

IMPERIAL REVELS.

("Courtisans! attablés dans le splendide orgie.")

[Bk. I. x., Jersey, December, 1852.]

Cheer, courtiers! round the banquet spread--
The board that groans with shame and plate,
Still fawning to the sham-crowned head
That hopes front brazen turneth fate!
Drink till the comer last is full,
And never hear in revels' lull,
Grim Vengeance forging arrows fleet,
 Whilst I gnaw at the crust
 Of Exile in the dust--
But Honor makes it sweet!

Ye cheaters in the tricksters' fane,
 Who dupe yourself and trickster-chief,
In blazing cafés spend the gain,
 But draw the blind, lest at his thief
Some fresh-made beggar gives a glance
And interrupts with steel the dance!
But let him toilsomely tramp by,
 As I myself afar

Follow no gilded car
In ways of Honesty.

Ye troopers who shot mothers down,
And marshals whose brave cannonade
Broke infant arms and split the stone
Where slumbered age and guileless maid--
Though blood is in the cup you fill,
Pretend it "rosy" wine, and still
Hail Cannon "King!" and Steel the "Queen!"
But I prefer to sup
From Philip Sidney's cup--
True soldier's draught serene.

Oh, workmen, seen by me sublime,
When from the tyrant wrenched ye peace,
Can you be dazed by tinselled crime,
And spy no wolf beneath the fleece?
Build palaces where Fortunes feast,
And bear your loads like well-trained beast,
Though once such masters you made flee!
But then, like me, you ate
Food of a blessed fête--
The bread of Liberty!

H.L.W.

POOR LITTLE CHILDREN.

("La femelle! elle est morte.")

[Bk. I. xiii., Jersey, February, 1853.]

Mother birdie stiff and cold,

Puss has hushed the other's singing;

Winds go whistling o'er the wold,--

Empty nest in sport a-flinging.

Poor little birdies!

Faithless shepherd strayed afar,

Playful dog the gadflies catching;

Wolves bound boldly o'er the bar,

Not a friend the fold is watching--

Poor little lambkins!

Father into prison fell,

Mother begging through the parish;

Baby's cot they, too, will sell,--

Who will now feed, clothe and cherish?

Poor little children!