

THE STAR OF THE NORTH.

R. W. Weaver Proprietor.

Truth and Right—God and Our Country.

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THE STAR OF THE NORTH

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THE LIND PRIZE SONG.

The following, written by EPES SARGENT, was selected by four of the committee appointed to decide upon the prize song, but they yielded their opinions in deference to Mr. Benedict, who preferred Bayard Taylor's, so says the New York Mirror:

Salutation to America.

Land of the beautiful, land of the free,
Of my heart had turned, longing to thee;
Often had mountain, lake, torrent and stream
Gleamed on my waking thought, crowded
my dream;

Now thou receivest me from the broad sea,
Land of the beautiful land of the free!

Fair to the eye, in thy grandeur thou art;
O doubly fair, doubly dear to the heart!
For to the exiled, the trodden, the poor,
Through the wide world, thou hast opened
thy door;

Millions crowd in, and are welcomed by thee—
Land of the beautiful, land of the free!

Land of the Future! Here Art shall repair—
Kinder thy gale than her own Grecian air!
Since her true virtues ever have found
Lofly desert by America crowned!

Where, in her pride, should she dwell but
with thee?
Land of the beautiful, land of the free!

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The Mistake of Night.

Queer things occur 'mid the blaze of noon,
But queerer still take place among the still hours of the night. The following, for instance, is one of the queerest in the category and as Watts says:

"The deeds of darkness we have done,
Must all appear before the sun."

It may not be quite improper to make it public, positive that the parties therein concerned will not object thereto, as their identity must remain a mystery to the inquisitive.

It was upon a public occasion, when all the hotels in ——— call the place what you will were filled from top to bottom. Landlords economized room and space with amazing cunning, packing as many as three fat men in a bed, on a dog-day night too, or on the floor in such copious confusion as to make the property of certain sets of limbs to particular body a serious matter of doubt. Boniface could not put out a single individual, but he would put him away some how or other.

One of these good natured hosts, however, was sadly perplexed where to lodge a particular friend. He could not, consistently with correct notions of amity, run a pole out of the window and request his friend to roost for the night as a Kentucky landlord is reported to have done when pressed for room; and it was only after a good deal of calculation that a bright and generous idea came to his and his friend's relief.

"My old woman's gone to see her folks," said he, "and won't come home till to-morrow—now you take my bed, for I shan't have occasion for it seeing I must attend the folks and keep them at chaps, scattered on the dinner hall floor from fighting."

Accordingly the guest took possession of Boniface's bed—sunk up to his nose amid the feathers, and soon went to the land of Nod, thanking his stars for having escaped from the confusion below. Had he known what some poet had written, with a chuckle, smothered in his two pair of pillows, he might have exclaimed,

"In this tumultuous sphere for the unfit,
How seldom art thou found, tranquility,
He slept and snored, but it was for a little while only. An intruder appeared, and he woke with the inquiry,

"Who's that?"
"It's me, old man—go to sleep again," but don't take up all the bed!"

"It ain't your old man," said the stranger, whose nose by the way singularly resembled that of Boniface, whose wife the reader has already guessed to be the new comer. Being very bashful, the poor fellow drew the clothes over his head, and in smothered tones brought the landlady to clear right square out.

"Just as I expected," exclaimed the old woman, "drunk again when the house is full of folks what can steal, rob and murder the hull on us," and she proceeded to the bedside, and groping in the dark; contrived to uncover the unfortunate man's head and then he had to 'take it' in every sense of the word. Being a bachelor he had merely heard of a matrimonial combing down of the locks, but his experience of the operation so far stripped his conceptions that he belabored murder most lustily.

"Cry murder and raise the hull house will you?" cried the landlady, shaking her victim's scalp from the root almost.

"Let me go—shouted the man, 'I ain't yer man—Murder! Murder!"

The last yell wrung by the intense pain from the greatest power of the sufferer's lungs brought Boniface and a posse to the door. A general rush was made to the apartment and the matter was soon explained amid the shouts of the assemblage.

"Now, whispered the jolly landlady, in his friend's ear, when leading him to like, 'just think how I've got to be put through.'

"A Young Beauty beheld one evening two horses running off at locomotive speed with a light wagon. As they approached, she was horrified at recognising, in the occupants of the vehicle, two gentlemen of her acquaintance. "Boys, boys!" she screamed in terror, "jump out—quick—jump out—especially George." It is needless to say that her sentiments as to "George" were from that time forth no secret.

"First class in geography, stand up where Europe is?"

"Europe, sir, is southwest of London, and is connected with the hyppopotamus by the equinoctial line which is made fast to the Tower. It was discovered by the Straits of Magdalin, what Moses found in the wilderness eating quails, and which was bounded by north longitude more nor half way around."

"That will do. Now go home and put your hat in soak, for if your information ever comes to a head, your clothes won't fit you."

The following query is put by a correspondent of the New York Gazette:

"Is a lady riding on horseback on the left of a gentleman on the right side?"

The answer is thus given: "It is supposed that when a lady gets on the side she wishes to be, she is on the right side."

We do not see that Mr. Clay, in his northern tour is kissing, as heretofore, the crowds of women that flock to see him. We suppose he is sick of omnibussing.—Southern Press.

AN INSTRUCTIVE SKETCH.

BY MRS. SHOURNEY.

It is the duties of mothers to sustain the reverse of fortune. Frequent and sudden as they have been in our own country, it is important that young females should possess some employment, by which they might obtain a livelihood in case they should be reduced to the necessity of supporting themselves. When females are suddenly reduced from affluence to poverty, how pitiful, contemptible, it is to see the mother desponding or helpless, and permitting her daughters to embarrass those whom it is their duty to assist and cheer.

"I have lost my whole fortune," said a merchant as he returned one evening to his home; "we can no longer keep our carriage. We must leave this large house. The children can no longer go to expensive schools. Yesterday I was a rich man—today, there is nothing I can call my own."

"Dear husband," said the wife, "we are still rich in each other and our children. Money may pass away, but God has given us a better treasure in these active hands and loving hearts."

"Dear father," said the children, "do not look so sober. We will help you to get a living."

"What can you do, poor things?" said he.

"You shall see! answered several voices. "It is a pity if we had been to school for nothing. How can the father of eight children be poor? We shall work and make you rich again."

"I shall help," said the young girl, hardly four years old. "I shall not have any new things bought, and I shall sell my great doll."

The heart of the husband and father, which had sunk within his bosom like a stone, was lifted up. The sweet enthusiasm of the scene cheered him, and his nightly prayer was like a song of praise.

They left their stately house. The servants were dismissed. Pictures and plate, rich carpets and furniture were sold, and she who had been the mistress of the mansion shed no tears.

"Pay every debt," said she; "let no one suffer through us, and we may be happy."

He rented a neat cottage, and a small piece of ground, a few miles from the city. With the aid of his sons, he cultivated vegetables for the market. He viewed with delight and astonishment the economy of his wife, nurtured as she had been in wealth, and the efficiency which his daughters soon acquired under her training.

The eldest instructed the household, and also assisted the young children—besides, they executed various works, which they found could be disposed of to advantage. They embroidered, with taste, some of the ornamental parts of female apparel, which were readily sold to a merchant in the city.

They cultivated flowers, sent bouquets to market in the cart that conveyed the vegetables; they plaited straw, they painted maps, they executed plain needle-work. Every one was at her post, busy and cheerful. The little cottage was like a beehive.

"I never enjoyed such health before," said the father.

"And I was never so happy before," said the mother.

"We never knew how many things we could do, when we lived in the grand house," said the children, "and we love each other a great deal better here. You call us your little bees."

"Yes," replied the father, "and you make just such honey as the heart loves to feed on."

Economy as well as industry was strictly observed; nothing was wasted. Nothing unnecessary was purchased. The eldest became assistant teacher in a distinguished seminary, and the second took her place as instructress to the family.

The dwelling, which had always been kept neat they were soon able to beautify. Its construction was improved, and the vines and flowering trees were replanted around it. The merchant was happier under his woodbine covered porch in a summer's evening than if he had been in his showy dressing room.

"We are now thriving and prosperous," said he, "shall we return to the city?"

"Oh no," was the unanimous reply.

"Let us remain," said the wife, "where we have found health and contentment."

"Father," said the youngest, "all we children here you are not going to be rich again; for then," she added, "we little ones were shut up in the nursery and did not see much of you or mother. Now we all live together, and sister, who loves us, and we learn to be industrious and useful. We were none of us happy when we were rich, and did not work. So, father, please not be rich any more."

THREE CENT PIECES—These coins are to be paid out at the mint in exchange for foreign silver only, and of small denominations. So says the bill.—The government makes enough profit on the new coinage to allow them to exchange the new coins for the old foreign ones, dollar for dollar.

In 1618, Henry Dow was chosen Town Clerk of Hampton, N. Hampshire.—Since that time the office has been held in the family, and held by himself and descendants 120 years. He held it himself 21 years to begin with. We call the Dow family, a family of old Hunkers.

SIDNEY SMITH ON PROGRESS.

It is of some importance at what period man is born. A young man, alive at this period, hardly knows what improvements of human life he has been introduced; and I bring before his notice the following eighteen changes, which have taken place in England since I began to breathe the breath of life—a period amounting now to nearly seventy years. Gas was unknown; I groped my way about the streets of London, in all but the utter darkness of a twinkling oil lamp, under the protection of watchmen, in their climacteric, and exposed to every species of insult. I have been nine hours in sailing from Dover to Calais, before the invention of steam. It took me nine hours to go from Taunton to Bath, and now I can go in six hours from Taunton to London! In going from Taunton to Bath, I suffered between 10,000 and 12,000 severe contusions, before stone breaking Macadam was born. I paid £15 in a single year for repairs of carriage springs on the pavement of London; and now I glide without noise or fracture on wooden pavements. I can walk, by the assistance of the police, from one end of London to the other, without molestation; or if tired, get into a cheap cab, instead of those cogwheels on wheels, which the hackney coaches were at the beginning of my life.

I had no umbrella. They were little used and very dear. There were no water-proof hats, and my hat has often been reduced by rains, to its primitive pulp. I could not keep my small clothes in their proper places, for braces were unknown. If I had the guts, there was no colicium. If I was bilious, there was no calomel. If I was attacked by ague, there was no quinine. There were filthy coffee-houses instead of elegant clubs. Game could not be bought. Quarrels about uncommuted tithes were endless. The corruption of Parliament before reform, infamous. There were no banks to receive the savings of the poor. The poor laws were gradually sapping the vitals of the country. Whatever miseries I suffered I had no post, to which my complaints, for a single penny, to the remotest corners of the empire. And yet, in spite of all these privations, I lived on quietly, and am now ashamed that I was not discontented and utterly surprised that all these changes and inventions did not occur two centuries ago. I forgot to add, that as the baskets of stage coaches, in which luggage was then carried, had no springs; and my clothes were rubbed to pieces, and that even in the best society, one-third of the genteel at least, were always drunk.

Remarks on the Small Note Law.

BY WM. M. SCOTT.

Of the Treasury Department, Washington City.

TO THE EDITOR OF PITTSBURGH MORNING POST:

Sir: It is said that while the law prohibiting the circulation of small notes is generally observed in Philadelphia, it is generally disregarded in Pittsburg.

This ought not to be. The law ought to be universally obeyed, if "not for world, for conscience sake." If each individual yields obedience to the laws so far as he conceives such obedience conducive to his own profit or his own interest, there is at once an end to all orderly government.

Private enmity, it must be admitted, affords strong inducements to many to break this law but private cupidity is not the rule of right.

"I can see no difference," says one man, "between a paper dollar and a silver dollar, one will go as far in the market as the other."

"Well, neighbor, as a mere circulating medium there is not much difference between them, so long as the paper is at par with specie. But it sometimes happens that paper is at par at eight o'clock in the morning, and at noon at 20 per cent discount.

But, money is not a mere circulating medium. It is also a standard of value, and the commodity of contracts. Have you studied it in these respects? If you have not, you are not qualified to judge of the reasons that induced the Legislature to pass the act prohibiting the circulation of small notes.

You think it will drive trade from Pittsburg. Herein you are mistaken. The trade between different parts of the country does not consist in an interchange of bank notes or specie, but an interchange of the products of industry. A change in the medium from paper to specie, will not, in the least, diminish the amount of this trade.

You think the law will make money scarce. Herein, also, you are mistaken. For every paper dollar it drives out of circulation, it will supply a specie dollar. There is but one way in which an industrious community can be deprived of its just share of gold and silver; and that is by the use of paper. There is but one way in which this gold and silver can be brought back, and that is by driving the paper out of circulation.

The law of 1828 acted like a charm. The small notes of the distant banks disappeared and silver took their place. Prognostications were made then, as they are made now, of scarcity of money and loss of trade, but not one of these prognostications were verified.

Similar laws passed by Virginia, Maryland and other States, produced a similar effect.—Wherever such laws were passed, small notes disappeared, and silver took their place.

It is very true that Pennsylvania does not

now occupy the high moral attitude that she did in 1828. She has now sanctioned the issue of "reel notes," and when the receipt of one species of small notes is authorized by law, it may be difficult to drive other species of small notes out of circulation. Still the difficulty is not insuperable, and if newspaper editors, and others who write for the newspapers, will only do their duty in showing the people the true character of the law, it will produce as beneficial effects as did the law of 1828.

Some of the working men of Philadelphia, (in which city I then resided,) estimated the advantages they gained by the passage of the law of 1828, as equal to ten per cent. on their incomes. Before that law was passed, they were paid their wages in the small notes of the banks of other States, and could make their purchases at the stores only at such such notes were received. After the law was passed they were paid their wages in silver, could go to all the stores, and purchase wherever they found goods the cheapest.

Before that law was passed, some of those who employed working men, used to take the money they received in current business, and exchange it at the broker's for depreciated paper, wherewith they paid their journeymen and their laborers.

The poor working man ought not to be paid in a medium which, though now at par with silver and gold, may, if he keeps it a week or a month, lose one half of its value. Bank notes may be very convenient in a large commercial transactions, but THE WAGES OF LABOR, IN EVERY COUNTY, OUGHT TO BE PAID IN GOLD OR SILVER.

Between bank notes of small and large denominations, there are distinctions which ought to be generally known. Bank notes of the denomination of less than five dollars take the place of silver. Bank notes of the denomination of from five to twenty dollars take the place of gold. Bank notes of the denomination of fifty dollars and upwards, take the place of private bills of exchange. The higher you raise the denomination of bank notes, the less objectionable they become. Bank notes of large denominations seldom pass into the hands of any except those who are qualified to judge of the ability of the banks that issue them.—Bank notes of large denominations, moreover, perform but a small circuit, before they return to the banks that issue them, and thus have their value tested. While bank notes of small denominations may remain out for months and years, and the insolvency of the bank that issues them fail to be made known, only because the notes are never presented for payment.

It will be chiefly the working men of Pennsylvania that will be benefited by causing silver to take the place of small notes. But the benefit will not be confined to them. The bank themselves will derive no small advantage from the measure. Let a panic occur, when the smaller channels of circulation are filled with paper, and a demand for specie will arise, which may drain the banks of much of their treasure. But fill now the smaller channels of circulation with specie, and the banks will be placed in a relatively safe position.

It is an excellent sign to see a considerable current of gold and silver flowing daily into the vaults of the banks, and another current of equal amount flowing out. It shows that the due relations between the mediums of wholesale and retail trade are properly maintained. Such a current and a counter-current shall we have in Pennsylvania if the law for suppressing small notes is rightly enforced.

Washington City, August 28th, 1850.

Questions for the Rochester Knockers.

Will Saltpetre explode on its own hook alone?

Who struck the lamented William Patterson?

How are you off for soap?

Can you account for the milk in the cocoa nut? How did it get there?

What's the price of putty?

How long will it be before that good time comes, which has been so long coming?

What was the secret of Lord Byron's wife leaving him, and why did his Lordship imberbe gin?

How many broken-hearted men are there now in California, utterly cursing the hour they ever heard it named?

What is your opinion of the guilt of Hamlet's maternal parent?

Do serpents hiss?

Is it advisable to go it while you're young? Is there a warm place down below for wicked people; and if so, when are you going back to it?

Is this a great "kudnatry" and, if so, what will it cost to fence it in?

Will Paine's invention enable one to light one's pipe at a pump? Eh?

A buffoon having offended his sovereign, the monarch sentenced him to death. The Culpit, in his great terror, fell upon his knees and cried for mercy.

"I will extend to you no other mercy," said the monarch, "than permitting you to choose what kind of death will you die. Decide immediately, for I will be obeyed."

"I adore your clemency," said the crafty jester, "I choose to die of old age."

President Napoleon has been turned out of a ball room in France.

We've just made a new roller.

THE SCHOOLMARM'S SECESSION.

In silence all the orphans sat
Like onions "drilled in rows,
When off her chair the schoolmarm got.
Whist! all the rows arose!

Her youthful Platos each in turn
By schoolmarm's lore are fed,
And juvenile Senators here learn
That e-d spells lead!

"Now silence all!" Minerva cries,
"Stand up and spell, John Shedd,"
In squeaking tones John straight replies,
That e-d spells read!"

"Does it, indeed! you stupid elf,
You know it is not so;
I taught you that to spell myself—
Do not to-e-e spell tree!"

Ann Bird comes next—"Put down your
And spell what'er you choose." [Book
Then Ann responded with a look,
That "u-e spells trees!"

"Ah, me! in vain!" the teacher sighs,
"These buds I strive to rear;
For ere they up from shoots arise—
They always leave this ere!"

"And though in forms I keep their forms—
For life their minds to form—
How shall I all their faults reform,
When they're not uniform!"

Yet more she spoke—"I'd fire never,
Nor doubt nor sorrow feel,
If once I had a hub forever,
A fellow for my wheel!"

"So farewell, school! I'll
And happy be—she missed!"

The Keystone thus rebukes those
"Whig" sheets, who are forever clamoring
against our "free trade tariff!"

Our present tariff yields an annual revenue of over \$30,000,000; which is an enormous tax paid by the citizens of the United States into the national treasury. Of this the portion paid by the people of Pennsylvania is over \$2,000,000, and yet the North American and other whig papers call it a "free trade tariff!" If a "free trade tariff" yield \$30,000,000 a year, what would be the product of a revenue protective tariff adjusting on the whig plan? And if a tax of thirty per cent. upon the consumer, for the benefit of the manufacturer, be insufficient, what additional amount would the modest monopolist desire the government to impose?

But besides this vast sum of \$30,000,000 paid to the government, our manufacturers, under cover of the duty upon importations, charge thirty per cent. more than they could obtain for their articles under a true system of free trade. By this process the consumers are more than doubly taxed—for every million they pay the government, they pay from one to two millions to the manufacturers. Through all these taxes are paid voluntarily—though in their collection no tax-gatherer is seen—yet were they removed by the adoption, in reality, of the system which the whigs says prevails at present, the masses would find their expenses largely reduced and their accumulation vastly increased at the end of every year.

Import taxes are easily collected and exact less discontent than any other; but there is no method of raising revenue for the support of government so expensive and so injurious to the trade and prosperity of our country. It is resorted to by large sums for squandering can be filched from the pockets of people without their knowing it. Members of congress would look more to economy, if the tax-gather had to call directly upon their constituents to pay their appropriations.

Insolvent Decedents.

The following important act, allowing widows and children of insolvent decedents to retain property to the amount of \$300, exclusive of the amount of property which is now by law exempted from levy and sale upon execution, was assented to by the Legislature.

SACR. XXV Hereafter the widow or child, or any of them, dying within this commonwealth, it being said decedent shall have left a widow or children who were residing within at the time of his death and the estate be insufficient to pay his debts, exclusive of the amount of property used by law exempted from levy and sale upon an execution against a debtor, may retain either real or personal property belonging to said estate to the value of three hundred dollars; and the same shall not be sold but suffered to remain for the said widow and family; and it shall be the duty of the executor or administrator of such decedent, to have the said property appraised in the same manner provided in the act passed the ninth day of April, A. D., 1849, an act to exempt property to the value of three hundred dollars from levy and sale on execution and distress for rent: Provided, That this section shall not affect or impair any lines for the purchase money of such real estate; and the said appraisal, upon being signed and certified by appraisers, and approved by the Orphan's Court, shall be filed among the records thereof.

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