# Vittoria Colonna, from "Michael Angelo."

Parting with friends is temporary death, As all death is. We see no more their

faces, Nor hear their voices, save in memory; But messages of love give us assurance That we are not forgotten. Who shall say That from the world of spirits comes no

greeting, No message of rememberance? It may be

The thoughts that visit us, we know not whence,
Sudden as inspiration, are the whispers Of disembodied spirits, speaking to us As friends, who was outside a prison wall, Through the barred windows speak to those within.

those within.

As quiet as the lake that lies beneath

Me,
As quiet as the tranquil sky above me,
As quiet as a heart that beats no more,
This convent seems. Above, below, all
peace!

Are with me here, and the trumulous

Makes no more noise than the remotest

planet.
O gentle spirit, unto the third circle
Of heaven among the blessed souls ascended,
Who, living in the faith and dying for it. Have gone to their reward, I do not sigh For thee as being dead, but for myself That I am still alive. Turn those dear

A few more prayers, a few more sighs and

tears,
And the long agony of this life will end,
And I shall be with thee. If I am want-

ing
To thy well-being, as thou art to mine,
Have patience; I will come to the at last.
Ye minds that loiter in these cloister gar-

Or wander far above the city walls, Bear unto him this message, that I ever Or speak or think of him, or weep for

By unseen hands uplifted in the light Of unset, yonder solitary cloud Floats with its white apparel blown

And wafted up to heaven. It fades away
And melts into the air. Ah, would that I
Could thus be wafted unto the, Francesco,
A cloud of white, an incorporcal spirit!

February Atlantic.

# THIEVES-AND ROBBERS.

He who takes by stealth what belongs to another is a thief; he who takes by violence what belongs to another is a robber. The robber is properly supposed to disappear, with other predato ry animals, before the progress of civilization; but this is a superficial judgment. The force that unlawfully deprives men of their property passes through many transformations, but no force is more persistent. Men are plundered nowadays in America far more frequently and flagrantly than England in the days of Robin Hood; there are men among us besides whose robberies those of the brigands of Italy and Greece and the Bedouins of the desert are mere pleasantries. Of all the triumphs of invention none are more wonderful than those by which the hard earned gains of millions are forcibly conveyed to the vaults of the robber-princes. business is more highly organized, more strenuously pursued, more suc-cessfully managed than the business of robbery. Yet, under all this elaboration of method, it is robbery, nothing worse nor better.

The peculiarity of the modern method of robbery is the employment, by the robbers, of the State as their enforced agent and accomplice. Sometimes, but not often they organize their and seize the coveted booty, combining work. shall we say when weak or corrupt judges hasten to legalize schemes by which great corporations are wrecked or rehabilated as suits the purposes of the conspirators?

Of the gigantic fortunes now held

in this country, not a few have been gotten by legal robbery. Twenty ture of cane and the manufacture of years ago our millionaires could be sugar in the former country. counted almost on the fingers of four hands. To-day this enumeration would carry us into thousands. Since the new system of robbery was perfechave grown rich honestly, but some of country. So Napoleouic in its boldness and success has been the tries.

method of the master robbers, that the plunder. Men of honorable repu-

gains of wealth that is employed in the service of society are the bulwarks at it is intimated. of civilization. But we do say that examples of private greed are sapping the sources of public honor; examples of gigantic and countenanced robbery are undermining the foundations of public morality and corrupting the national character.

Our legislators have failed to see, or for private and corrupt reasons, have winked at the fact, that the laws which two countries under the treaty to be were made to fit old-fashioned ideas of carried on in ships built in the United honor and morality, instead of protecting the public, are the strength and ico or built in Mexico and bought by the protection of dishonest men. The a citizen of the United States. old code of commercial honor is lost sight of in the complex transactions of stock-jobbers, who remain out of that they have not taken final shape. ight while their work is being done by conscienceless factors; by lawyers skilled in discovering loop-holes in the and in juggling with the law; by lobbies with money at the doors of legis-latures; by paper shares and paper and solitude, the soul's best promises to pay; by cipher messages and spies, and by abusing the facilities of stock exchanges.

It is well that our legislators are making at least the show of inquiring into the methods by which the public is robbed in the interest of sto ders, and they, in turn, are robbed by corporate managers; by which wholesale robbery is cloaked with legal forms of "consolidation," "reorganization, "receiverships," and "wartered stock" cyes,
Once so benignant to me, upon mine,
That open to their tears such uncontrolled
And such continual issue. Still awhile
Have patience; I will come to the at last,
A few more goings in and out these doors.
A few more chimings of these convent
halls double systems of railways, and with impunity array one against the other, as suits his varying purpose, thereby despoiling the public with the ease of a gambler playing with marked cards.

What have the people to say about these practices? They do not appear, as yet, to have anything to say. The robber princes are held in high esteem. if any Mordecai has refused to bow down before them, his name has not been reported. Men whose riches have been increased by spoiling their people can see with the door wide open. They can overhear connections the property of the property neighbors are held up as shining examples for the imitation of our youth. have been their accomplices.

class of men who, in their rapacity, are bent on enriching themselves by neighbors, and that they have learned how to use for this purpose the organmust be found of puting a stop to them. Unless this be done speedily, the respect for law on which social order rests will not survive.—From "Topics of the Time," in the February Century.

### American-Mexican Treaty.

Points of the Conclusions Reached by the Commission.

Washington, January 18 .- The International Commission appointed to negotiate a commercial treaty be-tween the United States and Mexico has held meetings at the State Department every day this week, and has

contrived legal schemes they constrain les already imported free into the telegraph wires and telephones bef such sugar from Mexico into the United States as for the purpose of encouraging and developing the cul-

sugar in the former country. In the six years during which the ly possible, in the opinion of the Mexican representative, that the exportated, about twenty men have amassed tion of sugar from Mexico should reach fortunes, which, taken together, exceed the debt of the nation. Twenty the same time the development of suyears ago many of these men were gar manufacture in connection with poor. Some of the new millionaires the free admission of agricultural imthem have led a raid upon the produc-tion and the accumulated wealth of an important Mexican industry and be reciprocally beneficial to both coun-

The list of articles to be imported machinery, agricultural implements,

public honors, have countenanced these crimes as affording the surest way of adding to their unsatisfying fortunes of ten, twenty, or even thirty millions. It is by no means our purpose to throw discredit upon the pursuit of wealth. fore been imposed upon goods passing diamond breastpin.

The Centre Democrat. Honest production and the honest from State to State within the Repub-

It is intimated, furthermore, that a provision will probably be agreed upon to permit the transportation of com-modities from the United States to Mexico and from Mexico to the United States under the terms of this treaty in ships owned by the citizens of either Republic which have been built within the territory of either. In other words, to allow trade between the two countries under the treaty to be two countries under the treaty to be two countries under the United that the United the treaty to be two countries under the citizens of either the most aristocratic airs, I guess it's owing to her style of dress! For I am but a Jickey-Jack, With tons of trouble on my back. And she, ah me! is grand and tall! She's Alice's best doi!!

Other important provisions are un-

#### Domestic Slanderers.

Dr. Talmage, in Frank Leslie's Sunday Magazine. The law of libel has a quick and stout grip for open slander. If I should plainly and by name charge any

one with fraud or theft, or arson of uncleanliness, the next morning I might have a premptory document served on me, and in dollars and cents I should have to pay for what damage I had done that one's character. But the creatures spoken of by St. Paul are so small they slide through between the fine tooth comb of the law. They live on and live ou, escapeing courts and juries and penitentiaries. The district attorney cannot find them. The grand jury cannot find them. Shut them off from one route of perfidy and they will start on another. amount of moral influence can pursuade them to desist. We might as well read the Ten Commandments to a flock of crows, expecting them to retreat under the force of moral sentiment. They are found everywhere I think they thrive best in a village of one or two thousand inhabitants where everybody knows everybody, but our large cities have a full share. They go about the colleges, some of them, and Doctors of Law and Doctor of Divinity grovel at their feet; ampies for the initiation of our youth. So long as teachers of morality silently indorse such iniquities; it is not to be expected that the people will cry out expected that the people will cry out against them. But the day is sure to come when plain men will clearly see that no one man can get with clean hands, in an ordinary life-time, a hundred million dollars; that such an enormous pile, so suddenly collected, must be loot, not profit. That will be a day of reconing, indeed, for the robbers and for the judges and the legislators and the public teachers who have been their accomplices.

descending into the street with eyes a little dim with tears, the event is stimulating to the tale-bearer and sets the whisperer up in business for many which he is employed. Under the rules of the Pension Office no agent is assigned to the district in which he fermerly lived, and everything is done to prevent the special service from degenerating into a powerful secret political machine. Such good results have come from the system, as a whole, that it is not thought desirable to return to have been their accomplices. Mean time these facts are to be kept you think, all ear, that our neighbor, poor thing, came out of her house this morning crying? That brute of a man has been abusing her Isn't it awful? Just think of having our neighborhood disturbed by such goings on! has a plan which he will submit in the Well, I have suspected it for a long time. I saw him down the street the other day very gracious and polite. I thought then he might better go home and pay attention to his own family, who were probably at that very time brief, is to provide for the same hearing sitting up stairs crying their eyes out.

Now do, persuade your husband to go agents of the United States for the over and put an end to this outrage? Dear me, isn't it awful?" Whisperers! The fact is that one woman set on fire with a bad spirit can keep a whole neighborhood a boil. She does not have to be endowed with any special brain. It is quite requisite that she Proposed Railroad Legislation in Pennbe not incommoded with a large family. That would keep her at home. Such must either be single or have no clients and retainers into armed bands made very satisfactory progress in its children, in order that she may have the bills favorably reported to the time to attend to al! the secret affairs House to-day was one requiring all to have the State confirm possession.

From a well-informed source it is of the neighborhood. Women with learned that a free list has been agreed large families seldom succeed as whisten order to protect cattle. A bill was rely is the quiet and resistless force of upon, which, although it does not the laws and the courts. By artfully greatly increase the number of artic the first one to hear it. There seem to nation by railroads in the transportacourts to do their bidding. The judges United States from Mexico, does nev- tween her ear and all the households of may be willing instruments, yet they ertheless, remove a number of unnece all the town. Forgood, healthy news are bound to sanction, impartially, the working of legal processes. But what upon whose free importation Mexico lays particular stress is sugar not above No. 16 Dutch standard in color. This is sought not so much with when there is a new divorce case in a view to the immediate importation the papers, with three or four delightful columns of private letter published. That morning she has no time to read even her Bible. She may saunter on toward night, just to get another paper to see if there are any more particulars of the case to get hold of. Satreat is to continue in force it is hard- tan does not have to look very sharp after his dominion in that neighborhood. He has let out to her the whole contract. She puts husbands and wives out with each other, and brothers and asking sisters in intagonism, and makes the pastor disgusted with his church, and the church irritated with the pastor, and makes neighbors who feel kindly toward each other suspicious and critical, hissing through their teeth as one rides past in a fine carriage, saying:

"We would keep carriages if we never paid our debts." If two or three of these whisperers happen to meet, they stir a caldron that makes me think of the three witches of "Macbeth," dancing around the boiling caldron in a dark cave. I have more respect for a poor waif of the street, floating down under the gaslight, with no home and no God, for she deceives no one as to what she is, than for one of those hags of respectable society who covers up her claws of death with a fine shawl and bolts the hell of her heart with a fidamond breastpin.

"Brother Smith, the charge is gambling in stocks."

"Yes, sir."

"And you plead not guilty?"

"Then you do buy and sell stocks, speculate in wheat and oasts and sell futures in pork??

"I do, sir. Didn't I give \$1,000 in cash to help build this church?"

"Yes."

"Well, I scooped that in on a little deal in pork. Didn't I pay in \$500 on the organ?"

"Yes."

"That was a part of my profit on a spec in oats. Didn't I foot a deficiency of \$400 in the minister's salary this year?"

"Yes."

"That came from a rise in stocks. Didn't I chip in \$700 toward the parsisters in intagonism, and makes the pastor disgusted with his church, and the free admission of agricultural implements and machinery from the United States would give free play to rich men of better instincts have been free of duty from the United States these whisperers happen to meet, they dazzled by it, and have adopted it into Mexico has been considerably enopenly and independently, or have lent indirect cooporation and social credit to the robber chiefs and have shared in and refined, for illuminating purposes;

Into Mexico has been considerably entered that makes the time of "Well, I shared to the robber chiefs and have been added to it petroleum, crude to the robber chiefs and have shared in and refined, for illuminating purposes;

Into Mexico has been considerably entered that makes the time of "Well, I shared to the three witches of "Macbeth," dancing around the boiling caldron in a deal in pork that makes the time of "Well, I shared to the robber chiefs and have shared in and refined, for illuminating purposes;

Into Mexico has been considerably entered that makes the time of "Well, I shared to the robber chiefs and have shared in and refined, for illuminating purposes;

"Well, I shared to the robber chiefs and have shared in and refined, for illuminating purposes;

"Well, I shared to the robber chiefs and have shared in and refined, for illuminating purposes;

"Yes." tations, who have been crowned with public honors, have countenanced these iron and wood.

tools for artisans, and houses made of under the gaslight, with no home and no God, for she deceives no one as to

#### My Valentine.

Her eyes are just as blue a hue
As ever painter's palette knew;
Why, look! She's prety as a picture-boo
Her hair,—oh yes, her hair, her hair,
Is geld as any anywhere;
Her lips eclipse the rose; I think

J. M. Anderson, in February St. Nicho

#### The Pension Laws.

AN EFFORT TO BE MADE TO DO AWAY WITH THE SPECIAL AGENTS.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14 .- There will be an effort made very soon to remodel the pension laws relative to the special agents. From all accounts the experiment of sending out several hundred clerks all over the country to hold little United States Courts of their own for the hearing of pension cases is not as successful as could be desired. The expense attached to it is one objection. The possibility of abuses of a delicate pri official trust and the unevenness with which the system works are more seri-

per diem expenses. This amounts to upwards of a quarter of million of dolalleged these agents are exceedingly they are rigid. In the former cases est claimants. As each agent acts for

change be made. Ex-Governos Cartin. of Pennsylvanis, than whom no greater friend of the ex-soldier is in Congress, has a plan which he will submit in the do away with the whole special sgent system and substitute the jurisdiction of local courts. His plan, in Pension Department, but that such hearing and taking of testimony shall be done by the local court sitting in chambers and transmitted to the Pen-

Harrisburg, Pa., January 19 .- Among tion of passengers and freight. The bill recognizes the distinction drawn by the constitution between necessary dis, shorter than for a longer distance over the same road in the same direction for the same classes of freight. The jury is to judge of the circumstances of each.

### "Not Gnilty."

Wall Street News

A member of the church congrega tion in Wisconsin was last fall charged with gambling in stocks and brought up before a committee for investigation. The trial began by a deacon

"Brother Smith, the charge is gam-

sonage?"

"That came from a corner in oats. Haven't I wacked up on the orphan asylum, the new bridge, the park and the fire engine?"

"Well that means more corners and holding on till I fett my hair growing gray. Gentlemen, I will step out a minute and let you reach a verdict."

He stepped out, but was only thirty seconds before he was called in and congratulated on the verdict of "not

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