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VOLUME 2---NO. 14. ABBEVILLE C. H., SOUTH CAROLINA, SATURDAY MORNING, AUGUST 12, 1854. WHOLE NUMBER 66.

POETRY.

Where are the Dead?

Where are the mighty ones of ages past,—
Who o'er the world their inspiration cast,
Whose memories stir our spirits like a blast?
Where are the dead?

Where are the lofty minds of Greece? where be
The men of Sparta and Thermopylæ?
The conquering Macedonian, where is he?
Where are the dead?

Where are Rome's founders? Where her chiefest son,
Before whose name the whole known world bowed down,
Whose conquering arm chased the retreating sun?
Where are the dead?

Where's the bard-warrior king of Albion's state,
A pattern for earth's sons to emulate,
The truly, nobly, wisely, goodly great?
Where are the dead?

Where is Gaul's hero, who aspired to be
A second Cæsar in his mastery,
To whom earth's crowned ones trembling bent the knee?
Where are the dead?

Where is Columbia's son, her darling child,
Upon whose birth virtue and freedom smiled,
The Western Star, bright, pure, and undefiled?
Where are the dead?

Where are the sons of song, the soul-inspired,
The bard of Greece, whose muse (of heaven acquired)
With admiration ages past has fired,
The classic dead?

Greater than all—an earthly sun enshrined—
Where is the king of bards? Where shall we find
The Swan of Avon—monarch of the mind—
The mighty dead?

With their frail bodies, did they wholly die,
Like the brute dead passing forever by?
Then wherefore was their intellect so high,
The mighty dead?

Why was it not confined to earthly sphere,
To earthly wants? If it must perish here,
Why did they languish for a bliss more dear,
The blessed dead?

If here they perished, in their being's germ,
Here thought and aspiration had their term,
Why should a giant's strength propel a worm?
The dead—the dead.

There are no dead! The for[illegible]deed did die,
That c[illegible] the etherial being [illegible] on high;
'Tis but [illegible] outward covering is thrown by—
This is the dead!

The spirits of the lost, of whom we sing,
Have perished not—they have but taken wing,
Changing an earthly for a heavenly spring:
There are the dead!

POLITICAL.

Rotation in Congress.

The following very sensible and just views on this subject we take from the editorial columns of the *Washington Sentinel*:

Much of the delay, confusion, and dissensions in Congress are clearly traceable to the system of rotation, which strips it of experienced members, and fills their places with raw ones.

It would seem that the plan for the conduct of business is well calculated to systematize, to ripen measures, and to have them fully, fairly, and ably presented for consideration.

What better mode could be devised than the distribution of work among the several committees? These committees have confided to their special charge certain measures upon which Congress has to act. Upon them rests the responsibility of collecting all authentic information on the several matters, and of making such a report upon them, accompanied by the evidence upon which the report is based, as will enable each member of Congress to determine, intelligently for himself, what course he shall pursue. If the committee faithfully perform their duty, Congress has before it the information upon which to decide, and the mere reading of the report, will bring them to a conclusion how to vote, and little time would be lost in discussion. Each committee would furnish the quota of reports and information, so that every subject to be considered would have received due study and be properly presented. A speedy and harmonious session ought to be the result. But what is the fact?

Scarcely any report is read, or, if read, is allowed to have its due weight. And why?

There are two reasons. One prominent reason is, that so much of what comes before Congress has antecedents, on which in innumerable cases, new members have no knowledge or information, while such antecedents, if known, might greatly modify or even reverse the conclusion to which otherwise they would have come. It has happened so frequently, from this cause, that matters have been so partially presented, that confidence in the reports of committees, since the introduction of rotation in Congress has steadily declined. A second reason also is, that new members, to show that they attend to their duties, and to obtain the reputation of watchfulness, make hypercritical exceptions, or raise upon some subject interesting to their constituents to make a flourish.—They often do this reluctantly, but find themselves constrained to do so, to prove they are not indolent or negligent—although the same matter in committee may have labored with a [illegible] and ability which should entitle it to greater credit than the best speech of [illegible] itself.

The consequence is that finding reports disregarded, they [illegible] to report a bill, [illegible] discouraged, at having [illegible] reports in their [illegible] without an [illegible] which was the result [illegible] whatever [illegible] and [illegible] committees [illegible] will grate [illegible] or [illegible] committees [illegible] to know [illegible] committees [illegible] will grate [illegible] committees [illegible] to [illegible] committees [illegible] to [illegible] committees [illegible] to