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## TOWANDA:

Saturday Morning, December 16, 1854.

### Selected Poetry.

#### THE DANCE OF THE AUTUMNAL LEAVES.

Borne by the restless winds along,  
Where the sorrowful woodland grieves,  
Hither and thither a fitful throng,  
Merrily dance the autumn leaves.

Upward they mount to the murky sky,  
Downward they plunge to the earth below;  
Now in a giddy whirl they fly,  
Now in a madcap chase they go.

Tinkling gaily, their feet advance  
Over the graves in thoughtless glee;  
And the music to which they dance,  
Hark! 'tis a dirge of melody.

Onward merrily still they go,  
Through the wood and over the wave,  
Till they find in the wintry snow,  
Chilly and dark, their lonely grave.

Borne by the tempest's power along,  
While kind heaven in pity grieves,  
Giddily pass the human throng,  
Thoughtlessly as the autumn leaves.

Upward they mount in fancy high,  
Downward they plunge in pleasures low;  
Now in the passion's whirl they fly,  
Now in Ambition's chase they go.

Merrily still their feet advance  
Over the graves in thoughtless glee;  
And the music to which they dance,  
Hark! 'tis a dirge of melody.

Onward! giddily on they go,  
Over the earth and over the wave,  
Till they find in the depth below,  
Chilly and dark, their lonely grave.

### Public Documents.

#### Postmaster General's Report.

There are 23,548 post offices in the United States—the annual compensations of 257 of which amount to \$1,000 and upwards. During the last year, 1,842 offices were established, and 614 discontinued. Number of Postmasters appointed during the same time, 8,618. Removals, 1,967. Number of mail routes, 6,697. Number of mail contractors, 5,167. Total annual transportation of mails, 63,387,005 miles, at a cost of \$4,630,676; thus 21,266,603 miles by modes not specified, at 5 cents per mile; 20,890,530 miles by coach, at 6 cents per mile; 15,433,387 miles by railroad, at 12 cents 4 mills per mile; 5,792,483 miles by steamboat, at 8 cents 4 mills per mile. Increase in the transportation during the past year 23 per cent.

The expenditures of the department during the past year were \$8,577,424 12, and the revenue \$6,955,586 22. To the former must be added \$133,483 33, balance due foreign offices, which would leave the total deficiency for the year 1854 at \$1,755,321 23. The deficiency for the year 1853 was \$2,116,078 20—leaving a difference in favor of 1854 compared with the revenue of 1853, is \$970,399 48—or about 19 per cent.

The Postmaster-General alludes at considerable length to the difficulties between the department and railroad companies relative to the rates of compensation for carrying the mails. The companies, he says, allege that the government should not ask or expect them to perform for it any service at a less rate than that paid by individuals for similar services. This principle, he contends, he has always been willing to recognize in the adjustment of prices. What is now required, he believes, is that the railroad companies should be paid according to the bulk of the mails, the speed with which they are conveyed, and the accommodations required. The sums paid by express companies are no fair criterion; for, as they are unimpeded by competition, they can pay any price demanded of them, and assess it upon their customers. England, France, Germany and Canada, pay less to railroads for mail service than is paid by the United States. Complaint is made of the insufficient accommodations, as a general rule, for route agents. Allusion is made to the habit of irresponsible parties obtaining, by gross misrepresentation, mail contracts, and subsequently throwing them up because of failure on their part to sell the same at a profit.

Owing to cases not within the control of the department, the expenses of the current year will greatly exceed those of the past year. They are estimated at \$9,841,921 23. This increase will be owing to the additional compensation of postmasters and the enhanced prices demanded by the contractors at the last lettings.

A uniform plan of registration is warmly recommended as an additional protection for the safe delivery of letters of value. The want of such a safeguard has long been felt, and as the cost of its maintenance will fall directly upon those who will cheerfully bear the expense, we see no good reason why it should not be incorporated into our postal system as one of its principal features.

During the three years commencing July 1, 1851, \$5,507,022 03 postage stamps: a stamped envelope has been issued by the department, of which \$5,002,301 were sold.

For the last year the cost of the service on the various United States mail steamship lines, and across the Isthmus, was as follows: Collins line, twenty six round trips \$658,000; New York and Havre, eleven round trips, \$137,500; Astoria and Panama via San Francisco, twenty-four round trips \$318,250; New York and New Orleans to Aspinwall, \$289,000; Charleston and Havana \$50,000 New Orleans to Vera Cruz, twenty-four round trips \$27,000; Aspinwall to Panama \$119,727. Total \$2,022,010 29.

The service performed by the several lines of ocean mail steamships is treated at large. The Postmaster General is of opinion that the compensation now received is too large, and that the pres-

ent system is calculated to drive off private competition. He also states that the Nicaragua company have offered to carry a weekly mail between New York and California for the sum of \$600,000 per annum, which he thinks is the highest rate of pay which ought to be demanded. The cost this year for a semi-monthly mail, by the Isthmus route is \$767,977 03.

No progress has been made since the last report in the pending negotiations with Great Britain relative to the admission of France into the arrangement, as contemplated by the provision in the 12th article of our postal convention. No postal convention has as yet been effected with France; but one is about being made with Mexico.

Arrangements have been made with the Australia line of monthly packets to convey mails regularly between New York and Australia. The rates on all outgoing matter have been fixed at five cents a letter, two cents each for newspapers, and one cent an ounce for pamphlets and magazines.—These rates embrace both the United States inland and sea postage.

The fines and deductions during the past year amount to \$110,486. The amount for the previous year was \$37,920.

#### Secretary of War's Report.

We learn from that document that the authorized strength of the army is 14,216; the actual strength is only 10,745. The ranks, however, are rapidly filling up under the inducements offered by the law passed the 4th of August last, increasing the pay of the soldiers.

The troops have been kept actively employed in preserving peace among the Indians, but the army is too small to enable the Department to prevent or punish outrages. In the West, several causes conspire to render extended hostilities more probable, and when they occur, more formidable. An increase of military force is absolutely necessary. In Texas, authority has been given to call out militia; but the necessity is constant, and the Constitution and laws in giving the President authority to call out militia to repel invasion and suppress insurrection, do not design that he should keep on foot a permanent force of the kind now required.—An increase of the regular army is therefore recommended. The recommendations for an increase in the pay of the officers, for pensions to their widows and children, and for retiring, such as are disqualified for service, are renewed.

In Florida, little has been done in removing the Seminoles. The trade with the whites has been cut off, and means are being taken to contract roads in their country, and acquire a thorough knowledge of its topography, with a view to ulterior operations should they not peaceably remove.

The most important part of the report is that which recommends a revision of the laws regulating rank and command, and fixing the organization. Much difficulty arises from brevet commissions, giving many officers double rank; circumstances determine whether the brevet commissions shall take effect, and each officer is to judge for himself whether the circumstances have occurred which put his higher rank in force. Still greater difficulties arise from doubts whether the staff are entitled to command troops. Many contradictory decisions by the higher authority have been made, that nothing short of legislation can regulate the subject. With regard to brevet rank it is proposed that it shall take effect in no case, except when specially ordered by the President. To propose a law as to the Staff regulating command, is a matter of much embarrassment. On the one hand it is manifestly improper to exclude from command officers of high rank whose duties are of a military character, while it is scarcely less to give the right of commanding troops to officers whose whole time has been devoted to special duties separate from troops. It is proposed, therefore, to break up in a great measure the exclusive Staff corps, and entrust their duties to officers detailed from the troops.

A concise account is given of the recent improvements in fire arms, which are said to have increased their effective range threefold. Experiments made by order of the Department, have confirmed this statement, and the opinion is expressed that smooth bored arms will cease to be used as military weapons. No more muskets should therefore be made; but attention should be turned to the improved pattern.

The report on the Pacific Railroad cannot be completed for a month or two yet, and no results are yet stated; some parties are yet in the field, and others will be sent out next spring.

At the Capitol, the marble work has been retarded by deficiency of supply. The brick work has gone so far that the two wings will be under roof this winter.

The remainder of the report is occupied with details of minor importance.

#### Report of Solicitor of the Treasury.

This report shows that the whole number of suits brought during the year under the direction of the Solicitor of the Treasury is 586; that of these 46 were on Treasury transcripts; 218 for the recovery of fines, penalties, and forfeitures under the revenue laws; 144 of a miscellaneous character—178 on custom house or warehouse bonds in California, and 3 for the recovery of land purchased by the United States and reserved for light-house purposes. Of these 586 cases, it appears that 286 have been tried and finally decided; that 48 have been either discontinued or remitted by the President and Secretary of the Treasury, and that 251 are pending and undecided. Of these undecided cases, it appears from the tables that the greater portion of them have been recently brought, and the trial term has not yet been reached.

The amount of money which appears to have been collected on suits brought during the year is \$118,526 11; the amount collected during the year on suits brought previous to its commencement is \$232,709 48; making the total sum of \$351,235 59 collected during the year.

It further appears that suits are in charge of the

office for the recovery of lands in Virginia and California, valued at over three millions of dollars, which are in due course of preparation for trial.

The report commends the district attorneys and marshals generally for their faithful devotion to the public interests, and urgently recommends an amendment of the fee bill, so as to give district attorneys a more liberal and remunerative compensation for their services.

It further recommends the enactment of a law by Congress authorizing the compromise of judgments and debts of long standing. In fine, the report in question, though a very modest document, shows that the present Solicitor of the Treasury is an indefatigable, reliable, and competent man for the position of so great responsibility and importance he holds.

#### Report of the Secretary of the Navy.

The first chapter of Mr. Dobbin's communication is occupied with the movements of our national vessels during the past year. He says he "could not improve" Commander Hollins for burning Greytown, though he nowhere distinctly commends his conduct. He rather seems disposed to lay the responsibility of that transaction upon Minister Borchard.

The Albany has not been heard from since September, but the Secretary does not give her up,—thinks she has put in somewhere for repairs.

The second chapter of Secretary's report contains an elaborate exhortation to increase the Navy. He does not think the six frigates ordered last winter enough, and one of his reasons for ordering more is, that such a mode of expending the public money "gladdens the hearts of hundreds of cheerful artisans, who pay it back into the treasury with fourfold interest." That is a new doctrine for a democratic cabinet minister to hold.

In his third chapter the Secretary presses the importance of a "retired list," in which to bestow the superannuated and incompetent from whatever cause, so that merit may be advanced and rewarded.

Chapter fourth, on the subject of discipline, gives the Secretary's views of the operation of the law abolishing flogging. He is opposed to the restoration of that kind of punishment, and quotes the opinion of Capt. Walker, given upon his return from a four years' cruise, who says:

"In regard to the first question, whether it is desirable to restore corporal punishment, I reply, that, from experience, as well as conviction, I do not believe it would be desirable, or for the interests of the service."

The Secretary suggests some amendments to the present laws as a substitute for flogging.

The subject of yards and docks is next treated of at some length, in the course of which the Secretary expresses his conviction of the importance of having a basin and railway attached to the California Naval Dry Dock.

The report concludes with a reference to miscellaneous matters of little general interest, the facts having previously found their way into the public prints.

#### The Annual Report of the Secretary of the Interior.

This is an exceedingly able and interesting document. As an exhibit of the affairs of this department, it presents a condition of things of which he may justly feel proud.

During the last fiscal year, there have been 11,070,935 acres of the public lands surveyed, and 8,190,027 acres brought into market. Within the same period, 7,035,735 acres were sold for cash, bringing \$9,285,533.58 into the Treasury, being 5,952,240 acres more than were sold during the preceding year, 3,416,802 acres were located with bounty land warrants—11,033,813 selected for the States, as swamp lands, 1,751,962 for railroads. Thus showing that, while there has been a large increase in the number of acres sold for cash, a sensible diminution is felt in the various other modes in which the lands are disposed of.

The quantity of land sold during the first and second quarters of the present fiscal year was 3,826,619 acres, and the amount received therefor was \$3,642,496 44 more than during the corresponding period of the last year. The quantity of land located in satisfaction of bounty land warrants issued for services rendered in the various wars since the year 1790 is 31,427,612 acres. To satisfy Virginia bounty land warrants under the act of 31st August, 1852, a scrip has been issued covering 937,356 acres, and to satisfy the remaining warrants, it is supposed that about 200,000 acres more will be required.

The introduction of the graduation principle into our public land system engraves upon it a new and important feature. The Secretary considers the law as it is very difficult of execution, and that faulty to accomplish the objects contemplated by its passage, material modifications must be made.

He adheres to his previous views respecting the policy of granting alternate sections of land in aid of the construction of great leading highways, where such works are likely to be undertaken and completed in good faith, and prove beneficial to the public at large, and not merely to adventurers and speculators. To throw the necessary guards and restrictions around such grants, he makes some practical suggestions, but submits the matter to the wisdom of Congress.

The applications to Congress at its last session, so far as they were brought to the attention of the Department by the committees, contemplated the construction of about 3,056 miles of railroad; and allowing six sections to the mile they would have required 20,000,000 acres.

In anticipation that some of these grants would be made, the Department, upon the urgent solicitations of the delegations in Congress, reserved the lands from sale along the proposed routes of these roads to an extent approaching to about 30,000,000 acres. The Department has carefully reconsidered the policy of this course, and come to the determination not to make such reservations hereafter until the grants shall have been actually made by

Congress. The reasons for this determination are, its doubtful legality; that they retard the settlement of the country; the difficulty of ascertaining in what cases it is likely the grants will be made; and the fear of injuring the section of country in which the improvement is contemplated by turning thence the tide of emigration.

The Secretary reiterates his recommendation that the officers connected with the survey and sale of the public lands be prohibited by law from becoming interested in its purchase.

After the passage of the act of September, 1850, granting the swamp and overflowed lands to the States in which they are situated, many of such lands were taken up by purchase or location as agricultural lands. The act of 1850 being a grant in present to the States, the Government cannot make titles to the individual purchasers or locators, and many difficulties have grown up under this head, to settle which and afford the necessary relief the Secretary recommends remedial legislation.

The Secretary also recommends, as indispensable necessary to the completion of the vast amount of business before it, a continuation, for another year, of the commission to settle land claims in California. The commissioners have, by their great assiduity, accomplished a great deal, and there is still much to be done. They have adjudicated 397 claims, which is less than half the number presented. Of those adjudicated, 294 were confirmed for about 736 square leagues of land, and 103 rejected, covering about 383 square leagues.

The Secretary adverts to the irregularities and inequalities produced by the numerous and dissimilar existing pension laws, and recommends some important modifications with a view to uniformity, and also restore the system somewhat to the original design of its projectors, and to increase its benefits and restrict its operation to those who are really and legitimately deserving objects of governmental favor and protection.

He renews his recommendation of a biennial examination of invalid pensioners, and cites the singular fact that while applications are numerous and constantly being presented for an increase of pension on account of alleged increase of disability, but two instances have occurred of a voluntarily acknowledgment of a diminution of the disease or wound for which the pension was originally granted.

The Department has been eminently successful in ferreting out and bringing to punishment the perpetrators of frauds on the Pension Bureau. Up to the 30th of September last, and since the 4th of March, 1853, 30 persons have been indicted. Of these, 11 have been convicted; 9 have forfeited their recognizances and fled; 1 has died; 1 committed suicide; 2 have eluded the officers of the law, and 6 awaited trial.

We are surprised to learn that in so large and important a department as that of the Interior, no appropriation ledgers were kept therein, by which the financial condition of the Department could be ascertained, until the present head of the Department took charge of it. We do not see how its affairs could have been intelligently managed without having this information readily at hand.

It now appears that an admirable and economical system has been devised and is in successful operation, (requiring but one disbursing clerk instead of three, which the laws allow,) by which uniformity and promptitude are secured in the disbursement of the public moneys, and advances to disbursing officers regulated by the wants of the public service and the means of the Department to meet them.

On the 31st of March, 1853, the enormous sum of \$948,475 80 was in the hands of agents for paying pensions alone. This new financial system has enabled the Secretary of the Interior to call in this amount, so that on the 30th of June last, those agents only had on hand the aggregate sum of \$293,801 20—an amount amply sufficient for the prompt payment of pensions liable to be called for until other advances are made.

It was supposed until recently, that the new line of boundary between the United States and the Republic of Mexico would be completed with the time and amount estimated at the last session.—Recent intelligence, however, indicates that further appropriation may be necessary, but the Secretary still hopes that if made, its use may be avoided.

The Secretary recommends the demarcation of boundary line between the United States and the British Possessions on the Northwest and particularly that portion of the Territory of Washington, and also the settlement of the claims of the Hudson's Bay and Puget Sound Companies, before difficulties grow up between the citizens of the two nations, and create embarrassments for the future.

He makes some judicious suggestions respecting the laws and organization of the Patent Office, so as the better to secure the rights of inventors, and increase the efficiency of the office in proportion to the rapidly increasing business devolving upon it. He also recommends the creation, in connection with the office of Attorney General, of a law department of the Government, the increase of salaries of the judges of the district courts of the United States, and certain modifications of the fee bill of 1853.

A large amount of discretion being in the head of the Department, respecting judicial expenses of various kinds, the Secretary deems it best and safest, and recommends that all such matters, as far as practicable, be regulated by law.

A thorough examination of the subject has resulted in showing that the expenses incident to the office of coroner of the District (amounting to about \$9,900 per annum) are not legally chargeable to the United States, and the drafts upon the Treasury on this account have consequently ceased. The Clerk of the United States Court in this District has also been required to conform to the laws—in some respect heretofore neglected—regulating the fees and emoluments of other clerks of United States courts in the several States and Territories, and a

considerable saving of public money been thereby effected. It seems that two hundred and twenty-three terms of the courts, are annually held at eighty-eight different places, and in alluding to the causes which yearly demand larger appropriations for the support of the judiciary, the Secretary very pertinently suggests whether the business transacted in the courts justifies these numerous terms. It appears that for the western district of Virginia courts are held at six different places, in the northern district of New York at eight, in California at six, in Louisiana at six, and in Florida at five.—The Secretary seems inclined to the idea of holding courts at but one or two places in each State, and of erecting suitable buildings at those points for their accommodation, and with a view of making them independent of the State or other local authorities.

The Census statistics called for by the separate resolutions of the two Houses of Congress at the two Houses of Congress at the last session are now ready to be laid before Congress, and the work having been completed, the clerical force retained for that purpose has been disbanded. The Secretary, we are glad to perceive, recommends liberal appropriations for improvement of the Federal metropolis, and also the erection of fire-proof buildings for the accommodation of the State, War, Navy, and Interior Departments, and suggests that a better application of a portion of the large amount now in the Treasury cannot be made. He also suggests the propriety of donating to the city authorities for educational purposes all the vacant city lots which may not be needed for public purposes.

The work on the Little Falls bridge, and likewise the Insane Asylum, has been vigorously prosecuted under the able and accomplished officers respectively in charge of them. The latter will soon be ready to receive the patients for whose accommodations its erection has been authorized. The affairs of the Penitentiary are noticed, and an appropriation asked to free it of an old indebtedness.

The Secretary conceives that his Chief Clerk was overlooked, when, by an act of the last Congress, the salaries of certain Government officers were increased; and justly appreciated the value of his services, which, he says, are equally as arduous and important as those of the Assistant Secretaries of the other departments, he recommends that his compensation be increased accordingly, and that he be made, *ex officio*, Assistant Secretary, in the absence of the Secretary from the Department.

Within the past year fourteen Indian treaties have been negotiated, all of which evince a just and liberal spirit towards the poor Indians. The Secretary considers the annuities provided for therein, amply sufficient for the purposes intended, if properly and judiciously applied, to effect which every effort is being made. He regards it as one of the highest and most solemn duties of the Government to see that its engagement with these unlettered children of the forest, who are rapidly passing away are executed with the most scrupulous good faith, and that mild and persuasive measures should be employed to induce them to abandon the chase and become settled and agricultural people, as the only remedy against their early and total extinction, and that force or coercion should not be employed except in the last resort. The just and humane sentiments of the honorable Secretary respecting these wild and barbarous, though interesting people, do equal credit to his head and heart, and his report on this subject will, we cannot doubt, be read with interest and commendation by every statesman, philosopher, and philanthropist.

#### Summary of the Treasury Report.

For the benefit of those who have neither time nor inclination to peruse the full report of the Secretary of the Treasury, and yet desire a knowledge of its contents, we have made the following synopsis, which, we believe, contains the substance of all the important subjects treated in the official document.

The report commences very properly with a view of the condition of the Treasury, from which we learn that the actual receipts into the Treasury for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1854, from all sources were \$73,519,705, which with the balance in the Treasury on 1st July 1853 \$31,942,492, give a total for the service of the year of \$95,492,598. The actual expenditures for the year were \$75,354,630, leaving a balance in the Treasury on the 1st July 1854, of \$20,137,967. The receipts for the quarter ending Sep. 30, 1854, were \$21,521,392. The estimates for the remaining three quarters of the fiscal year are \$12,500,000.—The amount of public debt outstanding on the 1st of July, 1854, was \$17,180,500.

The Secretary anticipates a falling off in the customs receipts, owing to the Reciprocity Treaty and the short crops. The table of the tonnage of the United States exhibits an increase for the year of 385,582 tons. The table of exports and imports shows that the imports of the year were \$26,331,317 in excess of the exports.

The state of the revenue induces the Secretary to again call the attention of Congress to the propriety of reducing the revenue from customs so that no more money shall be received into the Treasury than is required for an economical administration of the Government. He recommends that three rates of duty, viz: 100, 40, and 25 per cent, in place of the eight schedules at present in use. The recommendation for a repeal of the fishing bounties is renewed, and the subject of drawback duties and refined sugar is also recommended to be considered of Congress.

The statement as to the currency of the country gives the total amount of gold and silver coin in circulation on 30th September at \$211,000,000 against which the total Bank circulation is \$204,788,209. It appears from the report on the banks, submitted to Congress on the 6th of May, 1854, that in 1850-51 there were 879 banks in the United States, with a capital of \$227,907,333, and in 1853-4 there were 1,208 banks, with a capital of \$301,736,071, being an increase of \$73,948,538.—

In 1850-51 the circulation of the 879 banks was \$155,165,251; deposits, \$128,636,712; due to other banks, \$46,411,928; and together, \$230,213,891; and in 1853-4 the circulation of the 1,208 banks was \$205,680,207; the deposits, \$188,188,744; and there was due to other banks, \$50,322,162; and together, \$444,200,114, making an increase of \$112,660,222, with specie in their vaults in 1850-51 of \$18,671,018, and in 1853-4 of \$59,710,453, being an increase of \$10,739,205.

The Secretary is opposed to the circulation of notes of a small denomination.

The Secretary calls for further aid in protecting human life from shipwreck on our coasts, and suggests whether the law should not provide greater security in the construction of steam passenger vessels, or leave them as now, to ship owners. He also recommends the continuance of the Coast Survey.

In view of recent frauds by Collectors of Customs in Cleveland, Oswego, &c., the report calls for such additional legislation as may be deemed necessary. The balance of the report refers mainly to the operations of the various departments of the Treasury.

**THE COCHINEAL.**—The Cochineal of Commerce has the appearance of a seed or grain; and few persons who are acquainted with the natural history of the article which is the principle ingredient in all our most brilliant dyes, would, on inspection, believe it to be a member of the animal, instead of the vegetable kingdom. But so it is, and millions of pounds of these minute insects are reared and sacrificed, made an important article of commerce, and sold in the various markets of the whole civilized world, in order to gratify the eye of man.

Two members of the lower animal creation play important part in ministering to human luxury and pride, viz: the silk worm and the Cochineal fly—the former in spinning the thread of all our most costly textile fabrics, and the latter in giving them their brilliancy of hues, from the flaming scarlet, the brilliant orange, and the blushing crimson, to the delicate pink, and the pale-tinted rose. All these colors, in their infinite variety of shade as well as all others where a tinge of red enters as a component, are made from Cochineal.

The insect is obtained from Mexico and the neighboring countries and is raised on a tree of the Cactus family, on the juice of which it feeds.—When the insects are properly matured, they are killed by pouring over them boiling water, or by roasting them on plates of iron. After being thoroughly dried the insect is packed for trade. Immense quantities of this dye-stuff are used both in Europe and the United States, in silk and carpet manufactories.

The belle who, in a five hundred dollar shawl of Canton crape, promenades Broadway, capriating the heads and turning the heads of fools and coxcombs by the magnificence of the display, does not, perhaps, know enough of natural history and the mechanic arts, to understand that all the costly parapiirenia is manufactured out of the shroud of a crawling worm, and dyed with the life blood of an immolated bug.

At a show down east, the audience were suddenly involved in total darkness by an accidental putting out of the lights. Among the rest was a newly married country bumpkin and his pretty bride; and on the same bench—a stranger to both—sat a city gentleman who, profiting by the darkness, fell to kissing the bride. She whispered to her husband—"John, John! this 'ere teller's a kisser on me!"

"Tell him to quit," said John; for John it seems probable, stood a little in awe of the philosopher from the city, and found himself there, in perplexed circumstances. "No, I can't," whispered the bride; "you tell him." "Make him quit!" said John, now getting quite excited. "I don't like to," whispered the bride, "he's a perfect stranger to me!"

**A MISUNDERSTANDING.** The boarders were assembled, one stormy evening, in the parlor of a fashionable boarding house, in Boston, when a rather antiquated maiden lady lisped out the remark that she loved a rainy day, and always availed of one to arrange her drawers. "So do," growled an old sea captain, "I overhaul my drawers and shirts too, sometimes, and sew on a button or a string where it is wanted." Mallemoiselle did not faint, but there was an angry rustle of her silks, as she swept from the room, leaving all to exchange a suppressed titter for a good head by laugh.

**THE JAPANESE "UPPER TEN."**—The Japanese are fond of eggs, they boil them hard, and eat them at the dinner table, frequently with oranges.—Sometimes they boil them in soup with vegetables. For the people of distinction, fowls are kept in rooms, where they lay their eggs, and are fed with rice. The great people would not eat the eggs of fowls that run about at their will and pick up what they can find. Many keep also geese, and turkeys, but merely for pleasure, as we do peacocks, which they have also. The gall of a bear is made by them into a solid mass, and used as a strengthening medicine, for weakness in the stomach, and other disorders. It is highly valued by the Japanese for its medical virtues, and paid for at a high price.

**NUMBER ONE.**—According to the newspapers, Mr. Hume, on the presentation of his picture, said "that his chief aim in life had been to promote the greatest good to the greatest number." The reports omit to state that Lord John Russell here interrupted him with the question—  
"What is the greatest number?"  
And that Mr. Hume, with great promptitude replied—  
"Number one, to be sure."

The most mischievous liars are those who keep just on the verge of truth.