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SELECT POETRY.

TO MY SPIRIT LOVE.

I love you—'tis the simplest way The thing I feel to tell; Yet if I told it all the day You'd never guess how well.

A Sketch.

THE GOOD ANGELS.

'Come Ady and Jane, it's time you were in bed,' said Mrs. Freeman to her two daughters about nine o'clock one evening.

A DUEL IN THE DARK.

The following sketch is certainly very marvellous, and not a little improbable. We do not vouch for its truthfulness, but give it as we find it in the New York Sunday Dispatch—to which it was furnished by a correspondent.

Accounts of duels at the West and in California terminating in tragedies—notwithstanding the humanizing influences daily developing themselves—appear to be rapidly on the increase.

'I will not, and your threats shall not make me.' 'We shall see. Take up that pistol, or your blood be on you own hands,' and seizing one of the weapons, he deliberately presented it at the head of Wilkins.

THE EXCAVATIONS AT NINEVEH.

Letters received in Paris from M. Place, Consul at Mosul, report further excavations and successes among the mounds of Nineveh.

Among the recent genius from this rich mine of antiquities, besides a large addition of statues, bas-reliefs in marble, pottery, and articles of jewelry, which throw light on the habits and customs of the inhabitants of the ancient city, the French explorers have been able to examine the whole of the palace of Khorsabad and its dependencies.

'Like all your countrymen,' retorted the Englishman, 'when you find yourself in a position requiring coolness and bravery, your skulking traits come out, and by cunning you endeavor to invade that just a brave gentleman would inflict. Publicly acknowledge yourself a liar and a poltroon, and I will condense to forgive you.'

THE LIGHTNING—A FEW HINTS.

It may be well to encourage timid people who are religiously or constitutionally alarmed at lightning, to state the doctrine of chance.

As a general thing, the lightning does not strike within the space of a square mile more than once a year.

Now here are 79,400 square rods in a square mile, and if the lightning struck rod after rod, it would take 190 years to go over it; but it smites here and there, and that it will smite any specified rod, there is not more than one chance to a hundred billions.

Again, other things being equal, the chance diminishes as it regards a low object, as the difference between the square of its height and that of a tower; so that with a person six feet, and a tree sixty feet, there is but one chance out of 3561 of the person's being struck.

Again, objects, non-conductors when dry, become good conductors when wet. A dry silk umbrella, if not tipped with a metallic substance, will ward off the lightning; but if wet, not. Get lightning rods for your houses, and see to it that the fastenings be much smaller than the rods—that the rods enter the earth—and fear not the 'red artillery.'

It is well for persons who are naturally timid to get electrified a number of times. It renders them less electric, and, therefore, less in danger. Finally, a death by lightning is the easiest of all deaths. When electricity enters we are instantly filled, and life is gone without a pang. 'Ah! but the hereafter!' Well, live right here, and it will be right with you there—if it must be so.

MY THABAH ANN.

When I closed my Thabah Ann, My heart thrill'd wildly in my breast, And oh! I felt her beautiful form I feel of all mankind the best!

And when my arm enfold'd her waist I did not dream of heavenly bliss, But five equal wishes I had made, The first the sweetness of her kiss.

Oh, Thabah Ann, I feel'd my bliss, For my kisses own'd my bliss; Let not that thought be e'er forgot, 'Tis thro' the thickness of my throat!

RABBITS IN PARIS.—I entered a restaurant on the other side of the Seine, and ordered a rabbit. I was given, veridant as the first cucumber, even as early as possible—or I should not have done this. The rabbit came, and I ordered the *Maitre* to an old Frenchman opposite, whose eyes were fixed upon my 'plut', but he bowed a negative. The boy puzzled me. All French boys are pluts, but this was more—it was compassionate. I struck my fork into the quadruped before me. It was too much.

'Monsieur has not been long in Paris?' 'No; I have just arrived.'

'Monsieur is going to eat that?' 'Yes, may I offer you a slice?' (A frightful grimace.) 'Monsieur will do low me to make a small observation?' 'Certainly,' (a little alarmed.) 'Monsieur, (graciously) that rabbit one's mope?'

DEATH OF A HOUSE FROM FIRE.—On Saturday morning, as a train of cars was coming in, a horse of Mr. Collins, butcher, which was hitched to a wagon near the railroad track, became quite restive. He was seized and held by the bridle. As the cars came nearer he reared and plunged, then trembled violently, sunk down, and died in his tracks. Was a like case ever before known.—Frankfort (Ky.) Commonwealth.

REDUCTION OF FARE.—The fare to Boston by the Fall River line of steamers, has been reduced to \$3 for cabin and \$2 deck passage.

FINE POTATOES, OF A NEW SPECIES.

Mr. E. L. Walker, of this city, exhibited to us yesterday some specimens of a new kind of potato, which he has raised on his country seat, at Woodburn, about half a mile from the Falls of Schuylkill.

The seed is from Nova Scotia, and the potato attracting the attention of Mr. W. by its size and apparent good quality, in order to test its productiveness and character, he planted four rows of this species, with twelve rows, of the same length, of the Marce potato, from New Jersey, doing nothing to the ground but digging it up, and manuring it in the usual manner. The two rows of the Nova Scotia seed potatoes and a half barrels of potatoes; from the four rows of the Nova Scotia potato he obtained 1 barrel. The weight of one of the potatoes which Mr. W. showed us, was two pounds nine ounces; the weight of four potatoes, eight pounds six ounces; and there were hundreds of others, of the same extraordinary size, in the yield. The appearance of the potato is curious, being one enormous sized potato as the main growth, and four or five others springing from it like excrescences, but each a perfect potato, and larger than the ordinary production. The quality is pronounced equally as admirable as the growth, the potato resembling in color, taste and cooking qualities, the Bermuda, which are esteemed as a superior production. Mr. Walker attributes the great yield he obtained from this potato, to the fact that the rows were planted sufficiently wide apart to give light, air and room to the foliage. The distance between the rows was five feet. This was purely accidental, as his ground had been occupied with strawberry-beds planted that distance apart, and in the space between the strawberries he planted his potatoes.—The gardener and others, in watching their growth, pronounced them a failure, as they appeared to go all to tops; but they discovered their mistake when they came to see the actual yield. Some of the same kind of potatoes, planted only two and a half feet, in hills, and did not yield so prolifically. The tops got matted together, and the roots ran out the sides of the hills. What produced so well was planted on flat ground.

LEDGER.

MIXING MEASURES.—MANGING ENGLISH.—There is an individual in the High street market 'doing business,' who is down on customers who don't speak proper.

'What's eggs, this morning?' says a customer.

'Eggs, of course,' says the dealer.

'I mean—how do they go?' 'Go!—where?'

'Sho—?' says the customer, getting up his furs, 'what for eggs?'

'Money, money, sir! or good endorsed credit?' says the dealer.

'Don't you understand the English language, sir?' says the customer.

'Not as you mix it and mangle it, I don't!' responded the egg merchant.

'What is—the price—per—dozen—for your—eggs?'

'Ah now you talk,' says the dealer.—'Sixteen cents per dozen, is the price, sir?' They traded.

A NICE PLACE TO LIVE IN.—The low situation of New Orleans, and the warmth of the climate, cause a bountiful supply of all sorts of winged pests. The *Pycnanus* complains of an invasion of small but annoying enemies, an invasion of bugs—bugs that resemble beetles, which are dazzled by the light, burn their wings, cover tables, come like bullets into one's face, buzz, whirl about, and cannot be got rid of or killed by any known means of destruction. If you go close to the light, the bugs bother you; if you get away from the light, the mosquitoes bother you. So, it's a general botheration any how it can be fixed. Can anybody minister to bugs and mosquitoes, or must physie be reserved for the dogs only?

THE VILLAGE OF HERMANN, in Missouri, is the centre of a vine-growing district, originally settled, some fourteen years ago, by a company of Germans. The soil of the country was poor, and did not yield good crops of grain or tobacco, and many of the first settlers left. In 1845 the experiment of grape culture on the hills—which are from 300 to 600 feet high, with a southern exposure—was tried, and successfully. The area now 137 acres devoted to the grape, and the manufacture of wine is carried on to a considerable extent. The village contains about 1,200 inhabitants.

EXTENSIVE COAL BED.—The railroad from Cincinnati to Zanesville, through Circleville, Lancaster, &c., will pass a bed of coal now in Perry county, Ohio, which has been announced by Professor Mather and other distinguished geologists, to be the most extensive in the United States, the depth of deposit ranging from sixty to one hundred and twelve feet.

THE COVER.—Professor Sechi, Rome, August 26, 34 A. M., while searching for Biela's comet, discovered a small nebulous comet in the constellation of the Twins. He does not know whether this is a new comet, or a portion of Biela's, which was divided in the beginning of 1846. Dr. Peterson, of Alton, considers the new comet to be undoubtedly Biela's.

A genuine Yankee thus advertises his truant wife:—'On the 16th of August, on the night of Monday, eloped from her husband the wife of John Grundy; his grief for her absence each day growing deeper, should any one find her, he begs him to—keep her.'