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Poetry.

Eighteen.

You are eighteen to-day and life's sunny hours
Have broken in splendor over your head,
Bright as the dew on the opening flowers
That modestly hide in a soft mossy bed.
Yes, eighteen to-day—in the bloom of your youth
Aim high for the holy, the pure and the good;
Be steadfast in virtue—and battle for truth,
And live in the beauty of true womanhood.
Just eighteen to-day—then arm for the fight
'Gainst passion, and folly, and wrong;
Grave on your soul-shield "God and the right."
And your arm and your heart shall be strong.
Yes, eighteen to-day—then here's to your health,
Not with wine, but with water refined.
My joy is your purity—and a fadeless wealth
Of beauty of heart and of mind.

The Comptroller's Report.

The following is a brief synopsis of the annual report of Hiland R. Hulburd, Comptroller of the Currency: Since the last annual report, nine National banks have been organized, making the total number up to October, 1869, 1,694, of which 1,620 are in active operation.

The total amount of notes, and fragments of notes, of all denominations, outstanding September 30th, 1869, is \$299,789,895. The total amount of U. S. bonds held by the Treasurer of the United States to secure the redemption of the circulating notes of national banks, on the 30th of September, 1869, is \$342,475,100.

Owing to the abuse of the present law concerning liquidation, it is recommended that Congress pass an act, requiring all banks that go into liquidation to deposit legal tender notes for their outstanding circulation, and take up their bonds deposited with the Treasurer of the United States within sixty days from the date of the vote to go into liquidation.

It is recommended that all taxes imposed on national banks by the United States be made returnable and payable to the Treasurer of the United States.

The recommendation of the establishment of an agency in New York City, to redeem the issues and transact the business of national banks, is renewed.

The average dividends made by national banks during the last year, are said not to exceed ten per cent. upon their capital, after deducting taxes and expenses.

The total increase of United States currency for the year is \$3,713,642. The volume of currency now stands \$390,000,000 issued by Government, and \$300,000,000 by banks. It is urged that there should be but one paper currency, and that should emanate from a source that is influenced by and amenable to the laws of the State. It is claimed that the present banking system is an improvement, and its faults are the result of an irredeemable currency. A self-adjusting system of currency is needed, and may be reached through the agency of the national banks, before the return of specie payments. By the establishment of banks on a specie basis, the resumption of specie payment is only anticipated, and familiarity with gold values will tend to relieve the subject of its mystery.

Looking forward to uniform values, by wise legislation now, a national banking system can be established which will furnish a sound currency of uniform value in every State in the Union.—S. C. Republican.

The Georgia papers notice the Venezuela cotton introduced and cultivated by Dr. Letner, who makes two bolls grow where only one grew before. This beautiful and silky plant put down in July will mature sooner than the home species planted in spring, and it gives one hundred and fifty bolls on a stalk—fifty bolls making one pound.

Amendment.

These are the words of the fourteenth amendment:—"No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States. * * * Congress shall have power to enforce by appropriate legislation the provisions of this article." By the adoption of an amendment to these words the States have in effect vacated their sovereignty as to all the subjects that can be brought under that amendment, since for all such subjects Congress is the supreme law-making power. What is to be done in the case of Georgia may give to the States at large some light as to the practical possible operation of the amendment.

In addition to these important topics we notice two propositions already up for complete amnesty; an inquiry from St. John's old Cameron as to Cuba, and a hint from the Census Committee that the legitimate successor of the slavery agitation is to be an agitation as to railroads. Among the most important matters which were brought to the attention of the Senate yesterday must be enumerated a communication from the Governor of South Carolina, enclosing resolutions of the Legislature of that State relative to the recognition of Cuba as an independent government; a memorial in favor of acceding belligerent rights to Cuba; the necessity of the publication of a new map of the United States illustrative of the laud resources of the country, to be made in connection with the report of the Commissioner of the General Land Office; a resolution by Mr. Sumner aiming at such legislation as shall secure for medical practitioners in the District of Columbia equal rights and opportunities, without distinction of color, and a report from the Committee on the Judiciary of the bill relating to the appellate jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

The House of Representatives was mainly occupied with a discussion as to the most economical mode of taking the census. Evidently we are to have a session of very great interest to the people, and if, as rumored, it is to be short, it must, perforce, be very practical.—N. Y. Herald.

The President, in his message, tells Congress about various policies that should be adopted, but it so happens that he doesn't want them adopted at present. He says that our taxes might be reduced \$60,000,000 to \$80,000,000 per year, were it not for some experiment that he wants to make in funding the public debt; but, as things are, he thinks it best to postpone reduction. He desires a return to specie payments, but this, he tells us, must be deferred for the present. He asserts that the tariff ought to be cut down, but the process, he holds, should be put off till another season. The internal revenue tax, he assumes, should be adjourned for three years. The Alabama claims, he resolutely contends, must be rigorously settled, but the settlement, he is well convinced, should await a future and calmer condition of feeling between the United States and Great Britain. All these things, he has no doubt, will demand the energetic action of future administrations, but not of his.

"State Rights seem likely to come up in Kentucky once more, and in a shape in which it will be hard to get them out of the way without going near to the decision that there are no States. It is a question of taxation. The power to lay taxes is the first necessity of the existence of government; that is its most vital function, and one in which it must be absolutely free. This general principle is no doubt the basis of the decision just given in Louisville, that it is unconstitutional for Congress to declare that States shall not tax certain kinds of property, such as United States bonds.—N. Y. Herald.

The first vessel freighted through the Suez canal sank in the Red Sea.

The Treasury Report.

Mr. Boutwell's report is of the highest importance. Among the more salient and gratifying points is his announcement that, including the interest earned and not paid, and deducting the cash on hand, the debt of the United States on the 1st of March last was \$2,525,463,260.01, and, subject to the same conditions, it was \$2,453,559,735.23 on the first of the present month, showing a decrease of \$71,903,525.78. This apparent decrease of the public debt is less than the actual decrease. Considerable sums have been paid on account of war and other old claims not previously ascertained, and therefore not included in any debt statement.

The Secretary found the Sinking Fund provision of law utterly neglected. He now reports the law complied with, there being a surplus of \$55,432,000 in redeemed bonds to be added to the fund.

Mr. Boutwell proposes that the resumption of specie payments be delayed until a part of the Five-Twenty bonds can be funded in a new 4 per cent. gold loan, which he would limit to \$1,000,000,000, or at most \$1,200,000,000, one-third payable after fifteen and within twenty years, one-third after twenty and within twenty-five years, one-third after twenty-five and within thirty years, for which Five-Twenties should be exchangeable, which National banks should be required to keep as the basis of their circulation, which should be free from taxation, and the interest of which should be payable either here or at the leading money centers of Europe, as might be desired.

He makes many suggestions worthy of the gravest consideration in regard to the currency, banking, the development of our commercial marina, &c.—S. C. Republican.

BOWEN AT WORK.—Congressman, C. C. Bowen, who, if he had received his deserts, would now be either in the Penitentiary or a corpse, made such by a sheriff and a gallows, is still here. It has been a matter of surprise that he should linger here when his duties and per diem call him to Washington. But he has been busily engaged on other than Congressional duties. His objects in remaining behind have been, if report be true, to secure the passage of the coin bill, and the election of Whipper to the Supreme Bench. By securing Whipper's election he removes a formidable rival from his path, for it is understood that he would run for Congress against Bowen. What his motives are in securing the passage of the coin bill are not so easily divined, but it is understood to be to get the influence of the State officials, who are supposed to be interested in the bill—only for the credit of the State. It is freely reported that money has been used or promised by Bowen to influence members to vote for the election of Whipper and the passage of the bill. During yesterday and to-day, when the coin bill was under discussion, colored members, as I am informed, were heard to remark to each other, "Have you received your money for this?" and to make similar remarks. These remarks were not overheard by me, but knowing the character of my informant, I have no doubt that they were made.—Cor. Charleston News.

An inventive Frenchman who witnessed the great petroleum conflagration at Bordeaux, recently, suggests a new mode of harbor defense: "In case a hostile fleet should bombard a port, all that would be necessary would be to pour several hundred barrels of petroleum on the water at ebb tide and light it. Wooden ships would be burned, while on iron ships the crews would be roasted."

A noted Western express company prints on its shipping receipts that it will not be liable for "any loss or damage by fire, the acts of God, or of Indians, or other enemies of the government."

A FAT JOB.—The general provisions of the gold bill, now before the Legislature, are these:

SECTION 1. That the principal of all bonds and stocks of this State, and the interest thereon, shall be paid in gold or silver coin.

SEC. 2. That the Treasurer of this State is hereby authorized and required to make the necessary exchanges through the Financial Agent of this State, in New York, for carrying this into effect.

SEC. 3. That this act shall take effect immediately.

The "interest" is a small matter to the Radical speculators. What they want is the power to pay in coin the following amounts:

6 per cent. stock due 1870, \$314,453
6 per cent. bonds due 1871, 500,000

Total, \$814,453
Supposing that they buy up these securities at 60 to 70 per cent. in currency, and obtain payment at par in gold, there would be a profit on the transaction of about three hundred thousand dollars in gold. This is worth praying for, lobbying for and paying for!—Charleston News.

The difficult and rarely attempted surgical operation of the transfusion of blood has recently been successfully performed in the Pennsylvania Hospital. A young man in the upper part of the city was wounded on the inner surface of the upper lip. The wound continued to bleed for 10 days, after which time the patient was sent to the surgical wards of the hospital. Several remedies were applied, and the arteries supplying the face were tied, but without success in controlling the flow of blood. Recourse was next had to cutting down to the common carotid or great artery of the neck, and applying a ligature, so as to obstruct entirely the course of the blood. The oozing of the blood still continued, but in lessened quantity. On the 19th of October the patient was in such a state of extreme exhaustion from the long continued hemorrhage that his death seemed to be imminent, and, as a last resource, the attending surgeon resolved to try the effect of transfusion. Two medical students bared their arms and gave the blood required for the occasion. Five ounces and a half of their blood was infused into the vein of each arm of the patient, the marked good effects of which were evinced in five minutes by a rallying of the pulse and otherwise beginning reaction. There was no further discharge of blood from the original wound, and in 10 days the patient was able to walk in the ward, and rapidly regained strength.

In the Senate there are 6 Democrats; 7 negroes, and 14 white Radicals. For the Senate from Abbeville there are two claimants—Colonel Cothran, (Dem.), who was legally elected, and Mr. Guffin, (Rad.), who was defeated. In the House, there are 15 Democrats, 72 negroes, and 36 white Radicals.

THE TEXAS ELECTIONS.—Galveston, December 9.—Returns from forty-six counties give Davis 5,489 majority; Flanagan, for Lieutenant-Governor, 8,260. General W. T. Clarke, member of Congress elect from the third district, claims that Davis is elected Governor. The probabilities are that all the candidates to Congress on the Davis ticket are elected, with good majorities in both branches of the Legislature for the same party.

A Californian proposes to promote the national prosperity by furnishing free passage to any persons in Europe who wish to make their homes in this country. To do this he calls on Congress to appropriate \$20,000,000 a year for five years for the employment of suitable steam-vessels to be commanded by competent officers.

What is conscience? asked a teacher. "An inward monitor," was the reply of a smart little fellow. "And what is a monitor?" One of the iron-clads. The conclusion is evident.

Agricultural Facts.

Turf around young tree does as much harm as a tight choker on a boy's neck.

Four hundred beehives a day are used on the bank of the Parugua in making Liebig's extract of meat.

It is a little known fact that the making of potash and the diseases of the potato are connected. The less potash the more rot.

On an average the mule can do a third more work, lives a third longer than the horse, and is less particular about its food.

Adam Earl of Benton County, Ind., had a corn patch of 2000 acres. Can anybody say his neighbor? The grain is now fattening 4,000000 beehives.

The best farmer is he who makes the most manure. The next best farmer is he who buys the most. Many farmers have bad, bitter butter in winter, because they skim too much milk with the cream and do not churn often enough.

All manures that are handled with the shovel and fork may just as well be applied between row and April as in the busy season. Time is no exception to this rule.

The vine has given more comfort and joy, with less loss and cost, than any other fruit-plant. Apples are an American fruit; grapes are eaten all around the world.

The wisest farmer is he who has the most experience to light his way. The experience of others well noted and applied with discretion may make the young farmer as competent as the old.

A FAIR TURN.—"I understand, Mr. Jones, that you can turn anything neater than any other man in town."

"Yes, Mr. Smith, I think so."

"Ahem! Mr. Jones, I don't like to brag, but there is nobody on earth can turn a thing as well as I can whittle."

"Pooh! nonsense, Mr. Smith! Talk about whittling—what can you whittle as nice as I can turn?"

"Anything—everything, Mr. Jones. You just name the article that I can't whittle that you can turn, and I will give this dollar if I do not do it to the satisfaction of these gentlemen present. (Here Mr. Smith tables the dollar.)"

"Ahem! Well, then, Mr. Smith, suppose we take two grindstones, just for a trial, you know—you whittle the one while I turn the other."

A fair "well." Mr. Smith stared a moment, and vanished. The forfeited dollar was quickly deposited of by those present, with great cheer and satisfaction.

It must, moreover, be mentioned among the signs of the times that on the same day the bishops met in Rome the Deists assembled in convention at Naples, and that the news of this convention and of the opening of the Ecumenical Council was flashed simultaneously by the Atlantic telegraph to New York.

One by one, the old banks of the State are resuming business. The latest cheering indication of the kind is in the case of the Bank of New York, an institution which, as we are informed, reopened its doors for business yesterday.

The St. Louis Democrat, one of the ablest and most influential of the papers which have advocated a contraction of the currency, has discovered that perhaps contraction is not necessary. When such a paper is converted, there is no reason longer to fear the efforts of the contractionists.

"Lenny, you're a pig," said a father to his little five year old boy. "Now, do you know what a pig is, Lenny?" "Yes sir, a pig's a dog's little boy."

The Columbia Radicals speak of Attorney-General Chamberlain as "the coming man" for Governor. We might possibly do worse, but hope to do better.

*Mrs. Martha Howard
Care of Mr. S. D. Ormer,
Winnsboro, S. C.*