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TOWANDA:

Thursday Morning, July 25, 1861.

Selected Poetry.

TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

BY BAYARD TAYLOR.

That late, in half despair, I said:
The Nation's ancient life is dead;
Her arm is weak, her blood is cold;
She begs the peace that gives her gold...

Miscellaneous.

A Soldier's Emotion in Battle.

Our citizen soldiers inexperienced in the battle field will find the most terrible moments before the battle begins. A soldier in his narration of personal adventures in the Mexican war, published in "Home's Achievements of Americans," gives some interesting items on this head in his description of the battle of Palo Alto, the opening battle of the war.

ments; you then have experienced some of the excitement of a soldier in battle. I always knew my danger—that at any moment I was liable to be killed, yet such was my excitement that I never fully realized it.

Letter from Fort Pickens.

[The following letter from Fort Pickens, written by a young man formerly in this County, now in the Engineer corps, though not written for publication, will be found interesting:]
FORT PICKENS, FLORIDA,
June 16, 1861.
DEAR FRIEND ROLLA:—It is Sabbath afternoon, and I have nothing to do until 6, P. M.,—parade and inspection—I, therefore, devote my leisure hours to a pen and ink talk with you.

was disabled at the first discharge, besides there were no gunner's instruments, for accurately aiming and elevating the pieces, or getting the distance to the objects to be fired at. Our guns are in tiptop order, every one, all the equipments complete; plenty of Columbiads, howitzers and mortars, of the heaviest metal and largest calibre; all in the most advantageous position in reference to the enemy's works, and we have the most accurate and approved gunner's instruments, and know the exact distance to every point about us.

Human Beings do not like to be Classed.

One thing very slowly learnt by most human beings is, that they are of no earthly consequence beyond a very small circle indeed, and that really nobody is thinking or talking about them. Almost every common-place man and woman in this world has a vague, but deep rooted belief that they are quite different from everybody else, and of course quite superior to anybody else.

This is a beautiful country, with fine farms well cultivated. There are a few secessionists about here, but they keep very quiet. There was an alarm in Camp last night. Each man was provided with twenty rounds. Capt. Sherwood of the Tioga Invincibles, was sent out scouting. It proved to be a false alarm. The boys are all anxious to draw a sight on the rebels.

Educational Department.

Fictitious Reading.

This is a subject worthy the consideration of every one. Our country is flooded with works of fiction. Thousands throughout the world, who call themselves philanthropists, are daily swelling the tide. Thousands, I say, are now preparing this literary poison for hungry minds. Some say such works are beneficial. I deny it. I know them to be deleterious, from my own experience and observation, and the experience of many with whom I have conversed on the subject.

Mrs. Partington Visits the Tented Field.

—We take the following from the Boston Post:
"Did the guard present arms to you, Mrs. Partington?" asked the commissary of her as she entered the marquee.
"Yes, madam, the century," she said, smiling.

Letter from Camp Biddle.

CAMP BIDDLE, Green Castle,
July 14, 1861.
E. O. GOODRICH—Dear Sir:—The Sixth Regiment Pennsylvania Reserve Volunteers left Camp Curtin July 12, at 12 o'clock, M., and arrived here over the Cumberland Valley R.R. at 6 P. M. Soon after our arrival, it commenced raining, and rained hard all night.

Sheridan and the Boots.

He had always a taste for the art of darning, and he began early in life—soon after Harrow. He was spending a few days at Bristol, and wanted a pair of new boots, but could not afford to pay for them. Shortly before he left, he called on two bootmakers and ordered of each a pair, promising payment on delivery.

Neutralizing Poison.

The following is true is valuable:—A poison of any conceivable description and any degree of potency, which has been intentionally or accidentally swallowed, may be rendered almost instantly harmless by simply swallowing two gills of sweet oil.

Armed Senators.

A Washington correspondent of the Providence Journal thus describes a funny scene in the Senate Chamber:
"When I entered the Senate Chamber, the seats were mainly filled by New York volunteers who were holding a mock session. The presiding officer was just putting the question on a resolution directing the sergeant-at-arms to proceed immediately to the White House, and to request the President, if in his opinion not incompatible with the public interest, to send down a gallon of his best brandy.

Perseverance conquers obstacles.