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TOWANDA:

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 1846.

Pardon and Forget.

BY THE AUTHOR OF "PROVERBIAL PHILOSOPHY."

When streams of unkindness as bitter as gall,
Bubble up from the left to the tongue,
And Meekness is writhing in torment and thrall,
By the hands of ingratitude wrong—
In the heart of anguish, unwept and unfair,
While the anguish is festering yet,
Nay, pause but an angel of God can declare
"I now can forgive and forget."
But if the bad spirit is chased from the heart,
And the lips are in penitence steeped,
With the wrong so repented, the wrath will depart,
Though scorn on injustices were heaped;
For the best compensation is paid for all ill,
When the cheek with contrition is wet,
And every one feels it is possible still,
At once to forgive and forget.
To forest! It is hard for a man with a mind,
However his heart may forgive;
To blot out all perils and dangers behind,
And to blot for the future to live;
Then how shall it be! for at every turn,
Reflection the spirit will fret,
And the ashes of injury smoulder and burn,
Though we strive to forgive and forget.
Oh, hearken! my tongue shall the riddle unveil,
And mind shall be partner with heart,
While there to show I bid conscience reveal,
And thus they how evil thou art;
Remember thy follies, thy sins, and—thy crimes,
How vast is that infinite debt!
Yet Mercy bath seven by seventy times
Be swift to forgive and forget.
If not on insults or injuries old,
For that our injuries too—
Count not the sum till the total is told,
For they are unkind and untrue;
And if all thy harms are forgotten, forgiven,
Now mercy with justice is met,
Oh, who would not take lessons of Heaven,
Nor learn to forgive and forget.
Yes, let a man when his enemy weeps,
Be quick to receive him a friend;
For thus on his head in kindness be heaps—
His foes—to refine and amend;
And hearts that are Christian, more eagerly yearn,
For lips that once bitter to penitence turn,
And whisper "Forgive and Forget."

Letter from the Hon. G. W. Woodward.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA:

WILKES-BARR, FEB. 24TH, 1846.

While making the circuit of my district for the last four weeks, I met a publication in reference to the causes of my late rejection by the Senate of the United States, which impeached my personal and professional character in a grave manner. That publication has been republished, and with aid of industrious verbal defamations from some men in high places, is well calculated to accomplish the object in view—the total destruction of my reputation. My reluctance to appear before the public in self vindication, is so great that I believe I should have suffered the injurious statements, to which I allude, to have passed unnoticed, notwithstanding their character, if the desire of numerous friends had not been expressed to see a public statement of facts which they deemed sufficient for my defence. It is urged that I owe it to my family, and to the many friends who labored to sustain my nomination, that I should correct statements which tend to prove me unworthy of the confidence and support which I have received from many of the wisest and purest men in the nation, both Democrats and Whigs; and it is said that the absence of contradiction will at length be vouchsafed as a justification of the slander. I yield to these considerations, and, for the first time in my life, appear before the public in vindication of my motives and conduct. But I shall confine myself to matters that have been urged since the rejection, and which affect my character as a man and a judge.
It does not become me to discuss the topics that were urged upon the Senate to procure my rejection, nor to question in the slightest degree the purity of motive which influenced the opponents of the nomination, whether within or without the Senate. Having bowed my head in silence to the degree that condemned me, I felt that I was secure from further assault. I thought the sentiment was universal that the dead should be buried. Nothing but actual experience could have convinced me that the President and that great body of my countrymen who had honored me with their support, were to suffer insult on my account. Other men have been rejected by the same tribunal, but I recollect no instance where the fact of rejection has been employed to annihilate character. In this respect my case is anomalous, and I hope it will remain so.
The first matter to which I address myself is the intimation that I went to Washington to procure the nomination of Judge Jones, and appointed him and obtained it for myself. If I should humble myself to a defence against so odious an imputation, my mode of defence shall be a simple statement of facts; for, if the truth fail to shield me, I am without shelter. I united with the gentleman of the bar of Centre county in recommending Chief Justice Gibson to the President as his successor. Entertaining the profoundest respect for the intellectual endowments and legal attainments of our Chief Justice, I declined to recommend any other man until I heard from various quarters that his nomination was out of the question. Some time last spring, and simultaneously, I received from a committee of the friends of Judge Grier, in Pittsburgh, and from personal friends of Judge Jones, in Philadelphia, requests that I would address the Presi-

dent in behalf of each of those gentlemen. I had long known both Judge Grier and Judge Jones, and, beside the claims of personal friendship, they had my highest respect as men of learning and as upright and able judges. I deemed them both worthy of the President's favor, but how was I to decide between them? It was not for me to decide, and I did not. I wrote a duplicate letter to the President, in which I spoke of them both, and told him he might choose either with safety—that between two such men he could not fall into error. I sent copies of the letter to friends of each of these gentlemen.
About the first of October last, I had occasion to go Philadelphia, with part of my family, for the purpose of obtaining medical advice for a little boy, and anticipating some delay with the physicians, I determined, if leisure should occur, to visit Washington, for the purpose of paying my respects to the men whom I had assisted to elevate, and whose admiring was giving me perfect satisfaction. Doctors McClellan and Chase were called in and consulted, and finding a week would be occupied in preparing to treat the case, I resolved to execute my purpose of visiting Washington. A distinguished member of the member of the Philadelphia Bar hearing of my design, called on me to request that I would take charge of and deliver to the President some documents in his possession, favorable to the appointment of Judge Jones. I assented readily to his request, but urged him to accompany me, which a professional engagement in court prevented his doing.
I took the documents, and went to Washington. Mr. Buchanan was absent, and so entirely was I a stranger there, that I could find nobody to introduce me to the President. I resolved to call on him without an introduction. On my way to his residence for this purpose I met three gentlemen of my acquaintance from Pennsylvania whom I asked accompany me. They said they did not know the President, and, like myself, wanted an introduction. I agreed to introduce them if they would go with me. Very fortunately for my present purposes, they went. The President received us all in the most obliging manner. We were seated, and after a few minutes of general conversation, I handed him the documents that had been entrusted to me, and mentioned the name of the gentleman to whom they related. This led us to speak of Judge Jones, and I assured the President that the appointment to the vacant Judgeship would give great satisfaction in Pennsylvania, and in my opinion prove a blessing to the country. Much more to the same effect, was said, which I need not repeat. The President listened in the most respectful manner to all I said in regard to Judge Jones, but gave no intimation whatever as to whom he meant to appoint. Conversation soon ran into other channels—another gentleman from Pennsylvania entered the room, and after sitting a few minutes longer, the three gentlemen and myself, who had entered at the same time, rose and took our leave. Such was my interview with President Polk. There was not an allusion, the most delicate or indirect, to myself in connection with the Judgeship or any other subject. If, in the President's mind, my name was associated with the office, such association manifested itself by no outward sign. And to exclude all misconception, I will add there was no allusion made to the Senatorial election last winter in our Legislature.
I have never had a syllable of intercourse with the President on the subject of the Judgeship since that interview save in one instance, which, to prevent future surmising, I must explain. Some time after my name was sent to the Senate, I saw in some paper, not now recollecting, a statement to the effect that the President had been deceived in regard to me, and regretted the nomination, and was desirous to withdraw it. I wrote a note to him to say that if the withdrawal of my name would relieve him from any embarrassment, or promote the prosperity of his administration, he would confer a favor on me by withdrawing it. What he said to the friend who placed that note in his hands, it is not meet for me to state.
The truth then is, that I did not go to Washington for the purpose of promoting Judge Jones's interests; but being there, did earnestly recommend his appointment. And now I will add, that the man does not live who can say with truth that I ever spoke or wrote a word, or did an act, to obtain the appointment. On this point I defy keen-eyed malice. I never had any taste for intrigues, and never was engaged in one. But had I been skilled in such affairs, my reverence for that office and my diffidence of my abilities, were too profound to permit me to seek it by indirection, or indeed in any manner. Why the President honored me with the nomination I have never inquired, and he has never informed me. Two of the persons who accompanied me to the President, and who heard every word that was spoken between us, have authorized me to introduce their names, and if any man will do me the great injustice of doubting the accuracy of what I have stated, let him appeal to them. They are Major Bailey, of Jersey Shore, Lycoming county, and Allison White, Esq., of Lock Haven, Clinton county. The other gentleman I have not seen since I was at Washington, or he would doubtless have given me the same license. When I returned to Philadelphia, having spent less than two days in Washington, a very particular friend of Judge Jones requested me to write to Mr. Buchanan, whom I had not met, in reference to the attainments and qualifications of the Judge, which I did, and here ended all I ever did in reference to the subject.
If I betrayed the interest of Judge Jones, as has been published to the world, he and his intimate friends in Philadelphia were guilty of great insensibility to the outrage for which they have taken unwearied pains to express their acknowledgments and their gratification with the nomination of myself. I may not introduce the warm, eloquent and affectionate language with which their letters abound throughout this most painful trial, but I must say that how- ever editors may cause the world to judge of

me, that pure man and accomplished scholar, who would be an ornament to any bench, suspects me of no delinquency.
But the author of the publication to which I refer, seems to speak against my reputation as a Judge, by authority from some of the Judges of the Supreme Court, and I have no reason to question his authority, for many witnesses have testified to me of the approbation language which certain of those Judges habitually employ in respect to me. I do not regret that they have found an organ at length, for I had rather meet open, printed denunciations, than covert insidious assaults, sometimes only insinuated, and sometimes using a language fugitive and vague for notice and explanation. From the time I voted for the limited tenure in the Reform Convention to this day, I have heard nothing but reproaches of myself from Chief Justice Gibson, Judge Rogers and Judge Burnsides. It would not comport with the temper of this letter to write down the hard speeches and abusive epithets, adjectives being omitted, which I have been compelled for years to hear from these distinguished men. And since the President honored me with the nomination which they so much court, their wrath seems to have burst all bounds. Self respect forbids me to notice in detail the many anathemas they have said of me, but it is time for them distinctly to understand, that if there be not voluntary and total reform in that regard, that notice will be taken of the matter as may possibly, in their cases, abbreviate the tenure already limited.
My personal relations with these gentlemen, so far as I have had any intercourse, have been of the happiest character; and this fact, in connection with the unvarying testimony of those who have reported them to me, leave me in no doubt that their indignation was purchased by my conscientious support of the limited tenure. My defence in this unequal war was found in the facts of the case. In 1836, I was chosen a Senatorial delegate to the Convention to amend our State Constitution, by the people of Luzerne, Wayne, Pike and Monroe counties. I knew the sentiments of my constituents well in reference to the judicial tenure, they knew mine. I took my seat in the Convention in 1837, one of the youngest members, and without request, was placed on the Judiciary Committee; and in the Convention, I advocated the introduction of the limited tenure of judges as a reform demanded by the people and sanctioned by the soundest considerations both of principle and policy. Others maintained the same views with an ability which I could lay no claim. The measure was carried, and the people ratified it by a direct vote—my constituents by a majority of five thousand. It does not fall within the purposes of this letter to state the grounds of that change in our Constitution, but whoever wishes to know my views of the matter, will find them displayed in the fourth volume of the debates, commencing on page 315. And at page 326, they will find a statement of my reasons why the more permanent tenure is proper in the constitution of the federal judiciary. Amongst other things it has been objected to me that I sought a judicial appointment under the constitution of the United States, after having repudiated the good behavior tenure which is known to prevail in that constitution. That I never sought such an appointment I have already said, and that I justly and applauded the good behavior tenure in the federal constitution for reasons peculiar to itself, and not applicable to our state judiciary, may be seen by reference to the speech I was influenced in my support of the limited tenure by no prejudice against the judges, but only by a sacred regard to duty. I find at the conclusion of the speech to which I have referred, the following:
"Mr. Chairman, justice to myself requires me to say, in conclusion, that I have been influenced in my support of this measure solely by a conviction that it is right, and that the public interests demand it. I have no prejudice or pique against judges to gratify—no wrongs to redress—no secret griefs to assuage. I have in that department many friends—I do not know that I have a single enemy." But that was the last day I could say I had no enemy in that department of government.
The most painful experience has taught me how hazardous a duty I was called to perform and how an honest constituency may be visited with indignant reproach. How effectually I have guarded myself against a loss of the respect and deference which was due from me to the age, the learning and the station of these honorable men, is evidenced not only by the humility with which I have borne myself to appear in them; but by the fact that I encouraged the re-appointment of Judge Rogers—recommended the Chief Justice Gibson to the President for the vacant seat on the bench of the Supreme Court of the United States, and put no obstacles in the way of the confirmation of Judge Burnsides. Nor do I now complain that they advised the Senate to reject my late nomination, for they do not deem more humbly of my qualifications far than I do myself. My high respect for these gentlemen, and my editorial friends who have referred the opposition of these gentlemen to the deep prejudices they were known to entertain against me on account of the limited tenure, have in my opinion done their Honors injustice. I prefer to regard their opposition as the result of conscientious conviction, and as the exercise of their undoubted right. But whilst I concede to them purity of motive in the very article of condemnation, I have a right to protest against the vituperative language with which they are in the habit of visiting me. They did not oppose my confirmation any more honestly than I supported the limited tenure, and as I have no reproaches for their act, they should have none for mine. They should consider that I am not alone responsible for this hated reform. The people of Pennsylvania incorporated the limited tenure into their fundamental law, and they had a right to do so—a perfect right. And in my opinion, the enthusiastic admirers of life offices are not likely to convince the people that they erred in the exercise of this right

by heaping reproaches on the heads of their faithful representatives.
But the Editor who echoes the reproaches of these honorable men, laments the numerous reversals of my decisions in the Supreme Court, in regard to most of which the Court declared that there were too plain to admit of any argument. This is certainly very lamentable, but the statement of a few facts will alleviate in some degree the distress occasioned by this calamity. Every lawyer knows that when a case is reversed it needs to be reported to guide the Court in the future trial, but if it be affirmed, no such necessity exists, and the Supreme Court report or surplus it according to require that I ever heard of or have been able to imagine. The consequence is that the books of reports generally exhibit more reversals than affirmances, though in respect to my judicial labours, the number of reversals and affirmances reported, happen to be very nearly equal. During the time I have been upon the bench, every case that has been reversed has been reported, save one, which will doubtless appear in the next book, but many cases have been affirmed which are not reported. I have no means for consulting the records at this distance from my district; and no taste for it if I had the means, but I can recall to my memory numerous cases that have been affirmed, inasmuch that if they were added to the affirmances that are reported, the preponderance would be very great, and would show that a state of things exists in my district not more lamentable than did exist under my illustrious predecessor. I remember one unreported case well, for it turned upon a constitutional question which I had ruled in an opinion filed. Whilst it was under review in the Supreme Court, Judge Rogers is said to have ejaculated that my constitutional opinions were "monstrous." I think, however, the obituary of his Honor must have referred to the limited tenure, for they affirmed the opinion I had filed. Those who cast up the number of reported cases for the purpose of destroying my judicial character, should know that the case of Adams vs. Jackson, 4th Watts and Sergeant, was tried before me at a special Court in Cambria county, though, throughout the thirty pages which it occupies in the book, there is no intimation of the fact, and that the case of Brower vs. Osterhout, in 7th Watts and Sergeant, was also tried before me notwithstanding the silence of the report on his head. Both these cases were affirmed. They should have noticed also the case of McCulloch vs. Cowper, 5th Watts and Sergeant, in which the Supreme Court publish my opinion *en extenso*, and append the following decision: "PER CURIAM. The law of the case is so well stated by the Judge who tried the cause, as to render my further examination of its principles unnecessary. Judgment affirmed." Another fact should not be forgotten. During the year which ended in May last, the time when my causes came before the Supreme Court at Harrisburg, various writs of error had been taken to judgments in each county of my district—the records were removed—the judgments attacked by able counsel, and every one of them affirmed by the Supreme Court. Counsel inform me that not one was reversed, though several of them involved important principles. And, yet not one of these cases is reported. A case that stood over for re-argument from the year before was reversed on a point of minor importance, but as to the labors of the last year, nothing had to be undone or done over. A case that went to Sunbury from a special Court in Bradford county, did not constitute an exception, for that too was affirmed as one of the Judges informed me. And then, to arrive at a just estimate of official competency, it would be necessary to consider that a very small proportion of the judgments entered in my district are removed in to the Supreme Court. Perhaps there is no district in the State where counsel take fewer writs of error in proportion to the causes tried.
Now, these facts, which it is extremely mortifying for me to be compelled to state, do not prove that some of the judges of the Supreme Court did wrong in killing my nomination in the Senate, but they tend to mitigate the editorial pains occasioned by this *post mortem* examination. I know, as well as the whole profession, that it is most unjust to try the reputation of a Common Pleas Judge by the books of reports, but the world does not understand this. What would become of the pretensions of some of our very best judges, if the last book of reports, 8th Watts and Sergeant, should be made the standard of judgment in respect to them? And what sort of an estimate could be formed of the learning and abilities of the gentlemen of the bar, particularly in the interior, from the ghostly skeletons of their arguments as exhibited in our books? Neither the lawyers nor the inferior judges are any control over the reports, and it is of itself unimportant that their best performances do not appear in them; but when the reports come to be used as a means of defamation, as has been done against me, they acquire a new importance, and it becomes judges and lawyers to look out for their reputations. Such use of the reports is unfair in the extreme. What judge in Pennsylvania could not be impeached by such means? Even their honors on the Supreme Bench, to whose reasonings these volumes are dedicated, could be prejudiced by facts gleaned from the reports. Two or three of them are understood to be applicants to the President for the vacant Judgeship, and after they should have been nominated and rejected, *acertium*, would the editors who have assailed me, deem it fair war on the characters of those judges, to point to their reversals of their own opinions, or to the numerous Acts of Assembly which have been enacted to remedy their mistakes? I think not. More likely it would be considered as due to their feelings and their future usefulness, to leave unsaid many things which might with truth be urged. And as to things that were not true, the common instincts of humanity would forbid their utterance on such an occasion. A rejection by so enlightened a body as the Senate of the United States is sufficiently destructive to character, without the aid of a mischievous press, and yet more mischievous tongues.
It has afforded me unspeakable satisfaction in the midst of abounding misrepresentations, to witness the firmness with which the whole community with whom I exercise my office, have withstood the injurious assaults upon the personal and professional reputation of their judge. The

gentlemen of the bar, the press, and the people, without distinction of party, have spoken loudly in the most emphatic manner. What unfortunate impressions may be produced hereafter, by the means which are in active employment, I know not, but I have mistaken the intelligence and virtue of that community, if a faithful and conscientious discharge of the duties of a responsible office, do not retain for me the confidence and affection of which they have given me so many proofs in the past.
And now my unwelcome task is done. If I were not afraid of appearing obtrusive, I would notice other matters in the publications which have called forth those explanations, but they relate to public questions, and not to private or official character, and I must be content to let them run their course. I have confined myself to a defence of my reputation as a man and a judge, and have retained myself from saving anything merely to wound the feelings of any assailant. I am before the public for no office. I am no aspirant for places that others may desire. Perhaps I err, but it seems to me that in such circumstances, I might be spared from further insults and defamation.
This communication would have been made some days sooner, if my duties while in my district would have permitted me to prepare it. But I was compelled to delay it till my return home.
Yours respectfully,
GEO. W. WOODWARD.

ANECDOTE OF DANIEL WEBSTER.—The Boston Transcript copies from the London Sun, a pleasant sketch of Daniel Webster—which concludes with the following amusing anecdote of this remarkable man:—The distinguished man, just before Lafayette's last visit to America, formed one in a fishing party in Massachusetts. He had been selected to deliver the welcoming speech to the Frenchman on his approaching visit, and during his occupation of hauling in cod fish and tautog, he was observed to be very abstracted. It appeared afterwards that he must have been studying that part of his speech in which he afterwards addressed Lafayette, for a gentleman who was fishing next him observed him pulling in his line, hand over hand, with some difficulty, as if a large fish was hooked, yet without exhibiting any satisfaction on his face at having captured a prize. At length the fish was seen approaching the green surface and gleaming bladder of quicksilver; still Webster's face gave no smiling welcome; but just as the fish came to the surface, he burst out with "Venerable man! the representatives of the two hemispheres, welcome you to our shores," and down flopped the "monster cod" on the deck!

ANECDOTE.—When Clingman was electioneering in one of the obscure villages of North Carolina, last summer, he asked a young lady, (a good democrat by the by) if the ladies in the valley were not in favor of him. She replied we are too good democrats for that. But says Clingman, down in Cleveland all the girls go for me—why, not long ago, there at Court, when a young lady was about to give her evidence in Court, the Bible being presented to her, she asked his honor if it wouldn't do as well for her to kiss the lawyer, for she would a great deal rather kiss Mr. Clingman. "Yes, Mr. Clingman," retorted the spirited mountain girl, "I can tell you why she didn't want to kiss the truth."

DULL PREACHERS.—Some ministers are so intolerably dull, that one can hardly keep himself awake under their preaching. We once heard a man preach, who made such long pauses between his words, that a gentleman remarked, there was sufficient time to strike up a tune on the organ. It is seldom that a man falls asleep while listening to an animated discourse; but sometimes it will happen, as it did in the case of a Methodist divine. Observing several of his congregation nodding, he exclaimed at the top of his lungs—"Fire! fire! fire!" "Where!—where!" exclaimed several of his audience, rising in their seats. "In hell!" replied the preacher, as he continued his discourse.

INDUSTRY.—Men must have occupation, or be miserable. Toil is the price of sleep and appetite, of health and enjoyment. The very necessity which overcomes our natural sloth is a blessing. The world does not contain a briar that divine mercy could have spared. We are happier with the sterility that we can overcome by industry, than we could be with spontaneous and unbounded profusion.
The body and the mind are improved by the toil that fatigues them; that toil is a thousand times rewarded by the pleasure which it bestows. Its enjoyments are peculiar, no wealth can purchase them, no indolence can taste them. They flow only from the exertions which they repay.

STEEL BELLS.—Church bells can now be made of steel, as has been proved by an ingenious American mechanic, from a suggestion in an English paper. A bell weighing fifty pounds, made of steel will only cost about \$20 and can be heard two miles or more. The advantages of this invention are said to be two fold, first, it is so cheap that every church may have a bell of a clear, brilliant and musical tone, second, it is so light, and being stationary, that even a slight bell will sustain it. This newly invented bell is rung by a crank, and any boy can do it as well as any regular parish bell ringer. For about \$200, a chime of seven bells can now be had.—*Ab. Atlas.*

IN THE WOODS.—You do not like to acknowledge you have been in the wrong; but it is better that you were in error! No one whose opinion is worth a great deal, comes out speedily and manfully and confess your fault, and hundreds stand and give you a God speed in the path of truth.

OLD BACHELORS.—Jerrold says old bachelors are like dry wood; when they do take flame they burn prodigiously. It takes more fuel to start the flame, than it is worth after it is kindled.

WOMEN AND DANCING.—I believe a woman would do a great deal for a dance," said Dr. Growning; "they are immensely fond of such a motion. I remember once in my life I used to flirt with one who was a great favorite in a provincial town where I lived, and she was invited to a ball there, and confided to me that she had no stockings to appear in, and without them her presence at the ball was out of the question."
"That was a hint for you to buy the stockings," said Dick.
"No; you're out," said Growning. "She knew I was as poor as herself; but though she could not rely on my purse, she had every confidence in my taste and judgment, and consulted me on a plan she formed for going to the ball in proper trim. Now what do you think it was?"
"To go in cotton, I suppose," returned Dick.
"Out again, sir,—you'd never guess it; and only a woman could have hit on the expedient. It was the fashion on those days for ladies in full dress to wear pink stockings, and she proposed painting her legs!"
"Painting her legs!" they all exclaimed.
"Fact, sir," said the doctor, "and she relied on me to tell her if the cheat was successful."
"And was it?" asked Durfy.
"Don't be in a hurry, Tom. I complied on one condition, namely—that I should be the painter."
"Oh, you old rascal!" said Dick.
"A capital bargain," said Tom Durfy.
"But not a safe covenant," added the attorney.
"Don't interrupt me, gentlemen," said the doctor. "I got some rose pink accordingly, and I defied all the hostlers in Nottingham to make a tighter fit than I did on little Jenny; and a prettier pair of stockings I never saw."
"And she wept to the ball?" said Dick.
"She did."
"And the trick succeeded?" added Durfy.
"So completely," said the doctor, "that several ladies asked her to recommend her dyer to them. So you see what a woman will do to go to a dance. 'Poor little Jenny! she was a merry mix—by the bye, she boxed my ears that night for a joke I made about the stockings.' 'Jenny,' said I, 'for fear your stockings should fall down when you are dancing, hadn't you better let me paint a pair of garters on them?'"
Don't fret.—Of all disagreeable persons, habitual fretters are the most so. You never can do anything that will please them. If they should ever be found to laugh over a good joke or a thrill at the recital of some noble deed, they will not commend the noble soul that did the act. But let the same person commit a trivial error, and they will hear from the fretter.
"There, Jane, I knew you would spill the water! What did you get the pail so full for?" And the next time, if Jane should fetch the pail half full, it will be— "There, Jane, you've not got half enough to fill the tea-kettle! You never do anything right. You are too lazy to bring water enough! Such a good for nothing hussy I never did see!"
Poor woman. She scarcely draws a pleasant breath from morning till night; and even in her sleep, fretful words will come out occasionally. She never keeps any "help." But what is worse than all, her children, under the influence of her example, are apt to grow up selfish and bad tempered.
"Tom," says the man, "Why did n't you shut the gate when you went through it?— You always leave the bars down, or the door or gate open!" But Tom, on the whole, was a pretty careful fellow, yet one day seeing farmer Fretful coming towards him, he resolved to do right this time, so he shut the gate tight. But it happened that the farmer wanted to go thro' it. Therefore he cries out, "Tom you are always shutting the gate when a person wants to use it! You are more trouble than profit! A plague on such heedless fellows!"
A child to be pitied that falls into the hands of fretful persons; so is a man or woman.— One fretter is enough to mar the peace of any family.
Perhaps the only cure for a habitual fretter, is that recommended to a wife who quarrelled with her husband. She was told to hold some water in her mouth when her husband scolded her. She did so, she could say nothing back, and he soon scolded himself out. Let the fretter, when inclined to speak, seize a tumbler and fill the mouth with water! It will work like a charm. If persevered in, it will entirely eradicate the evil, which is the most astonishing water cure ever yet put on record.
MUSICAL.—A correspondent of the Herald, says the origin of a difficulty, which resulted at last in the dismissal of a clergyman, in the neighboring town, can be traced to a very trivial affair, which is as follows: At a conference meeting of the church, the pastor gave out the hymn commencing with "I love to steal awhile away," when the chorister commenced singing, but owing to some difficulty in recollecting the tune, could proceed no farther than "I love to steal," which he did some three or four times successively, when the clergyman, in order to relieve him from his dilemma, remarked, "that it was very much to be regretted," and added, "let us pray." This, of course, put the chorister's pipe out, in short metre; pitched a different tune from what the pastor intended, and furnished the key to his dismissal.
KEPLER'S EXTRAVAGANCE.—Kepler, who ultimately discovered many important truths, was, through life, the dupe of vagaries founded on the superstitions of the age. In one of his early works he imagined the planets to be huge animals who swam round the sun, by means of certain fins acting upon the ethereal fluid, as those of fishes do in the water, and agreeably to this notion, he imagined the comets to be monstrous and uncommon animals generated in the celestial spaces and he explained how this existed this animal faculty.