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POETRY.

The Betrothed.

Had I met thee in thy beauty,
When my heart and hand were free,
When no other claimed the duty
Which my soul would yield to thee;
Had I wooed thee—had I won thee—
Oh, how blest had been my fate!
But thy beauty hath undone me—
I have found thee—but too late!

For to one my vows were plighted
With a faltering lip and pale,—
Hands our cruel sires united,
Hearts were deemed of slight avail!
Thus my youth's bright morn o'ershaded,
Thus betrothed to wealth and state,
All Love's own sweet prospects faded,
I have found thee—but too late!

Like the fawn that finds the fountain
With the arrow in his breast;
Or like light upon the mountain
Where the snow must ever rest,
I have found thee—but forget me!
For I feel what ills await;
Oh! 'tis madness to have met thee—
'Tis to have found thee—but too late!

MISCELLANY.

[FOR THE INDEPENDENT PRESS.]

Fame.

All things throughout the extended range of existence bear the luminous impress of death and revivification. Time, from its earliest dawn, has been one ceasless, varied scene of revolutions. And a glance at the ruins of former greatness is sufficient to demonstrate the utter transientness of all efforts arising from a terrestrial origin. The mightiest achievements of genius in days of yore, though numbered among the wonders of the world, are fast crumbling to their bases or have entirely perished away. Many wonderful cities, with their high and impenetrable walls surrounding towering battlements, a vast area and a numerous population, have no longer a place, save in names enveloped in sublimity and hallowed by classical associations. The most magnificent structures of art in Egypt, and Greece, and Palestine, those lands of sweet, familiar sound, are all rapidly falling by the corrosive power of ages. And in whatever direction the attention be turned the great truth conspicuously appears, "mortalia facta peribunt."

The vegetation, which annually mantles, adorns and beautifies the earth, perfumes the air, with fragrant, wafting odors, and delights and nourishes the living, rises by the potency of genial rays and falls before the wintry blasts. The rippling, roaring streams, and lovely valleys, and majestic, burning mountains, with all the scenery in nature, will be erased at some epoch in the unexplored future. And even old earth and ocean, yea, all the myriads of worlds small or great, that rest or roll in unlimited space, must pass through a fiery ordeal, the crucible of Deity. Man, bearing the image of his exalted Creator, almost endowed with divinity, and far surpassing the most wondrous works in creation's ample bounds, must lay aside his impunity, put off all his mortality, before he can make his entrance into other and higher spheres. But there is a principle, deeply fixed in the human heart, which causes him to fear the realities of the dread beyond, and hesitate at the perilous voyage, with its unknown breakers and untried difficulties. It is the strong desire to win distinction, that, when he will be compelled to bow in passive submission to the laws of his being and bid a final adieu to the theatre on which he has acted, he may be enabled to leave behind him an unmistakeable trace of his career, deep and indelible "footprints upon the sands of time," a living, lasting name, an imperishable fame.

This thirst to live in the affections and remembrance of mankind, is undoubtedly an innate principle and forms a very essential ingredient in the human composition. And it will surely be readily conceded, that it was intended for some wise purpose, the accomplishment of some useful end. It has always in some manner manifested itself in the actions and occupied a place in the hearts of men. There is not probably one individual now upon the stage of action, how, ever great a selfish misanthrope he may be, who does not wish of the thought of, when his body shall be mingling with its original dust, and others are filling his stations, if he be so unfortunate [illegible] will draw a [illegible] will [illegible]

universally prevalent could not have originated of itself, nor by the semi-omnipotent force of habit. If through the flight of ages and by the complicated machinery of society, this element has been thwarted from its proper channel, and greatly perverted from its true character, it does not by any means amount to an argument on account of which its source is to be questioned. Were this the case, the same logic would reasonably doom everything that pertains to man, and even man himself, to a doubtful source, an uncertain origin. For at this late era, in these latter times, where is it that degeneracy has not flapped a raven wing or rolled a blighting wave?

The love of fame is the strongest passion of the soul. It lies at the foundation of all the rest, and they are developed in proportion to its quality and intensity. An inconsolable melancholy may enshroud its victims with horrors beyond conception, bend the lordly head, and paralyze a heart, noble, generous, refined. Hope may cheer and invigorate the lonely exile bound by the chains of a dismal, doleful dungeon. And an unsanctified ambition may lure its blind devotees away in untrodden, slippery paths, blast their fondest anticipations, and sink them to everlasting destruction. But the desire for unfading renown, like the calm, unfathomed current, is incessantly moving with strength untold. It springs every nerve to the utmost tension, animates and prepares the mind for its noblest conflicts. Few indeed would brave danger's storms to perform great exploits for their own sake—their intrinsic worth—if they were never to be made known to a fellow creature. But with the tantalizing diadem, the bright garland of fame for a reward, "nil martalibus ardui est." The soldier then, can, with firm step and unmailed front, march into the din and smoke of battle, where deadly artificial thunders roar and arrows "barbed with fire" fly and fall so thick and fast as to eclipse the sun. It was to gain this desirable prize, that EROTOSTRATUS acted the base incendiary, and EMPEDOCLES, the lunatic instead of philosopher, by leaping deliberately into the ignited caverns of yawning, hideous Etna. However great an influence might have been exerted by a fine and crowning genius, royal gold and a communion with the Muses in their Parnassean home, still another component part was required to constitute a sufficient incentive for that admirable epic to emanate from the Mantuan bard. Nor was MACONIDES careless concerning what was to come after him; if he had been, though all modern facilities and improvements had been at his command, he would not, with so great prolixity, have sung, in such rapturous enchanting strains "the wrath of PELEU's son" and the mysterious, incredible wanderings of the distinguished descendant of LAERTES. And he, no doubt, when his labors were ended, felt, that by the admirably drawn characters of AJAX and ULYSSES, ACHILLES and ILIUM's great hero, he had given an impetus to his name, that would secure for it an uninterrupted passage down to the last corridor of time. The two first among orators, who need no sonorous appellations, would never have used such extraordinary exertions for a mere momentary triumph. The one diligently pursued his studies under accomplished masters, with the most fearful consequences, and contrary to prudent admonition. The other in some secluded grotto prepared himself for the delivery of the grand "DeCorona," and proved to all coming indolent youth, "Jabovincet omnia." The most facetious of the Latin satirists, and the best of the Roman lyric poets at the conclusion of a volume of odes, in early life, thus exclaimed:

"Exegi monumentum ære perennius,
Regalique sitn pyramidum altius:
Quod non imber edax, non aquilo impotens
Possit diruere, aut immunitabilis
Annorum series, et fuga temporum.
Non omnis moriar; multaque pars mei,
Vitabit Libitinam."

In fame there is utility. Human nature without such a stimulus would have been far below its now degraded condition, and from this cause it may be reasonably concluded, that Divine wisdom endowed with it in the love of fame solely for the elevation of a highly [illegible]. But the [illegible] wonderfully astonishing has been the intellectual advancement! And it can not be known by any computation what part of it is attributable to the spirit of emulation. The trophies of others than MILTIADES have brought on sleepless nights and happy reformations. And the brilliant lights, stars of the first magnitude, which have arisen upon the horizon of art and science and literature, serve at all times to guide and inspire those who are seeking to obtain a proud position in the bright constellation. And he whose mind is so imbued with selfishness that he does not love to dwell in admiring, as far as is just, the true greatness of others, may rest well assured that he has nothing of the kind in himself. Annihilate the heaven-born principle, and improvements will cease, patriotism die, and the performance of duty will indeed be an intolerable task. But if kept under proper restrictions, it will always exert a healthful influence upon the destinies of inexperienced youth, and even of all mankind. It is not possible, in consideration of different circumstances, for every one to take the tide "at the flood," and reach the highest meed of fame, yet in every grade of beings, there will be a few, who will excel all others and challenge a profound respect. History is fertile in illustrious examples, that are strong in confirmation of these declarations. But we have one in the great expounder of our Constitution, and another in the defender of our rights.

WEBSTER rose as with giant-like grandeur, proudly burst asunder the bonds that fain would have held him down, and stamped his name upon the age in which he lived, and associated it with the renown of his beloved country. And when his expansive soul was called to perform nobler actions, and contemplate the grander scenes of a holier sphere, the intelligence darted over land and sea, upon the lightning's wing, propelled by the thunder's momentum. The breezes ever since have been wafting his eulogies throughout the Union, from the lips and hearts of the merest tyro in eloquence up to those of the "matchless CHOATE." And who can estimate what good will be realized by the present and future generations from the many virtues of the greatest orator and statesman of the nineteenth century?

Near six thousand years, and this broad continent, with its great sublimities, were required in the production of a WASHINGTON. He stands the first among mortals, a "colossus of time," and enjoys the richest and purest of earthly glory. Several of Freedom's sons live in history, but he abides in the affections of his countrymen. Their deeds may be eventually forgotten, but his will increase in splendor and in virtue until both hemispheres are thoroughly revolutionized, and Liberty holds undivided sway. Then let his children, a nation of freemen, rear his monument to the skies; and may the lovely daughters of the South do honor to his memory and themselves, by saving from desecration the holy ground which contains the resting place of him whose name belongs to America—to Liberty—to the World.

But fame also has its abuses. Those who cannot succeed by lawful means, often resort to any, however detestable, that will answer their purposes. Thousands, who have no higher aim than to amass perishing pelf, will enter the thresholds of the unfortunate, rob the pitiless orphan, and strengthen the deadening sting of poverty. Others, of less contracted desires, and with more favorable opportunities, have generated clouds of devastation, and left wide-spread desolation in their train. Unprincipled monarchs, rejecting the praise-worthy precedents of NUMA and ALFRED, degrade their subjects and exhaust the resources of their governments to accomplish their ignoble ends. ALEXANDER and CÆSAR and NAPOLEON depopulated empires, reveled in the gore of millions, and were not satisfied in bounding their "imperium oceano, famamquetertia?" And to these, and like heroes, countless numbers in enlightened Christendom pay the most shameful and humiliating adoration, such that if their ghastly shades could arise from the tomb, they would say, Away! away! with these vain, useless, [illegible] your homage to God. [illegible]

wrenching from impotent Spain the fairest jewel in her casket, the beautiful island of Cuba. Europe is in a violent turmoil, the lion of the North is marching down his host and making ready for the complete annihilation of Turkey, and the finest navies in the world are majestically riding the seas and buffeting billows to preserve the balance of power.

The possession and enjoyment of fame are capable only of a temporary duration; and when subjected to the proper analysis, it will be found to savor strongly of vanity. He, who has scaled all its heights and sounded even that lower deep beneath its lowest depths, cannot personally realize from it more than a brief consciousness of pre-eminence. Its pleasures never can find their way to decaying mortality in the dark chambers of death; for there nothing, not even the most violent convulsions of the universe, will ever be heard and nothing heeded, save the loud sounding sound of the Archangel's [illegible]. The immortal spirit will have but [illegible] inducement to revisit its former habitation and muse over that which was instrumental in riveting it to the foundations of the profoundest hell, to be tortured forever by "floods and whirlwinds of tempestuous fire." And what are all the crowns, and conquests, and victories of earth, when contrasted with the extatic and perpetual bliss of Heaven? The great laboratory of nature is too poor to afford a comparison! Who will spare a moment to give a thought to aught that transpired in this probationary state, when once admitted into a celestial home to dwell in the company of the pure, the holy, the redeemed? The honors and blessings of fame will be forgotten, as if submerged under oblivion's heavy waves, when the enraptured soul shall be pavilioned by the rainbow coverings of the great royal palace, and imparadised fast by the throne of Jehovah. There it shall continue to increase in happiness, beneath the full-orbed splendor of the Sun of Righteousness, until Eternity rocks on its base.

"*Lovely Bower*," *Ga., June*, 1854.

T. K. L.

POLITICAL.

The President's Message.

THE great length of this document precludes the possibility of its appearance in the *Press* under present circumstances. We therefore copy a very accurate synopsis of it prepared by the editors of the Charleston *Courier*:—

FOREIGN RELATIONS.

On this interesting subject, the duty and policy of the country are stated in a brief exposition and enforcement of the general rules that have long been recognized. The spirit and tenor of the Monroe doctrine are clearly inculcated, as not only necessary for the best interests of the country, but as justified by analogy to the European system of balance of power.

Our system, however, is essentially one of defence and conservative security—not of offence or interference. The increasing extent of intercourse and of commercial connections may make the application of the doctrine more difficult, but only enhances its propriety. This difficulty is owing in great part to the want of a proper discrimination between commercial and political relations. No nation or country can have reasonable grounds for attributing offensive or intermeddling purposes to the United States—the settled policy of the country in reference to its military and naval establishments, forbids such a supposition.

The territorial expansion of this country, which some have regarded with distrust, has been the natural and necessary result of causes that argued no inordinate lust or political rapacity.

NEUTRAL RIGHTS.

The co-operation of the two allied powers in Western Europe in admitting, during the present war, the operation and effect of the doctrine that "Free ships make free goods," affords a favorable opportunity for renewing the attempt to engraft that maxim formally upon the law of nations. The doctrine has ever been a favorite one with the leading statesmen of this country, and has occasionally received the sanction of the leading maritime powers. Seizing the present favorable occasion, this Government has submitted to all the European and American powers a proposal to adopt formally and solemnly that doctrine, as well as the rule that Neutral property not contraband shall be exempt from confiscation even on the enemy's [illegible]

[illegible]

pressed his willingness to accede.

The King of Prussia also assents, but on the proposal of a new condition, viz: the renunciation of privateering. Such an article would manifestly operate to the benefit of all powers having large naval establishments in proportion to their commercial marine, and the extent of their commercial exposure; but it would as clearly be detrimental to any powers having a large and widely extended commerce with a small navy, in which condition we are found. The inexpediency of an accession to this proposed condition by the United States is argued earnestly—it would be equivalent to an obligation and solemn compact to forego resort to volunteers on land in war. The particular state of our relations with other powers is next adverted to.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The legislation necessary to the full and faithful execution of the late Treaty of Reciprocity in Fisheries, is strongly recommended. The treaty is now in operation as far as can be without the aid of Congress, and it is recommended to refund the duties that have accrued since its commencement, for the want of power to suspend the law.

There is pending a difference in regard to our boundary line on the North Pacific, which has already caused difficulties between citizens and local authorities of the two Governments near that site. The dispute relates to the boundary line of Washington Territory, and a commission is recommended. The indications are encouraging for an amicable arrangement, which could also include the right of navigation on the Columbia, as now vested in the Hudson Bay Company.

FRANCE.

With this country, our first diplomatic ally, and generally our steadiest friend too, we have had occasional, but slight interruptions of amity and courtesy. The case of the French Consul at San Francisco, has been settled, it is believed, to the satisfaction of all. The later, and apparently more serious, case of the supposed indignity offered to Mr. Soule, is briefly mentioned, in referring to the full correspondence to be submitted with the message.

SPAIN.

The condition of this country, agitated by a revolution that has just been appeased, has offered no opportunity to our new minister for securing any definite results. Our relations, therefore, stand apparently unchanged since the last message, but it is hoped that the present government will be found, in some respects, more accessible than its predecessor.

DENMARK.

Negotiations are still continued to relieve American shipping from the exactions of the Sound dues. This claim only rests upon special conventional provisions, and not on general maxims. As the existing convention with Denmark is supposed to embarrass and prejudice in some points the full settlement of the question on broad principles, it is proposed to give notice of abrogation after one year, as required.

JAPAN.

The management and control of the late expedition are highly commended in general terms. The treaty resulting from this expedition awaits but ratifications and auxiliary legislation, to open that distant empire to our growing commerce.

MEXICO.

Numerous grounds of difference—chiefly in private claims and grievances—are still unsettled, and have been kept so, in consequence of the disturbed condition of that country internally, and in despite of the unwearied efforts of our representative there. The constitutional authority and powers of the government have been employed vigilantly to perform our stipulations with that country, and to secure its exposed frontiers, and with complete success, except in two cases, which are well known.

The commission for locating the new line provided by the treaty of December, 1853, has been organized and the work has commenced.

SOUTH AMERICAN STATES.

Treaties with the Argentine Confederation and the Republics of Uruguay and Paraguay have secured to us advantageously the navigation of the Rio de la Platte and its tributaries. It is hoped the same good results will follow the negotiations in progress concerning the Amazon.

CENTRAL AMERICA.

At present the best and shortest route of intercourse between our Atlantic and Pacific sides is over the Isthmus of Central America. It is the duty of Government, therefore, to protect this avenue against interruption.

Under this head, reference is made to perplexing questions between this country and Great Britain, which it was believed were definitely settled in the treaty of April, 1850, but have been re-opened by a serious misconception of the [illegible]

DOMESTIC AFFAIRS.

The Treasury Report is referred to for full information on the important subject of the Federal finances. The total revenue for the last fiscal year was $73,549,705, and the corresponding expenditures—exclusive of the public debt—were $51,018,249.

The payments on account of the public debt, including interest and premium, reached $24,836,280. The balance in Treasury at the commencement of the year was $21,942,892, and at the close $20,137,967.

The estimated excess for the current fiscal year under existing laws over all ordinary demands will reach $12,000,000. The public debt outstanding on the 20th Nov. was $44,975,456, in different issues of Stock redeemable through a range of fourteen years. The public debt overdue, but not presented for payment, equals $133,179. It is recommended to continue the system of applying the surplus, as far as practicable under financial conditions, to cancelling the public debt by anticipative redemption of Stocks. It is also strongly recommended to reduce the annual surplus by lowering the duties to a standard corresponding with the demands of a just administration. Revenue and not protection being now the established principle in regulation of the duty-laws, it will not be found difficult to agree on details.

It is stated that within the four years next preceding, the 4th March, 1853—that is, throughout the period of the preceding term of administration—the treasury was defrauded to the amount $198,000 at the four ports of Oswego, Toledo, Sandusky and Milwaukie. It was found difficult to detect these frauds, in consequence of the abstraction of books and papers by retiring officers. New provisions of law are recommended, requiring the books and records of officers to be left in their proper depositories, under adequate penalties. The treasurer's report, it is said, furnishes ample illustration of the financial security and prosperity of the country, and of the salutary operation of the independent treasury system.

INDIAN AFFAIRS.

The experience of the year furnishes many painful reasons in favor of an increase in the military force allotted to the frontier defences. The frontier settlers have suffered much, and large bodies of emigrants have been massacred. The army has done its duty nobly and displayed its characteristic gallantry, but an increase is imperatively demanded.

THE ARMY.

The increased pay allowed by the act of last session for the rank and file, has resulted favorably, not only in facilitating enlistment, but in providing a better class of recruits. Additional provisions of a similar character are recommended for officers. An increase also of two regiments of infantry and two of mounted men, is urged as the least increase adequate to existing emergencies.

Changes in organization and arrangement are also proposed, such as a devolution of staff duties, on officers detached from the regiments concerned. An extension of the range of selection, or a modification of the present practice of promotion by seniority and a retired list.

As to Artillery, thorough reform in organization is proposed, involving a change from regiments to corps, according to batteries, and to actual artillery outfit. Much of the force now nominally rated as artillery, has long been practically on duty as Infantry.

THE NAVY.

The augmentation of this arm has not kept pace with the demands, necessarily attending our expansion of area and maritime interests. The Apprentice system is earnestly proposed for public vessels of war.

The numerous and tragical instances of marine disasters, crowded together within a few past months, demand investigation and attention. A difficulty in procuring reliable seamen is sensibly felt, and may have some connection with the calamities referred to. After all that has been done, life at sea is not so well protected and guarded by law as on land. It is suggestively proposed to apply, as far as possible, the same principles in both cases, and punish any insubordination, cowardice or desertion of duty at sea, which results in loss of life, as is done by many States with reference to engineers, conductors, &c.

THE POST OFFICE.

The expenditures for the year ending June 30th, 1854, amounted to $[illegible] of which $138,483 were due to foreign offices. The gross receipts were $[illegible] excess of expenditures $1,785,[illegible] diminution of deficiency, as compared with the previous year, is $[illegible] increase of revenue over [illegible] years is $[illegible] transportation allowed [illegible] 47½ [illegible] compensation [illegible]