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Poetical.

TO AN ABSENT WIFE.

BY GEO. D. PRENTICE.

'Tis morn—the sea breeze seems to bring,
Joy, health, and freshness on its wing,
Bright flowers to me all strange and new,
Are glittering in the early dew,
And its perfumes rise from every grove,
An incense to the clouds that move
Like spirits, o'er yon welkin clear,
But am sad—thou art not here.

'Tis noon—a calm, unbroken sleep
Is on the blue wave of the deep;
A soft haze, like a fairy dream,
Floating over wood and stream,
And many a broad magnolia flower,
Within its shadowy woodland bower,
Is gloaming like a lonely star,
But I am sad—thou art afar.

'Tis eve—on earth the sunset skies
Are painting their own Eden dyes;
The stars come down, and trembling glow,
Like blossoms, on the wave below.
And, like an unseen sprite, the breeze
Seems lingering 'mid the orange trees,
Breathing its music round the spot;
But I am sad—I see thee not.

'Tis midnight—with a soothing spell
The far-off tones of ocean swell—
Soft as the mother's cadence mild,
Low bending o'er her sleeping child;
And on each wandering breeze are heard
The rich notes of the mocking-bird,
In many a wild and wondrous lay;
But I am sad—thou art away.

I sink in dreams—low, sweet, and clear,
Thy own dear voice is in mine ear;
Around my cheek thy tresses twine—
Thy own loved hand is clasped in mine.
Thy own soft lip to mine is pressed,
Thy head is pillowed on my breast;
Oh! I have all my heart holds dear,
And I am happy—thou art here.

Miscellaneous.

A STORY OF A NECKLACE.

OR, A CHECK TO VANITY.

'If that necklace, those bracelets, and that cross, which you wear, Miss Juliet Maitland, are not really carved coral, I observe,' said Miss Caroline Perkins, one of those very disagreeable girls who are weak enough to pride themselves on wearing expensive finery, and are sometimes guilty of the rudeness of making unpleasant remarks on the dress of others.

'You are a very close observer, Miss Perkins,' said Juliet, smiling; 'my ornaments are not coral, it is true; but are so good an imitation, that any one must examine them pretty accurately before the difference can be detected.'

'I assure you I saw what they were, at a glance;' and I dare say all these young ladies did the same,' rejoined Miss Perkins, looking round at the juvenile party assembled to commemorate her birthday—Miss Caroline Perkins having that day entered her fifteenth year.

'And what if they did make that important discovery?' said Juliet, smiling again.

'Oh! you may think it of no consequence, Miss Maitland, but I should not like it to be said that I wore such imitations. My necklace cost five guineas,' rejoined Miss Perkins, twisting her fingers ostentatiously among her rich coral beads.

'It is very elegant, I admit,' said Juliet; 'but that is a large sum to expend on an ornament.'

'Oh, Miss Juliet! If cheapness were you object, I can tell you where you may buy a red glass necklace for a shilling,' said Miss Perkins with an unkind sneer. Some of the young ladies laughed.

'I have a better apology to offer for wearing my mock coral necklace,' returned Juliet, quietly, 'and I am persuaded that when I have related the circumstances which induced me to buy it, not only you, Caroline, but every young lady in the room will be disposed to make a similar purchase. About a week ago,' she continued, 'I went into the Bazaar, in Oxford street, with my governess, for the purpose of laying out a sum of money which my grandfather had just given me, to buy some ornaments to wear in remembrance of him. While I was looking at one glittering toy and another, at a stand in one of the galleries, my attention was accidentally attracted by this set of beads, which has been the subject of our conversation. They were at that time in the hands of a pale, melancholy-looking girl, about two years older than myself, who had the appearance of a foreigner, and was dressed in deep mourning.—She was speaking with great earnestness to the person who kept the stand, but drew back to make way for some ladies, with an air of evident dejection, and stood modestly waiting for their departure, and her eye still fixed, with a look of anxious expectation, on the proprietress of the stand. Beside her was a sweet little boy, of four years old, whose infant features wore the same expression of care and sadness that so deeply characterized her own. I observed that he cast a longing eye at the cakes and sweetmeats on a neighboring stall; he touched his sister's arm, and pointed to them, but did not speak. She shook her head silently, and her lips trembled. The child hid his face in her gown, to conceal the tears that rose in his large dark eyes. My governess, I suppose, guessed the cause of his distress, for she immediately bought some buns, which she offered to him. His eyes brightened, and he extended an eager hand to receive them, but paused and looked anxiously in his sister's face.

'You may accept them, Carlos,' said she, speaking in Spanish, (which my governess, Miss Lumley, understands, you know.)

'A deep blushed overspread her features as she turned to us, and expressed her gratitude in imperfect English, for Miss Lumley's goodness to her little brother.

'Alas!' said she, bursting into tears, 'his looks were importunate, I fear, but this is the first food he has tasted to-day.'

Carlos, meantime, was showing her the buns, and entreating her to eat also.

'Carlos,' said she, 'I am not hungry; thank the lady for her kindness, and let us leave.'

The boy touched his cap, and raising his sweet eyes to Miss Lumley's face, said in his pretty infantile Spanish—

'Adois, Senora Inglese.'

'He bids you farewell, Senora; but, Carlos, you should thank the lady also.'

'Carlos did so in his most winning manner, and then looked wistfully at us, and pointed to the beads in his sister's hand.

'That is a pretty set of carved coral,' said I, for such I really took them to be.'

'That you would never have done, had you examined them closely,' observed Miss Perkins.

'Possibly not,' returned Juliet, 'but my attention was wholly engrossed by the sorrowful young exiles.

'Will you buy, Senora,' said she holding up the beads, a glow of hope and expectation flushing her pallid cheeks as I took them into my hand. 'They are not what you take them for,' she pursued; 'they are scented amulets, such as they make in convents, in imitation of carved coral, which is very dear. These are cheap—five shillings, Senora. I make them myself, in hopes to get money to buy food for my poor sick father.'

Here one of the bazaar keepers interposed, and told the young Spaniard she must not offer things for sale in the bazaar, as it was contrary to the rules of the place.

'But my sick father is a stranger in your land, and pines for want of food,' cried she wringing her hands. The child clung to his sister, and sobbed aloud.

Miss Lumley asked if we could not speak to the young Spaniards in private, and the female belonging to the city stall very kindly took us into a room where business was occasionally transacted. I immediately purchased the beads of the poor exile, and we also arranged with the proprietress of the stand that she should expose some of the same kind for sale, on the terms of receiving one-fourth of the price, as her profit for selling them. Carlos pointed to the money his sister had just received, and clapping his little hands, said to her, in his own language:

'Joy, joy, Isabella! this will buy bread, and save papa from perishing.' Isabella clasped him to her bosom and wept.

We prevailed upon her to relate the particulars of her distress, and the place of her father's abode. She was at first reluctant to do so, but after a moment's hesitation, said—

'It is a painful subject to enter upon, but ours is only too common a case. There are at present in this grand wealthy city of yours, many of my unhappy countrymen, destitute of the necessaries of life.

My father, Don Pedro Castenos, was among those Spaniards who sought a refuge in this country, two years ago. My mother was then living, and we all accompanied him in his exile. But this foggy climate did not agree with my mother; sickness and sorrow pressed heavily upon us all; she fell into a languishing disorder called a consumption, almost as soon as we came to London, and we had the grief of losing her a few months ago. Our small stock of money was expended during her illness, and my beloved father was attacked with intermittent fever, which prevented him from doing anything towards our support. I endeavored to obtain some needle-work, but, alas! I was a friendless foreigner, and no one knew or would employ me. My father grew worse every day; we sold our wearing apparel to pay for our lodgings, and purchase food: but that poor resource was soon exhausted, and were in debt to our landlady for a month's lodgings. Yesterday she told us she would trust us no longer. We had expended our last penny—were without fire—and I had not tasted food for the last two days. But I thought not of myself; all my grief was on account of my father, and this dear motherless babe. In this extremity, I recollected the art of making these red amulet necklaces, which I had learnt in the convent where I was educated; and our landlady was humane enough to lend me a trifle to purchase materials for making the paste of which they are composed. She advised me to offer them for sale at one of the bazaars, and to ask five shillings for the set; and now, Senora, that you have gladdened my breaking heart by purchasing them of me, permit me to return to my suffering parent, and take him that sustenance, for the want of which he perishes.'

'We did not allow the young emigrants to depart alone. Miss Lumley bought a little basket, which she filled with jellies, fruit, and cakes, thinking they would be acceptable to the poor invalid, and we both accompanied Isabella and her brother to a miserable garret in Little St. Andrew's street, where we found her unfortunate father stretched on a wretched mattress, overwhelmed with grief and famine. He opened his languid eyes on our approach, and spoke to his daughter in their native tongue. She hastened to him, and kneeling beside him, took his emaciated hand, which she fondly kissed; she then raised his head upon her arm, and administered to him a few spoonfuls of jelley, which little Carlos brought her, and held carefully, while she fed her father. He appeared somewhat revived when he had partaken of it. Miss Lumley asked him a few questions relative to his symptoms. His own opinion was that he was dying, and raising himself up, he cast a look of touching grief upon his children, and said in a low broken voice:

'It is the thought of leaving these dear ones, desolate and friendless orphans, in a foreign land, that weighs so heavily upon my heart, and makes the bitterness of death.'

Isabella burst into a flood of tears, and little Carlos, hugging his father's hand to his bosom, sobbed out.—

'Do not die, dearest papa, pray do not die and leave us.'

'I was unable to restrain my feelings, and wept with them. Miss Lumley's eyes were full of tears, but she preserved her composure, and said to the agitated Spaniard:

'You require good air, medicine, and wholesome nourishment; if you had these, you would recover.'

'I have not means of obtaining them,' he replied. His children lifted up their voices, and wept aloud.

You may imagine the sweet satisfaction I felt, in being able to place in the hands of the distressed Isabella the money that had been destined for the purchase of a trifle for my own adornment. Till that moment, indeed, I never knew the proper value of money; and when I saw the flush of hope and gladness recall the color to the faded cheek of the sick Spaniard, and the melancholy eyes of his daughter beaming with joy, through the tears with which they overflowed, I would not have exchanged my feelings to have been possessed of the most splendid pearls or diamonds that were ever worn by a duke's daughter.'

'If such be the history of your mock coral necklace, young lady, you may justly contemplate it with pleasure,' said Sir Philip Worthy, an old gentleman of rank and fortune, who had entered the room with his granddaughter, while Juliet was relating the story of the Spanish exiles. 'I am sure,' continued he, 'my Ellen and my Georgiana are both desirous of becoming possessed of similar necklaces.'

'Only on the condition of being allowed to purchase them on the same terms that you have done, Miss Maitland,' said Ellen Worthy, slipping her purse into Juliet's hand as she spoke. Her example was followed by her sister; and Sir Philip said, with a good-humoured smile: 'Though I cannot wear necklaces myself, I have many young friends who will gladly accept them from me; therefore, my dear Miss Juliet, you must oblige me by obtaining five sets in exchange for this trifle.' He put a five-pound note into her hands as he spoke, and added, 'Whenever your Spanish friends are in need of further assistance, you will find a purchaser of Isabella's mock coral necklaces in me.'

All the young ladies in the room were then desirous of obtaining necklaces of the same manufacture; and Juliet was the next day the happy bearer of a sum of money to the Spanish emigrants, that enabled them to obtain comfortable lodgings in the country, food, clothing and medical attendance, by which they were restored to health. Isabella's imitation of coral became a favorite article of purchase among the youthful visitors at the bazaars: so much so, that she was enabled to maintain her father and little brother by the produce of her own ingenuity and industry; and, in consequence of the very great demand for these cheap and elegant ornaments, many of the other Spanish exiles have found employment, and preserved husbands and parents from starving. It is needless to add that Miss Caroline Perkins offered no more objections to the mock necklace.

Scenes at a District School.

'First class in Philosophy—step out—close your books—John Jones—how many kingdoms are there in nature?'

'Four.'

'Name them.'

'England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales.'

'Pass to the next—Smith.'

'Four—animal, vegitable, mineral and kingdom come.'

'Good, go up head.'

'Hobbs—What is meant by the animal kingdom?'

'Lions, tigers, elephants, rhinoceroses, hippopotamuses, aligators, monkeys, jack asses, hack-drivers and *schoolmasters*.'

'Very well—but you'll take a licken for your last remark.'

'Giles—What is the mineral kingdom?'

'The hull of Californey.'

'Walk straight up head.'

'Johnson—What is the vegetable kingdom?'

'Garden sarse, potatoes, carrots, ingyons, and all kind of greens that's good for cooking.'

'And what are pines, and hemlocks, and elms—aint they vegetables?'

'No, sir-ree—you can't cook 'em—them's saw log and framing timber.'

'Boys, give me a piece of apple, and you can have an hour's intermission—except Hobbs, he must stay in and take a licken.'

THE PIRATE AND THE DOVE.—The following anecdote is related by Audubon, the celebrated traveler and ornithologist:—

"A man that was once a pirate assured me that several times, whilst at certain wells dug in the burning, shelly sands of a well known key, which must be here nameless, the soft and melancholy notes of the doves awoke in his breast feelings which had long slumbered, melted his heart to repentance, and caused him to linger at the spot in a state of mind which he only who compares that wretchedness of guilt within him with the holiness of former innocence, can truly feel. He said he never left the place without increased fears of futurity, associated as he was, although I believe by force, with a band of the most desperate villains that ever annoyed the Florida coast. So deeply moved was he by the notes of any bird, and especially those of a dove, the only soothing sounds he ever heard during his life of horrors, that through these plaintive notes, and them alone, he was induced to escape from his vessel, abandon his turbulent companions, and return to a family deploring his absence. After paying a hasty visit to those wells and listening on no more to the cooings of the Zenaida dove, he poured out his soul in supplication for mercy, and once more become, what one has said to be the noblest work of God—an honest man. His escape was affected amid difficulties and dangers, but no danger seemed to him comparable with the danger of living in violation of human and divine laws; and he now lives in peace in the midst of his friends."

WHO ARE YOUR COMPANIONS?—"He that walketh with wise men shall be wise; but a companion of fools shall be destroyed."

It is said to be a property of the treefrog that it acquires the color of whatever it adheres to for a short time. Thus when found on growing corn, it is commonly a very dark green.—If found on white oak, it has the color peculiar to that tree. Just so it is with men. Tell me whom you choose and prefer as companions, and I certainly can tell you who you are. Do you love the society of the vulgar? Then you are already debased in your sentiments. Do you seek to be with the profane? In your heart you are like them. Are jesters and buffoons your choicest friends? He who loves to laugh at folly is himself a fool, and probably a very stupid one, too. Do you love and seek the society of the wise and good? Is this your habit? Would you rather take the lowest set among others? Then you have already learned to be wise and good. You may not have made much progress, but even a good beginning is not to be despised. Hold on your way, and seek to be a companion of all that fear God. So you shall be wise for yourself and wise for eternity.

A TOUGH STORM STORY.—The Peru (Ill.) *Chronicle*, of the 7th ult., learns from a farmer who resides on the South side of the Illinois river, on the Bluff, some particulars of the late storm. His cattle, though they were inclosed in a circle of staw stacks and hay stacks, were so much affected by the driving blast that they refused to eat. The snow was driven between their hairs, and, coming in contact with the skin, was for a moment melted, then frozen until the whole covering of the animal seemed one unbroken armor of ice, which did not disappear on many for four days after. The snow melting on their foreheads and running down, formed huge icicles that passed down over the face, and reached far below the nose, giving them the appearance of the beast with the ten horns—in many instances the broad sheet of ice falling over the eyes, blindfolded them effectually. Their nostrils were filled with frozen snow that had been driven into them by the violence of the wind.

The quails that had gathered about his barnyard, as a last resort, had frozen to death.—Prairie chickens were either frozen to death or so benumbed that he could take them with his hands as they sat on the fence, sleeping with stupor. His barn-yard chickens were many of them frozen, and, what is singular, in nearly every case they were found with their bills wide apart as they could be sundered, and the mouth filled with solid ice. He has driven his teams and cattle over his fences, the snow being on a level with them, and so compact as to sustain a heavy load.

A SMART BOY.—To the Knickerbocker belongs the credit of the following: "One pleasant day last summer, I took my seat in the stage coach bound from Fall River to C——. Among the passengers was a little gentleman who had possibly seen five summers. The coach being quite full, he sat in the lap of another passenger. While on the way, something was said about pickpockets, and soon the conversation became general on that interesting subject. The gentleman who was then holding our young friend remarked:

"My fine fellow, how easy I could pick your pocket!"

"No you could'nt,' replied he, 'I've been looking out for you all the time!'"

☞ "I am an *Owe Nothing*," said a neighbor, as he paid up his newspaper bill. How many of our subscribers can say that?

American Volunteer.

BY JOHN B. BRATTON. "OUR COUNTRY—MAY IT ALWAYS BE RIGHT—BUT RIGHT OR WRONG, OUR COUNTRY." AT $2,00 PER ANNUM.

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DEBATE ON THE UNITED STATES SENATOR QUESTION.

Secret Oaths and Proceedings of the Know-Nothing Order.

New York House of Assembly, Feb. 5th 1855.

Mr. Leigh rose to a question of privilege, and said:

Mr. Speaker, I have been sent here, by my constituents, to serve them in a legislative capacity. I came here an independent man, simply desiring to do my duty honestly and fearlessly. In carrying out this purpose, I have deemed it my duty to declare myself the friend of the Main Law and of Wm. H. Seward. For having done so—particularly for having avowed my purpose to vote for Mr. Seward as Senator of the United States—this House has been foully and grossly insulted in the person who now addresses you. I, this morning, received several communications from my district, of an extra officious and insulting character, designed for the infamous purpose of influencing my action as a member of this House. I shall read these communications. The first is dated 'Hancock Chapter'——

Mr. Peck. I call the gentlemen to order; and my point of order is, that if the communications are private, he has no right to read them.

The Speaker. The gentleman has no right to read those or any other documents without the consent of the house.

Mr. O'Keefe. I move, sir, that the gentleman from New York have the permission of the House to read the communications. Agreed to.

Mr. Leigh. The communications which I shall read are not of a private character, but relate to public duties. The first is as follows:

HANCOCK CHAPTER, No. 14, O. U. A.,
Tuesday Evening, Jan. 30, 1855.

SIR: We herewith transmit to you the following resolution, passed unanimously this evening, by Hancock Chapter:

Resolved, That Hancock chapter, through its officers, request the Hon. C. C. Leigh to use his influence and vote against the re-election of Wm. H. Seward as United States Senator; we, as Americans, denouncing his political course, and we regret to find that the Hon. C. C. Leigh has not the manliness and sufficient principle to act against the said Wm. H. Seward, without receiving petitions from his Brother Americans.

Which is respectfully submitted.

GEO. J. SUNE, *C. of C.*
JOHN J. LYNCH, *C. C.*
Geo. A. Thitchner, Sachem.

Mr. Leigh: John J. Lynch!—An appropriate cognomen to be attached to such a missle.—But, sir, I have also another communication. It is as follows:

NEW YORK, *Jan.* 16, 1855.

DEAR SIR: At a regular meeting of the Jasper Chapter, No. 35, O. U. A., held Monday evening 15th inst., the undersigned were appointed a committee of three, to draft a preamble and resolutions to you, expressive of their feelings on the election of a United States Senator.

Herewith we beg to enclose the said preamble and resolutions, and solicit from you an early reply.

Fraternally and truly yours,
F. C. WAGNER,
C. B. HAWLEY, } *Committee.*
GEO. A. WARDELL,

To Hon. C. C. Leigh, Albany, N. Y.

Address of F. C. Wagner, care of Rogers & Wyckoff, New York.

Whereas, the present Legislature, in session at Albany, will elect a United States Senator for the coming six years; and

Whereas, the course of Wm. H. Seward has been anti-American, and opposed to the objects of our organization; and

Whereas, the defeat of Wm. H. Seward will be a triumph of the American party over Romanism and fanaticism; therefore, be it

Resolved, That this Chapter does urge Brother C. C. Leigh to use his influence and vote against the re-election of Wm. H. Seward to the United States Senate.

You will remember that I have been *only once in your Chapter*, and that was on the night of *joining the Order*; I am, therefore, *not entirely acquainted with your designs*. I supposed your main object was to carry out the great American principle of Jefferson, that all men were created with certain inalionable rights, among them was life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. I consider Mr. Seward the embodiment of this great American idea.—The slaveholders at the South consider him so, and on this account alone they desire his political annihilation. I cannot consent to this, much less to be urged to assist and take part in the horrid sacrifice.

When your Order, by a formal vote, sent by the hand of a special messenger, requires a brother to do such a deed, all I have to say is, I was mistaken in your designs, and wish to withdraw my name as a member of the Order. In doing so, I hope the personal friendship and good feeling that exists between us may continue, for I can see no reason why political opponents may not be personal friends.

I remain yours, very respectfully,

CHAS. C. LEIGH.

To Messrs. F. C. Wagner, C. B. Hawley, Geo. A Wardell, Committee of Jasper Chapter, No. 35, O. U. A.

Mr. May obtained the floor. He said he should not have said a word on this question, but for a communication he had just received from home. It was well known that he was sent here without shackles on—that he was not in any wise trammelled—but that he was regarded as an independent Whig, and was elected as such. As such he should discharge his duties here, and without regard to dictation from home. The communication to which he referred was in these words:

ALMOND, Feb. 1, 1855.

DEAR SIR: At the last meeting of our Order there was passed a unanimous vote, requesting you to vote and use your influence against the re-election of Wm. H. Seward for United States Senator. Our Council now controls the vote of the town. We the undersigned, were appointed a committee to inform you of the action of our Council. Fraternally,

ISAAC RAWSON.
W. B. GARDNER.
JAS. W. BLACK.

Hon. L. S. May.

Mr. May remarked that the Order from which this emanated did all in its power to defeat his return to this House, if the vote of the town was to be regarded as proof of the fact; and yet it assumed to instruct him on this question. He wished here to protest against this attempted dictation. He desired to stand here as a freeman, at liberty to vote as he saw fit. He designed to act as such, in defiance of factions or cliques at home. His position was distinctly understood by his constituents at large when they cast their votes. He was not questioned on this subject. It was unnecessary. He was voted for by the bone and sinew of his district as a Seward Whig. As such he should vote on this floor, disregarding all communications like these from such sources.

Mr. Baker said:

I will proceed to the discussion of the main question, which I purpose to bring to the notice of this House, namely, the parallel between the oath required to be taken by the Jesuit and that required to be taken by the Hindoo branch of the Know-Nothings.

And here, sir, I will say to the leaders of the Know-Nothings in this House, if they can, they may deny the genuineness or authenticity of what I am about to read; but if they do deny it, I desire them to remember that mere denial is not proof; and as they have the means to prove it a forgery or a fraud, if it be so, by producing and reading in evidence the true and genuine Know-Nothing oath. If they fail to do so, I shall take it for granted that they cannot successfully deny it—and that what I read is a true Know Nothing oath. I make this challenge, and offer, sir, before I proceed to read, that any honorable gentleman who can deny it, may have the opportunity—for I do not wish to misrepresent this matter; and if I am wrong, I wish to be put right—for it is a very material point in this controversy.

I will read, sir, the oaths, for it seems they have two—one for each degree in this beautiful school of virtue and purity: 'You and each of you of your own free twill and accord, in the presence of Almighty God and these witnesses, your right hand resting on this Holy Bible and Cross, and your left hand toward Heaven in token of your sincirity, do solemnly promise and swear that you will not make known to any person or persons, any of the signs, secrets, mysteries, or objects, of this organization, unless it be to those whom, after due examination or lawful information, you shall find to be members of this organization in good standing; that you will not cut, carve, print, paint, stamp, stain, or in any way, directly or indirectly, expose any of the secrets mysteries or objects of this Order, nor suffer it to be done by others, if in your power to prevent it, unless it be for official instruction; that so long as you are connected with this organization, if not regularly dismissed from it, you will in all things, political or social, so far as this Order is concerned, comply with the will of the majority, when expressed in a lawful manner, though it may conflict with your personal preference, so long as it does not conflict with the Grand, State or Subordinate Constitutions, the Constitution of the United States of America, or that of the State in which you reside: and that you will not, under any circumstances whatever, knowingly recommend an unworthy person for initiation, nor suffer it to be done if in your power to prevent it. You furthermore promise and declare, that you will not vote for nor give your influence for any man, for any office in the gift of the people, unless he be an American-born citizen in favor of American-born citizens ruling America—nor if he be a Roman Catholic; and that you will not, under any circumstances, expose the name of any member of the Order, nor reveal the existence of such an organization.

'To all the foregoing you bind yourself, under the no less penalty of that of being expelled from this Order, and of having your name posted and circulated throughout the different councils of the United States, as a perjurer and a traitor to God and your country, as being unfit to be employed, intrusted, countenanced, or supported, in any business transactions, as a person totally unworthy the confidence of all good men, and as one at whom the finger of scorn should ever be pointed—so help you God.'

Sir, it is complained against the Jesuit, that he surrenders up to his superior his personal right to think, act, and speak, for himself.—Admit it for the sake of this argument. But what, sir, is the character of this oath? I have just read to you that the party is required to swear of his own free will that he 'will in all things, political or social, so far as this Order is concerned, comply with the will of the majority, though it may conflict with his personal preference'—demanding from the outset, of their members, an absolute and servile surrender of their own free will and choice.

But, sir, I will now pass from this brief review of the first lesson in the Know Nothing creed of morals and politics, and read the platform of those who, by their faithful adherence to the first oath, have entitled themselves to the honor of a second and higher step in the same direction; and I here again, sir, call upon the high priests of this exemplary band of men to deny, *if they can, that what I am about to read is not the form and substance of their oath.*—But, remember, as they have the evidence to contradict it, if not, if they do not produce it and read it to this House, they must abide by the legal inference from the fact in the case, to wit, that they cannot prove this document spurious by producing the genuine to contradict it. I will proceed to read it, as follows:

'You and each of you, of your own free will and accord, in the presence of Almighty God and these witnesses, your left hand resting on your right breast, and your right hand extended to the flag of your country, do solemnly and sincerely swear that you will not, under any circumstances, disclose in any manner, nor suffer it to be done by others, if in your power to prevent it, the name, sign, passwords, or other secrets of this degree; that you will in all things conform to all the rules and regulations of this Order, and to the constitution and by-laws of this or any other Council to which you may be attached, so long as they do not conflict with the Constitution of the United States, nor of the State in which you may reside; that you will, under all circumstances, if in your power so to do, attend to all regular signs and summonses that may be shown or sent to you by a brother of this Order; that you will support in all political matters, for all political offices, the second degree members of this Order, provided it be necessary for the American interests; that if it may be done legally, you will, when elected to any office, remove all foreigners, aliens, or Roman Catholics, from office, and that you will not appoint such to office—all this you promise and declare, on your honor as Americans, to sustain and abide by without any hesitation or mental reservation whatever, so help you God, and keep you steadfast.'

One word of comment, sir, upon this oath:

It, like the first one, requires that its members shall, 'of their own free will,' swear to conceal even the name of the Order, and of course must, if asked the question, either lie, or break their oath. If they break their oath, they must lose their standing in this virtuous body. If they perpetrate a falsehood, and keep their promise, then they are entitled to remain in good standing, and enjoy all the rights and privileges of the Order. Will anybody tell me what there is in Jesuitism so low and base and depraved and corrupt as this?

Has the world ever witnessed, at any time or in any age, in the creed of any class, sect, despot, tyrant, or bandit, a principle more subversive of honor, rights, equality, and mental and moral liberty, than this requisition in the 'Know Nothing' oath, pledged before God as a witness that they will ignore and deny what they know—sworn, sir, that to keep secret the name or object of this organization, or even its existence, or the name of any of its members, they will perpetrate a falsehood to do it; and with their left hand resting on their heart, and their right hand extended to the flag of your country, invoke that sacred emblem of American liberty to witness their moral debasement and mental prostitution.

Sir, while I am on this subject of the 'first families,' I desire to draw a brief parallel between the 'higher law' doctrine of William H. Seward and that of the 'Hindoo' or 'first family,' order of Know Nothings. William H. Seward believes it to be the duty of all humane legislatures to make their laws in conformity with the laws of Him in 'whom we live and have our being,' 'who breathed into us the breath of life,' the tenure of which is in His hands.

But this branch of the 'Know Nothing' Order believe in taking oaths to practice deceit and falsehood—to proscribe and persecute men for conscience sake, although our Constitution has guarantied 'the free exercise and enjoyment of religious profession, without discrimination or preference;' yet they bind themselves by their oaths to make a discrimination and preference against the Catholics, whether of American or foreign birth; this oath or obligation is their 'higher law;' to them it is higher than the Constitution of the United States or of the State of New York! This, sir, is one of the great 'institutions' of the 'first families' that 'Sam' is so ardently in love with.

Sir, while in this connection, I cannot let the allusions which have been made to the Speaker pass by without a single remark. And first, sir, I was surprised to hear the gentleman from Westchester [Mr. Waterbury] and the gentleman from New York [Mr. Petty] attack the Speaker, on the ground of his 'higher law' affinities, when they themselves each and both acknowledge the dominant authority of the 'Know Nothing oath,' or obligation, over their own minds, to such an extent that they dare not tell us who their candidate for Senator is—but will say, don't know.

I ask the question, dare any of the fraternity tell? No one answers, and no one dare answer; because they are under a 'higher law,' higher, sir, in their judgment, than truth and candor.—And, sir, again I say it is refreshing to see some men in this body capable of rising above the binding oath of the Order, to deceive and conceal the truth from the gaze of all men; but in reply to the charge implied in the allusions, I can say, and I think from good authority, that the Speaker never belonged to the order of Hindoos in Oswego, but that his adversary got them to adopt him as their candidate, and gave him their support.

Mr. Richardson said: As I was about to commence my remarks, a letter was handed to me, which I had not then time to open. I have since perused it, and I wish to read it, to show the infamous character of the efforts which are being made to defeat Mr. Seward, and to control the action of members in this House. [Various objections were made, but a dozen voices simultaneously moved that he be permitted to read and the permission was granted.] Mr. R. read as follows:

CATSKILL, January, 1855.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER: I regret to hear that you have made application for a withdrawal card from your C——. I am pleased to hear, however, that your application was not granted.

I learn, moreover, that you are pledged, and was, previous to election or your nomination, to vote for William H. Seward.

Now, I hope that I am misinformed, and that you will be true to the sacred obligation you have taken and promises you made to me; but if you are not, you will not be permitted to withdraw from your C., but you will be expelled and notice sent to every C—— in this State (some 1,600 in number) of your expulsion; and reasons why, namely, for being a traitor and a perjurer, and not to be trusted in any transaction; and more than this, our members swear they will burn you in effigy in every village in the county, if you do not prove true.

Now, these are not mere threats to be forgotten, but will be carried out to the very letter.—Now, I sincerely hope you will prove yourself a man in this emergency, and not be ruled by a party demagogue, who has always been your most bitter enemy, and now makes his brags that he makes you do everything in spite of all your obligations and promises. Now, you must be well aware that if you vote for Seward, it will be your political death-knell; besides, the promises they have made you will not be kept after Seward is elected; you can go where you choose for all they care.

It is currently reported all over the county now, that you have been bought with money and promises to vote for Seward. Every man I meet, almost, from the country, is asking about you; and it seems they cannot believe you will debase yourself so much as to violate your oath; and they all say you will do that if you vote for Seward; and you are as well aware of that as I am. Now, remember that you alone are to suffer by this course; and I trust and hope you will not do what you will regret of when too late.

I enclose resolutions as passed by my C. in respect to your vote. I also enclose resolutions sent to me to forward to you from Lexington, they not knowing your address at Albany.

Yours, fraternally,
J. H. VAN GORDON, *P.*, 158.

Mr. M. L. Rickerson.

Mr. Speaker, this insolent communication needs no denial at my hands. The men that could be base enough to write such a letter to any man, would not be believed under any circumstances. I will only take occasion to say, that there has not been the first intimation of benefit, personal or pecuniary, offered or proposed, in any form or shape, to induce me to vote for Mr. Seward.

I represent the mountain county of the State, and those eternal hills shall be shaken from their base, before I shall be moved from my purpose. No human power, nothing but the fiat of the God whom I serve, shall shake me from my purpose, to cast my vote on Tuesday next, for William H Seward, the heroic champion of justice and freedom.

KNOW-NOTHING LEGISLATURES.

The Legislatures of Massachusetts and Pennsylvania each contain a large majority of members who belong to the secret order of Know-Notings—in fact, the Legislature of the former State is unanimously so, while in the latter they stand as three to one. Now what is the effect of such secret organizations upon the action of those bodies? Both Legislatures have to choose U. S. Senators. That of Massachusetts has acted, but its action was such as to cause the declaration from the Know-Nothing organ of Boston that "the question of electing a U. S. Senator has developed an amount and degree of scheming, fraud, humbug and injustice, which we were not prepared to see or expect."

That the same remark would apply with still greater force to the action of the Pennsylvania Legislature, will not be denied by any one observant of passing events. One-third of the members in attendance at the Know-Nothing caucus, declare over their own names that its action was the result of "wholesale private bribery and corruption," and the action bears on its face evidence of the correctness of the assertion.

Never before, in the history of the Commonwealth, was it alleged that a candidate for the U. S. Senate procured a nomination by the dominant party of the Pennsylvania Legislature by "wholesale bribery and corruption." That depth of degradation was not reached until a secret oath-bound society controlled its action.

But the effect follows the cause, and like causes will produce like results. All history proves the baneful influence of secret political societies upon public morals. They every where, and at all times, have been the fruitful source of corruption—and as long as human nature remains the same, they must continue so to be.

The honest men who voted the Know-Nothing party into power can now witness the consequence of so doing. The responsibility is on them So long as they desire such proceedings continued, so long may they allow a secret society to rule, with the confident assurance of having their wishes gratified.—*Lancaster Examiner.*

A MAN'S EYE SHUT UP WITH THE FROST.—The Dayton (Ohio) *Journal* must be held responsible for the following:

"We don't intend to brag about our cold weather, but we never recollect hearing of an instance in which a man's eye was frozen shut, except that to which we now refer. The driver of a sleigh coming from Jamestown to Xenia on Saturday morning, just as he was entering Xenia, exhibited to his passengers an icicle about as large as a buck-shot pendent from the upper lid of his right eye! The eye was entirely closed, literally frozen shut! His left eye was chilled, so that it was with difficulty that he kept the lids in motion. A raw wind was blowing, and the passengers in the sleigh kept their faces covered."

THE LAW OF DIVORCE.—Mr. M'Clean, from the Judiciary Committee, reported a bill which has been considered in the House, extending the jurisdiction of the Courts in cases of divorce. The bill contemplates all cases of personal abuse on the part of either the wife or the husband, or such conduct as to render the condition of the parties intolerable and life burdensome. The bill also makes no distinction between persons domiciled in another State where the causes occurred and those who, at the time of such occurrences, are residents of this State. The applicant for the divorce must, at the time of the application, be a citizen of this Commonwealth, and shall have resided therein for the term of one year.—*Harrisburg Union.*