

THE STAR OF THE NORTH.

Truth and Right—God and our Country.

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THE STAR OF THE NORTH

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WERE I A STAR.

Were I a bright and glittering star,
Set in the firmament above,
I'd pierce the densest clouds there are,
And watching o'er thee from afar,
I'd prove thy beacon light of love.
A Star of Hope so dazzling bright
To lead thee through life's troublous sea;
O'erward I'd point thee to thy flight,
Upward I'd lure thee by my light—
I'd prove a guiding star to thee.

Were I a bird on fluttering wing,
For thee I'd tane my matin lay;
For thee my sweetest notes I'd sing;
For thee I'd make the echoes ring
Through all the gloomsome summer day;
And in the dewy eve,
When other birds had sought their nest,
Still nearer thee would I abide,
And warbling softly by thy side,
I'd gently lure thee to thy rest.

Were I yon lovely fragile flower,
So delicate and fair to see,
Contented in my woody bower,
I'd linger out my little hour,
So thou didst cast one glance on me;
Or gathered from my lowly bed,
For thee I'd put fresh beauty on,
For thee I'd raise my drooping head,
For thee my richest fragrance shed,
Then fade and die when thou wert gone.

But golden stars, however bright,
Will pale and vanish in the day;
The skylark's song will cease at night;
And lilies wither in the light,
Whit' I would ever near thee stay.
So truest than the flickering star,
More lasting than the fragile flower,
More constant than the warblers are,
I'd ever watch thee, near or far,
And love and serve thee hour by hour.

Destitution in Alabama.

The following extracts are from a letter of an Alabama lawyer to a friend in Harrisburg:

"Our negro population is in a fix—and a pretty considerable one at that. The men, for the most part, roaming about in the exercise of their new found liberty, doing but little, and that little, bad; the women and children suffering some and with the darkest prospects ahead. In the wisdom of Providence it has been deemed right that we have this year, throughout nearly all the South, as far as I know, an almost total failure of the crops. In this vicinity many estimate that there has not been enough of corn raised to supply the people with bread, much less to fatten their pork or keep alive their stock. But few of the negroes worked, and they but partially. They have no supplies, and how they are to live until 'green corn' or blackberry time next year, God only knows. Thousands unquestionably will and must die of actual starvation.—Their old masters' cribs and smoke houses are either empty or closed against them. In casting about in my mind why it has been decreed by Providence that this fearful fate awaits this unhappy class, I can think of but one solution of the mystery. May it not be done to give their Northern philanthropic kindred—or, perhaps, more correctly speaking, negrohills—an opportunity to exhibit their love for 'the poor negro'?" If so they had better hurry, or they will be, as the world's charity too generally is, too late.

"I have found an empty cabin on the mountain for a temporary refuge; have to walk to my office in town, six miles, and back twice a week. I have not received a single cent for professional services since peace was declared.

"Toombs.—You are going to have your troubles as well as your pleasures. A man is not worth a snap that has not had trouble. You cannot subdue selfishness without a struggle. You cannot restrain pride without a conflict. You cannot expect to go through life without bearing burdens. But you are going to have help under circumstances that will redeem you from these things. You are going to experience more victories than defeats. Your sufferings will be only here and there little spots in a whole field of peace and joy.

"Southern merchants, for some time past, have been smiting New York and other northern cities, in considerable numbers, where they have been paying off old scores, jangling what little surplus they have in goods, and getting 'time' on new ventures. The extent of their rage seems to be getting pretty well established between business men—however it may be with the politicians and preachers.

"An exchange speaks of a chap with feet as large, that when it rains, or he wants to get into the shade, he lies down on his back, and holds up one foot. It is only a mere purpose of an umbrella.

THE STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

Secretary McCulloch's Address at Fort Wayne in Full.

Why President Johnson Adopted his Reconstruction Policy.

The Finances—The Currency Ought to be Brought to a Specie Standard—A Portion of it to be Withdrawn From Circulation.

The banquet given in honor of Secretary McCulloch, at Fort Wayne, Indiana, is spoken of by the Western papers as one of the finest affairs ever witnessed there. The secretary was welcomed by P. P. Bailey, Esq., who presided on the occasion, and, in response to "our honored guest," spoke as follows:

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Mr. President: Since I paid my last visit to Fort Wayne, a little less than a year ago, great events have transpired in the United States. The rebellion, although it had received many staggering blows from our gallant soldiers, under the distinguished generals whose fame is world-wide, was still audacious and defiant; and although the result might not have been considered doubtful, the end of the war seemed not unlikely to be far in the future. Eleven months have passed away, and this great civil war has been brought to a glorious conclusion. The stripes and stars are again recognized as the emblem of liberty and union in every part of our national domain, and more than eight hundred thousand loyal men have been mustered out of service, and converted from gallant soldiers into peaceable, law-abiding and industrious citizens. The question of State sovereignty has been settled by an appeal to arms, and the sovereignty of the government under the Constitution established forever. The greatest civil war that has ever been waged upon the face of the earth has been concluded; the most powerful armies of modern times have been disbanded; and yet civil liberty is as safe and vigorous as it was before the war commenced. During the progress of the rebellion, there has been a strain upon republican institutions, but they have sustained it without the loss of a particle of their strength. State rights and individual rights may in some instances perhaps unnecessarily have been invaded; but to-day there is at the North no State right under the Constitution, and no individual right, which is not as much respected and as well established as they were when the first gun was fired upon Sumpter. It is this fact which makes our triumph a sublime and greater triumph than the result of the war itself. But this is not all. Just at the moment when the people were rejoicing over the fall of Richmond and the surrender of the confederate armies, the Chief Magistrate of the nation, the most beloved and the most trusted of men, fell by the hand of an assassin. For a moment the nation was stricken dumb by the atrocity of the act, and the magnitude of the loss that had been sustained. As the report flashed over the wires that the beloved Chief Magistrate of the nation, in the midst of our rejoicing over our victory and the prospect of returning peace, had been slain, what heart was there throughout this broad land which was not filled with anguish and apprehension? What thinking man did not put to himself the questions, Can the republic stand this unexpected calamity? Can our popular institutions bear this new trial? The anguish remained, and still remains, but the apprehension existed but for a moment. Scarcely had the announcement been made that Lincoln had fallen, before it was followed by the report that the Vice-President had taken the oath of President, and that the functions of government were being performed as regularly and quietly as though nothing had happened. And what followed? The body of the beloved President was taken from Washington to Illinois, through crowded cities, among a grief-stricken and deeply excited people, mourning as no people ever mourned, and moved as no people ever were moved; and yet there was no popular violence, no outbreak of popular passion; borne a thousand miles to its last resting place, hundreds of thousands doing such honor to the remains as were never paid to those of king or conqueror; and the public peace, notwithstanding intense indignation was mixed with intense sorrow, was in no instance disturbed. Hereafter there will be no skepticism among us in regard to the wisdom, the excellence and the power of republican institutions. There is no country upon earth that could have passed through the trials to which the United States have been subjected during the past four years, without being broken into fragments.

ANDREW JOHNSON.

But you will expect, perhaps, that I say something of his (Mr. Lincoln's) successor. In any other place and under any other circumstances I should not feel at liberty to make any particular allusion to the President of the United States, holding as I do a seat in his cabinet. But knowing that many of you, my townsmen and neighbors, have been of the opinion that the settlement of the great questions which would necessarily come up for settlement at the close of the war would require on the part of the Chief Magistrate a profounder wisdom and a broader statesmanship than was required during its continuance, and that not a few hearts had been deeply anxious lest Mr. Johnson might have been unequal to the prodigious work that has been devolved upon him. I feel constrained to say that there is in my judgment, no ground for apprehension of

this subject. Trying and difficult as is his situation, Mr. Johnson is master of it. He possesses, in an eminent degree, the qualities that fit him for the presidency at the present time. A Southern man, thoroughly acquainted with the effects of slavery upon society, he knows how to deal with Southern men in their present circumstances—Arduously attached to Tennessee, the love which he bears to his State is entirely subordinate to that which he bears to the Union. Jealous of State rights, he is equally jealous of the rights of the general government. A radical and uncompromising enemy of nullification, secession and every form of disloyalty, he is equally an enemy to any measures which, in his judgment, are calculated, by depriving the States of their just rights under the Constitution, to convert the federal government into a despotism. Raised in slave States, and until recently a slaveholder, he has never had any love for slavery, and has always been the opponent of the aristocracy that was based upon it. By nature and by education, he is just the man for the great work of re-establishing the federal authority over the recent rebellious States. And he has taken hold of this work with a devotion, an energy and a prudence that promises the best results. He is a man, also, of excellent judgment, and great singleness of purpose. Honest himself, he expects honesty in others. Although long in public life, and a leading politician of his own school, he is in no sense a partisan. Unassuming in manners, he is yet self-possessed and dignified. He listens to the advice of those in whose judgment he has confidence, but acts upon his own convictions, and generally according to his first impressions. With great decision of character, he is never hasty in action. Stern and unyielding in his adherence to principle and duty, he is a man of kindly and gentle emotions. Having by his own indomitable energy fought his way up from a low to a high estate, he is in hearty sympathy with those who are treading the same upward path. He is, in a word, a clear-headed, upright, energetic, self-relying statesman; a dignified, courteous, and kind-hearted gentleman. His administration will be characterized by all the force and energy and independence of Jackson's, with very little of his partisan character.

THE PRESIDENT'S RECONSTRUCTION POLICY.

Under his direction the great work of re-establishing civil government at the South under the federal Constitution is going rapidly forward—too rapidly, it seems, according to the opinion of many at the North, whose opinions are entitled to great consideration. I know, sir, that many doubt the wisdom of Mr. Johnson's policy; that many are of the opinion that by their ordinances of a secession the rebellious States had ceased to be States under the Constitution; and that nothing should be done by the executive in aid of the restoration of their State governments until Congress had determined upon what terms they should be restored to the Union which they had voluntarily abandoned and attempted to destroy; that as the people of these States had appealed to the sword, and been subjugated by the sword, they should be governed by the sword until the law-making powers had disposed of the subject of reconstruction; that no State that had passed ordinances of secession and united with the so-called confederate government should ever be admitted again into the Union unless in its preliminary proceedings all men, irrespective of color, should be permitted to vote, nor without provisions in its Constitution for the absolute enfranchisement of the negro. Some even go farther than this and demand the confiscation of the property of all rebels and the application of the proceeds to the payment of the national debt. These are not, I apprehend, the views of a respectable minority. I know that they are not the views of a majority of the people of the North. The better opinion is that the States which attempted to secede never ceased to be States in the Union; that all their acts of secession were of no effect; that during the progress of the revolt the exercise of the federal authority was merely suspended, and that there never was a moment when the allegiance of the people of the insurrectionary States was not due to the government, and when the government was not bound to maintain its authority over them and extend protection to those who require it. When the rebellion was overcome, the so-called confederate government, and all State governments which had been formed in opposition to the federal government, ceased to have even a nominal existence, and the people who had been subject to them were left, for the time being, without any government whatever. The term of office of the federal officers had expired or the offices had become vacant by the treason of those who held them. There were no federal revenue officers, no competent federal judges, and no organized federal courts. Nor were the people any better off as far as State authority was regarded. When the confederacy collapsed all the rebel State governments collapsed with it, so that, with a few exceptions, there were no persons holding civil office at the South by the authority of any legitimate government.

A LARGE ARMY DISARMED AND EXPENSIVE.

Now, as government is at all times a necessity among men, and as it was especially so at the South, where violence and lawlessness had fallen away, the question to be decided by the President was, simply this: Shall the people at the South be held under military rule until Congress shall act upon the question of their restoration?

be taken by the executive to restore to them civil government? After mature consideration, the President concluded it to be his duty to adopt the latter course, and I am satisfied that in doing so he has acted wisely. Military rule will not be in demand by the people of the United States one moment longer than there is an absolute necessity for it. Such an army as would have been requisite for the government of the people of the South, as a subjugated people, until Congress might prescribe the terms on which they could be restored to the Union, would have been too severe a strain upon our Republican institutions, and too expensive for the present condition of the Treasury. The President has therefore gone to work to restore the Union by the use, from the necessity of the case, of a portion of those who have been recently in arms to overthrow it.

THE SOUTHERN PEOPLE CAN BE TRUSTED.

The experiment may be regarded as a dangerous one, but it will be proved, I apprehend, to have been a judicious one.—Never were a people so disgusted with the work of their own hands as were the great mass of the people of the South (even before the collapse of the rebellion) with the government which was attempted to be set up by the overthrow of the government of their forefathers. Never were a people so completely subjugated as the people of the rebel States. I have met a great many of those whom the President is using in his restoration policy, and they have impressed me most favorably. I believe them to be honest in taking the amnesty oath and in their pledges of fidelity to the Constitution and to the Union. Slavery has perished—this all acknowledge—and with it has gone down the doctrine of secession. State sovereignty had been discussed in Congress, before courts, in the public journals, and among the people, and at last, "When madness ruled the hour," this vexed question was submitted to the final arbitrament of the sword. The question, as all admit, has been fairly and definitely decided, and from this decision of the sword there will be no appeal. It is undoubtedly true that the men of the South feel sore at the result, but they accept the situation and are preparing for the changes which the war has produced in their domestic institutions with an alacrity and an exhibition of good feeling which has, I confess, surprised as it has gratified me.

NEGRO SUFFRAGE.

In the work of restoration the President has aimed to do only that which was necessary to be done, exercising only that power which could be properly exercised under the Constitution, which guarantees to every state a republican form of government. Regarding slavery as having perished in the rebellious States, either by the proclamation of his predecessor, or by the result of the war, and determining that no rebel who had not purged himself of his treason should have any part in the restoration of the civil governments which he is aiding to establish, he has not considered it within the scope of his authority to go farther and enfranchise the negro. For this he is censured by many iron men at the North and a few extreme men at the South, but I have no doubt that he will be sustained by the people and that the result will vindicate the wisdom of his course.

NO HASTY PARDONS FOR THE LEADERS OF THE REBELLION.

But while the President is inclined to treat with kindness, and to trust those who under mistaken notions in regard to the character of the government, joined in the rebellion, but not until (after a struggle on their part to prevent it) the states to which they belonged had passed the ordinance of secession and the United States was unable to extend to them that protection to which they were entitled—there is no man who holds in greater abhorrence than he does the crime of treason, or the infamous scoundrels who systematically and deliberately starved and poisoned our soldiers in prison. To the plotters of the rebellion there will be, I apprehend, no hasty pardons; to the murderers of our gallant soldiers no mercy.

THE COUNTRY'S FINANCES.

And now a word in regard to our finances. You know that I did not seek, as I did not expect to be, Secretary of the Treasury.—To this fact I attribute in a great degree the good feeling and indulgence that have been manifested toward me in the very trying and responsible position I occupy. I accepted the office of Secretary of the Treasury with great distrust of my ability to meet the public expectation, but with a sincere desire to so conduct the affairs of this great department as to aid in restoring the credit of the government which had been damaged by the greatness of the public debt, and the uncertainty in regard to the duration, if not to the result of the war, and in bringing up the obligations of the government to the specie standard.

IRREDEEMABLE CURRENCY AN EVIL.

I am not one of those who seem disposed to repudiate coin as a measure of value, and to make a secured paper currency the standard. On the contrary, I belong to that class of persons, who, regarding an exclusive metallic currency as an impracticable thing among an enterprising and commercial people, nevertheless look upon an irredeemable currency as an evil which circumstances may for a time render a necessity, but is never to be sustained as a policy. By common consent of the nation, gold and silver are the only true measures of value. They are the necessary regulators of trade. I have myself no more doubt that these metals were prepared by the Almighty, for

coal were prepared for the purposes for which they are being used. I favor a well-secured convertible paper currency. No other can to any extent be a proper substitute for coin. Of course it is not expected that there shall be a dollar in coin to reserve for every dollar of paper in circulation.—This is not necessary. For all ordinary home transactions a paper currency is sufficient, but there are constantly occurring periods when balance between countries, and in the United States between its different sections, must be settled by coin. These balances are insignificant in amount, compared with the transactions out of which they arise, and when a vicious system of credits does not too long postpone settlements, they are arranged, without disturbing movements of coin. Whenever specie is needed for such a purpose, or for any other purpose, the paper currency of the country should be convertible into it, and a circulation which is not so convertible will not be, and ought not long to be, tolerated by the people. The present inconvertible currency of the United States was a necessity of the war, but now that the war has ceased, and the government ought not to be longer a borrower, this currency should be brought up to the specie standard, and I see no way of doing this but by withdrawing a portion of it from circulation.

THE BUSINESS OF THE COUNTRY IN AN UNHEALTHY STATE.

I have no faith, sir, in a prosperity which is the effect of a depreciated currency nor can I see any safe path for us to tread but that which leads to specie payment.—The extreme high prices which now prevail in the United States is an unerring indication that the business of the country is in an unhealthy condition. We are measuring values by a false standard. We have a circulating medium altogether larger than is needed for legitimate business—the excess is used in speculations. The United States are to-day the best market in the world for foreigners to sell in, and among the poorest to buy in. The consequence is, that Europe is selling us more than she buys of us (including our securities, which ought not to go abroad,) and there is a debtorship against us that must be settled, in part at least, with coin. The longer the inflation continues the more difficult will it be for us to get back to the solid ground of specie payments, to which we must return sooner or later. If Congress shall, early in the approaching session, authorize the funding of federal tenders, and the work of a reduction is commenced and carried on resolutely but carefully and prudently, we will reach it probably without serious embarrassment to legitimate business; if not we shall have a brief period of hollow and seductive prosperity, resulting in widespread bankruptcy and disaster. There are other objections to the present inflation. It is, I fear, corrupting the public morals. It is converting the business of the country into gambling, and seriously diminishing the labor of the country. This is always the effect of excessive circulation. The kind of gambling which it produces is not confined to the stock and produce boards, where the very terms which are used by the operators indicate the nature of the transactions, but it is spreading through our towns and into the rural districts. Men are apparently getting rich while morality languishes and the productive industry of the country is being diminished. Good morals in business, and sober, persevering industry, if not at a discount, are considered too old foggy for the present times. But I feel that this is not the occasion for croaking, and perhaps I ought to apologize for the train of remarks into which I have been led. Whatever financial troubles may be before us, Fort Wayne will suffer as little from them as any other city in the country. Good financial seed was sown here at an early day. If property is high, there are no incumbrances upon it. If expensive buildings are being erected, the owners are not indebted for them.—Business is done here on the cash principle. Our merchants generally buy for cash and sell for cash. We shall doubtless wake up some fine morning and find our property worth apparently a good deal less than at present, but if we have no debts to pay in a dearer currency than that in which they were contracted, we shall have little to fear from any crisis that may occur.

WISE LEGISLATION NECESSARY.

But, while I feel anxious about the present inflation, and its effects upon the business and morals of the country, I am hopeful that, by wise legislation, we shall escape a financial collapse, and I am confident that a grand future is before the United States. I am hopeful that the currency may be brought up to the specie standard without those financial troubles which have in all countries followed protracted and expensive wars. By the experience of the past four years, we are led to the conclusion that our people have a latent power that always manifests itself when required, and is equal to any emergency. I have faith, sir, that as we have, to the astonishment of the world, raised immense armies, larger, I apprehend, than any single nation ever brought into the field, and met the enormous expenses of the war without borrowing from other nations, we shall also be able, with our financial crisis, to lend our surplus currency and interest bearing notes, bring back the business to a specie standard, and place the credit of the country on the most stable and satisfactory basis. If we do this, we shall accomplish what the soundest thinkers in Europe have considered an impossibility, and what no other people but

United States, occupying the grandest country in the world, could accomplish. But should we be disappointed in these hopeful expectations; should no early check be put upon the issues of paper money; should prices still further advance, and speculation be still further stimulated and the result thereof be extensive bankruptcy, depression, and hard times, the grand destiny of this country and this government will not be affected. The United States occupy the best portion of the temperate zone of a continent, stretching out its arms to Europe on the one side, and Asia on the other, and producing all articles necessary for the subsistence and comfort of the race. If cotton be king, he is, thank God, enthroned again; if bread be king, where should his capital be but in this great valley of the Mississippi? This nation has within itself everything that is needed to make it the greatest among the family of nations. Coal and iron in juxtaposition and inexhaustible supply. Mountains and valleys rich enough in gold and silver to furnish the world, for all time, with what may be needed for circulation and other uses. Copper and lead and other minerals in no less abundance. A soil of wonderful fertility, a climate salubrious and diversified, and, above all, republican institutions, and an energetic and again united people.

CAPITAL AND LABOR IN THE SOUTH.

We have it true, sir, difficult questions growing out of the war yet to be settled, but I have an abiding confidence that they will be settled as they come up for settlement, in such manner as will strengthen the Union, and add to our national renown. The labor question at the South is one of those questions, but if there be no outside interference, it will not, I apprehend, be a very difficult one; on the contrary, it is quite likely to be a self-adjusting one. The planter needs the labor of his former slaves, and the high price which Southern products will command for years to come will enable him to pay liberally for it. The colored people will soon learn that freedom from slavery does not mean freedom from work. The interests of the two races will not be antagonistic. The whites will need the labor of the blacks and the blacks will need employment. There is as much danger to be apprehended from the unwillingness of the latter to labor for a support as from an indisposition on the part of the former to pay fair wages. Like all other economical questions, it will be settled by the necessities and interests of the parties. Fortunately for the solution of this question, and the well-being of laboring men generally, capital is not supreme in the United States. It does not, as in most other countries, hold labor under its control, and dole out to it just such remuneration only as will make it most productive. Labor is a power in this free country, with its cheap lands, which are within the reach of all industrious men, and dictates terms to capital. There is no part of the world where labor is more needed than in the Southern States, nor where it will soon command better prices. This labor question at the South will, I doubt not, be satisfactorily arranged in due time, for the best interests of all concerned. But I have trespassed too long upon your time. Accept, again, my thanks for your courtesy, and for the attention you have given to my desultory remarks.

IF A TRAIN MOVING AT THE RATE OF TWENTY-FIVE MILES AN HOUR WERE STOPPED INSTANTLY, the passengers would experience a concussion equal to that of a body falling from the height of nineteen feet; they would be hurled against the sides of the carriage with a force equal to that which they would be exposed to in falling from a window on the second floor of the house. If the train were moving at the rate of thirty miles per hour, they might as well fall from a height of three pairs of stairs; and an express train, would, in point of fact make them fall from a fourth story. Instantaneous breaks are therefore to be avoided, if possible.

CHARLEY W.—a manly little fellow of five years, fell and cut his upper lip so badly that a surgeon had to be summoned to sew up the wound. He sat in his mother's lap during the operation pale, but very quiet, resolutely shutting back his tears and moans. In her distress, the young mother could not refrain from saying "Oh, doctor, I fear it will leave a disfigured scar." Charley looked up in her tearful face and said, in a comforting tone "Never mind mamma, my moustache will cover it."

The self-styled "Union party" is the only one that is now openly opposed to the President, the Government and the Union! Thaddeus Stevens, the President of the "Union Convention," declared, but a few days ago, that the Union "must not be restored for a while, because the triumph of the Democracy would be inevitable."

A METHODIST and a Quaker having stopped at a public house agree to sleep in the same bed. The Methodist knelt down prayed fervently, and confessed a long catalogue of sins. After he rose the Quaker observed, "Really, friend, if thou art as bad as thou sayest thou art, I think I dare not sleep with thee."

A piece of petrified wood, full of nails, has been found in California. The query is who drove the nails in the wood? The Indians who inhabit the country have no idea of working in iron. Perhaps it is a piece of one of Solomon's ships that

Mountaineering.

So great an abundance of material for study and thought is there in the Alps, in the geological, vegetable, and animal worlds, that it would well occupy a life of observation and reading. On the glaciers alone a whole literature a whole branch of science has been bestowed. As ever moving and changing agents of vast geologic movements, they possess an interest which perhaps no other natural force but volcanoes affords.—And whereas volcanoes are singularly capricious, and bear hardly any personal examination, glaciers are, of all the mundane forces, among the most constant and the most accessible. There is something about the ambiguous character of glaciers—half solid, half fluid—that is very fascinating. There is something so difficult to grasp in the scan of huge tracts of earth, as broad and lofty, perhaps, as one of our English mountain ranges, yet heaving and working with all the ceaseless life of an ocean. To the experienced observer the glacier seems to have its waves, its tides, and its currents, like a sea, both on its surface and down to its basin. In no other mode can be watched the heaving of the earth's crust visibly, and the machinery of geologic change in actual operation. And it is this union of vast extent with movement—of force and vitality—which makes the study of the glacier so ever fresh and so impressive to the merest scrawler as to the man of science.

Glaciers, as is well known, from but one branch of the Alpine studies. The animal branch is naturally the least abundant in material, but in that it possesses the mark of speciality, as retaining yet in the midst of Europe some traces of long bygone animal eras. But the vegetation at once affords the matter for first-rate investigation. If other spots in the world offer more extraordinary types, there are perhaps no regions in Europe where, in so small an area, such a varying series of climates and consequently of plants can be seen. But quite apart from the richness or beauty of its flora or its fauna, an Alp offers a peculiar character to all observation. The conditions under which both exist are, for the most part, so special that both fill the least observant with new suggestions. There is a poetry and a pathos in an Alpine rose or gentian, as we see it the sole organic thing amid vast inorganic masses, the sole link of life between us and the most gigantic forms of matter. At home, the brightest of birds or insects scarcely awakens a thought in a summer's walk, but a stout man's heart and even eye may be softened by the sight of a poor stranded bee, blown forth and shipwrecked amid those pitiless solitudes.

In all the arctic phenomena, the Alps, as is well known, take the first rank as the observatory of science. It is difficult for the student to fall of new ideas in their midst as for the most heedless tourist to fail to learn something. The great physical forces form there the very conditions of existence. The varied scrambles get to record something of atmospheric facts and changes. And here it is but fair to say that Alpine climbers in general, and the Alpine club in particular, have given a very useful impulse to popular science, and even in some cases to science proper. It is simply ridiculous to suggest that most of them climb with any scientific purpose, any more than men hunt to improve the breed of horses.—But it is the special value of Alpine climbing that it combines a great variety of objects. And whereas some men pursue it for health, for exercise, for mere adventure or enjoyment, for the wonderful exhilaration it affords, for the poetry, for the solemnity and the parity of the emotions it awakens, some find there the richest field for their serious labors, and nearly all find too much that gives matter for profitable thought.—Indeed a ground which, if to many it is but one of recreation and rest, has been the scene of the studies of the Saussures, the Agassizes, the Reaumonts, the Forbeses, the Tyndals, the Huxleys, the Tschudis, the Studers, the Berlepschs, must be one which has equal promise for every mind and every character.

But it is not, after all, as being rich in science, nor simply as being lovely in scenery that the Alps are chiefly marked. It is more that they form as it were an epitome of earth, and place before us, in the range of a summer day's walk, every form of natural object and production in the most striking and immediate contrast. Within a few hours after leaving the most terrible forms of ruin, desolation, and solitude, where no life is found, and man can remain but for a few hours, the traveler is in the midst of all the luxuriant loveliness of Italian valleys and lakes, basking in an almost tropical heat, surrounded by the most delicate flowers, ferns, and shrubs, and charmed into mere rest by ever-varied landscapes, softer and more fairy like than Turner ever drew. Indeed, after some weeks of rough work amid the glaciers, it is impossible to resist the emotion of grateful delight with which one recognizes the overflowing richness of this earth amid the sights, the sounds, the perfumes, and the myriad sensations of pleasure with which life on the Italian lakes is full. No one can taste these wholly, who has not borne the heat and burden of the day, the toil and cold of the Alpine regions. Then only is one able to see the glory and profusion of nature as a whole, and to conceive in one act of thought, and feel but as one manifold sensation all that she has most beautiful, from the arctic zone to the tropics.—Westminster Review.