

# The Altoona Tribune.

[INDEPENDENT IN EVERYTHING.]

EDITORS AND PROPRIETORS.

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## THE ALTOONA TRIBUNE.

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## Choice Poetry.

### NO FLAG BUT THE OLD FLAG.

BY JENNY M. PARKER.

No flag but the old flag—the red, white and blue,  
With the stars of a Union unbroken and true;  
Aris and defend it, ye sons of the brave,  
Whose blood bought the banner your valor must save.

Who will to the traitor who drags to the mire,  
The flag crimsoned deep with the blood of his sire;  
If he rose up the legions on land and on sea,  
Who are ready to fight for the Flag of the Free!

Up! up with the Stars and the Stripes, and go forth  
To save our great Union, brave men of the North!  
Nor rest till the Star Spangled Banner ye see  
Triumphantly float from the Palmetto tree!

God bless the old flag, as He hath done  
Since He strengthened the arm of our own Washington;  
And God bless the freemen, devoted and true,  
Who are ready to die for the Red White and Blue!

## Select Miscellany.

### CAPITAL STORY OF HUMAN NATURE.

The long walk down town from Madison street, where Mrs. Jefferson lived, could be very much shortened by passing through a dirty alley, designated "Howard street." Mrs. Jefferson seldom availed herself of the advantage this cross-way offered, but one day being in great haste, she said to herself: "I think I will venture to go through this dirty lane."

Accordingly she drew down her face to its greatest possible length, and with a frown upon her brow, set her pretty gaitered foot upon the walk.

Passing along, beavelling the necessity which subjected her to the annoyance of such miserable spectacles and offensive odors, she approached a group of boys amusing themselves with pop-guns. Half a dozen shouted: "Pop goes the weasel," and the potatoes from the guns of the accurate marksmen came in contact with Mrs. J.'s nose. Darker grew the frown on her brow, and darker still as she received the unmistakable evidence that the aim was taken at her back. An expression of disgust mingled with Mrs. Jefferson's smile as she discovered a dirty little child smiling at her through a cobweb-curtained window. The baby's sister saw the look on her face and treated her to a splash from a mud-puddle near the door.

"You nasty thing!" said Mrs. Jefferson, but was interrupted by another splash from a puddle near the door.

Some boys were making miniature locomotives of mud on the walk. They did not notice the lady's approach until her fretful voice inquired:

"Can I pass?"

"Yes, just as quick as we get this injune done," said one.

"Let her go by, Bill. Get 'em tip the cars over with your hoops," said another.

The boys considered this a very witty remark, and they sent forth long and boisterous shouts, which were anything but musical.

Howard street was full of dirty, ragged saucy children; and it needed only a passing glance to see that they lived in places too filthy to be honored with the name of home.

Mrs. Jefferson was glad enough when she reached the broad and decent thoroughfare, but she could not help seeing the mud splashes on her dress; she feared the potato from the pop-gun had left its mark on her face, and her gaiter boots had not been at all improved by coming in contact with the dirt. The faces of those "horrid children," seemed to haunt her, too.

She went home the furthest way round, resolving whatever her haste might be, never again to try to save time by passing through Howard street. Just behind her tripped along her little neighbor, Mrs. Baldwin.

"Rather uninviting," she said to herself, as her happy face looked down the dingy alley, "but I'll try and see how many smiles I can get from the dirty little folks."

With grateful feelings in her heart, that God had drawn her lines in pleasant places, she reached the pop-gun marksmen, who had just taken such successful aim at Mrs. Jefferson.

"Now for my smiles," thought Mrs. Baldwin, as she greeted the boys with such a frank, genial look that it won pleasant answering smiles from all but one. He was so busy getting his pop-gun into running order, that he did not see her face until the other boys exclaimed:

"Hold on, Tom. Don't shoot that lady?"

Tom looked up with an expression which said, "I will if I have a mind to." But the lady gave him such a merry smile that he drew back a little and Mrs. Baldwin heard him say:

"Well, I'd rather not shoot her, I reckon."

The dirty baby was still peeping through cobwebs. He caught a glimpse of her sunshiny face, and instantly commenced such a crowing and cawing, that the lady had to stop and look at him and say aloud:

"What a dear baby you are."

Baby's sister saw the admiring look and heard the praise bestowed, and hurried to the door, broom in hand, not this time to improve a shower from the mud puddle, but she said:

"The walk is so dirty for your nice dress, that I want to brush it off for you."

The little engine makers were engrossed with their mud toys, and hesitated about leaving their work long enough to let the lady pass, but she said pleasantly:

"These are very nice locomotives, boys. I'll try and not come in collision with them."

The boys made way for her right quickly, and from the voice of more than one of them came a "beg pardon, ma'am."

Every little child was ready to give back smile for smile, and it was with a face radiant with happiness that she greeted her friends as she passed down Main street.

Mrs. Baldwin told her husband all about the walk, and her adventures, and he, (silly fellow,) kissed her and said:

"Bless your heart, wife! You are a perfect sunbeam. Who, besides you, could find anything but wretchedness in Howard street?"

Mrs. Jefferson thought she would never go near the dirty alley again; but on talking to some ladies of a benevolent association of the degradation of its inhabitants, she consented after considerable urging, to go as a missionary to the "poor miserable creatures." She supplied herself with a bundle of tracts, and taking care to wear clothing that would not suffer the least injury from dirt, she sailed forth on her mission.

"Dear, dear me!" she said, as she entered a wretched domicile, "I should think you would infect the whole city with fever and cholera. Don't you know it is shamefully wicked to be so dirty? Are you a friend of the Savior?" she added in a simple tone.

"I don't want to be, if you are," was the reply.

"Here are some tracts I would like to have you read, if you can."

The woman snatched the tracts from her hand, tore them to pieces, and threw them in her visitor's face.

Shaking the dust from her feet, Mrs. Jefferson passed from that house to another, making similar remarks, and meeting with a similar reception.

"Here comes that cross woman, that looks so ugly at baby's sister and companions," and she slammed the door in Mrs. Jefferson's face.