

POETICAL.

THE ADVENT OF SPRING.

When brighter suns and milder skies
Proclaim the opening year,
What various sounds of joy arise!
That prospects bright appear!

Earth and her thousand voices give
Their thousand notes of praise,
And all, that by His mercy live,
To God their offering raise.

Forth seeks the laborer to his toil,
And sows the fresh array
Of verdure cloth the flowery soil
Along his careless way.

The streams, all beautiful and bright,
Reflect the morning's sky;
And there, with music in his flight,
The wild bird soars on high.

Thus, like the morning, calm and clear,
That saw the Savior rise,
The spring of heaven's eternal year
Shall dawn on earth and skies.

No winter there, no shades of night,
Profane those mansions blessed,
Where in the happy fields of light,
The weary are at rest.

Miscellaneous.

An Oil Romance.

Some ten or twelve years ago, a boy and girl, as is often the case, were among the scholars going to school in one of the townships a few miles east of Mendonville. The boy, as boys all are, was rather dull and stupid, getting as a natural consequence, many a scolding, while the girl was very bright, and helped him with his lessons, a girl always will. He was very careful, of course, and promised to repay her some day, "when he got to be a man." Notwithstanding this strange promise, time passed on as usual, and when he got to be a man the war broke out and he enlisted.

In the meantime, the parents of the girl that was the woman now, having become very poor, was obliged to support herself, as containing a piece in a good family, she came to Mendonville to work. Last summer, the young man was wounded and came home. Just before his return to the army, having re-enlisted, he told her that he had never forgotten the promise made in his boyhood's days, and he now wished in some manner to fulfill it; that he had not much to offer, only the third interest in three acres of land on Oil Creek; that he could not tell whether it would ever be worth anything, but whether it was or not she might have it and welcome. The girl was accepted and the papers properly made out before he left.

About six weeks ago, the other two owners of the land having gone on to develop the territory, a forty barrel well was struck, and she was at once offered \$40,000 for her interest, one acre of land. The first intimation the family where she is living had of her good fortune was last week, when the gentleman, who, by the way, lives in one of the finest houses in the upper end of town, having mentioned that he had been offered \$40,000 for his property, was very much astonished when she made him the same offer, and said if the house was sold she wanted to buy it as a home for her parents. Thinking surely she must be "daff," he made some inquiries, when the facts were found out, as stated above.

If she doesn't "put on airs," and carries the soldier boy when he comes back from the wars, the story will be finished in the good old-fashioned way, and we will duly notify our readers of the sequel.

SLAVERY IN TENNESSEE.—The message submitted by Gov. Brownlow, to the General Assembly of Tennessee, which met on the third of April, strikingly illustrates the progress of anti-slavery sentiments in that State. Four years ago, Brownlow, though strikingly devoted to the Union, was yet decidedly opposed to abolition and emancipation. Now he recommends to the Legislature to ratify the Constitution amendment "so as to strike down the monster institution which has embolled the Government for half a century, and culminated in the most wicked, uncalculated and bloody war ever known in the history of the civilized world." Both Houses of the Legislature promptly responded to the Governor's recommendation by unanimously ratifying the constitutional amendment.

Gen. Schofield's "Joy Gun."

Soon after our forces occupied Wilmington, a stalwart, intelligent negro called at General Schofield's headquarters and asked to see the General. He was shown into the room, when his mission was made known. He had gathered together hundreds of stout men and marched them from the interior, by night, through the thickets, swamps and forests. Not knowing whether our forces were yet in Wilmington, he left the men behind and scouted through himself, promising them that if the "Union men were in Wilmington, he would ask the General to fire a joy gun, when they were all to come in and join him." "And now, General," the negro said, "I find you good Union folks all here; and it makes my heart jump for joy; and won't you have the big gun fired?" "Oh, master, it will make my poor old mother cry when she hears that joy gun, and all the men will be glad, and join your army." General Schofield promised him that this "joy gun" should be fired, and the man went out, waiting to hear its echo through the pine forests and hills. The General ordered one of the heaviest pieces of artillery in the fort to be fired.

That "joy gun" was fired; its echo is still ringing through those forests, and over those sandy plains. It was a joyful sound to those hunted fugitives, secreted in the swamps about the city. It called them from their hiding places, and in hundreds they came, and with strong arms, and what is better still, with joyful hearts— hearts willing and anxious to do what little they could for the power that had broken off their chains, and freed them from the shackles of their task-masters. They are enrolling their names to day, on the recruiting lists of this great army of freedom, and clad in blue, and with Yankee muskets, they will be foremost in the grand army, now marshaling for the death struggle.

That gun, that was a joyful messenger to them, was heard by hundreds of others, fleeing from the advancing armies of the Union. It did not call them in, however. It quickened their step and carried them farther away from the powers they dared not meet. Their arms were full as strong and able to do duty for the old flag, but their hearts were bitter in their hatred of that flag. In this they differ. One was black, the other was white. One was loyal, the other disloyal. The joy gun rattled one class about the flag, which drove the other from it. Other joy guns are being fired. The hills and valleys of North Carolina are echoing to the sound of thousands of them. They are joy guns to one class, while they ring with despair for another.—Wilmington, Cor. Cin. Commercial.

MR. LINCOLN'S SELF-DEVOTION.

The memories of the countless noble words and deeds of the Martyr-President, already begin to flow in thick upon us. We read the glowing words—"alas! that they are now made prophetic"—with which he raised the flag over Independence Hall on Washington's Birthday, four years ago. On that memorable occasion, looking forward to the official responsibilities and the personal perils that were before him, he uttered these remarkable words:

"I have often inquired of myself what great principle or idea it was that kept this Confederacy so long together. It was something in the Declaration of Independence giving liberty not only to the people of this country, but to the world for all future time. It was that which gave promise that in due time the weights should be lifted from the shoulders of all men, and that all should have an equal chance."

"Now, my friends, can this country be saved upon that basis? If it can, I will consider myself one of the happiest men in the world if I can help to save it. But if this country cannot be saved without giving up that principle—I was about to say I would rather be assassinated upon this spot than to surrender it."

The Empress Eugenie has written to the Sovereigns in Europe, proposing that, without distinction of creed, all shall join at once for the purpose of effecting a suitable restoration of the Holy Sepulchre at Jerusalem, which is now in a state of utter desrepair.

Swift destruction.—The rapidly with which firemen "go to blaze."

Who Makes Money in Oil.

The following humorous oration on this subject, from a hotel proprietor in the oil regions, is too forcible and true to be lost.

"Why haven't I made money in oil? Some men are meant to make money in oil—they went out for it and nothing else. They were intended for it. What sort of a man is it that makes money in oil? I'll tell you. One of your tearing, hipping sort of fellows, such as will go their whole pile on any kind of a hand—men that will look at a piece of ground, scrape it with a stick, smell the end, swear there's oil there, and slap down a hundred and fifty thousand dollars on the counter and have the deed signed before the owner knows where he is. That's your sort that makes money in oil, or burst up higher in the crowd. Now I never could risk my bottom dollar on a spec, and balance everlasting poverty against a pile of greenbacks. Chances? Of course I had chances. In 1860 I was owner of wells, and the oil gushed out of them like greasy Niagara. The market was overstocked, oil went down to thirty-two cents a barrel, and I was not able to sell a barrel for more than ten cents. Men who agreed to find barrels for half the oil threw up the contract. A man would perhaps stay with me; say in the morning, 'Major, I'm dead broke; give me thirty dollars and I'll give you an oil well.' Then I'd see one of the children run half frightened to death into the next room, and hear it holler—'Mother! mother! father's buying another oil well.' Then there'd come a rap—rap—tapping on the parlor door from inside, and that bargain would be broke off—in a hurry. So then I came over here. This tavern's my oil well, gentlemen, and the barroom's my derrick."

The National Debt.

There were imported into the United States, in the year ending with June, 1864, as follows:

	Official value.
Spirituous liquors	\$ 3,369,075
Duties on wine	1,468,585
Total	\$2,804,075
Deduct exports	1,061,438
Total domestic consumption	\$2,742,637

On this table the Tribune concludes that, as the cost of Whisky, our principal liquor, was then under twenty-five cents per gallon, the aggregate of liquors consumed in this country cannot have fallen short of one hundred millions of gallons, which at the present rate of duty, would afford a revenue of two hundred millions per annum. But suppose the duty to diminish consumption by one-fourth, and that illicit distillation or smuggling should subtract an equal amount, the revenue from distilled liquors, after the present stock is consumed, cannot be less than one hundred millions per annum.

Of tobacco, we produced in 1859-60 no less than 420,300,770 pounds, besides importing cigars, etc., to the value of \$6,079,909. We exported this staple to the value of \$16,000,547; so that our exports of tobacco cannot have exceeded our imports by much over one hundred millions of pounds, and we must have consumed at least three hundred millions. Supposing fifty millions of this to escape the payment of duty, and the residue to pay an average of forty cents per lb., the revenue from this source alone will amount to another \$100,000,000.

These two items of income will pay the interest on a national debt of three thousand millions of dollars; (which is more than we shall ever owe,) and afford a surplus for a sinking fund which will rapidly and certainly act up the principal of the "debt," leaving all other sources of revenue and the discharge of its current liabilities.

THE DIFFERENCE.—Uncle Sam has a neighbor who was in the habit of working on Sunday, but after a while he joined the church. One day he met the minister to whose church he belonged. "Well, Uncle Sam," said he, "do you see any difference in Mr. P. since he joined the church?" "Oh yes," said Uncle Sam, "a great difference. Before, when he went out to mend his fences on Sunday, he carried his axe on his shoulder, but now he carries it under his overcoat."

FRIENDS.—Josh Billings says of friends: "I got mine and manage to keep them by not asking them for anything but advice; you can't ask anything of a man that he loves to give more, and costs him less than advice."

Managing a Husband.

"How do you manage your husband, Mrs. Croaker? Such a job as I have with Smith!"

"Easiest thing in the world, my dear, give him a witch and he'll manage you. You want him to go down, see instance you see, to-day I had a loaf of cake to make."

"Well, do you suppose you can manage him in the pastry room?"

"Need be there too. Not a bit of it, I am thinking of all sorts of domestic things all the while."

"Now, Croaker, has a way of lagging down at my heels, and hanging me plump down in the middle of my aerial flights, by asking me questions of the sugar I am using."

"Well, you see it drives me frantic, and when I woke up this morning, and this furious storm I kept, I had him on my hands for the day, and I managed right; so I told him I hoped he wouldn't go out to-day, his death this weather, that if he was not capable of taking care of himself, I should do it for him; that he is very lonesome rainy days, and I wanted him to stay at home, and talk to me; at any rate he can't go out, and I hid his umbrella and his rackets. Well, of course he was right. (Just as I expected,) and in less than ten minutes was stroking down the street at the rate of ten miles an hour."

"You see there is nothing like understanding human nature. No girl should get married till she is thoroughly posted up in this branch of education."

Wheat Prospect.

The Alton Telegraph says the growing wheat rises the opening of spring is coming up nicely, and the prospects for an abundant crop are excellent.

The Coldwater (Mich.) Sentinel says that wheat, in all parts of the country, shows good advantage since the disappearance of the snow. However, wheat was generally sown late, and the slight frost will render it more liable to be killed by a slight freezing of the ground.

A correspondent informs the Bucks County Intelligencer that the winter grain looks fine, as the winter has favored it. He trusts that "the fly" has received its quietus. The prospect for grass is not so flattering; on many wheat stubble fields the clover was entirely destroyed by the dry winds of last summer, and in some fields there is neither clover nor timothy. In many such cases the ground will be ploughed up for corn this spring. A good peach crop is looked for, and the production of this fruit will probably be increased in that region.

OCEAN TIDES.—A number of empty bottles have been thrown into the sea on the west coast of Africa, and have been picked up on the Irish coast.—One has been found after 16 years, another after 14, and a third after 10 years. One was thrown into the Caribbean Sea, and after five days was picked up 210 miles distant. A bottle was thrown in at Bohring's Straits, and 200 days afterwards was found on the Honduras coast, having traveled 3,500 miles.

Many of the rebel prisoners at Elmira, New York, were marked to be exchanged by order. Those who wished, of certain States, to be exchanged, were ordered to sign the paper, but of fifteen hundred, some two or three hundred refused entirely either to put down their names, (or rather marks, for two-thirds cannot write) or be exchanged at all.

OUTRAGEOUS.—An old bachelor being asked by a pert young miss if he could account for the application of the term "belle" to handsome young ladies, promptly replied that it was owing to the goodly proportion of brass in their composition.

When children, we are impatient to grow up; travelers, we long for our journey's end; old, we would fain put back the watch hands on the dial of Time. But no! Forward is the word!

A Boston storekeeper the other day stuck upon his door the laconic advertisement, "A boy wanted." The next morning, on opening the store, he found a little urchin in a basket, labeled "Here it is."

An old Irishman who had witnessed the effect of whisky for many years, said a barrel labeled "whisky" contained a thousand songs, and fifty fights, besides an unknown number of drunks.

NEWS ITEMS.

A lady, going out from Vicksburg a few days since, excited the suspicion of an officer by the peculiarity of her manner, and upon being searched there was found in her shoes an accurate map of the fortifications of Vicksburg, location of arsenals, various headquarters of generals, and a full description of the various commissary and other public stores. She was arrested and taken back to Vicksburg.

Some time ago Slidell, the rebel representative in Paris, gave a mortgage to a French banker for \$50,000 upon his property in New Orleans. The banker now claims the property under the laws of Louisiana, and a suit is to be instituted in the United States Circuit, and will be made a test case. Interesting and important legal points will be raised under the Confiscation Act, the decision of which will govern similar cases hereafter.

The Maryland Legislature has repealed nearly all the old acts of that State oppressive to the colored population which need to be so cruelly enforced. Among them were the laws "prohibiting meetings of negroes for religious purposes unless conducted by a white person;" "prohibiting trade with free negroes;" "prohibiting the navigation of vessels by negroes;" and "prohibiting negroes from keeping a dog of a gun without a license."

Three rebel armies have surrendered to Gen. Grant, that under Buckner, at Fort Donelson, on the 16th of February, 1862; that under Pemberton, at Vicksburg, on the 4th of July, 1863; and that under Gen. Lee, on the 9th of April, 1865. He is the only one of our generals who has ever induced a rebel army to surrender, and he has induced three of them.

Gen. Pickett, who caused the execution of 28 loyal North Carolinians for the crime of having enlisted in the Union army, and who was captured at Plymouth last summer, is one of the officers embraced in Lee's surrender. Pickett himself deserted to the rebels, cause without the formality of having resigned his commission in the Federal service.

A lady in New York has been awarded by the Courts a verdict of \$2500 damages, in consequence of injuries received by being thrown from a street car, the vehicle being started before she had secured her seat on the pavement.

The Hartford Times explains the large Republican majorities in the Connecticut election by the theory that the Democrats were so busily engaged celebrating Grant's victories and the capture of Richmond that they were unable to spare time to go to the polls.

It is announced that Garibaldi's daughter, Teresita, has just given birth at Capri to a boy, who, by his grandfather's desire, has been christened Lincoln, in honor of the "American President who has abolished slavery."

Rhett was an original secessionist, not only from President Lincoln, but from Davis; and in his private correspondence discovered at Charleston speaks of Davis as "a fool," a "pig-headed," and as held "in great contempt" in Charleston.

The venerable Jeremiah Day, ex-President of Yale College, and now ninety-three years old, is the oldest male citizen in New Haven. There are twenty-seven others in the city over eighty years of age.

The Regents of the Smithsonian Institute have decided to rebuild those portions of the building destroyed by fire, and to make them fire-proof at a cost of \$120,000, which will be paid from the surplus fund of the institute.

An order has been issued by which the freedmen of Mitchellville, near Charleston, S. C., are to have a election for Recorder, Marshal, and other officers. Only freedmen will be allowed to vote.

Phineas T. Barnum, whom everybody knows, was recently elected a representative in the Connecticut Legislature from the town of Fairfield, by 187 majority.

A prominent Virginian once prophesied that the slave-masters of his State would one day run away from their slaves. That prediction has just been fulfilled.

A Nashville paper learns that Maj. Geo. Pillow, C. S. Army, was knocking at the door of the Union applying for admission. He has found the last ditch.

George H. Hoyt, the young lawyer of Boston, who went to Virginia to defend John Brown on his trial, is now Lieut. Col. of the 15th Kansas cavalry.

Among a large batch of rebel prisoners who arrived at New York recently was Col. Alfred Rhett, of Fort Sumter notoriety.

Michigan now yields about \$7,000,000 worth of copper and \$2,000,000 worth of iron annually.

A free library has just been opened in Detroit. It contains 6000 volumes. There are four thousand newspapers in the United States.

Agricultural.

A Few Maxims for Farmers.

The farmer who does not retire to his fields a dressing more than equivalent to the crops gathered therefrom, is as unwise and thoughtless as he who would neglect to feed the horse that was to carry him on a journey. In both cases diminishing the ability of a faithful servant to minister to his wants.

The husbandman who obtains from a field not properly manured a small yield of grain, when by sufficient manuring he might have obtained a large one, is selling his labor at half its value.

In all cases keep the best products of your farm, whether grain or stock, for your own use, that improvement in each may result therefrom. If three poor sheep will bring as much as one good one, keep the one and sell the three.

Do not permit the remains of animal or vegetable substances to decay about your dwelling, but incorporate them with the soil, or the compost heap, thereby securing the comfort and health of your family, and adding to the attraction of your home.

Having things "near enough" of ten causes much trouble. The head-board to farmer A's cart was a little too short, but it was "near enough," consequently it came out in passing over a joint; and with it half the potatoes. The keys of Mr. B's wagon horse came out, and the wagon and horse got wrecked together in going down hill. The bar to C's cow pasture was too short, and yet he thought it "near enough," but it dropped out one day, and the cattle got through and destroyed his grain. It is better and cheaper in the end, even if it does take a little more time, to have things just a little.

Clean Your Cellars.

If not already done, thoroughly purge this subterranean store of your house. Every decayed onion, cabbage stump, potato vine or tuber, turnip, parsnip, carrot, and all the dirt they have made, and all straw and rubbish should be raked up and thrown out. The cellar is no place for them at any time of the year. If you still retain a few potatoes for table use let them be picked over and all decayed ones removed. One of the best housewives of our acquaintance greeted us not long since with an invitation to come and see her cellar. "I have swept down every cobweb, whitewashed the walls, swept up the floor, and sowed it with salt." Decayed vegetable matter is a fertile cause of disease, and there is enough of it out of doors in this country without heaping it up in the cellar for the special purpose. Whitewash the walls for lime purifies as well as beautifies. Sweep down the cobwebs—they are the infallible marks of a slattern. Salt destroys worms, etc. If your cellar is very dry and staid; you may use salt without detriment, but if too damp it will make the matter worse.

Potatoes.

As a friend to a labor-saving process of raising potatoes, and all other products on which the farmer depends for raising the above-named article: Plow the ground deep and harrow well; mark out in rows one foot square; cut your potatoes in small pieces with one eye in each, being care to cut out deep as to secure the vital part; plant three seeds in a hill; cover slightly with earth; then take old half rotten straw or hay, and cover the ground all over to the depth of six inches. The vines will soon grow up through this covering, and bind it from the wind. Having done this, there is nothing more to do till the fall, as the straw prevents the weeds from growing.—Cor. Exchange paper.

Cribbing in Horses.

There are various reasons assigned for this habit in horses. If you watch the horse in the operation, he will be seen to grip his teeth hard down on some solid substance. The action is, undoubtedly, caused by some unpleasant sensation about the mouth or throat. Various remedies have been suggested, but the only one which has proved effective is a strap buckled tightly around the throat, yet not so tightly as to obstruct the breathing, but sufficiently so to give pretty strong pressure. The trouble is not regarded as a very serious one, and on this account has not received the attention it otherwise would.

Musty Grain.

Grain that has been injured and become musty may be restored to nearly its original sweetness, by pouring boiling water over it, and permitting it to stand till cool. The scum which arises to the surface of the liquid during the process of purification should be carefully removed. Unless the gluten of the grain has become chemically affected—which is rarely found to be the case, except in very old grain—every trace of mustiness will be removed, and the grain rendered fit for use.

Religious.

Somebody's Ode on a famous Indian minister, author of the hymn, "Awaked by Sinai's awful sound," while in London in 1765, to obtain contributions for Dartmouth College, wrote the following letter to two members of his family at Norwich, Conn. My Dear Mary and Esther: Perhaps you may query whether I am well; I came from Home well, was by the way well; I got over well, was retained at London well, and am treated extremely well; yes, I am contented too well. And do you pray that I may be well, and that I may do well, and in time return Home well? And I hope you are well, and wish you well, and as I think you begin well, so keep on well, that you may end well. And so Farewell.

The Michigan Christian Herald contains a sermon of a Baptist minister in which these words are found: "The Baptist principle is the whole difference between Papists and Protestants. The Christian world has but two religions; the Baptists and the Pope Baptists. Romanism is a Pagan Baptist, matured in perfection. The Baptist faith is Bible truth in its purity, while other Protestant churches have a part of Romanism; and a part of the truth as it is in the Bible. The tendency of the Pope Baptist churches is towards Rome."

Strange to record, that while the Pope's Encyclical letter has been scoffed at by all great minds in the Roman Catholic community of Europe, it is, says a leading New York religious weekly, eminently discreditable and foolishness that Archbishop McSherry of New York, should be the first sycophant to profess submission to the impious manifesto, and affirm that the Pope spoke by divine authority, and his words were to be received with humility and obedience.

At a recent session of the U. P. Presbytery of Butler, to the following query of a session, a negative was returned:

Can United Presbyterians consistently join in associations for religious worship, prayer meetings and the like, or a party to the same, when songs of praise other than the Psalms are used part of the time; and can they do so and be faithful witnesses to the truth as contained in the 18th Article of the Testimony of the United Presbyterian Church?

Rev. Mr. Thomas, at the opening of the Supreme Court, at Manchester, N. H., made the following prayer:

"O Lord, we pray that thou wouldst bless the lawyers now before thee.— Grant, O Lord, that they may at all times speak the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth; may they learn a lesson from the season, that life is short, and waste no precious time in circumlocution and windy declamation."

The plan proposed to print a column of matter explanatory of the doctrines and discipline of the Presbyterian Episcopal Church, twice each week, in the Boston Traveller, in view of the alleged ignorance which exists in parts of New England with regard to the Protestant Episcopal Church, is, says the Presbyterian Banner, about the most unchurchly means of propagating churchism of which we have read for some time.

Bishop Cox, of the Western (Episcopal) Diocese of New York, in his sermon at the University, New York city, or the day for the Prayer for Colleges, took rather a gloomy view of the state of public morals. He thought the Metropolis was now more corrupt and depraved than it was thirty years ago. He spoke of the case with which men in high places take filthy bribes, and he said that judges in chancery had told him "that it is hard to find the man to whom trusts may be confided with the assurance of safety."

Forty years ago in Goshen, Mass., five mothers agreed together that at the close of each day, if their own closets, they would devote the hour from nine to ten to a concert of prayer for their unconverted children.— Within six months three sons and a daughter of one of them, and some of the children of each of the others, were brought to Christ, and publicly professed his name.

An interesting meeting was held last week in Brooklyn in behalf of the Protestants of Spanish America. There are signs that the number of those who are determined to leave the Church of Rome is rapidly increasing in each of the Spanish American States. The recent issue of an edict of toleration in Mexico gives to this movement a special importance.

Zion's Herald reports revivals in Massachusetts at Monument, Chatham, Chester, and Lowell, with two hundred conversions at Monument. Half the number were heads of families. At Chatham, most of the converts were from middle life.

The Board of Stewards of the Liberty street M. E. Church, of Etnsburg, Pa., have advanced their pastor's salary from \$1200 to \$1600, exclusive of house rent, \$300 more.