

# The Bedford Inquirer

A LOCAL AND GENERAL NEWSPAPER, DEVOTED TO POLITICS, EDUCATION, LITERATURE AND MORALS.

B. F. McNEIL, Editor and Proprietor.

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## Select Poetry.

### DESCRIPTION OF A SUMMER'S EVE.

BY HENRY KIRK WHITE.

Down the sultry air of day

The burning wheels have urged their way

And e'er along the western skies

Sheds her intermingling dyes

Down the deep, the miry lane,

Creaking comes the empty wain,

An liver on the shaft-horse fits

Whistling now and then by fits:

And off, with his accustom'd call,

Urging on the sluggish hall,

The barn is still, the master's gone,

And thrasher puts his jacket on,

While Dick, upon the ladder tall,

Nails the dead kite to the wall,

Here comes shepherd Jack at last,

He has been'd the sheepsfoot fast,

For 'twas but two nights before,

His lamb was eaten on the moor;

His eye well Rover carries,

Nor for Jack, when near home, carries;

With lolling tongue he runs to try,

If the horse-troop he put dry,

The milk is settled in the pails,

And supper messes in the cans;

And both the colls are drove a field;

The hives all are bedded up,

And the ewe is with the cup,

The spurs for Mr. Fox is set,

The leaves laid, the dashing wet,

And Bess has slink'd away to talk

With Roger in the holly walk,

Now, on the settee, all but Bess,

Are set to eat their supper mess,

And little Tom and roguish Kate

Are swinging on the meadow gate.

Now they chat of various things,

Of taxes, ministers, and kings,

Or else tell all the village news,

How madam did the spire refuse;

How parson on his thimble was bent,

And landlord off-distrain'd for rent,

Thus, did they talk, till in the night

The pale-eyed moon is counted high,

And from the ale-house drunken Ned

Had reel'd—then hasted all to bed,

The haying cart that lay Kate

The haying cart on kitchen grate

Has laid—while master goes throughout,

Sees shatters fast, the mastiff out,

The candles safe, the hearth all clear,

And naught from thives or fire to fear;

Then both to bed together creep,

And join the general troop of sleep.

From Harper's Monthly.

### THE PATTER OF LITTLE FEET.

Up with the sun at morning

Away to the garden he goes,

To see if the sleepy blossoms

Have begun to open their eyes;

Running a race with the wind,

His step as light and fleet,

Under my window I hear

The patter of little feet.

Aston to the brook he wanders,

In swift and noiseless flight,

Splashing the sparkling ripples

Like a fairy water-sprite.

No sand under fabled river

Has gleams like his golden hair;

No pebbly sea shell is fatter

Than his slender ankles bare;

Nor the sunset gleam of coral,

That blushes in coral's bed,

Is sweeter as the flash that follows

Our darling's airy tread.

From a broad window my neighbor

Looks down on our little set,

And catches the "poor man's blessing"

I cannot envy his lot,

He has pictures, books and music,

Bright contents, and noble trees,

Flowers that blossom in vases,

Birds from beyond the seas;

But never does childish laughter

His homeward footsteps greet;

His stately halls e'er echo

To the tread of innocent feet.

This child is our "speaking picture,"

A dwelling that chatters and sings,

Shedding a sleeping charm

(Our other ones being dead),

His heart is a charmed casket,

Full of all that's cunning and sweet,

And no harp-strings hold such music

### IMPORTANT LEGAL INTELLIGENCE.—A country-

man walked into the office of Lawyer Barnes one

day, and began his application—

"Barns, I have come to get your advice in a

case that is giving me some trouble.

"Well, what's the matter?"

"Suppose, now," said the client, "that a man

had one spring of water on his land, and his neighbor

living below should build a dam across the

creek, through both farms, and it was to back the

water up into the other man's spring, what ought

to be done?"

"See him, sir, see him, by all means," said the

lawyer, who always became excited in proportion

to the aggravation of his clients. "You can recover

heavy damages, sir, and the law will make

him pay well for it. Just give me the case, and

I'll bring the money from him; and if he hasn't

a great deal of property, it will break him up, sir."

"But stop, Barns," cried the terrified applic-

ant for legal advice, "it's I that have built the

dam, and it's my neighbor Jones that owns the spring,

and he threatens to sue me."

The keen lawyer hesitated a moment before he

stated his slip, and kept on:

"Ah! well, sir, you say you built a dam across

that creek. What sort of a dam was it, sir?"

"It was a mill-dam."

"A mill-dam for grinding grain, was it?"

"Yes it was just that."

"And it is a good neighborhood mill, is it?"

"So it is, sir, and a fine one, and it has changed

the habits of such a people, it cannot affect their

sense of justice, their appreciation of power, and

their love of it. It cannot lessen their ability for

self-government. If it could, the war in which we

are now engaged for the defence of the Govern-

ment and the safety of the public weal had better

be stopped immediately."

The domestic leaders now oppose the enfranchisement

of the colored people. In the olden time the

Democratic leaders, such as Jefferson, Jackson,

Snyder, and Shultz insisted that the elective fran-

chise should be extended to the colored race. It

was followed by the flag under a soldier's foot.

If that flag was potent, on the sea and on the

land, to protect a man in war, why should it not

protect the other virtues of citizenship? His polit-

ical franchise is the deck of a vessel above

which it waved, the soil of the country rep-

resented by it, regardless of the sea or of the

land, it also does it carry with it for

the soldier who fights beneath its folds any polit-

ical rights which these heroes enjoyed before they

were mastered into the service; and on this sound-

ness of the franchise, the Democratic leaders in

Mexico were able to exercise a freeman's right

in the wilds of the chapparal, the heats of the sea

shore, the din of conflict, and in the shadow of

fortified castles, the same as if they had been

at home in their respective wards and precincts.—

If men fighting thousands of miles from home—

cut off from all communication with their friends

at the time on the issues of the political campaign,

were able and entitled to exercise the right of the

franchise, is it not fair to suppose that citizens of

like intelligence, engaged in the same service of

the Government within the limits of its authority,

and distant only a few miles from home, conversant

with the details of the campaign, and engaged in

daily communications with their friends and in

personal acts of journals discussing the questions

at stake—is it not fair to suppose that such men

are entitled to the exercise of all their political

rights? Only those who act from perverted polit-

ical motives, who seek to evade the responsi-

bilities of such a question. This is proven by

the conduct of the Democratic leaders in Mex-

ico, who were able to exercise a freeman's right