

REVIEW OF NEW BOOKS.

Narrative of the Surveying Voyages of H.M.S. Adventure and Beagle, between the years 1826 and 1836, describing their Examination of the Southern Shores of South America, and the Beagle's Circumnavigation of the Globe. 3 vols. 8vo. London, 1838. Colburn.

Appendix to Vol. II. Pp. 352. Idem.

THE value of this work, in reference to navigation, geography, and to science generally, can hardly be over-rated: in reference to its reviewer, its complexion is almost the reverse. The Journal form in which the proceedings of vessels are noted, is the most untoward that could be presented for analysis or condensation. Its very prolixity, so necessary to its accuracy and utility, is a sore trial to the person who wants to extract the honey or marrow from the mass of other matter; and leave the comb or bone in their natural state. The disposition of these volumes, too, adds to our difficulties, for the first contains Captain King's proceedings in the first expedition, 1826 to 1830; the second, Captain Fitzroy's journal for 1831 to 1836; the third, Mr. Darwin's journal and remarks during the same period; and the Appendix references to the whole, though principally to the second volume.* Out of this very distinctness there is something to confuse us; and we find it no easy task to separate the parts even for such notice as our limited space permits. We shall, however, here, and for the present, confine ourselves to Captain King; and even in this we are obliged to offer only a few extracts touching the natives, as the nautical remarks, and the accounts of the hardships endured by our gallant countrymen, are altogether unsusceptible of illustration within our limits.

Of the Patagonians we are told:—"They were all wrapped in mantles, made chiefly of the skins of guanacoës, sewed together with the sinews of the same animal. These mantles were large enough to cover the whole body. Some were made of skins of the 'zorillo,' or skunk, an animal like a pole-cat, but ten times more offensive; and others, of skins of the puma. The tallest of the Indians, excepting the old man, who did not dismount, was rather less than six feet in height. All were robust in appearance, and, with respect to the head, length of body, and breadth of shoulders, of gigantic size; therefore, when on horseback, or seated in a boat, they appeared to be tall, as well as large men. In proportion to the parts above-mentioned, their extremities were very small and short, so that when standing they seemed but of a moderate size, and their want of proportion was concealed by the mantle, which enveloped the body entirely, the head and feet being the only parts exposed. When Mr. Cooke landed, he presented some medals to the oldest man, and the woman; and suspended them round their necks. A friendly feeling being established, the natives dismounted, and even permitted our men to ride their horses, without evincing the least displeasure at the free advantage taken of their good-nature."

At an after period:—"The Patagonian wo-

* A quarto Zoological Supplement is also announced; and also a volume of geological observations.

men are treated far more kindly by their husbands than the Fuegian; who are little better than slaves, subject to be beaten, and obliged to perform all the laborious offices of the family. The Patagonian females sit at home, grinding paint, drying and stretching skins, making and painting mantles. In travelling, however, they have the baggage and provisions in their charge, and, of course, their children. These women probably have employments of a more laborious nature than what we saw; but they cannot be compared with those of the Fuegians, who, excepting in the fight and chase, do every thing. They paddle the canoes, dive for shells and sea-eggs, build their wigwams, and keep up the fire; and if they neglect any of these duties, or incur the displeasure of their husbands in any way, they are struck or kicked most severely. Byron, in his narrative of the loss of the *Wager*, describes the brutal conduct of one of these Indians, who actually killed his child for a most trifling offence. The Patagonians are devotedly attached to their offspring. In infancy they are carried behind the saddle of the mother, within a sort of cradle, in which they are securely fixed. The cradle is made of wicker-work, about four feet long and one foot wide, roofed over with twigs, like the frame of a tilted wagon. The child is swaddled up in skins, with the fur inwards or outwards, according to the weather. At night, or when it rains, the cradle is covered with a skin that effectually keeps out the cold or rain. Seeing one of these cradles near a woman, I began to make a sketch of it, upon which the mother called the father, who watched me most attentively, and held the cradle in the position which I considered most advantageous for my sketch. The completion of the drawing gave them both great pleasure, and during the afternoon the father reminded me repeatedly of having painted his child ('pintado su hijo'). One circumstance deserves to be noticed, as a proof of their good feeling towards us. It will be recollected that three Indians, of the party with whom we first communicated, accompanied us as far as Cape Negro, where they landed. Upon our arrival on this occasion, I was met, on landing, by one of them, who asked for my son, to whom they had taken a great fancy. Upon my saying he was on board, the native presented me with a bunch of nine ostrich feathers, and then gave a similar present to every one in the boat. He still carried a large quantity under his arm, tied up in bunches, containing nine feathers in each; and soon afterwards, when a boat from the *Beagle* landed with Captain Stokes and others, he went to meet them; but finding strangers, he withdrew without making them any present. In the evening my son landed, when the same Indian came down to meet him, appeared delighted to see him, and presented him with a bunch of feathers, of the same size as those which he had distributed in the morning. At this, our second visit, there were about fifty Patagonian men assembled, not one of whom looked more than fifty-five years of age. They were generally between five feet ten and six feet in height: one man only exceeded six feet—whose dimensions, measured by Captain Stokes, were as follows:—

	Ft. In.
Height	6 13
Round the chest	4 14
Ditto loins	3 43

I had before remarked the disproportionate largeness of head and length of body of these people, as compared with the diminutive size of their extremities; and, on this visit, my opinion was further confirmed, for such appeared to be the general character of the whole tribe; and to this, perhaps, may be attributed the mistakes of some former navigators."

Of the inferior race of Fuegians we learn:—"Upon Point St. Mary we noticed, for the first time, three or four huts or wigwams made by the Fuegian Indians, which had been deserted. They were not old, and merely required a slight covering of branches or skins to make them habitable. These wigwams are thus constructed: long slender branches, pointed at the end, are stuck into the ground in a circular or oval figure; their extremities are bent over, so as to form a rounded roof, and secured with ligatures of rush; leaving two apertures, one towards the sea, and the other towards the woods. The fire is made in the middle, and half fills the hut with smoke. There were no Indians in the bay when we arrived, but, on the following evening, Lieut. Sholl, in walking towards the south end of the bay, suddenly found himself close to a party which had just arrived in two canoes from the southward. Approaching them, he found there were nine individuals—three men, and the remainder women and children. One of the women was very old, and so infirm as to require to be lifted out of the canoe and carried to the fire. They seemed to have no weapons of any consequence; but, from our subsequent knowledge of their habits and disposition, the probability is they had spears, bows, and arrows concealed close at hand. The only implement found amongst them was a sort of hatchet or knife, made of a crooked piece of wood, with part of an iron hoop tied to the end. The men were very slightly clothed, having only the back protected by a seal's skin; but the females wore large guanaco mantles, like those of the Patagonian Indians, whom our pilot told us they occasionally met for the purposes of barter. Some of the party were devouring seal's flesh, and drinking the oil extracted from its blubber, which they carried in bladders. The meat they were eating was probably part of a sea lion (*Phoca jubata*); for Mr. Sholl found amongst them a portion of the neck of one of those animals, which is remarkable for the long hair, 'like a lion's mane,' growing upon it. They appeared to be a most miserable, squalid race, very inferior, in every respect, to the Patagonians. They did not evince the least uneasiness at Mr. Sholl's presence, or at our ships being close to them; neither did they interfere with him, but remained squatting round their fire while he stayed near. This seeming indifference, and total want of curiosity, gave us no favourable opinion of their character as intellectual beings; indeed, they appeared to be very little removed from brutes; but our subsequent knowledge of them has convinced us that they are not usually deficient in intellect. This party was perhaps stupefied by the unusual

size of our ships, for the vessels which frequent this strait are seldom one hundred tons in burden."

At another point where the vessels touched, "They conducted themselves very quietly during their stay on board, with the exception of one, who tried to pick my pocket of a handkerchief. The offender was ordered out of the vessel, and there was no further attempt to pilfer. They wished to go below; but this was not permitted, because the odour of their oily persons was scarcely tolerable, even in the open air. As to food, tallow candles, biscuit, beef, plum-pudding, were equally liked, and swallowed most voraciously. One of them was discovered taking the tallow out of the deep seal and eating it, although mixed with sand and dirt. Before sunset, their canoes were despatched on shore to prepare the wigwams, during which operation three of the men remained on board; and as soon as the preparations were made, they called for a canoe, and went on shore. We obtained several spears, baskets, necklaces, bows and arrows from them in barter; but they seemed to have very few skins. Perhaps those they possessed were hidden in the bushes, because they had no wish to part with them. One woman was covered with a guanaco mantle; another merely wore a seal-skin over her back and shoulders, which, while she crouched in the canoe, was sufficient to cover her person. One had a black stripe down the nose, but she was the only female among them who was so painted. Next morning the Indians visited us with a fresh assortment of bows and arrows, in the manufacture of which they had evidently passed the night, for every one was quite new; the bows were of green wood, and the arrows not even pointed. They found, however, a ready sale. One of the party was a man who had been turned out of our vessel the preceding evening, for picking my pocket; but he was daubed over with a whitish pigment to deceive us, and would probably have escaped detection, but for the unusual ugliness of his person, which was not so easily disguised. He was much disconcerted by our recognition; and our refusal to barter with him made him angry and sullen. The women had daubed their faces all over with bright red ochre,—to add to their beauty, no doubt."

A very odd story is related of a sort of Christianity found among the Patagonians, and especially preserved by a person called Maria, who seemed to have some station among them, though a native of another part of the South American continent.

"At Maria's return with a very small quantity of guanaco meat, her husband told her that I had been very inquisitive about a red baize bundle, which he told me contained 'Cristo;' upon which she said to me, 'Quiere mirar mi Cristo?' (Do you wish to see my Christ?) and then, upon my nodding assent, called around her a number of the tribe, who immediately obeyed her summons. Many of the women, however, remained to take care of their valuables. A ceremony then took place. Maria, who, by the lead she took in the proceedings, appeared to be high-priestess as well as cacique of the tribe, began by pulverising some whitish earth in the hollow of her hand, and then taking a mouthful of water, spit from time to time upon it, until she had formed a sort of pigment, which she distributed to the rest, reserving only sufficient to mark her face, eyelids, arms, and hair, with the figure of the cross. The manner in which this was done was peculiar. After rubbing the paint in her left hand smooth with

the palm of the right, she scored marks across the paint, and again others at right angles, leaving the impression of as many crosses, which she stamped upon different parts of her body, rubbing the paint, and marking the crosses afresh, after every stamp was made. The men, after having marked themselves in a similar manner (to do which some stripped to the waist, and covered all their body with impressions), proceeded to do the same to the boys, who were not permitted to perform this part of the ceremony themselves. Manuel, Maria's husband, who seemed to be her chief assistant on the occasion, then took from the folds of the sacred wrapper an awl, and with it pierced either the arms or ears of all the party; each of whom presented in turn, pinched up between the finger and thumb, that portion of flesh which was to be perforated. The object evidently was to lose blood, and those from whom the blood flowed freely shewed marks of satisfaction, while some whose wounds bled but little, underwent the operation a second time. When Manuel had finished, he gave the awl to Maria, who pierced his arm, and then, with great solemnity and care, muttering and talking to herself in Spanish (not two words of which could I catch, although I knelt down close to her, and listened with the greatest attention), she removed two or three wrappers, and exposed to our view a small figure, carved in wood, representing a dead person, stretched out. After exposing the image, to which all paid the greatest attention, and contemplating it for some moments in silence, Maria began to descant upon the virtues of her Christ, telling us it had a good heart ('buen corazon'), and that it was very fond of tobacco. 'Mucho quiere mi Cristo tabaco, da me mas,' (My Christ loves tobacco very much, give me some). Such an appeal, on such an occasion, I could not refuse; and after agreeing with her in praise of the figure, I said I would send on board for some. Having gained her point, she began to talk to herself for some minutes, during which she looked up, after repeating the words, 'Muy bueno es mi Cristo, muy bueno corazon tiene, and slowly and solemnly packed up the figure, depositing it in the place whence it had been taken. This ceremony ended, the traffic, which had been suspended, recommenced with redoubled activity. According to my promise, I sent on board for some tobacco, and my servant brought a larger quantity than I thought necessary for the occasion, which he injudiciously exposed to view. Maria, having seen the treasure, made up her mind to have the whole, and upon my selecting three or four pounds of it, and presenting them to her, looked very much disappointed, and grumbled forth her discontent: I taxed her with greediness, and spoke rather sharply, which had a good effect, for she went away and returned with a guanaco mantle, which she presented to me. During this day's barter, we procured guanaco meat, sufficient for two days' supply of all hands, for a few pounds of tobacco. It had been killed in the morning, and was brought on horseback, cut up into large pieces, for each of which we had to bargain. Directly an animal is killed, it is skinned and cut up, or torn asunder, for the convenience of carrying. The operation is done in haste, and therefore the meat looks bad; but it is well-tasted, excellent food: and, although never fat, yields abundance of gravy, which compensates for its leanness. It improves very much by keeping, and proved to be valuable and wholesome meat."

The supplies are indeed not so high-priced as

they would be in Smithfield or Leadenhall market.

"The Adelaide (sent to purchase provisions) brought sixteen hundred pounds of meat, which, with what was first obtained, amounted to four thousand pounds weight; and cost altogether ten pounds of tobacco, forty biscuits, and six pocket-knives. At first, a biscuit was considered equivalent to forty or fifty pounds of meat; but as the demand increased, the price rose four or five hundred per cent. With the Patagonians were two of Mr. Low's crew, who had left him. They were Portuguese, in a miserable state, and appeared to be thoroughly ashamed of being the companions of such a dirty set; they could not speak English, and could give us very little information. They had not then assumed the Indian garb, although, from the state of their clothes, they would very soon be obliged to adopt it. At Pecket's Harbour, a few words of the native language were collected, which are very different from those given by Falkner, in his description of the Patagonian natives: he says himself, that the language of the northern Indians differs materially from that of the 'Yacana Cunnees.'"

And here we must conclude.

The Works of Mrs. Hemans, with a Memoir of her Life. By her Sister. Vol. I. 12mo. pp. 352. Edinburgh, 1839. Blackwood and Co. London, Cadell.

HALF a century ago, and our poetry was in a sad state. It had the true *facies Hippocratica*, was round in the belly, and had spindle-shanks; but, thanks to common sense and the Muses, a day of renovated health was at hand, and, instead of looking like Bath or Cheltenham, our bards returned to the true Hippocrene: Shakspeare, Milton, and Spenser were once more acknowledged to be the heads of the faculty, and Drs. Darwin, Hayley, and Pratt were left without a patient.

But if, during the last thirty or forty years, man has done much, "in his degree," to dignify and adorn the literature of England, woman has done not less in hers; and between the two a prodigal harvest has been set before the public. Nor have these labourers encroached upon each other. Each sex has its fields of particular action; and, with general bonds of analogy, the products have their distinctive features. If Scott has depicted the many-coloured shows of human life, so has Maria Edgeworth; and if Byron has dissected down to the moving springs of the throbbing heart, so has Joanna Baillie, and with a hand scarcely less skilful. L. E. L. (for we wish to remember her by no other appellation) threw the mantle of imagination over the aspects of common life, with an adroitness equal to that with which Wilson has re-peopled Fairy-land; while, on the other hand, Mary Mitford has painted from observation with the truth and Flemish precision of a Crabbe. There may be greater force in Southey, and greater depth in Wordsworth; but who can deny that Caroline Bowles and Mary Howitt "hold up the mirror to Nature," and shew us her reflected features, in a light that never "o'ersteps her modesty?" We need cull no further from this posy of fair names, since illustrations are as "thick as blackberries."

It is with Felicia Hemans that we have at present to do, and with her alone. So, in a few brief sentences, we shall say our say regarding her genius, and the additions she has made to the stores of our national literature.

One great excellence then of the genius of