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### THE CONDUCT OF THE WAR AND OTHER MATTERS.

#### Oscious and Sarcastic Letter of Emerson Etheridge.

The Southern Clerk of the Republican U. S. House of Representatives.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 18, 1863.

Gentlemen—I have just received your letter of the 7th inst., inviting me, in behalf of the Washington Union Club of Memphis, to join in a public celebration of the anniversary of the surrender of that city to the Federal arms. You also speak kindly of my past efforts to induce the people of West Tennessee to consent cheerfully to "the restoration of the national authority throughout the South."

If I believed that by meeting you on the occasion referred to, I could be of service to a single honest, law-abiding citizen, or truly repentant rebel, or that I could contribute to the least extent in ending the war and restoring the blessings of peace under the Constitution, I would certainly attend; but I have no such faith in myself, and therefore I shall not go.

In your letter you express the opinion that by a "direct personal appeal," I might "encourage the loyal or reclaim the disloyal." I confess my astonishment at such a statement, and I can attribute this opinion of yours to nothing but a failure of your part to comprehend the mastery policy of our great and good President, and the wise statesmen who aid him in shaping and directing the civil policy of the Government. When you have fully studied and understood the grand purposes of our most God-fearing and law-abiding President; when you are more familiar with the profound military strategy which, as "Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States," he is now displaying; and when you further remember the astonishing success we have had in reclaiming our "misguided countrymen," and in conquering our wayward sisters, "I shall be amazed if you continue to believe it necessary to "encourage the loyal" or "reclaim the disloyal." Why encourage the loyal? Is it possible they need encouragement in Memphis when, for nearly a year, you have been inside the Federal lines; when every night tattoo is substituted for "Hush, my baby, don't you cry," and at reveille "Hail Columbia" arouses the people to a consciousness of the great security which is afforded to the property of the loyal people in Memphis, and all the country round that (political) Jordan. How can you or I "encourage the loyal," when our matchless President, the late Congress, his sage counsellors and his peerless military subordinates have already done and promised all which wisdom can suggest, which our sacred constitution authorizes, and which the Christian religion tolerates or approves? There remains nothing for us to do, unless it be to obey our incomparable President in all his wise measures to conquer a glorious peace. True we have among us croakers and copperheads—silly, brainless men—who are so unwise and unpatriotic as to question the wisdom of our indefatigable President. If you have any such in Memphis, you should at once denounce them in sympathy with the rebels; you should send them to their friends "down South" or to the Dry Tortugas, which is understood by many to be a place where everybody is tortured with a thirst for ride whiskey, and not a drop can be obtained. No good Union man will complain of the conduct of the wise men who direct our public affairs. They should be taught to remember that *scandalum magnatum* was formed by a high crime—it is a most heinous offence now—and nothing savours such copper colored wretches but the Christian charity of our most pious President.

At your proposed meeting you should so arrange matters as to secure a list of all who fail to attend or omit to render a suitable apology, and you should adopt resolutions of the most "loyal" kind. Allow me to suggest that the committee on resolutions be selected from contractors and officeholders. I particularly suggest one Cooper, who has recently been appointed assessor for the large, rich and populous district of West Tennessee. He was originally from New York. True, he was never in West Tennessee until sent from this city on his official errand; but he no doubt knows by intuition the true value of the goods and chattels, lands and tenements, &c., of a people he never knew and a country in which he never lived. But he is so loyal—so much so that I doubt not he is better fitted for the office than any one of the native born sons, brothers or fathers of the thousands of soldiers who, before the 22d of last September, West Tennessee had furnished to the Federal army. Let the committee imitate the "Loyal League" of Baltimore, and resolve that you not only approve all the present wise and patriotic administration has done, but that you will sustain and uphold it in everything it may hereafter do.

Let the committee make an elaborate report, accompanied with resolutions denouncing all who find fault with our most excellent President. For instance:—The late Congress (in July, 1861) passed a law to confiscate the property of certain rebels. That Congress, though a very wise body, did not possess as much aggregated wisdom as our great and good President. In proof of this we need but refer to the fact that the Congress aforesaid provided that, under this law, trial should precede conviction and forfeiture, and that guilt should be proven, and not presumed. Worse still; it offered an amnesty to repentant rebels; it mercifully gave them sixty days in which to accept it; and provided, further, that our most noble President might suspend for a period the operation of this law as our armies advanced southward, so as to afford all an opportunity to accept pardon. Worse still; this law actually applied to no one but the rebels. And it is astonishing that it ap-

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plied to them everywhere, North as well as South—in Springfield, Illinois, as well as in Springfield, Tennessee. But, worse still, it did not affect the rights or property of Union men, women and children, or lunatics, in any section of the country.

That Congress, strange as it may seem, did not perceive that the way to end the rebellion and restore affectionate relations between the sections was to place the Union men, women, children and the insane upon a perfect footing of equality with the vilest traitors in the land. That Congress believed that the crime of refusing obedience to the usurpation of Davis & Co. in Mississippi, Arkansas, North Carolina and elsewhere, amid the terrors of a military despotism, did not merit the same or worse punishment than that they had denounced against titled and official traitors. That Congress spared the women and children; it also shielded from harm the Union men who still adhered to the national symbol of protection. What weakness! But Congress has adjourned. What was to be done? Thank Heaven, our sagacious President was found equal to the occasion.

You will perceive that on the 1st of January last, under this so-called Confiscation law, the slaves of every rebel in the United States who had not accepted the amnesty therein provided were *de jure* free. But how were we to end this rebellion if the Union men, women and children in the so-called Confederate States were left in undisturbed possession of all their legal and constitutional rights? If this policy were adopted the rebels might become angry with these "monuments of federal mercy," and in that event might give more loudly to the "federal flag." This division among the people might cause a still more unhappy state of affairs in Dixie; our friends there might have to bear additional indignities. As before remarked, our merciful and considerate President was found equal to the crisis. In a long conversation with some inspired apostles from the saintly city of Chicago—a place where Old Drinking and other work by amusements are unknown, the President candidly confessed that he was endeavoring (he did not state the means) to ascertain the will of the Lord upon this difficult question; that so soon as he learned the divine pleasure he would give the will of the Master who sent him. The revelation came doubtless "by due course of mail."

Judging from "that which is written," it amounted to this: that in a portion of Virginia and Louisiana, in Delaware, in Maryland, in Tennessee and Missouri, it was lawful for traitors who had accepted the amnesty provided by the Confiscation law and all other persons to hold slaves; but that in the tidewater regions of Virginia, and in that part of Louisiana which had not been consecrated to slavery by the military occupation of General Butler, as also in North Carolina, Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas and Texas, it would no longer be lawful for the Union men, women and children to hold our African fellow-citizens to service or labor. And yet there are those of the "copperhead persuasion" who profess not to see the wisdom of this great masterpiece of our most noble and exalted President. Sirs, did it not immediately divide the South and unite the North? Were not our camps forthwith crowded with countless myriads of bold and ardent recruits? Have not "our American brethren of African descent" crowded by thousands into our ranks, inspiring our soldiers with the songs of enfranchised Dinahs and mewing and pugging Samho? and have not our arms been victorious everywhere since the dawn of the negro millennium of 1863?

I know that men like General M. Brayman, who commands in your vicinity (at Bolivar, Tennessee), are guilty of absurdities of speech which afford the enemies of our sagacious President excuse for complaint and criticism. For instance, in the 14th of last March that officer, then in command at Bolivar, wrote as follows in regard to the proclamation of freedom with which our illustrious and far-seeing President greeted the advent of the new year: "The loyal man is equally helpless with the disloyal; in fact more so; for the rebel takes his slaves South or hires them in the army in which he himself serves, while the slaves of loyal men flee to our camps beyond reclamation. Under this process the rebel holds his slaves by carrying them into a State in which they are declared free, while the law-abiding citizen loses his by retaining them in a State where it is lawful to hold them. As it is now, the loyalty and good conduct of these men avail them nothing."

In speaking of the elevating effects of this system upon our armies and the negroes, Gen. Brayman shocks our sensibilities by the use of such language as this:—"Their expense to the government is enormous. It requires soldiers to guard them. They sicken and die in crowded and filthy barracks. They become debased and demoralized. They debase and demoralize the army."

Now, among the resolutions you will adopt at the Memphis meeting there should be all means by one censuring Gen. Brayman for the use of language so insulting to "our fellow citizens of African descent," and so justly calculated to incense the slaveholders in Tennessee, who have so stubbornly refused to join the rebels. Why, sir, this license of speech must be suppressed. What right have men who do not support the present wise and efficient administration to criticize its policy or the consequences of it. Within the last few days I have heard persons in this city—in this capital, which bears the sacred name of Washington, and which, for the present, is the home of our illustrious Chief Magistrate—draw seemingly vindictive distinctions between the fate of Jesse D. Bright, of Indiana, and that of John M. Batts, of Virginia. How my blood "boiled with pious indignation" when, a few days ago, I heard a certain individual, of the straightest sect of copperheads, discarding terms:—"Jesse D. Bright, of Indiana, was expelled from the Senate of the United

States, last year, charged with treasonable practices. He then owned a farm and negroes in Kentucky, and still owns them. He accepted the amnesty, provided in the so-called confiscation law, which passed Congress last July. He is now preparing to accompany his family on a trip of pleasure to Europe, leaving his large properties in Indiana, and his slaves in Kentucky under the protection of the law. John M. Batts is just out of Libby, or some other Confederate prison, where he was incarcerated for his devotion to the Union and his undying hostility to the so-called Southern Confederacy. Ten days ago his slaves were enticed within the lines of our armies in Virginia. Mr. Batts demanded that they be surrendered or returned, and received for answer direct from Washington, that he had no right to them; that our wise and law-abiding President had set them free.

I confess that when I heard this long and complaining rignarole, I was indignant at this person's stupidity. He could not see the wisdom of this wise policy of our most noble Executive. He was almost as incorrigible as Jas. L. Pettigru, of South Carolina, who, when he led the grand proclamation of the most illustrious successor of Washington, took the oath of allegiance to the Confederate government, and offered his private fortune to the rebels to aid them in making war upon the armies of the sublimest man of modern times; of Nelson, of Tennessee, who, with sons in rebel captivity, published an appeal to the people of that State to take up arms against our freedom-loving President; of Houston, Henry and others, who immediately went over to the rebel cause. Away with all such men. A good Union man loves his country *per se*. He cares nothing for liberty or property, fame or fortune, consideration or contracts, office or opinion. The true test is simply this: who is the greatest, wisest and best of mankind? Who is the first natural military genius of the world? Who doeth all things wisely and well? Who should be elected President as long as he will accept the office? If to all these inquiries the respondent answers with a firm, unflinching voice, Abraham Lincoln, Esq., he may be set down as a good Union man, fit to join a "Loyal League," receive a contract, accept a commission or office, and to vote. But, if like Crittenden, of Kentucky, he is ever talking about the Constitution and such worn out themes, he ought not to be trusted for a moment.

A Union man must have abundance of faith—faith in the saving grace of our exalted President—faith that he will yet prove the political Moses to lead our armies across the Rappahannock—faith that under his leadership, could he be induced to take the field, the mighty hosts of Rebeldom would flee from Marye's Hill and drown themselves, like "possessed" swine in the adjacent stream.

How is recruiting now in West Tennessee? Last summer only a few thousand enlisted in our ranks; but very few, I believe, in Memphis. You were so amply protected within the lines that you quite forgot, I fear, the sorrows of those who had not yet had an opportunity of greeting the flag which brings such certain security to loyal men, women and children; such inevitable protection to property, including such trifling articles as negroes and cotton bales. Hurry up the volunteers. Give the lie to those who intimate that Tennesseans will not go into the Gulf States to fight for their brethren of African descent. True, most of our citizens have sons, daughters, sisters, fathers and brothers there; but they ought never to have settled so far South. Besides, when you have secured freedom to our African fellow-citizens South of us, you may possibly have the honor of taking part in carrying the same boon to a similar class in Tennessee and Kentucky.

I doubt not our noble President will, in due time, adopt suitable means to ascertain the will of the Lord in his behalf. Indeed, it seems to have been made known already to some of the lesser lights. Last week a grand convention of the loyal women of America assembled in the city of New York. Each delegate has conceived (not a baby) an idea; and, under the inspiration of the great occasion, they have commanded our magnificent President to proclaim freedom throughout all the ends of the earth. I doubt not, at the proper time, he will so proclaim; and the twenty thousand troops which his Excellency Governor Andrew Johnson was recently authorized to recruit in Tennessee (you have no doubt enlisted), will soon be ready for the good work of giving practical freedom to our enslaved fellow countrymen, male and female, of African descent.

When that time comes Memphis will be a lovely city. Its walks and promenades will be illuminated by the smiling faces and brilliant eyes of the graceful and accomplished sons and daughters of Lincoln and Liberty, of Darkness and Dahomey. True, our State Constitution and laws, like those of Illinois and other loyal States, will not permit free negroes to come within our State, nor enfranchised slaves to remain there; but from military necessity, or, as a high official expresses it, "from the *ex necessitate rei* of the thing," they will, no doubt, be permitted to remain. The plan recently adopted in South Carolina of selling the bond-rebels might be adopted, and thereby Memphis might soon become "a variegated city." Our white and colored brethren and sisters might thus furnish an example of that "freedom and fraternity" which so many unhappy Northern spinners sincerely regard as the only means of compromising the present unfortunate distinctions of color.

You should by all means pass a resolution in favor of giving such rebel farms and town lots as are not needed for our colored brethren to our Christian friends in the North who desire to live among their colored friends, particularly to that numerous and respectable class who think that both races will be improved by a cross of the Anglo-Saxon upon the pure Guinea. "When this cruel war is over," how our Psalm-singing

brethren from the Church of the Puritans would enjoy a Confederate farm upon Big Black, the Red river, the Arkansas or Ponchartraine! When the rebels are disarmed, how meek and lowly, docile and penitent they will be while beholding our Northern brothers occupying their mansions, and illustrating the beauties of General Banks' apprentice system! With what impunity General Butler would ride from his plantation on Moon lake to his rancho on Deer creek! Then would be made manifest the absurdity of those copperhead croakers who foolishly insist that, while military power can put down a rebellion, moral power alone can eradicate its consequences and keep it down!

It is true, they cite the example of Vandy; which, in area, is only about one-fortieth part of France. There, we admit, the peasantry believed their religion was endangered, and history records that they defeated six or seven of the best appointed armies which the French republic, in that warlike age, could hurl against him. It is also true that afterwards, when Carnot was made Minister of War, he quieted the people by assuring them they should be undisturbed in their religious faith. These mischievous fault finders, to give further force to their insidious assaults upon our worthy President, point also to Poland, in which the fires of rebellion are ever burning, but they forget that the *Czar* of all the Russias is in all respects inferior to our model President, and is wholly ignorant of the true means of quieting a disaffected people. It never occurred to the aforesaid *Czar*, that, to quell a rebellion effectually, the cause must be removed. Had he studied the history of rebellions in this country, he would have discovered that we always ascertain the cause, the evil, the sin, which gave a pretext to the insurgents.

For example—during the administration of General Washington a portion of the people of Pennsylvania got up a rebellion about whiskey. It was crushed out by "coercion," but the sagacious statesmen of that day determined to strike at the cause.

The result is that the people of that noble Commonwealth have ever since eschewed whiskey and turned their attention to contracts. Nothing is now known in that State of whiskey, and though Buchanan used to recite some traditional stories of "old rye" to the junior members of his Cabinet, it is well known that the sight of a bottle of pure Monongahela was as repulsive to his nature as ice water to a mad dog. Subsequently, while General Jackson was President, the people of South Carolina revolted against taxation, because some demagogues called it high tariff, and asserted that the monster "stole money from their unconscious pockets." The rebellion, however, was subdued by the military power of the Government, and the cause—taxation—of course abolished. No tax-gatherers have been known since in South Carolina. At a later day, during the administration of John Tyler, of the firm of "Tippecanoe and Tyler too," some unwashed Democrats in Rhode Island fermented a grand insurrection against the sovereignty of that large and populous State. The army and navy of the United States, by a hearty co-operation with the "loyalists" of that day, soon overthrew the insurgents.

Their provisional Governor, Thos. W. Dorr, was captured, denied the rights of a "belligerent," and sent to the penitentiary. The Democratic party—the cause—was abolished, as all subsequent elections have shown, throughout the United States, since which no spark of rebellion has been known within the vast limits of that loyal State. The rebellion of Utah, which occurred during the reign of that old public functionary, is too recent to be forgotten. The cause is doubtless fresh in the mind of every aged maiden lady in the loyal States. The republican instincts of our people would not tolerate a monopoly in Heaven's "last, best gift to man." General Albert Sidney Johnston was sent to Utah with instructions to conquer the conjugal spirit of Brigham. The Mormon war ended gloriously to our arms. The cause was removed. Harbors are now unknown among the Latter Day Saints, and Brigham, like some lone bird without a mate, "refuses to be comforted." In Europe, protracted and sanguinary civil wars have often resulted from differences of opinion in regard to the true mode of construing the Bible, and especially concerning the operations of the Holy Ghost. They have failed to abolish the one or deny the other. The result is that few countries in Europe maintain the quiet which usually "prevails" along the Rappahannock.

It should not be overlooked that our people were very ignorant or they would never have been deceived by the treasonable enemies, North and South, of our noble President. It was falsely charged that he and his party friends did not desire to suppress the rebellion without first subverting the rights of the States—treating all the slaves and elevating them to political equality with the whites. Our people being, of course, very ignorant, believed all these false, scandalous and malicious statements, and among the resolutions you will adopt at your meeting, there should be one thanking his Excellency, our most approved President, for the effectual means he has adopted to give strength and moral power to the Union men and women of the South; while at the same time he has shown how wickedly false and libelous were the allegations of Southern traitors and Northern copperheads that he intended to use the army and navy to abolish slavery.

The Union men of the South will ever gratefully cherish the name and memory of one who, by a scrupulous regard of his official and other pledges, and his manly adherence to the Chicago platform, has vindicated the truth of all the pledges which from time to time we made in his behalf; and the traitors and copperheads who have falsely charged our great and good President with designing to subvert the institutions of the Southern States, must henceforth hide their faces in shame.

You should by no means fail to adopt with wild acclamation, mingled with a few "Bally Hallelujahs," a resolution severely denunciatory of those who criticize our military operations, or show impatience at the tardy movements of our armies in South Carolina and Virginia. Such criticism gives the rebels "aid and comfort," and, though it may not be felony without benefit of the clergy, is nevertheless what Mr. Polk stigmatized as "moral treason"—a crime which our noble President and other Whigs were compelled to "dry up" during the war with Mexico.

Our present military discord is but "harmony when understood." We are abundantly able to beat the rebels whenever we try. At present we have them completely surrounded—crowded into a small circumference of not more than six thousand miles. Our armies are guarding the outposts of this contracted line, and everywhere during the pusillanimous blunders to "pierce the centre," and the ragged wretches "take the dare." We have forces at Galveston, New Orleans, Pensacola, Hilton Head, Newbern, Suffolk—all in quiet on the Blackwater.—Fortress Monroe, on the Rappahannock, at Baltimore, along the line of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, in Western Virginia, in Kentucky, Tennessee, Missouri, Fort Smith and at Vicksburg, in the very heart of Rebeldom.—How long can the rebellion exist when thus circumscribed? In addition to all this, Adjutant General Thomas, a native of "My Maryland," and who, last year, was charged by the malignant tongue of slander with being a secessionist and a traitor—following where such noble men as Butler, Brady, Dickinson and other old friends of Breckenridge dare to lead—is now in the Southwest organizing the loyal blacks, who, it is understood, are impatient to be led against the barbarous hordes of Lee and Beauregard. Northern philosophers, women and divines, who regard the African as the best normal representative of the human race, and those who have seen the sturdy mastiff quail before the perfume of the skunk, do not believe the delicate nerves of the rebels will be able to withstand a bayonet charge from these American soldiers of African descent, if made when the state of the thermometer indicates cutaneous activity and corresponding perspiration. Time, however, will soon settle this disputed question.

You should further denounce all who complain of the Army of the Potomac. It has been in no sense a failure. It has achieved more than any army in ancient or modern times has accomplished under similar or equal difficulties. Its bravery is unquestioned, and injustice is done its Generals. True, McClellan, under the influence of Northern copperheads, aided by such Republican fogies as (Turlock Weed, and backed by the stupid graduates of West Point, was fast becoming a favorite with the army and the people, and it was gravely hinted by some of his bolder adherents that he might be used by the copperhead fraternity to supplant our unrivaled President in 1864.

Besides, Gen. McClellan had commanded the Army of the Potomac long enough. "Rotation in office" is a sound political axiom. He was, therefore, retired, although still a favorite with the brave men he so long commanded. Gen. Burnside's career has been an eminently brilliant one, and the same may be said of Gen. Hooker, who, I presume, will soon retire upon the laurels he has so nobly won.

But in all this there is strategy. It is the result of that superior genius and wisdom of our President, who, as "Commander-in-Chief," moves inferior upon the military chessboard with a skill which excites the admiration of all who are truly loyal to the administration. No harm can result from all this. We have an abundance of leaders ready and willing at a moment's notice to lead the Army of the Potomac to the rebel capital. We have in reserve Butler, Phelps, Busted, and Lane, to say nothing of Col. d'Utassy, who, like Mahomet's coffin, is still suspended between the heavens and the earth. I look in vain among the names attached to your letter for one which recalls a familiar face. I do not now remember that I ever had the honor of a personal acquaintance with any one of you, although in former times I knew many of the leading citizens of Memphis, among whom are not a few who are still ardently in favor of a restoration of the Constitution. I regret to find none of them associated with you in the proposed demonstration. But I will indulge no complaints.

Whenever our armies have secured a permanent lodgment in the South, as at Hilton Head, New Orleans, Newbern, Nashville and Memphis, the Northern friends of our most excellent President have supplied us abundantly with most interesting men and women, whose loyal tongues are heard in melodious tones wherever we "hold, occupy and possess" a cotton or contraband settlement in the Confederate wilderness. Look at Hilton Head, where the tender maiden and tougher matron of the North mingle upon sisterly terms with the Palmetto African ladies of South Carolina. A beautiful issue of tracts and catechisms will no doubt soon be followed by an improved issue of contrabands—not so white as the pure Anglo, nor so black as the normal African. In a few years they will

Walk in beauty like the night  
Of cloudless elms and starry skies,  
And all that's best of oak and bright  
Meet in their aspect and their eyes.

In North Carolina, Charles Henry Foster, Esq., originally from Maine, and a warm political friend of Breckenridge, has organized a free labor association, and Governor Stanley has gone back to California in disgust. In Nashville we have a regularly organized abolition society. Its organ is the same as that of the State and Federal Governments, and the editor, though imported from abroad, is doing more to sustain the glorious administration of President Lincoln than any native born citizen of the State can do or is willing to do. This Abolition society and this Abolition newspaper, although conducted within the fortifications of this city, is do-

### Notes of Advertising.

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The space occupied by ten lines of this size of type counts one square. All fractions of a square under five lines will be measured as a half square, and all over five lines as a full square. All legal advertisements will be charged to the person having them in.

ing, no doubt, very much to induce the people of Middle Tennessee to cease all further opposition to the wise, gentle and constitutional rule of our distinguished Chief Magistrate.

In Memphis the harvest is a tempting one. With cotton at a dollar per pound and likely contrabands "lying about loose," our enterprising Northern friends, who love the Union and wish it preserved under the guarantees of the Constitution, may make "a good thing of it."

Already I hear of several who have farms in Kansas, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana and other "loyal" states, which are now well filled by negroes who once belonged to the Union men of the South. Facts like these will tend greatly to the restoration of peace and harmony, and materially aid in removing the prejudices which the people of the insurrectionary States have entertained against their Northern kindred. They now know that the war is not to be conducted as to deprive them unnecessarily of any portion of their property; and they now have positive proof that Southern Secessionists and Northern Copperheads, who charged that the war was to be finally waged against the South as a nation, instead of the rebels and their allies, were guilty of falsehood. Furthermore, there is a large party at the North who have persistently refused to regard the African as the best representative of the human race.

This influx of negroes will do much to change their opinions, and by the same means Southern manners and customs will become gradually introduced North of the Ohio and Potomac, rendering our people more homogeneous than in former times. Thus we will again become a united and loving people. The lion and the lamb—the contractor and the contraband—will lie down together, and then the millennium will have come. Excuse the haste with which I write, and accept assurance of my highest regard.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
Em. ETHERIDGE.

To J. M. Tomeny, G. D. Johnson and others, Memphis, Tennessee.

A leading officer in one of the courts was charged with never going to bed sober. Of course he indignantly denied the soft impeachment; and he gave the particulars of a particular night in proof.

He quotes his own words:  
"Pretty soon after I got into my bed, my wife said:  
"Why husband, what is the matter with you? You act so strangely."  
"There's nothing the matter with me," said I; "nothing at all."  
"I'm sure there is," she said; "you don't act natural at all. Shall I get up and get something for you?"

"And she got up, lighted the candle, and came to the bed side to look at me, shading the light with her hand."  
"I knew there was something strange about you," said she. "Why are my wife?"  
"Now, this is a fact, and my wife will swear to it. So don't you slander me any more, by saying I haven't been to bed sober in six months, 'cause I have."

Such a testimony was considered reliable, and the man now enjoys his new-found reputation.

"You can do anything if you only have patience," said an old uncle, who had made a fortune, to a nephew who had nearly spent one.  
"Water can be carried in a sieve, if you can only wait."  
"How long?" asked the petulant spendthrift, who was impatient for the old man's obituary.  
"Till it freezes!" was the uncle's cool reply.

A soldier dying of a lung disease in one of the Washington hospitals, had a biater applied between his shoulders by the surgeon. The poor fellow looked waggishly at the doctor, and grimly asked if a man had to have a stamp put upon him before he could be allowed to die!

Quilp and his wife had a bit of contention the other day. "I own you have more brilliancy than I," said the woman, "but I have the better judgment."  
"Yes," said Quilp, "our choice of marriages show that." Quilp was informed that he was a brute.

A lawyer once jeeringly asked a Quaker if he could tell the difference between *also* and *likewise*.  
"O, yes," said the Quaker. "Erskine is a great lawyer; his talents are admired by almost every one. You are a lawyer also but not like *also*."

A Milwaukee paper says that when a Wisconsin girl is kissed, she looks surprised and says, "How could you do it?" to which the swain replies, "It will give me much pleasure to show you," and proceeds to give her a duplicate.

An author of a love story in describing his heroine, says:  
"Innocence dwells in the dark clusters of her hair."  
A waggish editor suggests that a fine tooth comb would bring it out.

REPUBLICANS OPPOSED TO ARRESTED ARRESTS.—Every Republican paper in the city of New York opposes the arrest of Mr. Vallandigham, except the *Times*. This speaks volumes.

The letters that spell debt are the initials of the sentence, "Don Ever Body Twice"; and the letters that spell credit are the initials of the sentence, "Call Regularly Every Day—Till Trust."

Pat Doolan, an Inkerman, bowed his head to a cannon ball which whizzed past, six inches above his bare skin. "Faith," says Pat, "One never loses anything by politeness."

A viper's tongue is said to be six inches long; a scolding woman's has no end.