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Poetry.



LIVES ON A SKELETON.

This poem appeared in the London Morning Chronicle just forty years ago. A reward of fifty guineas failed to bring out its authorship, nor is it yet known:

Behold this ruin! 'Twas a skull,
Once of ethereal spirit full.
This narrow cell was Life's retreat,
This space was Thought's mysterious seat.
What beautiful visions filled this spot,
What dreams of pleasure, long forgot,
Nor Hope, nor Love, nor Joy, nor Fear,
Have left one trace of record here.

Beneath this mouldering canopy
Once shown the bright and busy eye;
But start not at the dismal sight—
If social Love that eye employed;
If with no lawless fire it gleamed,
But through the dews of kindness beamed,
That eye shall be forever bright,
When stars and suns are sunk in Night.

Within this hollow cavern hung
The ready, swift, and tuneful tongue,
If Falseness's honey it disdained,
And where it could not praise, was chained;
If hold in Virtue's cause it spoke,
Yet gentle Concord never broke!
This silent Tongue shall plead for thee
When Time unravels Eternity.

Say, did these fingers delve the mine?
Or with its envied rubies shine?
To heave the rock, or wear the gem,
Can little now avail to them.
But if the page of Truth they sought,
Or comfort to the mourner brought,
These hands a richer meed shall claim
Than all that wait on Wealth or Fame.

Avails it, whether bare or shod,
These feet the path of Duty trod?
If from the bowers of Ease they fled,
To seek Affliction's humble shed,
If Grandeur's guilty bribe they spurned,
And home to virtue's cot returned,
These feet with angels' wings shall vie,
And tread the palace of the sky.

Agricultural.



From the American Agriculturist.

Calendar of Operations for Nov. 1860.

FARM.—It is necessary that what now remains to be done in securing late crops, be finished quickly; frost and snow will soon take full possession of the fields, to act their important part in anchoring the soil and preparing it for future tillage. If the cultivator has controlled the growth on his fields, allowing no weedy intruders to ripen their seeds, he has little to fear from the sweeping winds—if otherwise, every blast will send hundreds and thousands of these, his enemies, flying to their safe winter quarters, to emerge in Spring, ready to dispute with his crops for the mastery of the soil.

In addition to completing preparations for Winter—making every thing comfortable for the family in the house, and the family at the barn—drawing and composting muck, finishing distils, threshing and marketing grain, etc., will afford profitable employment. The present leisure from more pressing work may be turned to great profit in reading, study of the science of farming, and planning for future improvement.

Buildings.—Examine after hard storms, and keep in thorough repair. Pointing may yet be done better than in Spring or Summer.

Cattle—Feeding at the barn is now necessary. A great saving of food, and much benefit to the manure heap, is secured by cutting and cooking food. Stalks and other coarse feed so treated, will be readily eaten up clean. Feed from racks or boxes, and give variety as well as plenty of food.

Cisterns and Wells.—Arrange pumps and other fixtures so as to prevent freezing.

Corn—Complete husking, if not already done. Shell and market as soon as favorable prices are offered. Guard against depredations of rats and mice. Save stalks, leaves, and husks for fodder.

Drainage—can be done until frost prevents.—Keep sluice-ways upon the highway open, and occasionally examine drain furrows among Winter grain.

Fruit.—Remove apples and pears to the cellar before they are frozen. It is important that they be kept dry and cool, and secure from rats and mice. Hanging shelves are convenient for ripening choice late pears.

Grain—Select the best growth for seed, if not attend to before. Thresh as fast as practicable. Allow no straw to be wasted; use it out and mixed with manure for feeding, and for litter in the stalls and yards.

Hedges—Plant deciduous, be if the soil is otherwise leave until Spring.

Ice Houses may yet be constructed if unoccupied. Have them in readiness to be filled at the first favorable opportunity.

In-door.—Cultivate the mind during the leisure of the season.

Leaves are useful for bedding, for manure, and for protecting plants.

Plow heavy clay lands intended for cultivation next Spring, and leave the furrows to be borrowed by the Winter frosts.

Pumpkins—Continue to feed to fattening animals and to milk cows. If there be a large supply, store where they will be safe from frost until used.

Stacks.—It is wasteful of hay and manure to feed from the stack upon the surrounding grounds. Draw it to the barn and feed out under cover.

Sorghum Sugar Cane.—Complete cutting and manufacturing. It may be kept under cover several weeks without injury—moderate freezing, after cutting, does not spoil it.

Turnips and Carrots.—Harvest any remaining. Store in the cellar or in pits, with sufficient protection from frost.

Water Pipes.—Cover with straw or other proper material where there is danger of freezing.

Winter Grain.—Keep all animals from the fields; the roots need the late growth for Winter protection. Let no water stand on any part of the surface.

Orchards and Nurseries.—Clean up old new orchards, and to fill vacancies in the old Many unoccupied corners about the buildings and along lanes can be profitably used for fruit trees.

Cherry trees planted in the Fall in this latitude are liable to be killed by frost. Further South, the present time is favorable.

Cider.—Finish making before the apples decay or are injured by freezing.

Cions.—Cut at any time this month, when not frozen, and bury in dry earth, either out doors or in the cellar.

Fruit.—Gather any remaining. Preserve in a cool, dark, and dry place. The cooler fruit can be kept without freezing, the longer it will remain sound. Separate bruised or decaying apples or pears from the general stock, to be used first.

Insects.—Give the border and scale no quarter. Examine twice for eggs of the caterpillar.

Manure.—Top dress orchards and fruit yards with compost, to protect the roots and enrich the soil.

Mice.—Where these or other vermin are troublesome, wrap the lower ends of the trunks with thick tarred paper. Allow no hedge-rows near the trees.

Nursery Rows.—When transplanting is completed for the season, plow between them, and turn the furrows toward the trees to protect them, and give good surface drainage. If possible, transplant all seedlings this Fall.

Pruning is better performed now than in Spring. August is probably the best season for this work, except in warm climates; there, the present month is favorable.

Quinces.—Gather and market, or preserve the fruit as it ripens.

Seeds of Apples, Pears, Quinces, Plums, Cherries, Peaches, and the various nuts and hard shelled seeds—plant, if not already done as directed last month.

KITCHEN AND FRUIT GARDEN.—Asparagus: New beds may be made, and roots set or seed sown. Cover the beds, with several inches of coarse manure.

Peas. Complete harvesting, before hard frosts. Feed the tops to cattle or pigs.

Blackberry plants may beset while the ground remains open; it is better to put them in earlier.

Carrots: Dig and store the remaining crops.

Celery: Continue to earth up, in dry weather. Stand it upright on level ground and cover with earth. Allow no earth to fall between the stalks.

Grape Vines: Plant roots and layers. Prune and preserve the cuttings in boxes of earth for planting next year. Take vines from the trellis, and cover them with straw or earth.

Onions: Cover with litter those left in the ground during Winter.

Rhubarb: Set roots and crowns. Cover with coarse stable manure, to protect the roots and enrich the soil.

PATERNAL ADVICE.

They tell a very good story at the expense of a rich merchant of Marseilles and a very clever young man, a clerk of his, who secretly had fallen in love with the old man's daughter, but without any chance of winning her, as he thought. The old gentleman noticed that he was growing pale and thin, and began to question him as to the reason.

—'It is some love affair, I fancy.' 'I give you my word, sir.' 'Put, put,' said the old man. 'I have an eye in my head—I can see through a millstone as far as any man. Besides, your blushes betray you, my boy. Well, well, boys will be boys.'

'What, sir?' exclaimed the agitated clerk, 'do you know—'

'Do I know! why, it's the old story. She is the fairest of the fair, etc., and you are afraid to ask her hand in marriage.'

'I dare not, sir.'

'Yes I understand; rich father, proud as Lucifer, and all that sort of thing. But you're wide awake, eh? You know what to do.'

Perhaps I'll help you, for I can't afford to lose your services, and you're pining to a shadow. I'll take money; but as far as a couple of thousand goes, my boy, I'm your man. And he slapped the young fellow on the back in a very encouraging manner. 'I tell you,' he added, 'I was as poor as a church mouse myself when I began life.'

'I thank you, sir, but your kindness is thrown away. She I love is far above me.'

'I dare say; but in my time, young fellows were not cast down for a trifle. In my day, when there was a crusty old fellow in the way, we summoned him to surrender. If he was obstinate, we ran away with the girl—a coach and four, and no stopping places short of Hyems.'

For many days the same conversation was renewed under different forms. The young man would not make up his mind to speak out for his employer was a terrible old fellow, proud as Lucifer, and thought his daughter a match for an emperor. To declare himself, would be to be kicked out of doors incontinently. But the advice to carry off the young lady, persisted in day by day, began to produce an effect on the young quill driver's mind.

—'I said he to his patron, one fine day, 'I can't hold out any longer; I'm a great mind to follow your advice.'

'Bravo!' spoken like a lad of spirit. I'll get another clerk to do your work, and you may make your honeymoon as long as you like.'

'My dear fellow, I'm rejoiced to see you acting like a man. You marry the girl and her old body of a father will come around fast enough, I'll warrant you. I wish you all the happiness in the world. But, by the way, how are you off for money?'

'I have saved up a little something, sir.'

'Pooh, pooh, what are your savings! a mere pinch on a journey. Here, my boy, here's a thousand crowns; you'll be heartily welcome to them. Have you engaged a carriage?'

'I thought of taking the railroad.'

'Pshaw! you'll spoil everything. How absurd it would be to use a public conveyance, with a thousand eyes on you. You'll be company enough for each other. You shall have my carriage.'

'A thousand thanks, sir.'

So the clerk took his master's carriage, money and daughter. When the old man found out who was the bride, of course he stormed, and raved, and used bad language, as old gentlemen are apt to do in a passion; but as it was all his own doing, he finally came round, and his son-in-law is now a partner in the house.

DEWDROPS.

Liberality is the best way to gain affection, for we are assured of their friendship to whom we are obliged.

The greater the man is, the more he hath need of a friend; and the more difficult there is in finding and knowing him.

Worthy minds deny themselves many advantages to satisfy a generous beneficence, which they bear friends in distress.

Inquisitive people are the funnels of conversation; they do not take in anything for their own use, but merely to pass it to another.

Choose thy wife wisely; open not thy bosom to the trifler; repress not thy head on the breast which nurseth envy, and folly and vanity.

More hearts pine away in secret anguish for unknownness from those who should be their comforters, than for any other calamity in life.

He who would bring home the wealth of the Indies, must carry the wealth of the Indies with him. So it is in traveling; a man must carry knowledge with him, if he would bring home knowledge.

If a man could be conscious of all that is said of him in his absence, he would probably become a very modest man indeed.

If you have great talents, industry will improve them; if moderate abilities, industry will supply them. Nothing is denied to well directed labor; nothing is ever to be attained without it. Remember, a man's genius is always in the beginning of life as much unknown to himself as others—and it is only after frequent trials, attended with success, that he dares think himself equal to the undertakings in which those who have succeeded, have fixed the admiration of all mankind.

There is such a tremendous crop of oats in Cumberland county, Illinois, that they are selling them for ten cents a bushel.

MRS. CAUDLE REDIVIVUS.

AN AMUSING BURLESQUE LECTURE.

'Been out all night again. I'd like to know where you keep yourself till this time in the morning. It's not ten minutes since I heard the clock strike four. You didn't hear it?—No, of course you didn't. You wouldn't hear the last tramp—the noise would have to travel through an acre or two of German beer before it would get to your hearing. Had to go among your German friends! Had to go to I'd like to know how you had to go? Some folks are dreadful willing to 'had to go.'—Yes, I know it's coming on election times; that's a good excuse to get away from your family and home. I wish there was no election in the whole country—it would be much better off if it hadn't any. What did you do all night long? Who did you elect? Who did you see? Theatre and dance! Now, turn over here. Oh! Lord, am I in a lopsided or distillery, or where am I? What have you got outside of you? Didn't drink too much. You must have got into a beer barrel, then, for it's coming out all over you, and how it smells. You danced, eh? You must have cut a pretty figure; guess it was a larger reel. Do you think I'll stand this going off to a dance all night? Who did you dance with? I'll bet she was as homely as a pumpkin with two holes in it. Look here, you needn't pretend to sleep; I want to have a little domestic conversation with you. I am your better half, and your better-half proposes to discuss matters a little! Late! How do you know it's late? It's early enough to give you a piece of woman's tongue. Tonguey! Yes, I am tonguey; that's part of a woman's prerogative, and I am going to use some of it on you.—Let you alone? Did you say that to the girl you danced with? Oh, no! nothing of the sort; it was, 'Miss, shall I have the pleasure of your beautiful person for the next cotillion?' I wish I could see her; I'd take the beautiful out of her with a jerk. Can get no peace!—Yes, can get plenty of it—go to the theatre; go electioneering; dance with the Dutch girls till morning, and come home and I'll give you peace by the long measure—I'll give you peace of my mind. Come back here; where are you going? Get into another bed? Not exactly; I have been large enough heretofore, and have done you. I'd like to see you dance with me. I'm too old, I suppose. I ain't too old to give you fits.' [Here the lager-loving husband began to snore, when Mrs. Caudle subsided.]

THE WALL OF CHINA.

This stupendous monument of human art and industry exceeds everything that we read of in ancient or modern history. The pyramids of Egypt are little when compared with a wall which is conducted over high mountains some of which rise to the height of five thousand and two hundred and twenty-five feet, across the deepest vales, over wide rivers by means of arched, and in many parts is doubled or tripled, to command important passes; at the distance of almost every hundred yards is a tower of masonry bastion. The extent is computed at fifteen hundred miles, and is of such enormous thickness that six horsemen may ride abreast upon it.

Mr. George Staunton, who accompanied Lord Macartney in his embassy to China, considers this great barrier to have been erected at least two thousand years. Do Haldé also says this prodigious work was constructed two hundred and fifty years before the birth of Christ, by the orders of the first emperor of the family of Tsin, to protect three large provinces from the raptures of the Tartars. One-third part of the able bodied men of China were employed in constructing this wall, and the workmen were ordered, under pain of death, to place the material of which it is composed so closely together, that the least entrance might not be left for any instrument of pointed iron. The labor in its construction must have been immense, as the material must have been carried over a desert country to emplacements inaccessible to horses or carriages.—The wonder of the world was completed in the short space of five years, and it is reported that the laborers stood so close for many miles, that they could hand the materials from one to another.

INTERESTING SPECULATION.—In the year 115 the late Elikanah Watson, as appears in '40c and Times of the Revolution,' page 522—Ed. Ed.—made and published the following estimate of the probable population of the U. States for a long series of years. The actual result thus far show a singular approximation to the calculation. He calculated that the population would be:

11820—	9,625,734	actual result	9,636,151
11850—	12,833,645	"	12,869,020
11840—	17,116,523	"	17,062,566
11850—	23,185,368	"	23,191,876
11860—	31,753,854		
11870—	42,328,432		
11880—	56,450,241		
11890—	77,266,989		
11900—	100,355,892		
11930—	133,000,000	in round numbers.	
11950—	177,000,000	"	
11970—	236,000,000	"	
2000—	283,000,000	"	

If in instructing a child, you are vexed with it for want of adroitness, try, if you never before, to write with your left hand, and member, that a child is all left hand.

A lady sometimes keeps charms upon her tob guard, but it is more important that she watch and guard upon her charms.

STORY OF AN OLD SETTLER.

The snows of many winters have left their whiteness upon my head, but many events in the war are still fresh in my memory. During the long and bloody struggle for independence, I was compelled to witness many horrors.

My father was one of the early settlers of the Kenesaw. I was the oldest of four sons. Before the commencement of the war, my father had built him a cabin quite comfortable for his purpose, and commenced clearing—converting the savage wilderness into a garden, to team with corn and grain.

I and my brothers of secret assisted him in his labors. The war broke out the second year after our settlement on the Kenesaw. At first we apprehended but little danger from the savages as they hitherto manifested a friendly disposition. But we were soon conscious of the danger. The Indians commenced their depredations upon the white settlers.

Tales of blood were daily borne to our ears. We went to our daily labor with our weapons in our hands. At the close of a summer day we were seated in our comfortable cabin as usual. A knocking was heard at the door.—My mother turned pale and looked at my father as if entreating him not to open it until he was certain who was without. I immediately acted upon this hint, and stepping softly to the entry, was enabled to reconnoitre the premises through a small crevice. My mother's fears were not without foundation.—An athletic savage stood at the door. His face was painted in the most hideous manner. Instead of undoing the fastenings, I proceeded to add to their strength. I reported the discovery I had made.

'But one, did you say?' said my father. 'Only one,' I replied.

'Now see what you can discover off the other side of the cabin.'

I did so, and to my surprise saw three more of the rascals crouched like serpents in the grass. I reported this also.

The knocking continued until it became furious. My father of course turned a deaf ear to his entreaties for admission. Finding that artifice would not answer, he was joined by his companions, and together made a furious attack upon the door. In truth we were but little alarmed for there were but four savages, and we felt able to contend with them.

In the cabin were three loaded muskets, and they were already in hands skilled in their use. We knew a disagreeable surprise was in store for our foes, and this gave us strength and courage. The door yielded and they rushed in. Poor fellows it was the last rush that three of them made, for they fell dead upon the threshold beneath our well directed fire. The fourth one fled in consternation.

We pursued him far into the forest, but he was swift of foot and baffled pursuit.

'He will bring down more of the red fiends on us,' said my father, wiping the perspiration from his brow.

I deduced the escape of the Indian was unfortunate. After this we kept in continual alarm. We were fired at in 'e fields by unseen foes, and were obliged to take the greatest precaution to guard against surprise all night. One of the Indians slain was a brother of him who was so fortunate as to escape, and we knew that to avenge his death would henceforth be the great object of his life.

Once we were attacked in the middle of the night but after a hard fight we succeeded in driving them away with the loss of several of their number. Finding our position growing more critical every day we began to think about leaving our solitary cabin, and seeking some white settlement.

Before our dwelling was the stump of a tree which had been broken off by a strong wind about four feet from the ground. This stump was hollow. One morning as my father opened the door to go to work, I heard the report of a gun, and almost immediately another, while simultaneously with the first report a ball struck the chimney near me. I ran to the door.

'Go look into that hollow stump said my father.'

I did so, and to my astonishment saw an Indian in the agonies of death. I recognized him instantly as the one who made his escape. He had secreted himself there during the night, in order to shoot my father as he left the cabin. Fortunately his aim was bad and the ball passed within an inch of his intended victim's head.

UNDERSTANDING THAT WE SHOULD WATCH EACH OTHER DURING THE NIGHT.

By making a small opening through this natural fortification, I was enabled to thrust my gun through and watch the approach of an enemy towards my friend; and he, by a similar operation, could do the same favor for me.

The night was not very dark, and objects could be seen at a considerable distance. Having arranged matters in this manner, we felt but little apprehensions in regard to a surprise. The hours rolled on. I felt very sleepy, and was hardly able to keep my eyes open.

About midnight my attention was arrested by a bush which I did not recollect seeing in the early part of the night. At first I gave little heed to so slight a circumstance, but at length began to fancy that it came nearer, still I strove to persuade myself that the appearance was to be attributed to my eyes, rather than to reality. After watching for half an hour longer I could no longer doubt that the bush was in motion.

I waited with breathless anxiety until it was within gunshot, and then taking deliberate aim, I fired into the bush. It fell instantly, and I heard a heavy groan.

'What have you done?' said my companion.

'You will see in the morning,' I replied.

We kept our position until sunrise, for fear of surprise. Upon examination we found the body of a stout Indian lying in a pool of congealed blood under the bush. He had taken this method to reconnoitre. As it happened, it proved fatal to him and his purpose.

I have passed through many scenes, but I never shall forget the hollow stump and the moving bush.

ARKANSAS MODE OF ENJOYMENT.

The state of society in Arkansas was exceedingly rough several years since. We hope and believe it has improved latterly. The most frightful tragedies were enacted very frequently, and the people seemed to thing nothing of them. A dangerous cutting scrape was regarded as a rather comical affair than otherwise, as witness the following, which is substantially true.

Two desperados met at a tavern in Helena, one evening. They were named Tom Seroggs and Bill Eike. Says Seroggs:

'Shows things?'

'Peart,' says Pike.

'Herd you says you'd bleed me next time we met,' says Seroggs.

'That's me,' said Pike.

And two Bowie knives flashed fiercely.

The fellows had served each other pretty briskly for ten or twelve minutes, when, as Pike's ears had been shaved off, and his abdomen been several times punctured, it suddenly occurred to him that he had enough of it, and he struck his colors.

'What's all this?' tremblingly inquired a stranger, who had entered just as the fight ended.

'Oh, it's of no account,' says the landlord, an ethereal creature of some two hundred and fifty pounds weight, and with a face of barn door proportions, 'taint nothing.' Some of the boys have been enjoyin' themselves a little, that's all! Won't you hyste a little piece, stranger? said the genial landlord, setting out a black bottle and a yellow bowl of brown sugar.

Curious country, that Arkansas, several years ago.

'Landlord,' said a commercial traveler, 'you do me too much honor—you let me sleep among the big bugs last night.'

'Oh, don't be too modest, my dear sir,' said the landlord; 'I doubt not they have your blood in their veins.'

A neighbor informs us that, coming home a few mornings since, I met a man attempting to walk on both sides of the street. By a skillful manœuvre I passed between him.

An Arkansas traveler says that he knew a young fellow down South who was so fond of a young woman that he rubbed off his nose kissing her shadow on the wall.

An Albany barber having a very intemperate man to shave on Sunday, begged him to keep his mouth shut, as it was a punishable offense to open a rum hole on the Sabbath.

'Nor, then, hearties,' said a gallant captain, 'you have a tough battle before you. Fight like heroes till your powder's gone, then—run! I'm a little lame and I'll start now!'

LAY OR YELL.—Mrs Yell lately cowbird Mr. Lay for not performing a promise to marry her. As he wouldn't make her Lay, she made him Yell.

In the matter of plain speaking, we are like the soldier, who, in his first battle, was afraid to fire off his musket, lest he might hurt somebody.

A printer, on seeing a bailiff pursuing an unfortunate author, remarked that it was a new edition of the 'Pursuits of Literature unbound, and hot pressed.'

A cynical Frenchman once said there was two sides to a love affair—the party who loves, and the party who consents to be so treated.

The Michigan Farmer estimates the wheat crop of that State this year at 9,000,000 of bushels.

Lola Montes is in the last stage of consumption, and both mind and body are shattered.