NEARER TO THEE.

Day by day the sunsets fleet
O'er the western hills with their shining feet;
Hour by hour disappears,
Till their strands have braided the chain of years.
I number them all as they come and pass,
The sands of life through its crystal glass,
Murmuring still, as they glide, to me,
"Nearer to thee, nearer to thee!"

I keep in my heart the days of old,
The sunsets that brightened their blue with gold;
The voice that blended its melody
With the breath of the breeze o'er the Summer sea.
I must list in vain for its thrilling tone,
Till it greets my ear in the land unknown;
But my hope grows bright as the seasons flee—
"Nearer to thee, nearer to thee!"

The violets ope their eyes of blue;
The roses bend 'neath the morning dew;
The lily spreadeth its leaves apart
O'er the purple stain on its golden heart.
A whisper comes when the day has flown,
With the starry twilight dim and lone,
With the breath of the morning, fresh and free,
"Nearer to thee, nearer to thee."

Dost thou look over the crystal walls afar,
With thy pure brow crowned with the twilight star?
Do thine eyes o'er turn from the shining shore
To the earth which thy feet may tread no more?
Send from thine Eden of bliss above
Whispers of blessing and thoughts of love,
Till I greet thee there, forever to be
"Nearer to thee, nearer to thee!"

AGRICULTURAL.

Report of Agricultural Commissioner.

Department of Agriculture, Washington, June, 1866.

From a careful analysis of statistical returns, with due regard to the usual average product and present losses of each State, the prospect on the first of June was for seven tenths of a crop. With favorable weather, and absence from casualities before harvesting, the indications point to three fourths of an average total yield of wheat.

The injury has been mainly attributed to Winter-killing. In addition, the depredations of the fly have been complained of in many places, and injury has also resulted from dry weather early in the Spring.

In the general expression of loss and anxiety, such statements as the following, of which many were received, are gratifying:

The Secretary of the Montgomery County (Illinois) Agricultural Society says: "The appearance of Winter wheat was never better at this season of the year, and if it ripens off without rust or other injury, will be the best crop of wheat in this section of the country for many years."

Allen County, Kansas.—"Our prospect for Winter wheat is better than ever known in this section."

Woodson County, Kansas.—"Our Winter wheat makes the best appearance that it ever did at this season, and bids fair to be heavy."

Union County, Ohio.—After reporting the prospect of one fifth of a crop, our correspondent says: "A few fields of good wheat are seen, but they are invariably protected by timber on the northern and western sides.

Ohio and Indiana appear to have suffered most from Winter-killing. A prospect for thirty-four per cent. of a crop of Winter wheat in Indiana is sufficiently discouraging. An increase, by four tenths, of the average breadth of Spring wheat will afford some relief, and ought to bring up the total average to half a crop. Ohio is reported at four tenths for Winter wheat, and with two and a half teaths more of Spring wheat than usual. A very little better prospect for Winter wheat than Indiana, and not quite so large an increase of Spring wheat, will give about the same result—half an average crop.

Illinois, now our greatest wheat-growing State, promises seven tenths of a crop. As the Spring wheat, which is the main dependence for a crop in portions of the State, is nearly as good as usual, at least three fourths of a crop of wheat should be expected in this State.

In Wisconsin the Winter wheat is reported at six and one third tenths, with one and three fourths more Spring wheat than usual, which should secure three fourths of an average crop for this State.

In Iowa the appearance of Winter wheat is nine tenths, Spring ten and three fourth tenths, and breadth of the latter sown twelve and one eighth tenths. This should give at least an average crop for Iowa.

In Pennsylvania the wheat crop is eight tenths.

In New York, Winter wheat eight and four ninth tenths; Spring wheat nine and three fifth tenths—or about eight tenths for the crop as a whole.

In Missouri a prospect for a full crop of Winter wheat is reported, with one half tenth or five per cent. more than usual breadth of Spring wheat, looking nearly as well as usual at this season of the year.

Kentucky is reported at five and two third tenths.

Michigan, seven and a half tenths.

Minnesota, ten and five-ninth tenths for Winter wheat, and nine tenths for Spring wheat.

Kansas, fourteen and one third tenths for Winter and twelve tenths for Spring wheat.

In New England, except in Massachusetts, a full breadth of Spring wheat is sown, looking better than an average in Maine, and a fraction lower than an average in the other States.

Winter wheat, where it is grown at all, has suffered to the extent of one and two tenths, and in Vermont and Connecticut three tenths.

New Jersey is placed in the same list with New York and Pennsylvania, at eight tenths; and Delaware, Maryland, and West Virginia will average about six tenths.

Winter Rye.—The Winter rye shared the fate of the wheat, but in a less degree. The injury was greatest in Ohio, West Virginia, Maryland, Kentucky, Michigan, and Indiana. Delaware, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Vermont come next in order. Kansas, Nebraska, and Minnesota are the only States above the average, while Missouri and New Hampshire are reported at ten tenths.

Winter Barley.—Ohio promises little more than half a crop; Vermont six tenths, and Connecticut, Iowa, and Illinois, eight tenths; New Hampshire and Massachusetts, ten tenths; Kansas, thirteen tenths; Nebraska, fifteen tenths. The average will be about eight and a half tenths. The Spring barley, while varying in promise in different States, will average ten tenths.

Oats.—The average of this crop is larger than usual in nearly all the States. The appearance of the crop is, in Indiana, eight tenths; in Illinois, eight and a half tenths; in Ohio and Michigan, nine tenths; in other States ranging from nine to thirteen tenths; Rhode Island, Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, and Nebraska being above the average. The crop indicates an average yield.

Clover.—More clover was sown than usual, and is reported in full average condition. In Delaware and Missouri its appearance is worst, though the increased acreage will make up the deficiency. Maryland, New Jersey, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Illinois, and Kansas fall a little below the average; Maine, thirteen and one sixth tenths.

Pastures.—Returns have been unfavorable to the dairy interest. A very general falling off is observed in the condition of of pastures, except in the States beyond the Mississippi.

Maple Sugar and Molasses.—This product will average nine and three quarter tenths. New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Delaware ten tenths. The other New England States nine and a quarter tenths. The Middle and Western States seven to nine tenths.

Sheep.—Sheep took the field this Spring in better condition than usual. In some places neglect, and consequent disease and death, are reported, arising from depreciation in prices of wool.

Fruit.—A medium crop of apples is indicated, though there is variation in the appearance in different localities. In New England and the extreme West the prospect is better than usual; in the central States worse. Peaches have suffered from Winter-killing very generally. In Ohio scarcely a third of a crop is expected; In New Jersey less than half a crop; in Delaware and Maryland about six tenths.

Pears.—Pears will not prove an average crop.

Isaac Newton,
Commissioner.

FOR YOUTHFUL READERS.

The One Little Favor.

Little Pierre sat humming by the bedside of his sick mother. There was no bread in the closet, and for a whole day he had not tasted food. Yet he sat humming to keep up his spirits. Still at times he thought of his loneliness and hunger, and he could scarcely keep the tears from his eyes, for he knew nothing would be so grateful to his poor invalid mother as a good sweet orange; and yet he had not a penny in the world.

The little song he was singing was his own—one he composed with air and words; for the child was a genius, and a fervent worshipper at the shrine of music.

As the tears would roll down his cheeks, and his voice would falter at his sad, sad thoughts, he did not dare to let his mother see, but hastily rising, hurried to the window, and there watched a man putting up a great bill with yellow letters, announcing that Madame M——, then a famous cantatrice, would sing that night at the temple.

"Oh, if I could *only* go," thought Little Pierre; and then pausing a moment, he clasped his hands, his eyes lighted with unwonted fire, and running to the little stand, he smoothed down his yellow curls, and taking from a little box some old stained paper, gave one eager glance at his mother who slept, and ran speedily from the house.

"Who did you say is waiting for me?" said Madame M—— to her servant. "I am already nearly worn out with company."

"It is only a very pretty little boy with yellow curls, who says if he can *only* see you he is sure you will not be sorry, and he won't keep you a moment."

"Oh! well, let him come," said the beautiful singer with a smile; "I can never refuse children."

Little Pierre came in, his hat under his arm, and in his hand a little roll of paper. With a manliness unusual for a child, he walked straight up to Madame M——, and bowing, said: "I came to see you because my mother is very sick, and we are too poor to get food and medicine. I thought that perhaps if *you* would only sing my little song at some of your grand concerts, may be some publisher would buy it for a small sum, and so I could get food and medicine for my mother."

The beautiful women rose from her seat; very tall and stately she was; she took the little roll from his hand, and lightly hummed the air.

"Did you compose it?" she asked; "you, a child? And the words? wonderful little genius! Would you like to come to my concert?" she asked, after a few moments of thought.

"Oh! yes;" and the boy's blue eyes grew liquid with happiness; but I couldn't leave my mother."

"I will send somebody to take care of your mother for the evening, and here is a crown, with which do you go and get food and medicine. Here is also one of my tickets—come to-night; that will admit you to a seat near me. My good little fellow, your mother has a treasure in you."

Almost beside himself with joy, Pierre bought some oranges, and many a little luxury beside, and carried them home to the poor invalid, telling her, not without tears, of his great good-fortune.

Never in his life had Pierre been in such a grand place. The music, clashing and rolling; the myriad lights; the beauty; the flashing of diamonds and rustling of silks, bewildered eyes and brain. At last *she* came; and the child sat with his gaze riveted upon her glorious face. Could he believe that the grand lady all blazing with jewels, and whom everybody seemed to worship, would sing a night's music? Breathless he waited—the band, the whole band, struck up a little plaintive melody; he knew it, and clapped his hands for joy. And oh, how she sung it! It was so simple, so mournful, so soul-subduing—many a bright eye dimmed with tears, and nought could be heard but the touching words of that little song—oh, so touching!

Pierre walked home as if he were moving on air. What cared he for money now? The greatest prima-donna in all Europe had sung his little song, and thousands had wept at his grief.

The next day he was frightened at a visit from Madame M——. She laid her hand on his yellow curls, and turning to the sick woman, said; "Your little boy, madam, has brought you a fortune. I was offered this morning, by the best publisher in London, three hundred pounds for his little song; and after he has realized a certain amount for the sale, little Pierre here is to share the profits. Madam, thank God that your son has a gift from Heaven."

The noble-hearted singer and the poor woman wept together. As to Pierre, always mindful of Him who watches over the tried and tempted, he knelt down by his mother's bedside and uttered a simple but eloquent prayer, asking God's blessing on the kind lady who had deigned to notice their affliction.

And the memory of that prayer made the singer even more tender-hearted; and she who was the idol of England's nobility, like the world's Great Master, went about doing good. And in her early happy death, when the grave damps gathered over her brow, and her eyes grew dim, he who stood by her bed, his bright face clothed in the mourning of sighs and tears, and smoothed her pillow, and lightened her last moments by his undying affection, was the little Pierre of former days, now rich, accomplished, and the most talented composer of the day.

WIT AND HUMOR.

Woman—An essay on grace, in one volume, elegantly bound.

"Come! Oakum with me!" said a ship-caulker to his sweetheart.

An eloquent speaker is like a river—greatest at the mouth.

It does not follow that Rome was built in the night because it wasn't built in a day.

"Ugh! Him great man! Big brave! Take many scalps," said an Indian, seeing a window full of wigs.

There is some travel on the railroads in the Winter, but at this season there is Summer travel.

There is a new drink in Washington, composed chiefly of milk and water, and called the "Natick Cobbler."

A great physician should have the freedom of cities presented to him in a pill-box.

Why is John Bigger's boy larger than his father? Because he is a little Bigger.

As the best-tempered sword is the most flexible, so the truly generous are the most pliant and courteous to their inferiors.

The Chinese have a proverb that an unlucky word dropped from a tongue cannot be brought back by a coach and six horses.

"Yes, ma'am, that's a crack article," said a shopkeeper to a lady purchaser. "Oh, mercy!" cried she; "if the thing is cracked I don't want it."

A contributor who is famous for working up old jokes, says that at the great fire in Irving Place, it was found that nearly every fireman in New York could "play on the piano."

It was a starving corset-maker who thus vented her miserable complaint: "Shame that I should be without bread, after I have stayed the stomachs of thousands."

An attorney, on being called to account for having acted unprofessionally in taking less than the usual fees from his client, pleaded that he had taken *all* the man had. He was thereupon honorably acquitted.

"We row in the same boat, you know," said a literary friend to Jerrold. This literary friend was a comic writer, and a comic writer only. Jerrold replied: "True, my good fellow, we *do* row in the same boat, but with very different *skulls*."

Mrs. Saturn, one of the ladies in waiting upon the Sun, is said to have been the first lady who wore hoops. High authority for the fashion, that; and the way men have been gazing at them for ever so many years shows that they admire it.

"How do you know that that mummy was once the body of the real Nebuchadnezzar?" "Because," said the exhibitor, "when we opened it the stomach was found full of green grass; and Nebuchadnezzar was the only gentleman we read of who lived on that food."

A gentleman replied to a female Irish vagrant who accosted him, that he never gave to beggars in the street. "If I knew where your honor lived," quickly responded the woman, "I'd be after calling at your house, and then I couldn't interfere with your arrangements."

A boy with ragged trowsers and rimless chip hat runs into Dr. Fuller's drug store with a dipper in his hand. "Doctor, mother sent me to the shothecary pop quicker'n blazes, cos bub's sick with the picken chox, and she wants a thimbleful of polly gollic in this din tipper, cos we hadn't bot a gottle, and the kint pup's got the hine witters in't—got any?"

A passenger swearing terribly in the cars on the Boston and Providence Railway was approached by a young minister with more zeal than discretion, who said to him abruptly: "My dear sir, do you know where you are going? You are going straight to Hell!" "Just my d—d luck!" replied the man, looking the minister in the face with an alarmed air, and suddenly fumbling for his check, "I bought a ticket for Providence!"

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CATAWISSA RAILROAD.
From and after October 2, 1865, the trains will pass Rupert as follows:
Going North.—Elmira Mail at 4 P.M.; Erie Express at 2.18 A.M.
Going South.—Philadelphia Mail at 11 A.M.; New York Express at 4 P.M.
GEORGE WEBB, Supt.

LACKAWANNA AND BLOOMSBURG RAILROAD.
On and after March 11, 1866, Passenger Trains will run as follows:
Southward.—Leave Scranton at 4.40 P.M. and 7.50 A.M.; Kingston at 5 P.M. and 8.05 A.M.; Bloomsburg at 6.20 P.M. and 9.20 A.M. Arrive at Northumberland at 8.20 P.M. and 10.55 A.M.
Northward.—Leave Northumberland at 7 A.M. and 5 P.M.; Bloomsburg at 8.25 A.M. and 6.25 P.M.; Scranton at 11.05 A.M. and 7 P.M. Arrive at Scranton at 12.40 A.M. and 10.15 P.M.
H. A. FONDA, Supt.
Kingston, March 13, 1866.

GREAT PENNSYLVANIA ROUTE to the NORTH AND WEST.
FOUR DAILY TRAINS.
ON AND AFTER MARCH 12, 1866, trains will leave as follows:

	Leave Wash'n.	Leave Balto.
Express Mail	6.20 A.M.	9.00 A.M.
Fast Line	7.40 A.M.	12.10 P.M.
Pittsburg and Erie Ex.	3.00 P.M.	7.20 P.M.
Pittsburg and Elmira Ex.	7.40 P.M.	9.45 P.M.

TWO TRAINS ON SUNDAY,
(Connecting at Baltimore,)
Leave Washington at 2.45 and 7.40 P.M.
SLEEPING CARS ON ALL NIGHT TRAINS.
LOW FARE AND QUICK TIME.
Cars run through from Baltimore to Pittsburg, Erie, or Elmira without change.
J. N. DUBARRY,
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Time of Passenger Trains at Northumberland:
Leave Eastward.—Erie Mail Train, 11.25 P.M.; Erie Express Train, 3.25 A.M.; Elmira Mail Train, 10.35 A.M.
Leave Westward.—Erie Mail Train, 5 A.M.; Erie Express Train, 7.14 P.M.; Elmira Mail Train, 4.35 P.M.
Passenger cars run through on the Erie Mail and Express Trains without change both ways between Philadelphia and Erie.
New York Connection.—Leave New York at 9 A.M., arrive at Erie at 9.15 A.M.; Leave Erie at 4.55 P.M., arrive at New York at 5.40 P.M.
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General Freight Agent, Philadelphia.
H. W. GAWNER,
General Ticket Agent, Philadelphia.
A. L. TYLER,
General Superintendent, Williamsport.
March 22, 1866.

READING RAILROAD.
SUMMER ARRANGEMENT.
April 23, 1866,
Great Trunk Line from the North and Northwest for Philadelphia, New York, Reading, Pottsville Tamaqua, Ashland, Lebanon, Allentown, Easton &c., &c.
Trains leave Harrisburg for New York as follows: At 3, 7.40, and 9.05 A.M., and 2 and 9.20 P.M., connecting with similar trains on the Pennsylvania Railroad, and arriving at New York at 2.40 and 10 A.M., and 3.40 and 10.35 P.M. Sleeping Cars accompany the 3 A.M. and 9.20 P.M. trains, without change.
Leave Harrisburg for Reading, Pottsville, Tamaqua, Minersville, Ashland, Pine Grove, Allentown, and Philadelphia at 7.40 A.M., and 2 and 9.20 P.M., stopping at Lebanon and principal Way Stations, the 9.20 P.M. train making no close connections for Pottsville or Philadelphia. For Pottsville, Schuylkill Haven, and Auburn, via Schuylkill and Susquehanna Railroad, leave Harrisburg at 4.15 P.M.
Returning, leave New York at 9 A.M., 12 M., and 8.30 P.M., Philadelphia at 4 A.M. and 3.30 P.M.; Pottsville at 8.30 A.M. and 2.15 P.M.; Ashland at 6 and 11.15 A.M., and 1.50 P.M.; Tamaqua at 6.45 A.M. and 1 and 8.35 P.M.
Leave Pottsville for Harrisburg, via Schuylkill and Susquehanna Railroad, at 7 A.M.
Reading Accomodation Train leaves Reading at 6 A.M., returning from Philadelphia at 5 P.M.
Columbia Railroad Trains leave Reading at 6.20 and 8.35 P.M. for Lancaster, Lititz, Columbia, &c., &c.
On Sundays leave New York at 5.30 P.M.; Philadelphia at 8 A.M. and 3.15 P.M., the 8 A.M. train running only to Reading; Pottsville at 8 A.M.; Tamaqua at 7.30 A.M.; Harrisburg at 9.05 A.M.; and Reading at 1.00 A.M. for Harrisburg, and 10.52 A.M. for New York, and 8.25 P.M. for Philadelphia.
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G. A. NICOLLS, Gen. Supt.
Reading, Pa., April 27, 1866.

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