

The Sunbury American.

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The Sunbury American.
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BY H. B. MASSER,
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Select Poetry.
[From the N. Y. Evening Post.]
TWENTY-FIVE TO-DAY.
BY FRANK H. NORTON.
Wither! ye garlands of the past!
Fare ye memory from my sight!
I would not for ever more, last,
Life open on my view at length—
Life with her hopes and fears;
I gaze upon her with the strength
Of five and twenty years.
Fly boyish dreams! come, manly truth!
I'll work some hidden vein,
Whatever come—er I am dust—
I'll not look back again.
Fly! youth of weakness; manhood's power
Shall chase thy shades away;
My path is onward from this hour—
I'm twenty-five to-day.
Oh! wondrous life, Oh! mystery wild,
I'll search thee to the core,
Thy crystal I burst—a child
I'll be in life no more.
Come strength of health! come strength of soul!
Your power I mean to try;
I'll grasp the years that swiftly roll,
And solve their riddles ere they fly.
Returning past! no souvenir
I feel my steps can trace;
I feel the latent deathless fire
At length within me burn.
I feel the hope of nobler strife,
The faith in worthier aim—
I only seek a glorious life—
Back childish dreams of fame.
False visions that have lured me on,
I meet ye face to face;
Your mask is dropped, your prestige gone,
Your frailty I can trace.
I would not for ever more, farewell!
I burst my bonds—I break my cell—
I'm twenty-five to-day.
Come shrouded years! I wait for ye
In patience and in calm;
Whatever hap this day I'm free;
Ye lose your power for harm.
Glide slow! dash fast! the sooner past;
It reeks me not to know
Whether for good or evil cast,
Ye wait me, for the last show.
Glide slow! dash fast! come hope! come grief!
Your strength to harm I mock;
For I'll wattle a sure block
Shall butt the every shock
Ring out! ring out! my birth day bells,
The rare old rhyme ye play;
"Life let us cherish" me it tells
I'm twenty-five to-day.

The Devastation of War in Kentucky.
The ravages of civil war have been as terrible in some parts of Kentucky as in Missouri. A letter says:
"Had the seven plagues of Egypt passed over the Kentucky district, it would not have been more desolate. The poor farmers, who, in a season of plenty have not more than enough to see them safe into the Spring were robbed of every sack of flour and pound of pork. Their fences burned, their cows, sheep and geese shot dead in their tracks, counted on one farm, that a noted Union man, thirty head of cattle, shot and left in the fields to poison the air with their pestilential odors. From not one of them had a single steak been cut. As the Federal army marched along, the affrighted inhabitants came skulking from the woods to look at their devastated dwellings. This morning, however, they had to feed the Rebel horses and their platters now go mourning up and down the land without food for their starving families."
You often hear of outrages committed by armed troops, so vile in their nature that they can hardly be credited, and for a want of credible authority, they are passed by as if they had never occurred. Give you some facts which I learned from Colonel George T. Wood, a member of the Kentucky Military Board, of Monroe county, Kentucky, who is Quartermaster in Colonel Gridler's Kentucky regiment.
"Ten days since about 2,000 infantry and 750 cavalry came from Bowling Green into Allen and Monroe counties, and robbed the people of over \$60,000 worth of property, consisting of fat cattle, hogs, blankets and other personal property—such as they could drive or carry away.
They had, on a previous visit, robbed Mr. Fram's family of nearly everything in his house; but he had replaced some articles by purchase and borrowing, so that his family could cook and sleep at home. The last time they stripped him completely, drove off all his hogs, 200 in number, all his horses and cattle, and the property of his wife and daughter, took their best clothes, their bonnets and all the looking-glasses in the house into one room, and with jeers, jibes and yells, such as Secession fiends can utter, crushed and tore their bonnets, clothes and looking-glasses into atoms, and danced upon the ruin they had made, shouting for Jeff. Davis and his Government.
Did the wife and daughter quail? No, thank God. They told the traitors to their teeth they were and would remain loyal to the Government and flag of the Union, and that the power of the Union was moving upon them and that the power of the traitors was breaking up in all directions, and would speedily plant the Stars and Stripes upon every point now polluted by the traitorous flag of the rebellion, and then a day of reckoning would come, and crimes such as they were committing would meet with certain, terrible and just punishment. The traitors fled and their property, stripped of everything but their loyal principles. What they did to Fram's family they did to all loyal citizens in those counties, till gloated with plunder, they marched back to their camp of kindred traitors.
These are the men, sent by the traitor Buckner to the plow and sickle, to protect the people of Kentucky against the usurpations of the Legislature. These were traitors in arms. Now for a traitor at home.

MASSON KEEPING HIS WORD IN BOSTON.
The late time Masson visited Boston, before to-day, was as a guest of that city, and where he was first to see the city, he was met by a number of his old friends. He visited Banker Hill, where there was a public demonstration, marched in grand procession from the State House, and was fully complimented and thanked for the favors and attentions he received. He then promised to do justice to the people and sentiment of old Massachusetts. In remembrance of the summer visit of four years since, last spring, when Mr. Robert C. Winthrop was in Washington, he politely asked Mr. Masson when he would visit Boston. The haughty Senator replied, "Not till I come as an Ambassador." The time has arrived, and Mr. Masson presents today his credentials at the fashionable Court in Fort Warren.

FARMERS' DEPARTMENT.
[From the "Germantown Telegraph."]
THE POTATO.
ITS ORIGIN, HISTORY AND CULTIVATION.
The common potato (*solanum tuberosum*) was found growing wild in Virginia at the time of its first settlement, and was introduced into Europe in the year 1545, by Sir John Hawkins.
Gerardus, an old English botanist, mentions in his Herbal, published in the year 1597, the fact of having planted in his garden a potato, which did as well there as in its native soil.
Queen Ann, wife of James I, in a manuscript account of family expenses, mentions two purchases of a few pounds of potatoes, at two shillings a pound.
In 1663, the Royal Society recommended their cultivation as a means of preventing famine.
Previous to the year 1654, they were only planted in the gardens of the nobility; during the year a small portion was planted in an open field in Lancashire.
The potato will not thrive within the tropics, except at an elevation of from three to four thousand feet above the level of the sea; its natural climate is the temperate zone.
So much for its origin and history; now for its cultivation:
The soil best suited to potatoes is a deep loam, but a large crop has been taken from light sand well manured. It is of great importance that the soil should be deep and loose.
A good plan is to select a patch from the corn-field, and plow it up deep and well before the winter sets in, and let it lie all winter. If you wish early potatoes the next summer, plant, by turning a furrow on to them, two or three rows where you plow in the fall; by this plan the potatoes will do to dig for table use some two and a half to three weeks earlier than the others planted at the usual time. The only disadvantage is that they must be placed nearer together, for they are more liable to miss than when planted in the spring.
The next spring give the patch a good coat of manure, spread all over the surface, as is usually done for wheat. As soon as the ground will admit of it, commence planting by putting the potatoes in every third furrow. Some are very particular to lay the potatoes set with the cut side down. From actual experiments, both by myself and others, I am convinced that there is no use in this; my plan is to drop them from a basket or bucket; if the ground is in proper order the set will remain where it is dropped. Care should be taken to drop the sets on the side of the furrow next the plow end, and not more than fifteen or twenty inches apart. After the sets are all in the ground, the patch should be well harrowed. As soon as the most forward shoots begin to show, it should be again harrowed.
After this I use nothing but the hoe barrow. As the ground was made in good order, there is no need of much hoeing. They should be hoe-harrowed four or five times before they come out in flower; after this they should not be disturbed, except to pull up any weeds which may show themselves in the rows, and that only to prevent them from going to seed.
Some prefer planting on the sod; a very good crop may be obtained in this way, and potatoes long planted are less liable to be injured by cold weather, and some think is preferable to rot. If planted in this manner, I prefer to spread the manure on the sod, and put the potatoes in every third furrow. When this plan is adopted, more hoe-harrowing and weeding will be required. I am opposed to hilling up growing potatoes; plant them deep, and there is no necessity.
Some think that by riding they place more of the stalk under ground, and thereby increase the yield. I have tried both plans in the same patch, and prefer the level system.
I prefer good-sized potatoes for planting. From experience and observations, I have come to the following conclusions:—That large potatoes produce larger potatoes; in larger quantities and of a much better quality; that the degeneracy often observed in potatoes results from using small seed; that potatoes of a medium size are used it is better to plant them whole, and where large ones are used, to cut them into sets.
I arrived at this conclusion both by experiment and by the following reasoning:
The set, when it first sprouts, obtains its nourishment from the body of the cutting until this is all exhausted; but as soon as it sprouts it also throws out roots into the soil. Until the starch and sugar in the set is all exhausted, these roots do little but increase in size. As soon as the substance of the original set is exhausted, the plant must obtain nourishment from the soil by means of its roots.
Now, by planting large sets, we give to each sprout a larger proportion of nourishment, and this enables the plant to extend its roots before they are called upon for actual service.
I know that potatoes can be raised from four pieces; and this, too, in rows side by side, one row having the seed cut in two, and the next in four, and so on throughout; but the potatoes are placed at some distance apart in the row—and about one foot. Where those cut in two were planted one foot apart, and those cut in four eight inches, the former produced the best and largest amount of potatoes.
When potatoes are planted in corn-stalk ground, they should be planted early, both to avoid danger from rot, and to be out of the way of the ensuing wheat crop.
I have found that on the same land three hundred weight of guano will produce a better crop than a good coat of barnyard manure. Also that three hundred weight of super-phosphate mixed with five bushels of plaster, will produce about the same quantity of much better potatoes than a good coat of manure.—These remarks apply to one acre. The manure (barnyard) was spread all over the ground and the others scattered in the furrow on top of the sets. But the succeeding crops of grass and wheat, without any additional manure, were much better where the barnyard manure was applied than where the others were used. That part to which guano was applied comes next.
It will materially increase the crop to roll the sets in plaster just after cutting and allowing them to lay spread out and occasionally dust them with plaster for two or three days previous to planting.
I always dig as soon as the tops die; if this is convenient, mow the tops as soon as dead, and dig soon.
Now, a word about keeping potatoes. We find great care used to prevent potatoes and other roots from freezing. Freezing does not hurt them; it is the thawing that does the mischief. Potatoes may be frozen and thawed three or four times during the winter pro-

vided the thawing be properly conducted, and not be injured thereby in any sensitive commodity.
If a member of the body, such as a hand or foot, be frozen, and suddenly thawed by fire or warm water, the flesh will mortify and drop off; but let the frozen member be rubbed with snow, which is a little lower in temperature than the frozen foot, and thus be gradually thawed, and no inconvenience will result.
Only a few days since I tasted potatoes which were kept in a heap in the open air, and covered with three inches of earth all winter. They were twice (at least) frozen solid, and twice thawed, but were not injured.
In the spring, if early vegetables, such as beans, peas or tomatoes, should be frosted or completely covered with white frost, they may be saved by being sprinkled with cold water, if administered before the sun shines on them. The water reduces the temperature gradually, without any bad effect.
If potatoes, apples, or other vegetables which will not be thawed gradually, and so harm will be done them.
Vegetables may be kept all winter by making them into conical heaps, and covered with three inches of earth, and a sod on top, to shed rain. A thin layer of clean straw may be placed over the vegetables, to keep them from the dirt. When put up in this manner, apples or potatoes may be taken out at any time during the winter, and if thawed in cold water are as good as ever.
If your potatoes freeze in the cellar, don't wait for them to thaw, but throw them into a conical heap, either where they are, or in the open air, and cover them with dirt, straw, and a layer of clean straw, and let them lie around them, and they are safe. The covering will prevent sudden changes, which do all the mischief. I have saved frozen potatoes in this way; it may be new to some of your readers, and may be of use, as it was to your friend,
Chester County, Pa. AGRICOLA.

CHICKEN POOK.—Rub the meat on the flesh side with one quarter pound finely pulverized saltpetre, and five pounds clarified sugar to every one hundred pounds of pork; sprinkle the bottom of the cask, and every layer of meat, with a layer of salt. The cask should not be large enough to cause the meat to be pressed so much as to express the juice. When the cask has been filled put about one pound of charcoal in a tight, stout canvas net in the top of the cask and let it absorb all impurities and keep the meat sweet and good in any climate. Have this kept pork in considerable quantities for two summers in New Orleans, and the brine was not changed or boiled, and the meat did not sour the least, but was highly prized by all who saw or ate it, and they all recommended it by name.—*Balt. Weekly Sun.*

E. B. MASSER, ATTORNEY AT LAW, SUNBURY, PA.
Business attended to in the Counties of Northumberland, Union, Lycoming, Montour and Columbia.
References in Philadelphia:
Hon. J. R. Tyson, Chas. Gibson, Esq., Sen. & Soudress, Linn Smith & Co.
CHARLES MATTHEWS, Attorney at Law, No. 128 Broadway, New York.
Will especially attend to Collections and all other matters entrusted to his care.
May 21, 1860.

FRANKLIN HOUSE, REBUILT AND REFURNISHED, Cor. of Howard and Franklin Streets, a few Squares West of the N. C. R. R. Depot, BALTIMORE.
FURNISHED, \$1 PER DAY.
G. LEISENING, Proprietor,
July 16, 1859.—If From Selma Grove, Pa.
WILLIAM S. SOMERS, CHIEF CLERK SOMERS,
G. SOMERS & SON,
Importers and Dealers in
Cloths, Cassimeres, Vestings, Tailors Trimmings, &c.,
No 32 South Fourth Street, between Market and Chestnut Streets, Philadelphia.
Merchants outside the city would find it to their advantage to give them a call and examine their stock.
March 10, 1860.

A MODERN BREAST-PLATE.—The Scientific American describes a breast-plate, which it said, is being extensively worn by officers and men in the Federal army before Washington. It is composed of thin spring steel, and is worn between the cloth and lining of a common military vest. It has two levers, which lay at the edges when the vest is buttoned up, and are connected in the center. It only weighs three pounds and a half, and can be worn with ease by any officer or soldier during the most active exercise. It is very strong in proportion to its weight, and it will resist the thrust of a sword or bayonet, and it will repel the bullets of many muskets and pistols at ranges which would otherwise be fatal to life.

THE FOLLOWING FIGURES SHOW THE AMOUNT OF COMMISSARY STORES WHICH WILL BE CONSUMED IN ONE MONTH'S SERVICE, WHEN BROUGHT UP TO THE STANDARD AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESS, IN 300,000 MEN. IT WILL BE SEEN THAT THE LABOR OF THE COMMISSARY DEPARTMENT IS ANYTHING BUT TRIVIAL, AND THAT THE COST OF FEEDING AN ARMY IS A SOMEWHAT SERIOUS ITEM:
1,250,000 pounds of pork, or 18,750,000 pounds of fresh beef; 100,000 barrels of flour; 37,500 bushels of beans, or 1,500,000 pounds of rice; 1,500,000 pounds of coffee; 2,500,000 pounds of sugar; 150,000 gallons of vinegar; 225,000 pounds of candles; 600,000 pounds of soap; 9,384 bushels of salt, and 6,600,000 pounds of potatoes.

ONE LEO MORE FOR HIS COUNTRY.—During the recent visit of Secretary Cameron to New York, a member of the Seventy-ninth regiment who was in the battle of Bull Run, and near Col. Cameron when he fell, called upon the Secretary. He had been severely wounded and taken prisoner, carried to Richmond, and there suffered an amputation of one of his legs. He came hobbling to the city, and insisted upon the validity of a claim for \$400,000 disbursed there, over \$250,000 was sent at once by the soldiers to their families. Fourteen large mail bags were dispatched for that purpose, containing over 14,000 letters. Surgeon Stone, of the Twenty-ninth regiment, arrived yesterday, and he had a man in uniform with him, a member of that regiment, who had been discharged from the army for \$400,000 disbursed there, over \$250,000 was sent at once by the soldiers to their families. Fourteen large mail bags were dispatched for that purpose, containing over 14,000 letters. 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