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Letters and communications, by mail, shall have prompt attention.

## MY MOTHER.

BY LILY LEA.

Thou art growing old, my mother,  
And thy brow is marked with care,  
All furrowed is thy aged cheek,  
Once so beautiful and fair.  
Thy soft brown locks are sadly changed,  
Chill frosts have settled there,  
And touched with many a teasing kiss  
The gentle, flowing hair.  
Thou art growing old, my mother,  
As I catch the half-drawn sigh,  
Well I know that days of sorrow  
Have belabored thy melting eye;  
But with gentle light it beaams,  
Beneath no morn or eve yet,  
With a love that never changes,  
Till the sun of life is set.  
Thou art growing old, my mother,  
Many of our household hand  
Have before thee journeyed onward,  
To the far-off better land.  
But thy voice is tender accents  
Still falling on my ear,  
Softly brightening my pathway,  
Which, without thee, were so drear.  
Thou art growing old, my mother,  
And around thy youngest born  
Shadows gather—darkly gather—  
Even in life's early morn.  
But the blessed Saviour spareth  
Thee, to still protect thy child,  
While the storms of sorrow blow,  
Hever or of dark and wild.  
Thou art growing old, my mother,  
From thy feet that thou wilt rest,  
In the land of the hereafter,  
In the region of the blest.  
Who will love me then, my mother,  
When the last life cord is riven,  
Let us pray that both together,  
God will take us safe to Heaven.

## The Cause of Suicides.

The New Orleans Bulletin, referring to the suicides of certain persons, comes to the conclusion that if the real facts could be known, it would be found that in a large majority of instances, the cause of suicide is to be found in strong drink, and add:  
"The extensive adulteration of liquors, which have taken place of late years, act upon the brain and destroy its proper functions. Physicians and others know full well that the brain is liable to disease, almost as much as the body, as any other organ, and when it is so, the individual is crazy, and he does not know what he is doing. The brain of the drunkard, it is well known, will take fire, emitting a bluish light and a smell like burning alcohol. We are strongly inclined to think that most suicides by males are referable to this as the primary cause."  
The Washington correspondent of the N. O. Delta writes as follows:  
"I have a passion for Seward. He comes up to my idea of Robin in the Wandering Jew—the most detestable devil that was ever drawn by human pen—so cool, so clear-headed, so indomitable, so relentless in the pursuit of his fiendish purpose. Seward traverses the seemingly tortuous, but really straight line of his ambition with the unerring certainty of footsteps that characterizes a roving dancer, never missing a step, and keeping his eagle eye steadily fixed on the goal before him. The balance pole by which he preserves his equilibrium is not cool, big head that bulks out above his narrow shoulders. If he becomes our next President, and disunion does not immediately follow his election, I will wager that he will so beautifully honey-fuddle both South and North, that the people will pronounce him one of the best Presidents we have ever had. But I begin to think there is little danger of his obtaining the nomination. He is too great a man, that if he is a man and not a devil."

## One of the Wives.

Old Dick should let the job of conquering Brigham Young to Mr. Barker, warden of the jail at Watertown, New York, in easy terms. She has proved her grit for on Sunday morning three prisoners by feigning sickness, got Mr. Barker in their power, gagged and bound him and locked him in a cell. This done, they robbed him of his money and the keys of the prison, and were about walking out and off. Mr. B. had heard the scuffle, and met the prisoners at the gate. With a determination they would put a bullet through the first man that came forward a step. A parley ensued in which they threatened to kill the husband if she would not let them pass out, but nothing daunted she held the key in her hand, and they were driven back to their cells. One such woman is worth a dozen slung-shot militia Generals.

VEVUSIUS CHANGING ITS SHAPE.—One of the two cones of Vesuvius, so often described and so familiar to all who have seen the volcano or its representations, has been blown into the air and the conformation of the mountain has been completely changed.

## A GOOD THING.

The following information is given by a Mr. Wayne to the New York Times.—We think an assurance office gotten up in this country, to include not only bank clerks, but railroad officers and others holding places of important trust, would do away with a good deal of dishonesty and "stealings!"

The Bank of England has over 750 clerks, whose aggregate salaries amount to nearly £200,000 per annum, and I believe only one instance of clerical irregularity has occurred during many years; and, although some melancholy instances of fraudulent directors have recently been displayed, and duly punished, huge defalcations by clerks are nearly if not utterly unknown.

A great impetus to the exercise of vigilance is the system of "Guaranteed Assurance," so successfully developed in England, as felt alike by the insurers, insured, and the share-holders. This, sir, would be found of great utility here, as a wholesome check on habits and morals, as well as a fine field for the enterprise of capital, not yet in practice here. There are two or three guarantee societies in London, where, for the small per centage premium of 10s. per £100 sterling, they insure the fidelity of clerks and others of every grade, from Government officials, tax collectors, treasury, commercial travellers, and every case where security for intemperance is required. A party requiring this is saved the delicate necessity of troubling friends or relatives, and on applying to the company is furnished with a printed form for him to fill up with necessary particulars: his age, occupation, and general description going back some 7 to 10 years of his life, with the details of the situation he is seeking, his salary, *modus operandi*, and general particulars, and his references. The officers of the society make all necessary inquiries as to character, habits, &c., previous and present, with the prospects which the new employment may afford for an honest career. If satisfactorily answered, his policy is issued on the above terms. Principals also have less compunction, in the case of default, to come on a public body than to hand private friends, and are also more tenacious of their own conduct, in the well-founded impression that the company keep an eye on all the attributes which may affect their interest; and the same feeling operating on the employed, the whole works well, even as "the lead" and "look-out" of the sailor keeps the ship afloat, so well indeed, that the British Government and the leading establishments of the country, municipal as well as commercial, prefer this course of security. Many will accept of no other from the known influence the system involves.

I am, sir, yours respectfully,  
JAMES S. WAGNER.

## A Sad Sight!

The editor of the Springfield Republican, who is not reputed to be given to the nightmare, has had some terrible sights in his day; enough to make one's blood freeze in his veins. Here are some of his writings in regard to them, to which we invite the special attention of all the baculetors of the Republic.

"There are some sad sights in this world—a city sacked and burned—a battle field after a great slaughter—a London in the midst of a plague—a ship burned at sea—a family pining in starvation—a jug of molasses wrecked upon the gambit—but the saddest sight to us, of all, is an old bachelor steadily walking towards his end, his great duties undone, his shirt buttons off, his stockings out at the toes, and nobody to give him money to buy more. Were we such a man, the mild reproving eye of a widow, or maiden body would drive us mad. But there is still hope. Uglier and older men than any of our friends have married beautiful wives, who trained them admirably and spent their money elegantly."

## Brother Jonathan.

The original of this term, as applied to the United States, is as follows:  
When General Washington, after being appointed commander of the army of the revolutionary war, went to Massachusetts to organize it, he found a great want of ammunition and other means for its defence, and on one occasion it seemed that no means could be devised for the necessary supply. Jonathan Trumbull, the elder, was then Governor of the state of Connecticut; and the general placing the greatest reliance on his excellency's judgment, remarked, "We must consult Brother Jonathan on the subject." The general did so, and the Governor was successful in supplying many of the wants of the army. Thereafter, when difficulties arose, and the army was spread over the country, it became a by-phrases, we must consult Brother Jonathan, and the name has now become a designation for the whole country.

A humorous old man fell in with an ignorant and rather impertinent young minister, who proceeded to inform the gentleman, in very positive terms, that he would never reach Heaven, unless he was born again, and added:  
"I have experienced that change and now feel no anxiety."  
"And have you been born again?"  
"Yes, I trust I have."  
"Well," said the old gentleman, eyeing him attentively, "I don't think it would hurt you, young man, to be born once more."

A bet was made between two politicians at Albany, on the result of the vote for Mayor, by the terms of which the loser was to live wholly on potatoes and salt for one month.

## SERVED HIM RIGHT.

Some years ago before Pittsburgh, the dingy city of Western Pennsylvania, was reached by Railroads from the East, the wagon was a great institution. The well-tired wheels untrillingly toiled over mountains and vales making long journeys, slow but sure. Dave Stewart was a noted wagoner. He was always wagging his tongue in boasting of his great feats which had been performed in his expeditions teaming over the Alleghenies. Some of these mountain passes are very narrow cuts into the side of cliffs, and on one side of a ploverish precipice admonishes the driver to hug the rock close as he goes. When teamsters meet in such places the rule of the road was set aside and the stoutest man scorns the wall. Dave was six feet high and well proportioned like Frank Granger of anti-slavery memory—and when one day he met an old gentleman driving along he surely in his eye. Dave determined to have some fun at his expense. High above their heads was an over hanging table rock, and as the horses started head to head, Dave said to the old gentleman,

"I want you to do me a favor."  
"Certainly," said the old gentleman.—"What can I do for you?"  
"I want you to climb up on that rock, and dance while I whistle!"  
"I shall do no such a thing, and I trust you do not intend to take advantage of an old man in such a place as this."  
Dave stepped forward with his heavy horse- whip in his hand, and raising it, threatened to lay it on him if he did not mount the rock and do as he was told. Seeing Dave was in earnest, the gentleman made a virtue of necessity, and scrambled up with necessary particulars: his age, occupation, and general description going back some 7 to 10 years of his life, with the details of the situation he is seeking, his salary, *modus operandi*, and general particulars, and his references. The officers of the society make all necessary inquiries as to character, habits, &c., previous and present, with the prospects which the new employment may afford for an honest career. If satisfactorily answered, his policy is issued on the above terms. Principals also have less compunction, in the case of default, to come on a public body than to hand private friends, and are also more tenacious of their own conduct, in the well-founded impression that the company keep an eye on all the attributes which may affect their interest; and the same feeling operating on the employed, the whole works well, even as "the lead" and "look-out" of the sailor keeps the ship afloat, so well indeed, that the British Government and the leading establishments of the country, municipal as well as commercial, prefer this course of security. Many will accept of no other from the known influence the system involves.

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