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Marriages and Deaths, Religious, Political  
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## POETICAL.

### GOD BLESS YOU, SOLDIER!

God bless you, soldier!—when you sky  
Was heavy with impending woes,  
And traitors raised the battle-cry,  
And fear met fear in every eye,  
You rushed to meet our foes.  
God bless you, soldier!—when our light  
Of hope grew dim and courage waned,  
And freedom veiled her face from sight,  
Your valor flashed away the night,  
And morning clear remained.  
God bless you, soldier!—scourged and worn,  
Wearied with marches, watchings, pains,  
All battle-stained and battle-torn,  
Bravely has all your tasks been borne,  
You have not fought in vain.  
God bless you, soldier!—think not we  
Have forgot and bless your name,  
For millions now and yet to come,  
Millions your argus has rendered free,  
Still sing your deeds and fame.  
God bless you, soldier!—even the air  
Glow heavy with the battle's roar,  
Sisters beneath his love and care,  
May glory with her garlands rare  
Adorn you evermore.  
God bless you, soldier!—when the dove  
Of peace the eagle's nest shall share,  
When home and hearts made warm with love,  
With you below—with joys above,  
God bless you here and there.

## Miscellaneous.

### Execution in Japan.

A letter from Yokohama describes the beheading of two men, alleged to have been accomplices in the recent assassination of British officers. The writer says:  
"The doors opened, and a man bound with cords and blindfolded was led through the crowd and made to kneel down on a mat placed before a high table in the ground to receive his head. The attendants drew his clothes down off his neck, and gave a few preliminary brushes with the hand upward as they struck the hair all one way. The executioner was one of the Tycoon's soldiers, who had purchased a new sword blade, and had asked permission to do the duty and thus try his weapon.  
After securing the line around the hands, and carefully getting the blade to look up his position, delicately on the left side of the victim, and raising the sword high above his head with both hands, he fell with his arm which severed the neck completely. The head was held up for the inspection of the chief officer present who signified his approval. I have seen the other man was carried in and they appeared to find some little difficulty in getting him to kneel in a convenient position; but when his knees had been perfectly adjusted and his neck laid bare the other executioner, who had also petitioned that he might fill the office, advanced, took his place by the prisoner's side and drawing his sword high above his head with an elegant flourish inflicted the blow as accurately as his predecessor.  
The blades did not appear to be different from those ordinarily worn by the two sworded class, any one of which would have done the work quite as completely. The faces of the two men were villainous enough to justify the suspicion of being murderers in a foreigner's mind. Their punishment did not end at the place of execution; placards have been put up everywhere stating their crime, and giving their ages."  
U. S. NATIONAL BONDS IN GERMANY.—In November last the amount of United States stocks held in Holland and Germany was estimated by a German banker at \$200,000,000, but it is much more at this time, and the 5-20's are still being ordered heavily. Frankfurt has become the great emporium of American stocks in Germany, and in a single week in February orders were sent thence to New York for five millions in 5-20's. The bonds are called for from all over the country, and Austrian capitalists, who are forbidden by heavy penalties from investing in any but Austrian securities, send privately large sums to Amsterdam or to Frankfurt to be invested in American stocks. One individual in Frankfurt is reported to hold over a million as a permanent investment, a Bavarian, I—of Munich, holds half a million, and those who hold from fifty to a hundred thousand, are quite numerous.  
The consequence is, that at all the clubs, public houses, private entertainments and business centres, American stocks is a prominent subject of discussion, and the wish for success to the American arm is everywhere expressed. American political, military and financial affairs are generally well understood, and all the latest knowledge that the steamers bring is studied with avidity. American stocks at the present exchange, pay a handsome interest on their cost to those who buy for investment, and the German bankers besides reaping from three to six per cent. on every dollar sold. It is strange that Americans have left this lucrative business so entirely to foreign hands and their New York branches.—Boston Traveller.

## Saturday Night Musings.

There is a great white counterpane of snow on the ground this Saturday night. God's charity covering a multitude of sins! Would that human charity would thus do—would whiten over the little bannocks and ridges of life which can be removed from one place only to rise again in another.—The week just passed has been a short one. Too short for many a one to settle with himself, yet he has gone home. How time flies! Has it always gone by thus rapidly? If all the Saturday nights God has ever sent you his were before you what a train of crime would be set on foot! The day comes when they will all come to curse or bless. Do you ever pause to think, reader? If so, pause again. If not, begin now.—Draw your chair to the fire. Turn the light, so it will not hurt your eyes. Pull the curtain down at the corners. Listen! A footstep on the creaking snow. Some laborer going to his loved ones. Weary and tired heated—may God warm his little home with love.—Look back over the past week. It is not far. A room with six holding doors. Open all of them. Turn the room into a hall—look down its short walls and see in memory the pictures you have hung there. Another footstep! How the boots creak as the snow is crushed beneath its weight.—Listen! A lighter step. Some wife who is hastening home to greet her husband with the marketing for the morrow. Tired man. He sits and rests with little hands in his whiskers—little eyes peering into his little heads on either shoulder—stars which rank him a Major General in the army of life! Hold them closer to you—kiss them fondly to-night. Who but God knows who will be in front, or in disgrace, or even there Saturday night, comes around?  
Another step. The other way. Some husband with heart full of rancor, has gone to meet his bride to-night. Some foolish youth, excited by a girl, has gone to meet the girl. Pitiful husband. "Twas not thus a few years since. Who is to blame? Let us, who know now the cares and shadows of the heart, not do that which God has told us not to do. Let us not condemn. He will reward and he will punish. The step dies away. Around the corner. So her hope dies away. So his heart thoughts have died out. Why will he leave the home beside this Saturday night, over all others? Home once had its charms. The eye now so indifferent once lit its way to her very soul. The lips now could exult in petulance, once put their rich fullness up to reveal in the forehead. The tongue which now speaks but to elude one knew no language but that of love. It was many Saturday nights ago perhaps—but it was once. Why go to night? Is there not some little corner in the heart where the old love—the old hope—the old pleasure lingers? Must you go to-night? Once you would not have left for an hour. Who has not mended the best? Talk it over this Saturday night. See who has shrined the Pet and buried the Darling of years gone. Go not elsewhere for happiness. It is not to be found in the wine cup. The glass of poison does not contain it. The allurements of the gaming table give no happiness. Rest this night. If you love each other, sit beside each other—eye to eye at times—hand up or in hand at times. Read to him or her you love. Read this little chapter. It is kindly meant, even so for those who differ from us. Look back and see how much happier you might have been had you have been—how much happier you might have been than you are.—Do not blame. Do not chide the rival into an idiot.  
Good wife, don't let him go. Make him love for love—kiss for kiss—confidence for confidence. Be to him as you were when you won him. Call back the glance, the word, the old caress—the electric touch, and sit down together to bless God that you have each other to love and live for. Let new roses be born to-night. They may die before another one comes around, but let them be born. God sent us here to be happy. We live to make ourselves miserable. God gives us Saturday night for reflection. He gives us the Sabbath for rest. He gives us six days for labor. And you, brother reader—comrade in life's battle, must you go from the home you have? It may not be quite pleasant, but can you not help to make it so? Save your earnings. Save your heart.—Save your manhood. Keep faith with yourself. Give this night to rest—tomorrow for worship, and give to God a heart-felt blessing for the mercies you have. Some Saturday night will be your last!

Editor Elected.—J. S. Row, editor of the *Haltman's Journal*, Clearfield, announces in his last issue, that he has been elected a member of the U. S. Army, and received a certificate to that effect from Capt. Campbell, Provost Marshal of his district. Unlike most editors, he does not seek preferment, and, in consequence, states that his acceptance of the position will depend upon circumstances.  
The Richmond papers announce the marriage of Wm. D. Porter, of the Confederate States Navy, to a Miss Mary E. Gilliam. This gentleman is a son of the late Admiral Porter, of the United States Navy.



Lieut. Gen. U. S. GRANT.

## From Slavery to Morality.

A year ago, Adj. Gen. Thomas issued an order regarding the marriage of freedmen in the Department of Tennessee and the State of Arkansas, by which clergymen were authorized to unite the late slaves in wedlock, to furnish them with a neat certificate of the ceremony, and to keep a record of the number of applicants. At Vicksburg, between April 10 and Nov. 1, 1864, there were thus recorded four hundred and fifty-six marriages. A large and especially the earliest part of these were merely the legal sanction of previous cohabitation as man and wife. Often for many years. We are told:  
"One old man at Memphis was married, with several others, one morning. No sooner was the ceremony completed than the turned and tenderly embraced and kissed his now legal wife, with evident thanksgiving that she was now in the eye of the law and of civilization as she had long been in the eye of God, his own recognized wife."  
"One old man, of almost three score and ten was thus joined in lawful marriage to his venerable wife. At the conclusion of the ceremony, when the chaplain extended his hand with the nuptial benediction and dismissed them, as was the custom, in a short prayer, they both dropped on their knees together, their eyes streaming with tears of thankfulness, and at the close, still kneeling, the old man reached out both arms and hugged her to his heart, saying aloud, 'My dear old woman, I bless God that I can now for the first time kiss my own lawful wife.'"  
Five hundred and fifty-two persons made answer that they had been married before, and had been sold or driven away from the dear companion of their life. One chaplain married 102 couples in one day. The marriage fees were naturally small. A silver dime, a paper dime, a paper half dime were presented; and in one case a sweet potato, by a bride who was more than forty years of age, was 46 years. These white men married colored women—and the country still survives.

## Everett.—The namesake of the departed orator.

Mr. Everett was eager to educate the people, and all the people. He did not believe it possible to educate any of them too well. And if you had asked him, the day he died, what had been the central idea of his life, he would have said it was the education of the people. His life was full of it. His speeches were full of it. Nothing so provoked him as any snobism which wanted to hinder it. When he was President of the college—I think in 1848—there was a black boy in the high school at Cambridge, fitting for college. Some gentlemen in Alabama, who had sons there, or on their way wrote to Mr. Everett to remonstrate against the boy's entering. He replied that the college was endowed to educate all comers; that, if the black boy could pass his examination, as he hoped he could, he would be admitted; and that, if, as they seemed to suppose, all the white students withdrew, the college would then be conducted on its endowment for the black boy alone. And that was an exceptional reply. It was a way of looking at such things.  
Hon. Peleg Sprague, Judge of the U. S. District Court at Boston, has resigned on account of failing health. District Attorney Dana relates this story of him:  
"I remember a barrister of considerable legal and political credit questioning with Judge Sprague, whether a man could be tried for treason in Massachusetts, where there was no war. He objected that the Constitution limited treason to the levying of war, and to overt acts, and guaranteed to each man a trial in the State in which the treason was committed. Judge Sprague replied: 'Bring me a man who, here in Massachusetts, has, by an act of bowyer slight, and however remote from the field of war, intentionally given aid to the rebel arms as by communicating to them information of advice, and I will not only show you that I can try him, but that I can have him hanged.'"  
Judge Sprague has had but two predecessors in office—John Lowell, 1789, and John Davis, 1801. Another John Lowell succeeds him, a great grandson of the former, who received his appointment from Washington himself, and was the author of that first article in the Massachusetts Declaration of Rights which abolished slavery in that State.  
HAMLIN.—The *Washington Chronicle*, in noticing the departure of Hon. Gerrit Hamlin from Washington, bears the following testimony to the good will which exists toward him at the seat of government:  
"All parties in the Senate have paid unprompt tribute to his official impartiality and courtesy. We are not therefore, surprised that that decided and frank opponent of the Administration, and of Mr. Hamlin's policies, Senator Powell, offered the resolution on Friday last, testifying to the uniform sense of justice of the Vice-President, while Mr. Hamlin was Vice-President he was not only the staunch political supporter, but the devoted personal friend, of President Lincoln, and during four years of changes, calamities, and excitements of every kind, not a single difference of the most immaterial character occurred between them."

## Weight of Large Cities.

The number of persons in the city of New York who pay taxes under the revenue law, on personal incomes is 18,000. There are eleven persons taxed on incomes exceeding \$200,000; one person pays a tax on an income of \$1,213,000; another on \$860,000; and two others on over \$500,000 each. There are sixty-two persons whose incomes are reported between \$100,000 and \$200,000, and two hundred and thirty-two between \$50,000 and \$100,000. The aggregate amount of the incomes taxed is \$87,100,000; and the amount of tax at 5 per cent., is \$4,355,000. The average income of the 19,000 persons taxed is \$4,400. It is believed, if honest returns were made, that the amount of incomes taxed in the city would be over one hundred millions of dollars. The internal revenue collected in New York city last year, from others sources than incomes, amounted to more than thirteen millions of dollars. In the 4th Congressional District the collections the past year were \$9,895,000. The official estimates of the collection of revenue in the city for 1865, are \$30,000,000.—The stamp duties and some special taxes, it is estimated, will make the total receipts in New York from all sources of revenue under the present regulations, \$30,000,000.  
The income tax of Philadelphia amounts to a little more than one million of dollars. The income tax of the 2d and 4th Congressional districts of Massachusetts, was \$1,672,268 12, nearly all of which was paid in the city of Boston.

## Oil in Missouri.

The St. Louis Republican announces the discovery of several oil springs in Lafayette County, Missouri. A company has been organized, and the lands purchased, with the design of immediately developing their resources.  
Burns' two sons, Nicol and James, are colonels in East India—74 and 75 years of age respectively.

## A Cause Decided.

It is very nearly a hundred years since Dr. Johnson, in one of his letters to Boswell, at Edinburgh, incidentally remarks at the close, "I long to hear how the negro's cause will be decided. What is the opinion of Lord Anclench, or Lord Hailes, or Lord Monboddo?" The cause of that particular negro, as well as of the negro in general, was shortly after decided as the great lexographer longed to hear it had been. It had already been decided in England that the shackles of the slave fell from his limbs when he landed on English soil, and the same decision was then arrived at in Scotland. It took fifty years more for England to arrive at the logical conclusion that if slaves could not exist on British soil, neither could they exist on any soil subject to British rule. When the Scottish judges decided that slaves could not exist in Scotland, the united colonies of America had just thrown off the British yoke and justified themselves by declaring that all men were created free and equal, while they kept half a million of their fellow-countrymen in hopeless bondage. But the ghastly inconsistency of this declaration with its practical application, will no longer be a reproach to America! The wholesomeness of slavery, with the evils it has endangered, is disappearing with the rapidity that can only be likened to the crumbling of pieces of one of those mighty icebergs which drift out of the polar seas on to our coast, seemingly imperturbable to heat and the action of the waves, until in a moment they burst asunder and are seen no more for ever. Four years ago, slavery seemed to be as firmly planted on this continent as the Rocky Mountains, and soon not a vestige of it remains. The President could abolish slavery by proclamation, as a military necessity, but he could not abolish the prejudice of caste. They had to abolish themselves. Illinois and Indiana have generously obliterated the infamous black laws which disgraced their statute books; Maryland and Missouri have voluntarily purged themselves of the foul institution which had brought them to the verge of rebellion and ruin, and social changes are quietly taking place which are scarcely less important than those which cause public rejoicings. The admission of a black lawyer to practice in the Supreme Court of the United States at Washington, without a word of remonstrance from any member of the bench or the bar, is really one of the most significant events of the past four years. Others of a similar character will continue to astonish the public mind.  
A few years ago, traveled Americans used to tell on their return home how they declined sitting at the same table with Alexander Dumas in Paris. We believe that in one or two instances, some of our countrymen had actually been constrained to leave a good dinner and a pleasant company because there happened to be among the guests a man of genius whose mother was a quadroon. It was a fine thing to tell on returning home, and a man ambitious of political distinction might have set up for a statesman and got into Congress on the basis of such a stock in trade. But we shall never more hear of any such boasts. Within a month or two past, rumors have come from across the Atlantic that Alexander Dumas, having exhausted all the material for romances in the Old World, designed coming to the New to find subjects for his industrious pen. The news was received with delight in certain quarters where one would have been heard with scorn and contempt. One of the great leaders of our "best society" at once took the affair into consideration, and announced his intention of giving a dinner party to the colored romance writer immediately after his arrival on our shores. But M. Dumas has not yet arrived, and he may not come at all. If he should, he will know how to appreciate the attentions of our lion hunters; he will suffer no one to patronize him on account of the color of his skin, or of his African descent. One who has been sitting for his portrait to an eminent French artist, he cautioned the painter not to mix, in any degree, his complexion or the kinks in his hair. Much still remains to be done before the wrongs inflicted upon a suffering race can be atoned for; but one thing is certain, the cause of the negro has been decided.—Independent.

## Religious.

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It is asserted by a reliable religious paper that five of the principal millionaires of New York city, having incomes of \$30,000, are Roman Catholics. Also that a Commissioner of the Alms House, a Protestant gentleman of the highest standing, was, a few days ago, without the shadow of a political or personal reason, removed from office, and a Roman Catholic appointed in his place.  
The annual meeting of the Western Book Committee of M. E. Book Concern, located at Cincinnati, has just been held. The report of the Conference, appointed by the General Conference at its quadrennial session, shows the resources to be \$433,452.19, and the liabilities at \$113,643.12, leaving a net capital of \$319,809.07, and a profit during the year of \$22,488.27.  
It is proposed to hold a convention of the non-Episcopal Methodist Churches in this country, in Cleveland Ohio, on the third Wednesday in June next. The chief obstacle in the way is strong opposition to "secret societies" among a portion of the Wesleyans and Free Methodists.  
According to the *Watchman and Reflector*, the Baptists of New York State, number 88,074, gathered into 826 churches, with 742 ordained ministers, and 99,000 members. During the past year 2,531 converts have been baptized. The denomination in the State is organized into forty-five associations and one State convention.  
At a recent meeting of the Royal Geographical Society, in London, Mr. Taylor, English Consul at Diarbaker on the river Tigris, in a paper said it was impossible to operate the improvement which has taken place under the efforts of the American missionaries in Eastern Turkey and Persia.  
Intelligence from Savannah, Ga., reports very few really loyal persons, and that much of the professed loyalty is mere pretence. It is stated that none of the wise clergymen pray for the President.  
A woman, one hundred years old, residing on the banks of Salt River, in Bullitt county, Ky., gathered all her descendants at the old homestead on the 11th, to celebrate her centenary anniversary. She proposed a toast as follows:  
"I have lived through Washington's war for independence, Jackson's war, the Mexican war, and now President Lincoln and Davis, who may I proportionate prices. A charming place for a poor man with a large family."

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## Religious.

The General Conference of the M. E. Church at its quadrennial session May last, at Philadelphia, authorized the organization of a Mission Conference in India. The Board of Bishops, in arranging their work, assigned Bishop Thomson one of the newly elected bishops, to the delicate and responsible duty of organizing it. The Bishop left for the scene of his labors several months ago, during which he will also visit other mission points. Shortly after the Bishop reached India, he convened the members of the Mission at Lucknow, the most oriental of all India cities, on the 8th of December. The Conference was duly organized, and comprises seventeen ministers.—The various interests of the Mission were reviewed, as is customary in regularly constituted conferences in the United States. Among the most noticeable features was the reception of several native preachers on trial. The Bishop, before reading the appointment, made a touching address to the heroic band. The noble manner in which he urged the members not to fear death in the discharge of duty, but "if they were good men, to rather die the first good chance they should get," was a winged word to brothers in battle. The Conference continued in session seven days. The next session is to be held at Moradabad in February, 1866.  
A correspondent of the *N. Y. Observer*, writing from Arlington Heights of scenes among the colored people at the Freedmen's village, lately the property of the rebel General R. E. Lee, gives some touching words which were used by many of them in their prayers. One while praying earnestly for the impenitent in the village, besought the Lord that he would "get around and about their hearts, and stir 'em up, that they might turn away from sin." Waxing more earnest for the salvation of his brethren, he prayed God "to rob hell of her large expectations." Another praying for the chaplain of the Tract Society, entreated that the Lord would "backstair him with faith." A patriarch who had been a preacher near Richmond for forty-eight years, closed his prayer "And when, dear Lord, you done wid trouble, yourself wid us here, take us all home to glory to praise you evermore." Another prayed "May we oppose sin in every form, even though we called on to fight as a bull in a gangway."  
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