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Poetry.

IN SCHOOL DAYS.

Still sits the school-house by the road,
A ragged beggar sunning;
Around it still the sumacs grow,
And blackberry vines are running.

Within the master's desk is seen,
Deep-scarred by raps official;
The warping floor, the battered seats,
The jack-knife's carved initial;

The charcoal frescoes on its wall;
Its door's worn sill betraying
The feet that, creeping slow to school,
Went storming out to playing!

Long years ago a winter sun
Shone over it at setting;
Lit up its western window panes,
And low eaves' icy fretting,

It touched the tangled golden curls,
And brown eyes full of grieving,
Of one who still her steps delayed
When all the school were leaving.

For near her stood the little boy,
Her childish favor singled;
His cap pulled low upon a face
Where pride and shame were mingled.

He saw her lift htr eyes; he felt
The soft hand's light caressing,
And heard the tremble of her voice,
As if a fault confessing.

"I'm sorry that I spelt that word:
I hate to go above you,
Because"—the brown eyes lower fell—
"Because, you see, I love you!"

Still memory to a gray-haired man
That sweet child-face is showing,
Dear girl! the grasses on her grave
Have forty years been growing!

He lives to learn, in life's hard school,
How few who pass above him
Lament their triumphs and his loss,
Like her—because they love him.

Miscellaneous.

Mark Twain.

He Writes About Chinamen and Desperadoes.

From the Buffalo Express.

One of California's curiosities, the people in the States will some day become familiar with through the Pacific Railroad. I mean the Chinamen. California contains 70,000 of them, and every ship brings more. There is a Chinese quarter in every city and village in California and Nevada, for Boards of Aldermen will not allow them to live all around town, just wherever they choose to locate. This is not a hardship, for they prefer to herd together.

PECULIARITIES AND SUPERSTITIONS.

They are a people who fondly stick to their ancient customs. Twenty-five or five hundred years ago their ancestors wore five hundred years ago. They build temples, gaudy with gilding and hideous with staring idols, and there they worship after the fashion of their fathers. A strict record is kept by their chiefs of the name and residence of every Chinaman, and when he dies his body is sent back to China for burial, for they can never get to their heaven unless they start from China. And besides, Chinamen worship their ancestors, and they all want their share of worship after they are done with this world. Even when the Chinese Government sells a ship load of degraded and criminal coolies to a Cuban or Sandwich Island planter, it is strictly stipulated that the body of every one of them must be sent back to China after death.

The Chinamen is a smart, shrewd people, take to some few of our commercial customs and virtues, but somehow we can't make great headway in the matter of civilizing them. We can teach them to gamble a little, but somehow we can't make them get drunk. It is discouraging—because you can't reform a man in that wholesale way that won't get drunk.

The Chinaman is the most frugal, industrious, and thrifty of all creatures. No matter how slender are the wages you pay him, he will manage to lay up money. And Chinamen are the most gifted gardeners in the world. He will go of them a sand-bank that would not support a lizard, and he will make it yield generous crops of vegetables. The Chinaman wastes nothing. Everything has a value in his eyes. He gathers up all the cast-away rags, and bones, and bits of glass, and makes marketable articles of them. And he picks up all the old fruit-cans you throw away and melts them up to get the tin and solder. When a white man discards a gold placer as no longer worth anything, the patient Chinaman, always satisfied with small profits, and never in a hurry to get rich, takes possession and works it contentedly for years.

The Chinaman makes a good cook, a good washerwoman, a good chamber-maid, a good gardener, a good banker's clerk, a good miner, a good railroad laborer, a good anything you choose to put him at; for these reasons I do not advocate; they are all good accountants; they are very quiet and peaceable; they never disturb themselves about politics, they are so tractable, quick, smart, and naturally handy and ingenious, that you can teach them anything; they have the virtues; they never lose a moment, never require watching to keep them at work; they are gifted with a world of patience, endurance and contentment. They are the best laboring class America has ever seen—and they do not cure a straw what you think of this. They are miserably abused by the laws of California, but that sort of thing will cease some day. It was found just about impossible to build the California end of the Pacific Railroad with white men at $3 per day and take care of all the Indian and fight and strikes; but when they put Chinamen at $1 a day and "find" themselves, and they built it without fights or strikes or anything, and saved the bulk of their wages, too. You will have these long-tail toilers among you in the States" some day, but you will find them right easy to get along with—and you will like them too, because they will stand a heap of abuse. You will find them ever so convenient, because when you get mad you can snatch a club and go out and take satisfaction out of a Chinaman. The native American negro is getting so impudent now that the patriot from Ireland cannot take a little recreation out of him without getting into trouble. So the Chinaman will afford a needed relief.

MODEST VILLAINY.

As evidences that Chinamen are satisfied with small gains, I will remark that they drill five holes into the edge of gold coins—drill clear through from edge to edge—and save the gold thus bored out, and fill up the hole with some sort of metalic composition that does not spoil the ring of the coin. Their counterfeiters put nine parts good metal and only one part base metal in their bogus coins—and so it is very lucrative in the long run, and the next thing to impossible to detect the cheat. It is only greedy bungling Christian counterfeiters that blunder into trouble. By coining to swindle their fellow creatures too heavily.

DESPERADOES.

Another curious feature about California life was the breed of desperadoes she reared and fostered on her soil, and afterward distributed over adjacent Territories through her Vigilance Committees when she had had enough of their exploits. These men went armed to the teeth with monstrous revolvers, and preyed upon each other. Their slightest misunderstandings were settled on the spot by the bullet; but they very rarely molested peaceable citizens. They robbed and gambled and killed people for three or four years, and then "settled with their boots on," as they phrased it; that is, they were killed themselves, almost invariably, and they never expected any other fate, and were very seldom disappointed.

SAM BROWN.

Sam Brown, of Nevada, killed sixteen men in his time, and was journeying towards Esmeralda to kill a seventeenth, who had stopped the breath of a friend of his, when a party of law-abiding citizens waylaid him and slaughtered him with shot guns. Mourners were exceedingly scarce at his funeral. It is said that Sam Brown called for a drink at the bar of the Slaughter House in Carson City one morning (a saloon so nicknamed because so many men had been killed in it), and invited a stranger up to drink with him. The stranger said he never drank, and wished to be excused. By the custom of the country that was a deadly insult, and so Brown very properly shot him down. He left him lying there and went away, warning everybody to let the body alone, because it was his meat, he said. And it is said also that he came back after a while and made a coffin, and buried the man himself—though I never could quite believe that—without assistance.

Virginia City was full of desperadoes, and some of the pleasantest newspaper reporting I ever did was in those days, because I reported the inquests on the entire lot of them, nearly. We had a fresh one pretty much every morning. Towards the last it was melancholy to see how the material was running short. Those were halcyon days. I don't know what halcyon days are, but that is the proper expression to use in this connection, I believe.

JACK WILLIAMS.

Jack Williams was one of the luckiest of the Virginia City desperadoes. He killed a good many men. He was a kind-hearted man, and gave all his custom to a poor undertaker who was trying to get along. But by-and-by somebody poked a double-barrelled shot gun through a crack while Williams was sitting at breakfast, and riddled him at such a rate that there was hardly enough of him left to hold an inquest on—and then the poor unfortunate undertaker's best friend was gone, and he had to take in his sign. Thus he was stricken in the midst of his prosperity and his happiness, for he was just on the point of getting married when Jack Williams was taken away from him, and of course he had to give it up then.

CEMETERIAL CURIOSITIES.

It is said that the first twenty-six graves in the cemetery at Virginia City were those of men who all died by the bullet. And the first six in another of those towns contained the bodies of a desperado and five of his victims—and there in the bosom of his family, made dear to him by ties of blood, he calmly sleeps unto this day.

MR. SLADE.

At the Rocky Ridge station in the Rocky Mountains, in the old days of overland stages and pony expresses, I had the gorgeous honor of break fasting with Mr. Slade, the Prince of all the desperadoes, who killed twenty-six men in his time; who used to cut off his victims' ears and send them as keepsakes to their relatives; and who bound one of his victims hand and foot and practised on him with his revolver for hours together—a proceeding which seems almost inexcusable until we reflect that Rocky Ridge is away off in the dull solitudes of the mountains, and the poor desperadoes have hardly any amusements. Mr. Slade afterward came to Montana and began to thin out the population as usual—for he took a great interest in trimming the census and regulating the vote—but finally the Vigilance Committee captured and hanged him, giving him just fifteen minutes to prepare himself in. The papers said he cried on the scaffold.

The Vigilance Committee is a wholesome regulator in the new countries, and bad characters have a lively dread of it. In Montana one of these gentlemen was placed on his mule and informed that he had precisely fifteen minutes to leave the country. He said, "Gents, if this mule don't balk five'll answer."

But that is sufficient about the desperadoes I merely wished to make passing mention of them as a Californian production.

Discovery of Mines.

The richest and most valuable mines have in almost all instances been discovered by accident; often by ignorant persons, who knew not the value of their own discovery; and by children. To an Indian hunter is owed the knowledge of the existence of the famous mines, and to a shepherd the silver mines of Peru. This latter, leading his flocks to feed on the slopes of the Andes, lighted a fire to cook his meal, when a pebble, heated by the flame, attracted his attention by shining like silver. He found the stone massive and weighty, and finally carried it to the mint at Lima, where it was tested, and proved to be prod ore. As the Spanish laws, with a view to encourage mine-discovery, make it the property of the finder, this lucky shepherd became a millionaire.

The Saxons, who engaged to work the mines, they came at once to masses of silver; but Godoy sold his interest in the matter for two thousand eight hundred pounds, and started to find more mines; and having wandered about the Andes for some years, died leaving not with no more "luck," and without a penny.

Two brothers, named Bolados, discovered near Copiapo, in a crevice opened by some earthquake, an enormous block of silver ore, the cutting, transport, and fusion of which was so easy that these ignorant men effected it without assistance; and in less than two years realized one hundred and forty thousand pounds. They squandered, however, this enormous sum in gambling and dissipation; and when their mine became completely exhausted, they had not even the wretched pittance left on which they had begun.

The history of the discoveries of the famous Allison Ranch in Nevada, Cal., is a more satisfactory one. Some poor Irishmen, workers in a neighboring mine, were so fortunate as to hit upon it. They were so unlettered as not to be able to write their names, but they were excellent fellows. They first built a chapel, to thank God for his favors; then they erected handsome villas, and placed their workmen in exceptional positions; and they went by turns every week to San Francisco to spend their ingots of gold. They retain their simplicity, though with an income as large as that of many princes in Europe, but refuse to furnish any statement of their receipts.

The success of Gould and Curry in their Nevada Silver mine is even more astounding; they were so poor that they were at first obliged to barter two-thirds of their claim to a grocer for the necessaries of life, notwithstanding which they have realized enormous sums for their own portion. Including the product of 1857, the Gould and Curry Company have got fourteen millions of dollars out of their mine.

The history of the Monte Catini Mine, in Tuscany, is very curious. M. Porte, its original owner, was half ruined by it, and sold it in 1837. Immediately afterward, a block of massive ore was found that paid all expenses, and left four thousand pounds net profit. Then for fifteen years the mine produced forty thousand pounds a year, and still continues to yield largely. M. Porte, who had witnessed this heart-rending spectacle of the immediate success of others, where he had labored in vain for years, soon died of grief. His marble bust adorns the entrance of the principal gallery of Monte Catini, but his heirs are poor.

Gottschalk, the pianist, and Lefebure Wely, a great organist, have died within a month, and each was stricken with death while playing his favorite instrument.

Reporters and Reporting.

BY DR. R. SHELTON MACKENZIE.

The competition of reporters for "exclusive" bits of local news is as energetic in England as it is in this country. In one instance, a reporter had very nearly got into great trouble by his zeal. He lived a mile or so out of town, and on one side of the road, for a considerable part of the way, was a thick grove. As he was returning home, late one night, after having seen the paper to press, he observed that one of the trees near the road side, had an unusual appearance. Going within the fence, he discovered that the body of a man was suspended from one of the branches. Hurriedly cutting it down, he drew the body into a part of the grove where the undergrowth was thick, intending to conceal it. This done, he went home. Next morning he was taken into custody, on a charge of wilful murder, and brought before a magistrate. A gamekeeper, going through the woods at early daylight, had discovered the body in its place of concealment, and some other person remembered that, about midnight, he had seen the reporter issue from the grove. The case was suspicious—until a constable, searching the pockets of the dead man, discovered a written statement, with his name and place of abode, and declaring that domestic misfortune had made life so unbearable that he had resolved to commit suicide. Of course, the reporter was discharged. His explanation, added to the other data, finding such a fine bit of "local" as this too late for his own paper, he had concealed the corpse in order that the rival journal which was to appear on the next day, should not profit by the news! But for the suicide's confession, a pretty strong case of circumstantial evidence might have been made to the peril of the knight of the pen. Another of this class entered the editorial room, in an excited manner and with rapid steps. "A capital fatal accident!" he exclaimed. "About ten minutes ago, my mother-in-law tumbled down with and broke her neck. I have desired them not to say anything about it to the neighbors until the morning, so that we shall have it exclusively for *our* paper." His heart was in his calling, undoubtedly.

A system of reporting exists before the police magistrates that has long been in vogue among all the daily morning papers in London. One gentleman of the press attended at each office, reported one or two striking cases each day, and, taking a sufficient number of copies, by the manifold process, sent one to each morning journal. Quite particular was the new line bought for the purpose of finding a reporter was recognized by the magistrates and by the newspapers. The payment was at the rate of three cents for each line of print, and no police news except what was supplied by those reporters, or often contemptuously called "penny-a-liners," was ever received in the sub-editor's room. Reporters, while interest were not inserted, and the pressure of parliamentary or other news very often excluded even good ones. This system, which continues (except that *The Times* has a reporter of its own at each police-office), relieved the newspapers from a heavy cost of regular salaried reporters. The average outlay was small, but when half-a-dozen papers paid for the same paragraphs, each "penny-a-liner" contrived to earn a respectable income. In the event of any great crime having been committed, which public curiosity was excited on having reported in full, the lucky reporter in whose police court the charge was disposed of, might publish from one to three columns in each paper day after day, while the interest lasted, and sometimes earn from fifty to a hundred dollars per diem. The reporters of the Guildhall and New street police offices were reputed, at the time I refer to, of severally making between $3500 and $4000 a year—the heaviest cases being brought before the committing magistrates here. Black mail, or accepting money for suppressing names, has rarely been charged against these police reporters, who enjoy a singular monopoly.

I am cognizant, however, of one instance in which a London "penny-a-liner" showed more sharpness than probity. It was in the autumn, a dead season for the London press, when the political and fashionable and professional classes have "left town." A reporter, who had been called to the bar, but had never been employed there by any one, not finding any news, resolved to make it. He invented a dreadful murder, attended with romantic and mysterious circumstances, and described it, very fully as having taken place in a remote suburban district, for which he manufactured a Saxon name. He manifolded it to all the daily papers, only one of which accepted it. He supplied additional details; gave evidence at the inquest before an imaginary coroner; published a verdict of "Wilful murder against some person or persons unknown;" described the funeral of the victim; lengthily and legally went into conjectures as to the murderer, complimenting the police, who, he stated, were on the traces of the assassin, but obliged for some ten days, until the Home Secretary thought it his duty to inquire into the case, and soon discovered that it was a fiction from first to last. The newspaper was laughed at, but the imaginative reporter, who had done nothing for which the law could punish him, was allowed to escape. Years passed by, and the next time I heard of him he was attorney-general in one of the Australian colonies, finally rising to a seat on the bench. I last saw him in 1847, when he visited England on official business, and we had a good laugh over his remarkable "Murder in Essex."

Some forty or fifty years ago the *Morning Herald*, a London daily paper which has just expired, obtained sudden and remarkable popularity, on account of its very amusing reports of cases before the magistrates at the police offices. Mr. Thwaites, the managing editor, accidentally encountered, in a stage-coach on the journey from London to Birmingham, a Mr. John Wight, "a fellow of infinite jest," whose quaint manner and racy wit made the long journey—I write of a pre-railway time—appear very short. He had him to dinner the next day at *the* great mail coach inn (who has not heard of *Hen and Chickens?*) at Birmingham, discovered that this facetious gentleman was a struggling patent ink bottle manufacturer, resolved to engage him at a newspaper man, and induced him to remove to London on a handsome salary. In a short time, he became the exclusive Bow street reporter for the *Morning Herald*, taking care not to be known as such. He merely sat in the court, and assumed special privilege in taking notes of any case. Nevertheless, his Bow street reports were admirable, full of life and frolic, with cockneys figuring in them who dropped their H's, and Irish people using a brogue thick as a London November fog, which looks as if one could cut it with a knife. By-and-by the best of these comic reports were published, with characteristic illustrations by George Cruikshank, in "Mornings in Bow Street," and a second volume also had great success. The fact was—each case, as reported by Wight, was fictitious, or, at least, only fashioned on something that had actually come before the court. The magistrates enjoyed the joke, the public laughed, the *Morning Herald* doubled its London circulation, and, as a reward, Mr. Wight was presented with a one-third interest in the paper. This secured, which gave him a large income for life, he never wrote another Morning in Bow Street. He had worked hard, while the dependence he eschewed labor when independence rewarded his past efforts.

There is an anecdote, of which one of our journalists, now at the summit of his profession, is the hero. When he conducted a newspaper in the West, he introduced the novelty of reporting cases before the police magistrate. One of these, in which a brawny butcher, of Teutonic race, was brought up for administering personal correction to his wife, had some peculiar features which the reporter dressed up in an amusing manner. He was sitting at his desk, when the defendant, who, if not *re*-fined, had been fined by the justice, entered the room, in company with a huge bludgeon. With a Stentorian voice in broken English, he inquired by what right he and his wife had been put into the newspapers; and his manner was so threatening that the editor, a slight youngster, without even a cane to use in defence, saw how very hopeless his case was. Keeping his eye on the burly giant, and drawing himself up in his chair, with an air of great dignity, he asked: "Do you subscribe for my paper?" The enemy stared, and answered that he did not. "Then," said the editor, triumphantly, "I do not see what right you have to find fault with anything that I print in it. When you pay two dollars, which is a year's subscription, in advance, you will have a right to complain." This was not a very logical deduction, but it hit. The man, in a very abated tone and moderated manner, muttered, "I will go and talk with mine wife about this," and quitted the office, never to reappear in it. The editor's presence of mind had saved him from an assault.—*Proof Sheet.*

A SERMON.

Delivered in the New Jerusalem Temple on Sunday, January 30, 1870, by Prof. S. S. Rathvon, Leader of the Society.

[And I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. —Rev. XXI-2.]

The distinguishing doctrines of the New Church, signified by the New Jerusalem, in the 21st Chapter of the Book of Revelations, are these:

I. That God is *one* in essence and in person, in whom there is a distinct and essential Trinity, called in the Word, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; which have a finite correspondence in the soul, the body, and the active energy of every human being; and that the Lord Jesus Christ is this God, and is therefore the only true object of worship. The sole divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ, may be regarded as the great central doctrine of the Church, because without a right conception of *who* God is, as well as *what* he is, *He* cannot become essentially a subject of human affection, and without affection, there can be no interior worship, for "God is Love." If the fullness of the God-head did not dwell in Jesus Christ *bodily*, then, whilst he was on earth, he uttered the most extraordinary assumptions that ever emanated from the mouth of any human being. In the very earliest days of his mission on earth, when Satan—who was the complex representative of all the aggregated wickedness of the world—appeared before Jesus in the Wilderness, offering all the kingdoms of this world if He would fall down and worship him, Jesus asserted his sole divinity by saying: "Get thee behind me Satan, for it is written, *Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.*" When one of his disciples wanted some further manifestation of the identity of Jesus with the Father, he received for reply, "Have I been two long time with you, Philip, and hast not known me? He that hath seen me hath seen the Father. "*I and the Father are one.*" Could any other being than God, restore the dead to life; open the eyes of the blind; walk on the water; feed a multitude of five thousand on five loaves and two fishes? Could any prophet or angel exercise the power of *Himself* to lay down his own life and power to take it up again; and finally, proclaim, in the face of his persecutors, "BEFORE ABRAHAM WAS I AM?" Verily, "the testimony of Jesus is the *spirit* of prophecy."

In order to save man, man must believe in the Lord—not merely a blind, supine faith, but an active *living* belief—and must earnestly and honestly strive to obey his commandments, looking to Him alone for strength and assistance, and acknowledging that all life and salvation come from Him. Faith in God, is such an essential element in the character of a true Christian, that He has found it necessary to declare in His Word: "He that believeth shall be saved, but he that believeth not shall be condemned, yea, *is* condemned already." If the inmost soul is not right with God, it cannot be found that very many are lashed under the condemnation of disbelief, because *believing* does not consist in a merely sentimental faith; for, our Lord has very explicitly declared, that "He that *doeth* my commandments, he it is, that believeth in *me*." Many, we fear,