THE AMERICAN UNION

A Weekly Newspaper of Current News, Literature, Poetry, Agriculture and Local Affairs.

VOL. XI. DENTON, MD., THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 1871. NO. 36.

PRATT LIBRARY BALTO. ENOCH FREE

Sunbeams.

My lady's eyes, my lady's eyes,
How fair they be!
Fairer than heaven's azure dome
To me, to me!

Wherein their magic power lies
I cannot tell;
But this I know, they hold me bound
As by a spell.

When upward raised, they're like the sun
At break of day,
Whose glorious light doth scatter all
Dark clouds away.

But when the lids these radiant orbs
A little hide,
No western sky is half so soft
At eventide.

No mortal then so blessed as I,
Since I can trace
Two suns that shine within my heaven—
My lady's face.

Therefore that I with constant gaze
Their light may see,
Lady, dear lady, deign to give
Thyself to me.

The Old Chimney-Place.

A stack of stones, a dingy wall,
O'er which the brambles cling and creep,
A path on which no shadows fall,
A doors-tep where long dock-leaves sleep,
A broken rafter in the grass,
A sunken hearth-stone, stained and cold,
Naught left but these, fair home alas!
And the dear memories of old.

Around this hearth, this sacred place,
All humble household virtues grew,—
The grandsire's love, the maiden's grace,
The matron's instincts deep and true,
Here first sweet words were lisped; here broke
Life's morning dream, and yet more dear,
The love that life's best impulse woke,
Grew warmer, gentler, year by year.

How cheerful, while the storm without
Muffled the earth and iced the night,
The ruddy glow gushed laughing out
On merry groups and faces bright;
How chimed the crackling, freakish flame,
With rosy mirth or thoughtful ease,
Or, may be, syllabled the name,
Of one rocked o'er the shivering seas.

What fairer scenes, what golden lands,
What pageants of romantic pride,
In the weird deep of glowing brands
Saw the fair boy, the dreamy-eyed,
Till, musing here, his spirit drew
Strong inspiration, and his years,
By Beauty's subtle nurture, knew
The paths of Nature's inner spheres.

Here as the swooning embers sent
A faint flush through the quiet gloom,
In the warm hush have the lovers blent
The fragrance of their heart's fresh bloom;
And, veiling in soft drooping eyes
Her tremulous joy, here blushed the bride;
Here, o'er pale forms in funeral guise,
Farewells from broken hearts were sighed.

This spot the pilgrim, 'neath strange skies,
Saw in his way-side dream; here stood
Old friends with gladness in their eyes;
Here grew the beautiful and good—
Sweet friendships—faith serene and sure—
Manhood's strong purpose, warm and bold—
Courage to labor and endure,
And housenold feelings never cold.

Here, leaning in the twilight dim,
All round me seems a haunted air;
I hear the old familiar hymn,
My heart goes upward in the prayer
That made the night so full of peace;
Kind lips are on my brow—my ear
Hums with sweet sounds—they faint—they cease,
And night o'er all broods calm and clear.

JOHN CUTTS' SECRET.

"Is Mr. Cutts in?" asked a gentleman who having knocked at a door, was saluted by a woman from an upper window with, "Well, what's wantin' naow?"

"Is Mr. Cutts in?"

"Yes, he's in or about somewhere, I suppose," she replied; "but I'm Mr. Cutts where any business is to be done. He's Mr. Cutts eatin' and drinkin' and sleepin' sometimes."

"Well, my good woman," said the gentleman, "I think he will be Mr. Cutts for my business, too. I wish to see him."

"What do you want of him?" asked the shrew, thrusting her head still further out of the window.

"To do something for me. But I must see him," was the reply.

"Is it real business, for pay, or only a favor you want? I can let your hoss have a peck of oats, or I can direct you to the shortest road to the Four Corners, or I can—I can—why—I can do anything for you that he could, and a good deal more! I can take the money, and rite the receipts, and pay the men, and I take care of the produce! I'm as good a judge of stock as he is, and I can't be beat on horseflesh."

"But," said the gentleman, drawing down his face solemnly, "you can't take his place now. Find him for me at once.

The shrew was baffled. "Look-a-here, mister, maybe you do not know the circumstances of this case. This here farm is mine, and it was my father's afore me; and Cutts, he haint no more claim to it than that hen down there has. And, besides, I'm seven years older than he is, a foot higher, and weigh twenty pounds more! What's your business on my place, if I may make so bold?"

"To see and talk with your husband," replied the gentleman, getting out of his chaise and hitching his horse to a post, as if he meant to stay until he did see him.

"Be you a doctor? Cause there ain't a living thing the matter with Cutts. He's the wellest man in town, and so be I," said this woman for the times.

"No, my good woman, I'm not a doctor. Do you think your husband will be in soon? Send that boy to find him," said the stranger.

The boy looked up in his mother's face—but he knew his own interests too well to start without orders.

"Then you're a minister, I suppose, by your black coat. I may as well tell you and save your time, that we don't go to meeting, and don't want to. It ain't no use for you to leave no tracts for nothing—for I've got a big dairy and hain't no time to idle away readin', and I keep him about so early and late, that when he's done work he's glad to go to bed and rest."

"I'm no minister, madam; I wish I was though, for your sake," said the gentleman.

"Look here, mister," now appearing at the door, and looking defiantly at him, "you're a schoolmaster huntin' up a district school; and you think he's a committee-man; but he ain't this year."

"Send for your husband; I cannot wait much longer. I must see him at once."

The boy started to his feet again, and looked in his mother's eye; but she gave

[illegible] orders.

[illegible] neighbors called

"See here, now, mister," she said, "I can read a man right through, and I knew what you was the blessed minute I clapped my eyes on you. I can tell by your everlastin' arguin' that you are a lawyer. We hain't got no quarrels; don't want no deeds drawed or wills made, so if you're huntin' a job of my husband, you may as well onhitch your horse and drive on. We know enough to make a little money, and I know enough to hold on to it."

"My good woman you entirely misunderstand my errand. I can tell no person but himself what it is, and must tell him in confidence and alone. If he chooses he can break it to you the best way he can."

"O, my goodness sake alive! Brother Lif's blowed up in the Mississippi boat, I bet! O, la me, the poor fellow. He left a little something, didn't he?

"I never heard of him, and nobody's 'blowed up,' that I know of," replied the gentleman.

"O—now I know! You're the man what wants to go to Congress, and have come here huntin' after votes. He shall not vote for you! I hate politicians, especially them that goes agin women, and thinks they were made to drudge and nothin' else! I go in for free and equal rights for white folks—men and women—for Scripture says, 'there isn't neither man or woman, but all's one in politics.' I believe the day is comin' when such as you and me will have to bow the knee to woman, afore you can get the big place and high pay that's a eatin' us up with taxes! You can't see my husband! We are goin' to the polls on the way to the mill, and I'll promise you that he votes right."

"I'm no candidate, and I don't know what you are talking about. Ah! there comes the man I want." And the stranger went toward Mr. Cutts, who had just leaped a pair of bars which led from the potato patch into the lane.

Mrs. Cutts flew into the house for her sun-bonnet to follow them; but by the time she got to the bars her mysterious visitor and Cutts were driving rapidly down the road.

The strong-minded woman shouted after her husband, "You'd better come back, I tell you!" but the wind was the wrong way, and carried the words into the potato patch.

"Sir," said the gentleman to honest Cutts, "I have a very simple question to ask you, but I shall have to ask you in confidence. I will give you five dollars if you will promise not to repeat my words until to-morrow."

"Well, sir," replied Cutts, "I shouldn't like to answer any questions that would make trouble among my neighbors. I have my hands full, I can tell you, to keep out of scrapes now; but I've done it, and haint an enemy in the world, as I know."

"But, sir, you needn't reply to my question unless you are perfectly willing," said the stranger.

"Ask your question," said Cutts, "and I will not repeat it."

"Well, Mr. Cutts, I am laying fence on the Brisley place, that I have just bought, and I was directed to enquire of you where I could buy cedar posts. A fellow in the store said, 'Cutts can tell you, if his wife will let him; but she won't. She'll insist on telling you herself—and perhaps offer to drive you wherever you go to order them.'"

"I told them I would see you and ask you only; and the fellows bet on it. They are to give you ten dollars, and to two or three widows in the town a cord of wood each, if I succeed in asking you this question alone, and making sure your wife does not know my business until after breakfast to-morrow morning."

Cutts knew his wife's standing too well to feel very sensitive—and taking the bill from the stranger, he smiled and said:

"I'll go with you to look out cedar posts, and keep dark, for the joke's sake; but I don't know as she'll let me stay in the house to-night; I don't own it," replied the good-natured Cutts.

"Suppose you go to the place and see to setting the posts. I will send a boy to tell her you had to go off suddenly, on a little business, and will be back in the morning," said the stranger.

"I'll do that," replied Cutts, "for I never quarrel with her, but let her have her own way. I don't want to worry myself about trifles."

"Good man," said the stranger, "there are no trifles in this life. The smallest act is important, and that easy good nature of yours will ruin your family. Baffle that spirit to-day—and next Sunday take your boys and go to the house of God, whatever she says, and be a real man—at the head of your own house and family.

"It's rather late to begin," said Cutts, shaking his head in a way that would have warned others from the trap in which his feet were fast.

"You see the purse is hers," he added, "and that has been a crueller fetter than her will to me. But I will try to begin anew, for her good and the children's."

The boy was sent with the message, but the boy wasn't sharp enough. Madam Cutts discovered the whereabouts of her lord, tackled up, and went after him.

All the way home, and far into the night, she used her eloquence, both in pleadings and threatenings, to find out the mysterious errand of that hateful town nabob that had come into the country to separate happy families.

But Cutts yielded himself up to a "dumb spirit" for the night, and no measures could induce him to talk on any subject, lest she should pry the mighty secret out of him.

About midnight she wore herself out, and went to sleep; but at daybreak she began again. He then ventured to say: "As soon as breakfast is over, I'll break the news to you."

"You'll never eat a morsel in my house, I can tell you," cried Xantippe, "till you have told me what the man wanted of you."

"Then you'll wait a good while to hear it," said Cutts, "for I have vowed I'd never tell it till I had first eaten my breakfast," and with these words he went out.

Ma'am Cutts endured the torture as long as possible, and then got breakfast. She called to the door to no one in particular, "Come."

But Cutts didn't come. After awhile she went out to the barn, and found him seated on an upturned half-bushel measure, calmly peeling and eating a raw turnip.

"It does seem as if this here man had possessed you! Your breakfast is coolin'; do come in."

Here was a point gained.

Cutts went in as required, and ate his breakfast. When that was over, madam settled herself back in her chair, with her [illegible] ll of eager expectation, and said:

What did that ere man

"He wanted some cedar posts," replied Cutts, calmly, without looking up; "and that was all."

If an arrow had struck Ma'am Cutts, she could not have manifested more surprise and shame.

"I am the laughing stock of this town," added Cutts, "and from this hour I turn over a new leaf. I'm henceforth the head of my family—and unless this house is made mine, I shall finish off a room in the barn—which is mine—and you will be welcome to share it with me. If not, I'll live there with my boys, and you will find me a civil neighbor."

Ma'am Cutts' power was broken. Since then the farm has been called "John Cutts' place," and he's the head of the house.

The Express Robber Trial.

The trial of John J. Filkins, charged with the express robbery and the attempted murder of Thomas A. Halpine, the messenger, on the morning of Jan. 6, was resumed at Albany. The details of the robbery will be gathered from Halpine's testimony, which follows:

Thomas A. Halpine sworn—Have been in the employ of the Merchants' Union Express Company two years, and as messenger eighteen months; run from Albany to Boston and back; had charge of the money and express packages between those points; there is a car on the Boston and Albany Railroad devoted to the use of the express company, which is in charge of a messenger; on Jan. 6, I entered the car at 7:25 P. M., the train left at 8:20; I was engaged in putting weights on the bills when the car started; the car had gone one length when I heard a noise on south side; saw a man enter; he said, "Hello is that you? I thought it was Woodard;" "I said. "Where are you going?" he came in the door and stood in front of the stove he then crossed over and shut the door; he stood so that the light fell on his face; I looked at him; he said. "I going just across the river;" I said. "I don't know you;" he said. "My name is Jones; I have run a good many trips on this road;" he said. "Where do you put off first, at Chatham?" I told him at Pittsfield; I stood just west of the lamp on the north side of the car, and within eighteen inches of the side of the car when he fired; the ball entered the right side of my neck; I fell and tried to rise up, when he fired the second shot, it entered my right eye; he then stooped over me, and fired the third shot in my ear; the feeling was awful; I felt him feeling for the keys; then I lost consciousness; think the shot was fired before the train got on the draw; after recovering consciousness, the car was standing still; got up with my hands over my head trying to reach the bell-rope; tried to call out "murder;" tried to open the door to get on the platform; when assistance arrived some one asked me where I lived; I said 213 Jay street; asked me again, I said 213 Jay street; baggage master on the train was the first one I recognized; the first I said was, "I hope God will forgive him;" "O my poor wife and baby;" Mr. Rockwell was the first one from the Express office I saw; think I saw him on the other side; said to him, "I thought I was a goner;" some one said to me on the platform. "Would you know the man?" I said I would if I ever saw him; recollect speaking to another man, who asked me how I felt and talked to me about religion; the blood was in my mouth and throat; the first shot caused a large flow of blood; my mouth and stomach was full of blood, and utterance was indistinct; felt a chocking sensation in my throat; was placed on a car conveyed to Dr. Armsby's office, where an operation was performed; the bullet in my neck was cut out by Armby; from Armby's office I was taken to the hospital; I was there four weeks; I know who that man was who entered the car and fired those shots; it was the prisoner; have no doubt at all that he is the man—I am satisfied I do not know the amount in the safe that night; there were bags delivered to me; I put them in the safe and locked them up; I cannot tell what was in the bags; the bags were of canvas, open at one end, tied with a string, and sealed; they were delivered to me in that condition, and placed in the safe.

Restored to Life.

Dr. Peter Hood relates the following remarkable case: "There are many facts which seem to show that even aged people are sometimes allowed to die unnecessarily. Instances might be quoted of persons who were believed to be dead, but were recovered, and among them, not the least remarkable was that of a celebrated west country baronet who was paid out in his coffin. His old butler volunteered to watch his master's corpse throughout the night; but most probably thinking time would hang heavy on him, he invited a friend to share his vigil with him. The butler's only fault as a servant, was his indulgence in stimulating beverages; and he did not omit on this occasion to have recourse to them. As the night wore on, the idea rose in the butler's mind that there would be no harm if he administered to his late master a glass of the brandy he and his companion were engaged in drinking, and he proposed to his comrade, saying, 'He has been a good master to me for many years, and has given me many a glass, and I will do the same by him before he is taken from our sight.' He did as he said, and poured a glass of brandy down his throat, which had the instantaneous effect of recalling him to life, and he survived for many years."

DON PIATT writes about an auction of the contents of dead letters: "As the rude auctioneer held each article in the dim light, and coarsely cried it off, I could not help to think of the fingers that had worked, and the heart that had throbbed over the token of affection, and remembered that it had failed of its destination, and was being sold for filthy lucre to this motley crowd. Two-thirds of these evidences of remembering love came from women. The fact is, during my stay, I did not see one that could positively be ascribed to a man. To a woman's busy fingers, and to a women's heart could the work be attributed, and also to a woman's ignorance or carelessness, probably, in addressing, is due the fact that the work miscarried."

North Carolina is the fourteenth State in the Union in point of population. She is one of the sixteen that have over one million inh[illegible]nts.

Like a River.

Like a river, my beloved,
Is the love I bear for thee,
Like a river, deep and silent,
Rolling onward to the sea.
Like a river, with sweet heaven
Shining in its crystal breast,
Like a river, full of yearning
For thee—its Ocean-rest.

Like a river, my beloved,
In a morning long ago,
In the shadow of the mountains,
Where the darkling sorrows grow.
Springing out into the sunshine,
Crystal-shod, to meet the morn,
In vague, unconscious gladness,
The River-love was born.

Through life's dim and misty uplands,
Turning left and turning right,
Through the day's tortuous windings,
Through the valley-calms of night.
Deeper growing, yet unknowing
Whence its source of dreamy bliss,
'Till in swift, tumultuous rapids,
One glad day it met—thy kiss!

MIGNONETTE.

The Forty-First Congress.

The following are the titles of the more notable public acts which have become laws during the third session of the Forty-first Congress:

An act to amend an act entitled "An act to authorize the refunding of the national debt."

An act making appropriations for invalid and other pensions of the United States for the year ending June 30, 1872.

An act to divide the State of Virginia into two judicial districts.

Joint resolution for the protection of the food fish of the coast of the United States.

An act granting pensions to certain soldiers and sailors of the war of 1812, and to the widows of deceased soldiers.

An act to repeal an act entitled "An act for the survey of grants or claims of land," approved June 21, 1862.

An act to provide a government for the District of Columbia.

An act authorizing water-gauges to be established and observations to be made on the Mississippi River, and its tributaries.

An act to provide for the disposition of useless military reservations.

An act to provide for the better security of life on board of vessels propelled in whole or in part by steam, and for other purposes.

An act making appropriations for the construction, preservation, and repairs of certain fortifications, and other works of defence.

An act for the recovery of damages for the loss of the sloop-of-war Oneida.

Joint resolution for the relief of settlers on public lands.

Joint resolution authorizing the nomination and appointment to the retired list of the navy of certain volunteer officers who are disabled in consequence of wounds received during the late war.

Joint resolution to enable owners to obtain duplicates of lost or destroyed registered bonds of the United States.

An act to amend an act approved May 31, 1870, entitled "An act to enforce the rights of citizens of the United States to vote in the several States of this Union, and for other purposes.

Joint resolution to extend the benefit of the act establishing the National Asylum for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers to the soldiers and sailors of the war of 1812 and the Mexican war.

An act to provide for the celebration of the one-hundredth anniversary of American Independence, by holding a national exhibition of arts, manufactures and the products of the soil and the mine, in the city of Philadelphia, and State of Pennsylvania, in the year 1876.

An act relating to records of courts of the United States.

An act relating to internal taxes.

An act making appropriations for the support of the army for the year ending June 30, 1872.

An act making appropriations for the executive, judicial and legislative expenses of the Government for the year ending June 30, 1872.

An act making appropriations for the repair, preservation, and completion of certain public works on rivers and harbors, and for other purposes.

An act making appropriations for the Post-Office Department for the year ending June 30, 1872.

An act making appropriations to supply the deficiences in the appropriations for the service of the Government for the years ending June 30, 1872, and June 30, 1871, and for former years, and for other purposes.

An act for the redemption of copper and other token coins.

An act in relation to fraudulent trade-marks on foreign watches.

An act to extend the benefit of the donation law of September 27, 1850, to certain persons.

An act to establish certain post-roads.

An act to authorize the establishment of certain free public highways in the District of Columbia.

Joint resolution to amend section 4 of the act of July 30, 1868.

An act making appropriations for the consular and diplomatic expenses of the Government for the year ending June 30, 1872.

An act prescribing the enacting and resolving clauses of acts and resolutions of Congress.

An act supplementary to act to establish a department of justice.

An act to amend an act entitled "An act to reduce the expenses of the survey and sale of the public lands in the United States," approved May 30, 1862.

An act making appropriations for the current and contingent expenses of the Indian Department.

An act making appropriations for the naval service for the year ending June 30, 1872, and for other purposes.

An act making appropriations for sundry civil expenses of the Government for the year ending June 30, 1872, and for other purposes.

Joint resolution to defray the expenses of the select committee appointed to investigate alleged outrages in the Southern States.

Joint resolution authorizing the appointment of Commissioners in relation to the Republic of Dominica.

Joint resolution in relation to school lands in the State of Oregon.

K[illegible] colonies are being organized [illegible] the East, varying from [illegible] dies.

Death of a Noble Woman.

The telegraph brings us the painful intelligence of the death of the Senora Dona Marguerite Maxa de Juarez, wife of the President of Mexico. Born of an honorable family in the city of Caxaca, she married at 15 the then unknown young lawyer, who subsequently rose step by step in his profession and in political position, until he became literally the head of the nation and one of the most famous men of our times. Few women ever passed through such vicissitudes of fortune. She saw her husband at one time a prisoner in the hands of the revolted Church party, under Miramon, at Gaudalajara, and threatened with instant death, and again was herself compelled by foreign invaders to seek an asylum in the United States, where she industriously furthered the cause of the Republic and contributed not a little to the further overthrow of the Empire. On the fall of Maximillian, Mr. Seward sent her and her children back to Mexico in an American war steamer. She always manifested the most grateful regard for the American people, who had been the friends of her family and country in their hour of adversity. She was admired and beloved by all classes in Mexico; by the aristocrats for her piety and courage, by the republicans for her unostentatious mode of life and patriotic devotion to the cause of the nation, and by all alike for her charity, kindness of heart, and maternal devotion. She was the mother of thirteen children, of whom one son, a fine, promising young man of 20 years of age, now in Europe, three married and three unmarried daughters, survive her. A year ago she appeared like an American woman of 35 or 40, in excellent health. Nothing in her dress or equipage distinguished her from the wife of any well-to-do citizen of the capital, and her taste, like that of her husband, led her to avoid all unnecessary display on even the most important occasions. When the Seward party called at the palace to bid her good-bye on their departure from the capital, they found her sitting with her daughters around her, all engaged in family sewing, and noticed that the work was merely laid aside for the moment to be resumed on the departure of their guests, not hurried out of sight as it would be in many American or English families occupying infinitely less exalted positions in society. She was always kind, sympathetic and affable, displaying all the characteristics of a perfect lady, a faithful, devoted wife, a model mother, and an honor to her sex and race.

Ahead of Time.

A curious mistake took place one morning last week in the ringing of the bells of the Catholic churches of Zanesville, Ohio. As is well known, says a local paper, the bells of these churches are rung every morning at six o'clock, and so punctually is it performed that they answer the purpose of a clock to families and persons residing within hearing. On the morning in question the sexton of St. Thomas Church, who is an old man, either deceived by his clock or mistaking the hands of the dial, rang his bell at the hour of three o'clock in the morning, three hours before the usual time. The loud-voiced peals of the bell rang out and trembled away, caught the ear of many a sleeper and waked them from their slumbers. Among these was the sexton of St. Nicholas Church, who hurriedly rushed to the bell ropes, and soon the chimes from the belfry of that church rang out into the stilly night. Breakfast was hurriedly prepared in different parts of the city, and workmen in several instances started to the streets on their way to the scene of their daily toil. Clocks in the greater number of instances where mistakes occurred, corrected the error.

A MAN of unblemished character was a candidate for a large constituency, and the following means were used to get rid of him. At a large public meeting, an elector got up and said:

"I demand the exercise of my right to ask that candidate a question. Will he answer me by a direct *yes* or *no*, like an honest man?"

"Undoubtedly I will."

A most incautious promise, as the reader will say.

"Well, then," said the elector, "I ask that gentleman *who killed his washer-woman?*"

What was the poor man to say? What *yes* or *no* could answer the question? He hesitated, he stammered—the meeting was against him; he was hustled out of the room, and to this day he labors under the grave imputation, in many people's minds, of having feloniously accelerated the death of some unfortunate and perhaps ill-used washerwoman.

A TENNESSEE girl, aged fifteen years, ran away to Knoxville with a young man and married him. A few minutes later her father appeared and carried her back in triumph. The husband went to his home disconsolately, and a day or two after returned to Knoxville and got out a writ of habeas corpus for the wife. The parties met in the streets, pistols were drawn, the father was wounded, and all were taken before a magistrate, who suggested that the girl be permitted, without permission from either party, to go home with the one she preferred. She went off with her father.

STRANGE coincidences happen to authors as to other people. An instance came to our knowledge last week. Two female authors, well known to the public, have each written several chapters of a story without the knowledge of the other. One of the stories is now publishing in a magazine, and the author finds that the title, the actual incidents, the characters, and even the occasional quotations of poetry, are identical with her own. We call this one of the curiosities of literature.

THE *Journal des Debats* says that during the three years allowed for the payment of the war indemnity, 50,000 Prussian troops will occupy Champagne, exercising the right of recognition and living at the expense of the French Government. If the payment is completed before the time expires, Champagne will be immediately evacuated.

The Boston *Post* tries to tell us about the two-headed girl on exhibition in Philadelphia, thus: "They is eighteen years of age, waltzes together beautifully, and is twin sisters."

How to Build a Railroad.

A California paper tells how a Railroad was built out there. A dozen gentleman concluded that a road was wanted and getting together, instead of putting in their own money, went to Sacramento, where the legislature was in session, and got through a bill authorizing the city of Los Angeles to subscribe $75,000 to their stock, and the county of Los Angeles to subscribe $150,000 which was voted. Although not a cent had been paid in by the directors, their first act was to credit themselves with $14,500 each on the books of the company. The next thing to do was to let a contract for building the road. And now the contractor appears on the scene, though it is probable that he had been behind the scenes from the beginning. He received the contract of $467,000 although there were other bids much lower. The law under which the city and county subscription had been made called for a railroad from Los Angeles to San Pedro, but, without regarding the law, the directors decided to build the road to Wilmington instead of San Pedro, as at the former place the contractor owned land, a wharf, a hotel, and some other traps. Having let this contract, the next step of the directors was to buy a piece of land and a lot of lighters and other things that the contractor had lying around his town of Wilmington, for the sum of $70,000. Then these directors mortgaged the whole road, all its property and franchises, and issued first mortgage bonds to the amount of $300,000 to help to pay the contractor. And the building of the road commenced, and the city and the county issued their bonds, though none of the other stockholders paid in a cent; and before the road had been completed the contractor had all the county bonds and all the first mortgage bonds, and his partners had all the stock, and things went along beautifully. Whenever a section of the road was completed and ready for acceptance, the engineer was discharged, so that there was no one to say whether it was well or ill built; and the contractor, who had learned as he went along, and discovered that he had not been as enterprising at the start as he ought to have been, and had not made his bid high enough, put in large claims for extras, which were invariably allowed, and did various other things which showed him to be a great railroad financier, but which are too numerous here to mention.

"And now the people of Los Angeles have got a little one-horse local road which their money and nobody's else has built, for which they must pay as much as they used to pay the stages. And they have a debt of $225,000, the interest of which they have to pay every year, and the principal of which it is certain they must ultimately pay. How to relieve themselves of it they don't know, unless they can repudiate the whole thing. They can't sell their stock, for the road is heavily mortgaged, and they fear they can't assess other stockholders, who have never paid anything, without assessing themselves.

AN EXCEPTION.—In the early stages of his ministry the celebrated Dr. Strong, of Hartford, Connecticut, preached some time in a neighboring village. One day a committee called upon him to settle with him for his services, and, after, stammering a while, signified to him that his services were not desired.

"What does this mean, gentleman?" asked the Doctor.

"Why," replied the spokesman, with some hesitation, "the people have got the impression that you are inclining to universal salvation."

"Gentleman" answered the Doctor, "I never have preached that doctrine; but if I ever should, I promise to make the people of this town an exception!"

INSURRECTION IN ALGERIA.—The *Semphonore* of Marseilles and the *Gazette du Midi* state that serious disturbances have occurred in the Province of Constantine. The town of Souk-Ahras was attacked by a large body of Arabs. The next day it was relieved by a French flying-column. More than fifty towns have been burned and sacked, and twelve corpses of civilians have been found in the neighborhood. The iron-clad frigate *La Provence* was despatched in haste from Algiers to Bone with reinforcements.

FORAGE is dearer now in the south of France than it has ever been known within the memory of man. Hay is selling at Lyons at thirty francs the metrical hundred weight, which puts the pounds of five hundred grammes at fifteen centimes. Considering the amount of nutriment contained in hay as compared to bread, and considering the present price of bread, it follows that a saving of cent. per cent. would be effected by giving horses bread to eat rather than hay.

SERVED HIM RIGHT.—A Boston gentleman, who could not waltz, offered a young lady a hundred dollars if she would let him hug her as much as the man did who had just waltzed with her. It was a good offer, and showed that money was no object to him; but they put him out of the house so hard that his eye was quite black.

The dog tax in Worcester, Mass., last year produced $12,372.

BY a terrible colliery explosion in Victoria, twenty persons were killed.

THE Democrats of Troy have nominated the Hon. Thomas B. Carroll for Mayor.

The printing and reporting of the Illinois State Constitutional Convention cost $85,000.

RUFFLES and narrow flounces, put on with little fullness, will be the favorite trimming for Spring suits.

IN the Illinois Asylum there are two deaf mute colored girls who found their way thither during the war, nobody knows whence or how.

ACCORDING to the official report of Captain Temple, the "Tennessee" made the voyage to Samana Bay in exactly seven days, averaging eight knots per hour.

DURING a gale at Cleveland, Ohio, the gable of a school-house was blown down and a panic created among the children. Two were injured, but none were killed. Other accidents were caused during the day by the high winds.

According to an English jeweler, "the United States have for several years absorbed, and do still absorb, all the diamonds of first-rate quality that come to the European market."

Love's Work.

Scarcely for me had life begun,
When weary I longed for the setting sun;
"Who would miss me or who would feel
Darkness over their sunshine steal,
Though the lilies grew at my feet and head
Under the solemn years?" I said.

"Coward," my conscience, answering, cried,
"Unbuckling the armor as yet untried,
Begging for rest you have never earned,
Dull to the lesson the wise have learned,
That no grave is made for the dead alone—
Love holds, unharmed by Death, its own.

"Into the world no one can come
To live by himself, like a hermit dumb:
Even the babe with its wordless cries
Brightens the mother's weary eyes,
And the workers worn in the life-fields ask
Fresh hands, fresh hearts, to aid their task."

"Weak and powerless my hands," I moaned,
"One talent alone has the master loaned—
Love! Can I go to your workers strong,
Offering an idle smile or song?
Could they know how wildly my full heart prayed
For power to bring them truer aid?"

"Go," came the answer, clear and sweet,
"Love strengthens tired hands and weary feet;
Love is the root of all worthy deeds,
Love is the gift the world most needs,
And the loving heart never fails to find
The willing hand its sheaves to bind."

Facts and Fancies.

One poultry fancier in California has 10,000 hens.

Over twenty styles of hats for ladies are already out.

A rich harvest of maple sugar is predicted for this spring.

A Wisconsin girl walks fourteen miles a day to teach school.

The chinch bug is devastating the wheat fields in Appanoose County, Iowa.

The "hog crop" of the West for the present season is estimated at 3,000,000 critters.

The English custom of wearing the dress suit altogether of evenings is rapidly gaining favor.

Two Chattanooga men went hunting, were gone two days, and killed 385 quail, 11 turkeys, 110 squirrels, and 3 deer.

A Texan lost a valuable mare, and telegraphing to a neighboring town to arrest the thief, received the laconic reply: "Mare here; thief hung."

It is estimated that 225,000,000 cubic feet of earthty matter are deposited annually by the Mississippi, at the Southwest Pass, in the Gulf.

Charlotte Smith, of Rockport, Mass., wants her runaway husband, whom she describes in an advertisement as "a little man, badly crippled in one leg, one leg shorter than the other, false teeth, and bald head."

A school teacher in Iowa having a grudge against the father of one of his pupils, whipped the boy, because he was not able to tackle the old gentleman. He was fined $20 for the luxury, and discharged from his position.

The Chicago *Tribune* ventures to suggest that since the elephantine proboscis has been proved by the Parisians to be good-eating, all elephants are becoming dead broke in their travels may pawn their trunks for a liberal sum.

There is no greater mistake in social life than indulging in over-familiarity. Intercourse, even between intimate friends, should have some dignity about it. Cowper, in his poem entitled "Friendship," says on this point:

A man, when asked to give his consent
To the marriage of his daughter, turned
With a beaming countenance to the applicant and answered frankly: "Yes, yes; and don't you know some likely young man who will take the other?"

The other day, while the legislative committee were walking through the wards of the Lunatic Hospital of Rhode Island, one of the female patients, after looking curiously at the group, said, "Well, I declare! if there ain't the animals from Noah's ark."

Our young folks should copy this verse into their scrap-book; and some of a larger growth are advised to "read, mark, and inwardly digest the same":

"The man that hails you *Tom* or *Jack*,
And proves by thumps upon your back
How he esteems your merit,
Is such a friend that you had need
Be very much his friend indeed
To listen or to bear it."

A ring of speculators have bought the old bonds repudiated by Mississippi over thirty years ago, and are going to work to induce the present legislature of that State to provide for their payment. The original claim was about five millions, but the ring now claim some thirty millions.

Some idea of the extent of game in Wisconsin may be gathered from the fact that two young men in that State, who have been hunting from the 29th of September to the 25th of December, captured 39 deer, 8 wild cats, 3 bears, 3 wolves, and 1 eagle; the eagle measured 8 feet 7 inches from tip to tip of wings.

In one of the courts a few days since a man was testifying regarding his connection with a case where offers had been made to him to club a man, but he declined the job. With great solemnity the counsel asked, as if anticipating a high moral reason for his refusal, why the witness did not commit the assault. "Well, sir," was the candid reply, "I am a little lame, and I was afraid the police would catch me."

The Boston *Times* says: there is much complaint at the license giving to card-playing on some of the lines of railroads. Some of the roads, and notably some of those leading from New York, are infested with gamblers and three-card-monte players, who travel to-and-fro daily, fleecing unsuspecting passengers. It is even suspected that some of the conductors share with these and know nothing of what is going on.

A young soldier in New Hampshire, who, after three applications, succeeded in getting $100 bounty, sent at once $10 to an uncle who had loaned him, that amount when he was in desperate need. A few days ago the uncle died, and by his will left the almost penniless soldier all his estate, valued at $200,000, giving as his reason for so doing, that he had many times lent money to his relatives and he alone had repaid him.

An acquaintance from the country having visited some friends, and being about to depart, presented a little boy, one of the family, with a half dollar, in the presence of his mother. "Please, is it a good one?" said the lad. "Certainly," replied the gentleman, surprised. "Why do you ask?" "Because I'd rather have a bad one; they'd let me keep it; If I [illegible] any good money it goes into the [illegible]k, and I never get it again."

©Maryland State Archives, msa_sc2929_scm3530-0042.jpg