</i>)
THOMAS COOPER.	MISS MITFORD.
BARRY CORNWALL.	MISS PARDOE.
EBENEZER ELLIOT.	ABEL PAYNTER.
W. J. FOX.	SILVERPEN, (<i>of Jerrold's Magazine.</i>)
FRANKLIN FOX.	DR. SMILES, (<i>Leeds.</i>)
FERDINAND FREILINGRATH.	DR. SOUTHWOOD SMITH.
WILLIAM L. GARRISON.	ALARIC A. WATTS.
MARY GILLIES.	WHITTIER, (<i>The American Poet.</i>)

William Howitt will shortly commence in this Journal Articles of great social importance, such as his Letters on Labour. Amongst the earliest of these will be LETTERS TO THE MERCHANTS AND MECHANICS OF ENGLAND ON THE REAL IMPORTANCE OF INDIA TO THIS COUNTRY.

Contents.

Wm. and Mary Howitt's Address to their Friends and Readers	1
An Address to the Working Classes of the United Kingdom on their duty in the present state of the Sanatory Question. By Dr. Southwood Smith.....	3
Life's Contrasts; or, New Year's Eve. By Silverpen.....	4
LITERARY NOTICES:—	
Lucretia; or the Children of Night. By Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton.....	7
An Encyclopaedia of Facts, Anecdotes, Arguments, and Illustrations, in support of the principles of Universal Peace. By Edwin Paxton Hood.....	7
Hans Christian Andersen's Boots. Translated by Mary Howitt	8
The Month in Prospect—January. By William Howitt.....	9
Peter Winch: the Man who always had a Penny. By R. H. Horne	10
Penny Wisdom. By a Man of no Party. New Series. No. 1.	11
Fire-side Chit-chat.....	12
POETRY:—	
Genius. By the Author of "Orion".....	14
Winter Time is coming on. By Goodwyn Barmby.....	14
Lyrics of Life. By Mary Howitt. New Series. No. 1—The Children.....	14
The WEEKLY RECORD of Facts and Opinions connected with General Interest and Popular Progress.....	1

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