

MISCELLANY.

WASHING DAY.

BY MRS. BARBAUD.

The Muses are turned gossips; they have lost
The buskin'd step, and clear high sounding
phrase,

Language of gods. Come then, domestic
Muse,

In slipp'd measure loosely Prattling on,
Off farm or orchard, pleasant curds and cream,
Of drowning flies, or shoe lost in the wire
By little whimpering boy, with rufel face;

Come, Muse, and sing the dreaded Washing
Day.

Ye who beneath the yoke of wedlock bend,
With bowed soul full well ye ken the day,
Which week, smooth sliding after week brings
on

Too soon;—for to that day, nor peace belongs,
Nor comfort;—ere the first gray streak of dawn,
The red arm'd washers come, and chase re-
pose.

No pleasant smile, or quaint device of mirth
Ever visited that day: the very cat,
From the wet kitchen, seared and reeking
hearth,

Visits the parlor, an unwanted guest.

The silent breakfast meal is soon despatched
Uninterrupted, save by anxious looks

Cast at the lowering sky, if sky should lower,
From that last evil, oh preserve us heavens!

For should the skies pour down, adieu to all

Remains of quiet; then expect to hear

Of sad disasters,—dirt and gravel stains

Hard to efface, and loaded lines at once

Snapt short,—and linen horse by dog thrown
down,

And all the petty miseries of life.

Saints have been calm while stretched upon
the rack,

And Gautemozin smiled on burning coals;

But never yet did housewife notable,

Greet with smile a rainy washing day.

But grant the welkin fair, require not thou

Who call'st thyself perchance the master there,
Or study sweep, or nicely dusted coat,

Or usual tendance: ask not indiscreet,

Thy stockings mended, though the yawning
rents

Gape wide as Erebus; nor hope to find

Some snug recess impervious; shouldst thou
try

The 'customed garden walks, thine eye shall
rue

The budding fragrance of thy tender shrubs
Myrtle or rose, all crushed beneath the weight
Of coarse checked apron,—with impatient
hand

Twiched off when showers impend; or cross-
ing lines

Shall mar thy musings, as the cold wet sheet
Flaps in thy face abrupt. Woe to the friend

Whose evil stars have urged him forth to
claim

On such a day the hospitable rites!

Looks, blank at best, and stunted courtesy,

Shall he receive. Vainly he feeds his hopes
With dinner of roast chicken, savory pie,

Or tart or pudding: pudding he nor tart

That day shall eat; nor though the husband
try

Mending what can't be helped, to kindle mirth
From cheer deficient, shall his consort's brow

Clear up propitious;—the unlucky guest

In silence dines and early sinks away.

I will remember, when child, the awe

This day struck into me; for then the maids,

I scarce knew why, looked cross and drove me
from them.

Not soft caress could I obtain, nor hope

Usual indulgences, jelly or creams,

Relic of costly suppers, and set by

For me their petted one; or buttered toast,

When butter was forbid; or thrilling tale

Of ghost, or witch, or murder—so I went

And sheltered me beside the parlor fire;

There my dear grandmother, eldest of forms,
Tended the little ones, and watched from harm,

Anxiously fond, though oft her spectacles

With elfin cunning hid, and oft the pins

Drawn from her ravelled stocking, might have
soured

One less indulgent.—

At intervals my mother's voice was heard,

Urging despatch; briskly the work went on,

All hands employed to wash, to rinse, to wring,

To fold, to starch, and clap, and iron, and plain,

Then would I set me down and ponder much

Why washings were. Sometimes through hol-
low bowl

Of pipe, amused, we blew and sent aloft

The floating bubbles; little dreaming then
To see, Mongolier, thy silken bale

Ride buoyant through the clouds—so near ap-
proach

The sports of children and the toils of men.

Earth, air and ocean bathes bubbles,

And verse is one of them—this mest of all.

John Gunn.—The Highlanders, with the in-
consistency of most nations in the same state,

(says Sir Walter Scott,) were alternately capa-
ble of great exertion of generosity, and of cruel

revenge and perfidy. The following story

I can only quote from tradition, but with such
an assurance from those by whom it was com-
municated, as permits me little doubt of its

authenticity. Early in the last century, John

Gunn, a noted Cataran, or Highland robber, in-
fested Inverness shire, and levied black-mail

up to the walls of the provincial capital. A
garrison was then maintained in the castle of

that town, and their pay (country banks be-
ing unknown) was usually transmitted in specie,

under the guard of a small escort. It chanced

that the officer who commanded this little
party was unexpectedly obliged to halt, about

thirty miles from Inverness, at a miserable

inn. About night-fall, a stranger in the High-
land dress, and of very prepossessing appear-
ance, entered the same house. Separate accom-
modation being impossible, the Englishman

offered the newly arrived guest a part of his
supper, which was accepted with reluctance.

By the conversation he found that his new ac-
quaintance knew well all the passes of the

country, which induced him eagerly to request

his company on the ensuing morning. He nei-
ther disguised his business and charge, nor his

apprehensions of that celebrated freebooter,
John Gunn. The Highlander hesitated a
moment, and then frankly consented to be
his guide. Forth they set in the morning;
and in travelling through a solitary and dreary
glen, the discourse again turned on John Gunn
"Would you like to see him?" said the guide,
and, without waiting an answer, he whistled,
and the English officer, with his small party,
were surrounded by a body of Highlanders
whose number put resistance out of the ques-
tion, and who were all well armed. "Stranger,"
resumed the guide, "I am that John Gunn by
whom you feared to be intercepted, and not
without cause; for I came to the inn last night
with the express purpose of learning your
route, that I and my followers might ease you
of your charge by the road. But I am incapable
of betraying the trust you reposed in me, and
having convinced you that you were in
my power, I can only dismiss you unplundered
and uninjured." He then gave the officer direc-
tions for his journey, and disappeared with
his party, as suddenly as they had presented
themselves.

From the *German*.—An emperor's daughter,
who was delighted with the profound learning,
the lively wit, and the strict adherence to the
precepts of morality and religion, which char-
acterized her tutor, one day, inadvertently,
made this remark to him—"With a pity that
so fine a soul as yours is not in a more agreeable
body!" He made, in reply, the following
inquiry. "In what sort of vessels, madam, is
your father's wine preserved?" "In earthen
vessels," was the answer. "Can that be pos-
sible?" replied he: "Why every citizen pre-
serves his wine in earthen vessels; I should
have thought that gold or silver ones would
have been more suitable to the dignity of an
emperor?" "You are right!" exclaimed the
princess, "and henceforth this mark of respect
shall not be omitted." In a few days, however,
she again accosted her tutor on this subject,
saying, "In the gaudy vessels you recom-
mended, my father's wine was spoiled; the spirit
evaporated; while that wine which was placed
in earthen ones, improved in quality." "Very
possible!" rejoined the philosopher. "So also
with virtue and knowledge, the more humble
the exterior of that in which they are contained,
the more luxuriantly will they flourish,
and the more forcible excite our admiration."

From the *German*.—An order *verbatur et legeratur* from
a lieutenant of a militia company in this
state, to his Serj, dated April 21st, 1826.
It may be considered as paramount to Jo
Strickland's letter to his "glorious uncle
Ben."—*Woodstock Observer*.

Stat of vermont and winsor kounty st
too c—h—Surgunt Grewting—by
the awthority of theee stat of vermont,
u are hereby komandid to worn all the
solgers whos Name Air Hereafter men-
chund too appear to John inns inn—

On the 5th da at wun Ak Klok in the
in the Aftur Noon to chuse A Kaptin and
full other vacanties az thee lau direkts—
withe armes and akkwipments till furder
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