

# The Independent Republican.

FREEDOM AND RIGHT AGAINST SLAVERY AND WRONG.

CHARLES F. READ & H. H. FRAZIER, EDITORS.

MONTROSE, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1855.

FRAZIER & SMITH, PUBLISHERS—VOL. I. NO. 45

## Poet's Corner.

For the Independent Republican.

### Mary's Death.

Sheeps with the silent death  
And has she gone, forever gone,  
Ah, has the spirit fled,  
When yesterday she smiling face  
Beamed with sunny rays,  
Seemed like the blushing dawn,  
As fresh, and bright, and fair?

Yes, she has left the scenes of life,  
Her face no more we see,  
Her seat is vacant in the church,  
And evermore must be.  
O cruel death, by thy cold hand,  
Lift a sweet spirit from the flower,  
Fell on young queen of loveliness,  
A victim of thy power!

Her little and her parent lie  
Still in the study room,  
And end as in a mourning pall,  
The paintings which she had  
How lonely seems the long day,  
Since she no more is here:  
Deep sorrow dwells in her eyes,  
And starts the mourning tear.

But hark! a gentle voice is heard,  
'Tis like the zephyr's breath,  
'Weep not for me, my mourning friends,  
No e'er regret my death.  
I tread a easy, bright world,  
For realms above the sky,  
Where happy angels sweetly sing,  
Where pleasures never die.

Jackson, 1855.

### A Dream-Picture.

BY T. WESTWOOD.

"My eyes make pictures when they are shut,"  
See lay asleep in the shadow  
Of the branching palm, by the side  
Of the noble river that rolls ever  
Its broad "abounding life."  
Through the "abounding life," amid  
Red tomb and temple and pyramid.

See sleep in the palm-tree's shadow,  
And ever a happy dreamer,  
Like the sunset's glow, Alpine snow,  
'Lay the web of her golden hair;  
Her bosom rose and fell,  
From its white carress one wandering tress  
Sole flew, as if to tell  
That a dreamer's hand had touched  
The wind's in the waving tress,  
The pulse of life, did come and go,  
The job of that eager heart below,  
That throbbled so tenderly.

For she lay asleep in the shadow  
Of the branching palm, but after  
Her thought roved free, in its fantasy,  
Beneath a northern star,  
And ever a happy dreamer,  
Over lip and cheek and brow,  
And ever the murmured soft and low,  
As a cooling dore, in her dream—  
'Oh, joy, for the heart that never won't  
Dear home, I've sought thee long;  
Oh, the bonny burn, how it leaps in the sun!  
And the thistle, how sweet to song!"

In the sunny South, a new glow  
The red flaming, twinkling glow,  
The burning sun, the burning sun,  
The diving water-wheels gave out  
Their sad and sighing sound;  
Anah was heard the Arab's shout,  
'Oh, joy, for the heart that never won't  
Dear home, I've sought thee long;  
Oh, the bonny burn, how it leaps in the sun!  
And the thistle, how sweet to song!"

But the Golden Orient awoke no more  
The sleeper's soul, for aye  
He thought roved free, in its fantasy,  
Beneath the same old star,  
And ever the murmured soft and low,  
As a cooling dore, in her dream—  
'Oh, joy, for the heart that never won't  
Dear home, I've sought thee long;  
Oh, the bonny burn, how it leaps in the sun!  
And the thistle, how sweet to song!"

## Tales and Sketches.

From a California Monthly Magazine.

### ASTEPLE CHASE ON THE PRAIRIES.

The first of June, 1849. Six years ago!  
How stranger than fiction it seems that  
Six years ago, on this eventful day, after  
travelling all the vicissitudes of experience,  
after having the compass of life's stormy sea,  
and seeking lands with every extremity  
of fortune, I should be seated at last in this quiet  
little settlement; the aim of that mighty  
city, which was then the goal of our hopes,  
around me; the wild freedom of the limitless  
prairies exchanged for the confines of a  
dingy office; my sporting charger discarded  
for a disused and rusty horse; my bow  
and arrow laid aside for a more peaceful but might-  
y weapon, this "gray goose quill."

Yes! Six long years of storm, experience,  
of wanderings, of ever-changing, never-  
ending toil and turmoil, have changed the  
boy into the man; the youthful romance of  
the anticipated settlement into the stern, fixed  
purpose, the utilitarian views of the slave  
business. But have all these things, these  
trials and wild excitements, blotted from  
the mind the fearful memories of that terri-  
ble scene long ago, when the tyro of wilder-  
ness first looked down Death? Ah, no! On  
the thrilling memories of that fearful hour  
crowd thick upon me. The first sudden mo-  
ment of wild alarm; that terrible, sudden  
burst from fifty savage throats; the wild  
desperation, the thrilling excitement of that  
wild chase of eight miles, with fifty  
painted heroes sitting after me on their  
mustangs; the appalling fear as we swam  
gathered on the banks of the flying river,  
the foam flew from his hooves, his nostrils  
leapt, his strength and bottom should fall  
in my rear; and, above all, the exulting  
thrill of gratitude and rapture when the white  
clutch of my comrades held in sight as  
we flew over the summit of the last hill that  
divided the prairie from the wild river, and  
the last all came back on my startled ears  
that unspeakable revelation of feeling  
when my frightened steed rushed into camp,  
his duty done, his powers exhausted,  
dropped almost lifeless to the earth, as I  
leaped from the saddle and fervently thanked

gracious Providence, who had looked down  
upon and protected me in my fearful hour!

It was on this day six years ago. Eighty-  
five of us, weary wanderers over the track-  
less prairie, were day after day and month  
after month, toiling toward the distant  
land of gold, whose lofty sierras and summer  
plains have since gathered to their eternal  
bosom so many a member of that gallant  
youthful band. It was Sunday in the wilder-  
ness; the wagons all "corralled" on the banks  
of the "Little Blue," the solemn mules seat-  
ed and waiting, the faithful vigilance of the  
guard. Some of the party were bathing in  
the clear stream, some cooking, mending  
clothes, washing, lounging, or smoking, and  
all enjoying to the full a glorious sunny  
day of rest and indolence, when some evil  
genius, with a sudden desire to be the  
first of the party to be the first of the  
expected "buffalo," an animal we had not  
yet encountered, but which now began to be  
the constant theme of conversation in all  
quarters. Several of the boys were hunting tur-  
keys in the margin of the timber which skirted  
the river, so that when I saddled up my  
horse, with my rifle at my saddle-bow,  
started out to the northward, the few who  
observed my departure exchanged sly winks  
at my probable disappointment, but never  
dreamed of the thrilling adventure that I was  
so rashly rushing into. Although we knew  
that we were about the confines of the Pawnee  
territory, and had indeed been warned  
by a cowboy of trappers, whom we had met  
but a few days previous returning from their  
distant wintering ground in the mountains,  
that the war parties were out, yet, confident  
in our numbers and the entire inability of  
our unpractised eyes to detect any traces of  
them, we had attributed the well-meant warn-  
ing of the old trapper rather to a spriting  
of news-mongering than any thing else, and  
rather despised those wild Bedouins of the  
prairies of whom we had heard so much, but  
had as yet failed to see.

Far away over the beautifully undulating  
and fertile bosom of the trackless prairie I  
rode gently along, at the feet of my horse  
indications of the object of my desires. I  
though I eagerly scanned the horizon as I pro-  
ceeded, not a living being met my eye except  
a few shy antelope, whose wary caution and  
quick perception rendered them impossible  
of approach upon the open prairie. Far as  
the vision could reach, but a monotonous  
undulating surface of green grass and  
milk and flowers of every hue, extended in  
every direction towards the far horizon, where  
the blue sky of summer kissed the distant  
hills, glowing in the first verdure of the ad-  
vancing season.

Struck with the voiceless solitude of this  
wilderness, I rode slowly along, lazily  
musing on the strange vicissitudes which had  
led to this scene, and had almost uncon-  
sciously placed some seven or eight miles be-  
tween me and camp, when, far in the distance  
directly in front of me, I discerned a column  
of dust which, as I supposed, betokened the  
long desired buffalo. Away went romance  
and practical calculation, and I struck  
towards the object of my desire, with a  
possession of life, and, hastily loosening my  
pistols and glancing at my rifle's lock, I struck  
spurs to my steed and galloped forward, never  
doubting that the opportunity so ardently  
coveted was now at hand.

Charging down the hill and across the in-  
tervening valley I rose another gently swell-  
ing hill of the prairie, and, a gaining the  
summit, again the moving cloud of dust met  
my gaze, and this time considerably nearer,  
and, as I closely regarded it, I perceived that  
it was rapidly approaching, and I began to  
discern the flashing of bright objects gleam-  
ing out from its obscurity. This looked less  
like buffalo, and as the object, whatever it  
might be, continued to approach, I halted for  
a better view, and was not long in making  
out a large band of mounted Indians, their  
snow white shields and burnished lance heads  
glancing brightly in the morning sun.

Still, however, I scarcely thought of Pawnee,  
but supposed it might be some hunting  
party of friendly Pottawatomie or Sioux,  
and at all events, knowing the mettle and  
powers of my horse, and having a retreat at  
pleasure, I thought I incurred no great risk  
by waiting for a more satisfactory inspection.  
Gradually arose the broad expanse of the  
prairie, they grew nearer and nearer, now  
disappearing from view increasing some com-  
pactly, and again displayed in bold relief  
against the sky as they surmounted some  
prominent ridge.

As though their distance was diminished to  
less than a quarter of a mile, and, thinking  
of closer acquaintance undesirable, I turned my  
horse's head with a view of riding moderat-  
ly towards camp till they should manifest  
some design to pursue me, when I might  
shoot the chill of horror which curdled my blood  
as I saw two smaller parties in my rear, gal-  
loping together from either side to cut off my  
retreat, and heard the terrific yell which all  
three raised as they saw their wild manoeuvre  
discovered, and that further silence would be  
useless.

What the main body had intended to at-  
tack my attention by advancing conspicu-  
ously toward me, these two parties had taken  
advantage of the numerous hollows, which at  
times had concealed them temporarily from  
view, to diverge, and by a wide circuit, at-  
tain my rear, I, greenhorn that I was, never  
dreaming of this common Indian stratagem  
while supposing regarding the first and only  
object which had attracted my gaze. But was  
there not yet time? The two intercepting  
parties were rapidly converging towards the  
line of my retreat, and were already within  
a quarter of a mile of each other, while I was  
not more than half that distance from the  
centre. The main body with a fearful whoop,  
dashed on to close me in! My horse was  
fleeing and true, but he was like a trawler  
swam and floundered! How long could he dis-  
tance the wild warriors of the desert even if I  
escaped the immediate dangers? But there  
was no time to deliberate. Now or never  
was the chance. Another moment would be  
too late. Grasping my rifle with a firmer  
clutch, and breathing with careening words  
of encouragement, I made a bold dash  
for this interval which will separate the de-  
parting parties and upon which they were rap-  
idly closing.

Nobly the gallant animal responded to the  
call. Snorting with terror at the wild onset  
of my pursuers, trembling in every limb  
with the intensity of his exertions, he dashed  
between the approaching hordes, within a

hundred yards of us on either hand. With  
the energy of despair I grasped the saddle  
with my knees and bent forward to assist his  
flying course. On, towards the only  
hope of safety, fifty yelling demons-hard  
upon our tracks, their blankets and fiery fly-  
ing wind, toward we sped, pursuers  
add pursued, over the broad expanse of that  
prairie ocean.

Soon the feetness and blood of my Ameri-  
can coarser began to tell on the enduring but  
slower-footed mustangs of the Indians. Some  
of the worst mounted were gradually dropping  
to the rear, and after running two or  
three miles they fell back into a long  
line behind me. Gradually I discerned the  
for I knew that the bottom and endurance  
of Indian horses, accustomed to traverse  
immense distances at a single stretch, is al-  
most without limit, and many a long mile  
was still before us. Again they would di-  
vulgate the distance, and again I was obliged  
to urge my feet-steady effort.

But I was beginning to breathe freer, the first  
startling alarm was over, half the distance  
was accomplished. If my gallant grey could  
but maintain his tremendous exertions for  
four miles more I was safe. Once in sight of  
camp and the presence of my wild pursuers  
would be out of the eighty Americans, which  
rifle which could gleam from behind our  
wagon wheels.

I was now descending a long but gentle in-  
clination towards a broad level depression in  
the prairie which spread out about a couple  
of hundred yards wide at its base. My sav-  
ing pursuers were for a moment out of sight  
behind the ridge. I reached the foot of the hill at full speed; my steed  
plunged forward with such second hard-  
and-  
and, O, despair! sunk to his belly in a treach-  
erous swamp! Ah! in the gathering years  
of all futurity ever blot from my memory  
the despair of that awful moment! How far  
upland down the rivulet which divided the  
could not guess. A terrific yell burst from  
the exultant warriors as they appeared over  
the crest of the ridge and recognized the di-  
lemma they had so truly anticipated. The  
fears which filled my mind. In that brief  
moment, as the warriors came charging  
down the hill, tumbling over rocks, bushes  
and friends, mingled with the bright antelopes,  
so long cherished, of a golden field in the  
land of promise, came thronging in wild  
confusion through my teeming brain. There  
was one hope left, desperate as it seemed;  
but there was no time for deliberation, no  
opportunity for choice. I turned my horse  
about, I might founder through, and, at all  
events, suffocation or capture in the bog was  
no worse than instantaneous destruction where  
I was. Dashing the words into the trem-  
bling soil, I maddly urged him forward—  
The soul, though covered with grass and ap-  
parently a very high estimate upon the  
solitary abilities of both these chieftains,  
I might as well have said that they were  
equal to the task, and that they were equal  
to the task, and that they were equal to the  
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