

# THE DEMOCRATIC WATCHMAN.

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## Select Poetry.

OUR COUNTRY'S CALL.

BY WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT.

Let down the saxe, clasp by the spade;  
Leave it in the track the tolling plow;  
The ride and the bayonet bend.

For arms like yours, like yours are fit;

And let the hands that ply the pen;

Quit the light task, and learn to wield

The hawks'son's pole arm, and rein

The charger on his shore.

Our country calls; awry! away!

To where the saxe, clasp by the green.

Step down the bayonet bend,

That time in all its course has seen.

Sea, from a thousand coverts—see—

Spring the armed foe, that haunts her track;

They rush to smite her down, and we

Must beat the banded traitors back.

Ho! sturdy as the oaks ye cleave,

And move as soon to fear and fight,

Not of the hand that holds the mail;

You're born for the field of fight.

The arms that wield the axe must pour

An iron tempest on the foe.

His err'd rank shall rest before

The arm that lays the lawther low.

And ye who breast the mountain storm,

By gray steep or highland lake,

Come, for the land ye love to form,

As mighty in your march as you;

A banner of the earth, a standard of the sun;

Have ye not your own hawk and boar?

With eagles broods to drown the plains

And sweep along the woods up thence.

And ye who brood by her grand

Swift rivers, rising far away;

Come from the depth of her green land,

As mighty in your march as you;

A banner of the earth, a standard of the sun;

Have ye not your own hawk and boar?

With eagles broods to drown the plains

And sweep along the woods up thence.

Now, few were they whose swords, of old,

But we who hold, we who hold;

With the fair land to which we call;

The grim resolve to guard it well;

Strike it! that broad and goody land,

Blow after blow till men shall see

That might and right move hand in hand,

And glorious must their triumph be.

From the Holliday's Register.

THE WILLOW BASKET AGENT.

BY NO MATTER WHO.

In the fall of the year 1855, the writer of

this sketch was appointed Agent for Olin

and Preston College, situated in Bloomsburg,

Montgomery Co., Va. An agent may be an

elegant preacher, a scientific lecturer, a

peerless gentleman; but if he does not get

the money, he is not the man. Knowing this

we started out with the determination that

we would raise the "wind."

When the ready cash would not be had, we

resolved to take anything that could be con-

verted into cash. Among numerous other arti-

cles—ranging from half-fledged chickens to

superannuated slaves and horses—a little

willow basket was given, for which we allowed

on the subscription book, *five cents*; cer-

tainly its full value.

The donor was a maiden lady, a daughter

of a wealthy Virginia farmer, weighing three

hundred and eight lbs. overplus!

Capacious however she was in body, she

was no less in spirit—for although in inde-

pendent circumstances, she employed her

time in making willow baskets, for the ben-

efit of the poor in the neighborhood. In the

evening of the day on which we received the

basket, we delivered a lecture on education

in the town of S—, after which we put the

basket at auction, determining to sell to the

"highest bidder." We had scarcely doomed

the auctioneer, when we received a *ten dol-*

*lar bid* for the basket. "Thinks I—to my-*self*—good for the basket! and off we went

in the incipient language of the gentlemen

of the "block," until at length we knocked

it off to a wealthy lady in the audience for

*fty dollars!* At once handed the lady

her basket. After examining it for a few

minutes, she put the money in it and return-

ed it to us, for which we, of course, made our

most complimentary bow.

As by the gift of the lady, the basket was

our own once more, and, being encouraged

by our previous success, we determined to

try our hand a little further at auctioneering.

So we put up the basket again. The bidding

commenced, the audience waxed enthusiastic

and in a few minutes we knocked it off again

to a gentleman sitting near us, for fifty dol-

lars. He also put the money in the basket,

and returned it to us. "And thus we contin-

ued to sell the basket—the bids ranging from

five to fifty dollars—until within forty-five

minutes we sold the basket for *six hundred*

*and fifty dollars*; and left the house with

the money in our pocket, and the basket on

our arm.

A few days after this, we went to W—,

a wealthy town in the western part of the

State, to present the claims of the College.

We found, however, on entering the town,

that the report of the "basket agent" had

reached us. A friend of ours informed us

## Report in Gen. Fremont's Case.

The Adjutant-General's Observations in Mis-

## Secretary Cameron's Visit to Ken-

tucky and Indiana.

HARRISBURG, PA., Oct. 19, 1861.

GENERAL: When I did myself the honor to ask you to accompany me on my Western tour, I did so with the view of ascertaining

the progress of your experience as Adjutant-General of the Army. Finding that the result of my investigation might (as I at first apprehended) have an important effect, not only upon the army of the West, but upon the army of the whole country, I requested you to take full notes upon all points connected with the object of my visit. As you informed me that you have carefully compiled with me, and now respectfully request you to submit your notes to me, as far as practicable, in order that the President may be correctly advised as to the administration of affairs connected with the army of the West.

Very respectfully, SIMON CAMERON,

Secretary of War.

Brig. Gen. L. Thomas, Adj't Gen. U. S. A.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 21, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the report requested in your letter of the 19th instant.

We arrived at St. Louis, as you are aware, on Oct. 21, 1861. After breakfast, rode to Benton, Barnards, about the city. On the street learned that a party had a small field work in course of construction.

Found the camp of great extent, with extensive quarters, constructed of rough boards.

Much has been said of the large sums ex-

pended in their erection; but some one

mentioned that Gen. McKinstry, principal

Quartermaster, who made the disbursements,

gave the east as \$15,000. If so, it is

considerable, but that paid to the contractor

is not necessarily the amount paid to the

contractor.

What does this mean? Contractors de-

liver forage direct to Quartermasters, who issue the same. But here another party steps in, and for the purpose, if a contractor or the co-partner of one, of filling his own contractor. It is difficult to suppose that this double transaction is done without a consideration. The accounts in this case

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