

Royston's Journal

BY S. J. ROW.

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ROBIN'S COME.

From the pine-tree's topmost bough,
Hark! the robin's early song,
Telling one and all that now
Merry spring-time hastes along.
Welcome the tidings thou dost bring,
Little harbinger of Spring!

Robin's come,
Of the winter we are weary,
Weary of its frost and snow,
Longing for the sunshine cheery;
And the brooklet's gurgling flow,
Whistly then we hear thee sing
The rattle of the Spring.

Robin's come,
Ring it out o'er hill and plain,
Through the garden's lonely bowers,
Till the green leaves dance again,
Till the air is sweet with flowers;
Wake the daisies by the rill,
Wake the yellow daffodil.

Robin's come,
Then, as thou wert wont of yore,
Build thy nest and rear thy young,
In the pine-tree's branching boughs,
In the woodbine leaves among,
Hurt or harm thou needst not fear,
Nothing rude shall vex thee here.

THE CONDUCT OF THE WAR.

Report of the Joint Committee.

The army remained at Harrison's Bar during the month of July and a part of August. It engaged in no active operations whatever, and was almost entirely unmolested by the enemy. The subject of the future operations of the army was a matter of much deliberation on the part of the Government. General McClellan claimed that the James River was the true line of approach to Richmond, and that he should be re-enforced in order to renew the campaign against that place. The President visited the army about the 8th of July, but nothing was then decided upon.

THE ARMY ENERVALED.

On the 25th of July, Gen. Halleck visited the army at Harrison's Bar, accompanied by Gen. Burnside, who had come from North Carolina, with the greater portion of his force to Fortress Monroe. The general officers were called together, and the question of withdrawing the army was submitted to them. The council was of rather an informal character. The majority of the officers expressed themselves in favor of a withdrawal of the army. Gen. Burnside testified that, as he understood from the officers there, the army was not in a good condition, sickness was increasing, many of the regiments were without shelter and cooking utensils, and many of the men were without arms. The general opinion expressed by the leading officers was that the men had become very much enervated. One of the leading officers said, "his command could not, in his opinion, march three miles and fight a battle. This condition of the troops was one of the reasons assigned for the withdrawal of the army from the peninsula."

MCCLELLAN'S DEMAND FOR RE-ENFORCEMENTS.

General McClellan applied for 50,000 re-enforcements to enable him to resume active operations. General Halleck, when he visited the army, informed Gen. McClellan that the Government could furnish him only 20,000 additional troops. General McClellan consented to re-enforcements with that number of re-enforcements, and General Halleck left with that understanding. But the day that he left General McClellan wrote to him, asking for 15,000 or 20,000 troops from the Western army, in addition to those promised to him, saying very strongly that they should be brought here temporarily, to be returned to their respective commands as soon as possible. As this withdrawal of the army as rapidly as possible, in order to co-operate with the forces under Gen. Pope, then in the presence of a superior force of the enemy.

MCCLELLAN'S TESTIMONY.

In regard to the re-enforcement of the army at Harrison's Landing, the testimony of Gen. McClellan is as follows:

"Question. How many available men did you estimate that you had at Harrison's Bar, and how many more would you have required in order to undertake a movement successful upon Richmond?"

"Answer. I think I had about 85,000 or 90,000 men at Harrison's Bar, and would have undertaken another movement in advance with about 20,000 more re-enforcements. My estimate was that pretty much everything that the Government could have controlled ought to have been massed on the James River, I did not believe the enemy would trouble Washington so long as we had a powerful army in the vicinity of Richmond, and did not share the apprehensions for the safety of Washington that were entertained by a great many."

"I asked for 50,000 men at first, on the ground that I thought the army should be made as strong as possible, and as little as possible left to chance. When Gen. Halleck came down to Harrison's Bar, my recollection is that he said that 20,000 men, or something about that number, was all that could be had, and I said that I would try it again with that number. I have no recollection of having asked for a subsequent period for a greater number than 20,000 as a necessary preliminary to a movement."

"Question. About how many men had been lost from the 25th of June until you reached Harrison's Bar, in killed, wounded and missing?"

"Answer. I think the loss was about 14,000. But I could not tell positively without looking at the returns."

"Question. Will you state in what your chances for success would have been greater, with the addition of 20,000 men to the number which you had at Harrison's Landing, than they were in front of Richmond, and before Jackson had formed a junction with the rest of the enemy's forces?"

"Answer. I should have counted upon the place, upon the battles, which had just taken place, upon the enemy. We had the strong reasons to believe that the enemy's losses had been very much heavier than our own and that portions of his army were very much demoralized, especially after the Battle of Malvern Hill."

GEN. BARNARD'S REPORT.

In closing their report upon the campaign of the Peninsula, your Committee would refer to the report of Gen. John G. Barnard, Chief of Engineers of the Army of the Potomac during that campaign, made to General McClellan. The conclusion of his report, which he terms "retrospect pointing out the

mistakes that were made, and thus tracing the causes of its (the Peninsula campaign) failure to their true source," is as follows:

CAUSES OF MCCLELLAN'S FAILURE.

"One of the prominent among the causes of ultimate failure was the inaction of eight months, from August, 1861, to April, 1862. More than any other war, rebellion demands rapid measures. In November, 1861, the Army of the Potomac, if not fully supplied with all the 'material,' was yet about as complete in numbers, discipline, and organization as it ever became. For four months, the great marine avenue to the capital of the nation was blocked, and that capital kept in a partial state of siege by a greatly inferior enemy, in face of a movable army of 150,000 men."

"In the Winter of 1861 and 1862, Norfolk could and should have been taken. The Navy demanded it, the country demanded it, and the means were ample. By its capture, the career of the Merrimack, which proved so disastrous to our subsequent operations, would have been prevented. The preparation of this vessel was known, and the Navy Department was not without forebodings of the mischief it would do."

"Though delay might mature more comprehensive plans, and promise greater results, it is not a case in which it has been shown that successful war involves something more than abstract military principles. The true question was to seize the first practicable moment to satisfy the, perhaps, unreasonable but natural longing of an ambitious nation for results to justify its lavish confidence, and to take advantage of an undivided command and untrammelled liberty of action while they were possessed."

"When the army did move, a plan was adopted perfectly certain to invite, nay, compel, interference, and when the army was to go by Annapolis to the lower Chesapeake, I felt confident that one-half would scarcely have been embarked before the other half would have been ordered back to Washington. The enemy was then at Manassas, and a feint, if not in reality, an attack upon Washington was so obvious, so certain to create a panic, which no Executive could resist, that interference with the removal of the rest of the army was certain."

"When the enemy fell back behind the Rappahannock, and destroyed the railroad bridges, the circumstances were greatly changed, and there were strong arguments for the line adopted. Yet, results have proved how many reasons there were to be considered, beside the purely military ones, which opposed themselves to the adoption of such a line."

"The facts connected with the withholding of McDowell's corps have been so completely exhibited in the proceedings of the McDowell Court of Inquiry, that every one who wishes can form his own judgment. Whether it was wise or unwise, it was one of those things resulting from the taking of a line of operations which did not then ever Washington."

"At the time the Army of the Potomac landed on the Peninsula the Rebel army was at its lowest ebb. Its armies were demoralized by the defeats of Port Royal, Mill Spring, Fort Henry, Fort Donelson, Roanoke Island, and Pea Ridge; and reduced by sickness, loss in battle, expirations of periods of service, and the desertion of large numbers of men. The vigor of the Rebel army was not yet even passed its zenith, and it needed but one vigorous gripe to end forever this rebellion, so nearly throttled. How, then, happened it that the day of the initiation of the campaign of the magnificent Army of the Potomac was the day of the resurrection of the Rebel cause, which seemed to grow *pari passu* with the slow progress of its operations?"

"However I may be committed to any expression of professional opinion to the contrary, I certainly did suggest it, my opinion now is that the lines of Yorktown should have been assaulted. There is reason to believe that they were not held in strong force when our army appeared before them, and we know that they were far from complete. The prestige of power, the morale, were on our side. It was due to ourselves to confirm and sustain it. It is, I think, probably have succeeded. But if we had failed, it would have been doubted whether the shock of an unsuccessful assault would be more demoralizing than the labors of a siege."

"Our troops toiled a month in the trenches, or lay in the swamps of Warwick. We lost few men by the siege, but disease took a fearful hold of the army, and toil and hardship, unredeemed by the excitement of combat, impaired their morale. We did not carry with us from Yorktown so good an army as we took there. Of the bitter truth of that month gained by the enemy we have tasted to our hearts' content. They are not yet exhausted."

"The siege having been determined upon, we should have opened our batteries on the place as fast as they were completed. The effect on the troops would have been inspiring. It would have lightened the siege and shortened our labors; and, besides, we would have had the credit of driving the enemy from Yorktown by force of arms, whereas, as it was, we only induced him to evacuate for prudential reasons."

"Yorktown having fallen, however, as it did, it was right to pursue the enemy with our whole force. But the battle of Williamsburg, fought, as it was, without reconnoitering the position without concert of action among the different corps and division commanders, and almost without orders, was a blunder which ought not to have happened."

"We knew of this position beforehand, and we knew it was fortified. We might have been sure, if the enemy made a stand there, that it would be a strong one, for he would be fighting for time to get his trains out of our reach. We fought; we lost several thousand men, and we gained nothing. If we had not fought, the next day a battle would in all probability have been unnecessary. But if it had been necessary, we should have had time to have brought up our resources, reconnoitered the position, and delivered our attack in such a way that some result would have flowed from it."

"We had every advantage. Franklin's division landed at West Point on the next day, and Sedgwick's division on the day following. Those two divisions, had the enemy waited another day at Williamsburg, could have cut his communication, and in that case we would have been superior to him in front and have had two divisions in his rear. His hasty retreat, and perhaps his capture, must inevitably have followed, and the great object of keeping Franklin so long embarked, and finally sending him to West Point, would have been accomplished."

"On leaving Williamsburg we should have crossed the Chickahominy, and connected with the navy in the James River. We should then have had a united army, and the cooperation of the navy, and probably would have been in Richmond in two weeks. The fact that we did not know the character of the Chickahominy as an obstacle (as it lay across our direct road to Richmond), that our transports were on the York River, and that the railroad furnished a good means of supply to the army, that we wished to connect with McDowell, coming from Fredericksburg, &c., determined our route. In taking it we lost essentially all that was worth going so far to gain, viz: the James River approach and the cooperation of the navy."

"The route chosen, two weeks should not have been spent in traversing the forty miles from Williamsburg to Bottom's and New Bridges; and the barrier of the Chickahominy being left unguarded at Bottom's Bridge, no time should have been lost in making use of the circumstance to turn and seize the passage of New Bridge, which might have been done by the 28th of May, and even earlier, had measures been pressed and prepared for it."

"The repulse of the rebels at Fair Oaks should have been taken advantage of. It was one of those occasions which, if not seized, do not repeat themselves. We now know the state of disorganization and dismay in which the rebel army retreated. We now know that it could have been followed into Richmond. Had it been so, there would have been no resistance to overcome to bring over our right wing. Although we did not then know all that we now do, it was obvious at that time that when the Rebels struck the blow at our left wing, they did not leave any means in their hands unused to secure success. It was obvious enough that they struck with their whole force, and yet we repulsed them in disorder with three fifths of ours. We should have followed them up at the same time that we brought over the other two fifths."

"After it was known that McDowell was called off to another quarter, there was no longer hope of an increase of force by the junction of his corps. There were up re-enforcements to look for beyond what we received by the middle of the month of June. The rebel force was known or supposed to be constantly increasing by conscription, by the influx of troops from other parts, and by the breaking up of Beauregard's army."

"At last the moment came when action was imperative. The enemy assumed the initiative. We had warning of when and where he was to strike. Had Porter been ordered the night of the 26th of June, our army would have been concentrated on the right bank of the Chickahominy River, while the two corps, at least of the enemy's force were on the left bank. Whatever course we then took, whether to strike at Richmond and the portion of the enemy on the right bank, or more at once for the James, we would have had a concentrated army and a fair chance of a brilliant result in the first; and in the second, if we accomplished nothing, we would have been in the same case on the morning of the 27th as we were on that of the 28th, minus a lost battle and a compulsory retreat. Or had the fortified lines thrown up expressly for that object, been held by 20,000 men, as they could have been, we would have fought on the other side with 80,000 men instead of 27,000. Or, finally, had the lines been abandoned, with our hold on the right bank of the Chickahominy, we might have fought and crushed the enemy on the left bank, repeated our communication, and then returned and taken Richmond."

"As it was, the enemy fought with his whole force—except except except left for our lines to keep up an appearance—and we fought with 27,000 men, losing a battle and 9,000 men. By this defeat we were driven from our position, our advance for conquest turned into a retreat for safety by a force probably not greatly superior to our own."

"In view of the length of time which our operations before Richmond consumed, there is now no doubt that the depot at the White House should have been fortified, as well as one or two points on the railroad thence to the Chickahominy. The *levee-de-point* at Bottom's Bridge should have been completed, and likewise *levee-de-point*, or strong positions, prepared to cover the *deboches* from our bridges to the left bank of the Chickahominy. With these the army would have possessed freedom of motion to concentrate on either side, and the disastrous battle of the 27th would scarcely have occurred."

"When the army reached the James River it needed no prophet to predict the disasters which have since befallen our country's cause. If the army had sustained itself nobly, it could not be denied that so much fruitless toil, and so much disaster, had deprived it from the *elan* which results from success alone. It was, moreover, as well as our forces elsewhere, sadly diminished in numbers. On the other hand, the whole army, from its first low state, had risen up an army most formidable in numbers, excellent in organization, and inspired by a great success. Had its numbers, indeed, approached to that attributed to it—200,000 men—there is little doubt that a march upon Washington would have speedily followed our withdrawal to the James."

"From such considerations, as well as those following from the results of the past operations, I counseled the immediate withdrawal from the James to reunite with our forces covering Washington."

"The report of Gen. Barnard is the only report of the officers engaged in the campaign of the Peninsula which your committee have obtained. The report by the commanding general has not yet been made, and the reports of his subordinates have not been sent by him to the Department."

In the Hartford Police Court, the other day a wife was called upon to testify relative to a violent assault made upon her husband. The case looked so badly that the woman's nature was aroused and she said she had provoked the assault—that she had called her husband the worst names she could think of. "What did you call him?" demanded the Justice. "I called him a mean copperhead," said the wife, feeling that she had by this painful disclosure triumphantly vindicated her hard handed spouse.

An exchange paper says: "There is nothing like nature as developed in females; for no sooner does a female juvenile begin to walk and notice things, than it takes after its mother, and wants a baby. It is almost incredible how much of matter and feeling is wasted on rag babies and squint-eyed Dutch dolls."

Better wait on the cook than the doctor.

WAITING FOR MAY.

Ah! my heart is weary waiting,
Waiting for the May—
Waiting for the pleasant rambles,
To the fragrant lawns and brambles,
With the woodbine alternating,
Scent the dewy way.

Ah! my heart is sick with longing
Longing for the May—
Longing to escape from study,
To the fair young face and ruddy,
And the thousand charms belonging
To the summer day.

Ah! my heart is sore with sighing,
Sighing for the May—
Sighing for the sure returning,
When the summer beams are burning,
Hopes and flowers that dead or dying
All the winter lay.

Ah! my heart is sore with sighing,
Sighing for the May—
Sighing for the sea-side billows,
Or the water-wooling willows,
Whence the water-wings are sobbing,
Glides the stream away.

Ah! my heart, my heart is throbbing,
Throbbing for the May—
Throbbing for the water-wings sobbing,
Or the water-wooling willows,
Whence the water-wings are sobbing,
Glides the stream away.

Waiting, sad, dejected, weary,
Waiting for the May—
Spring goes by with wasted warnings,
Moonlight evenings and bright mornings;
Summer comes, yet dark and dreary,
Life still ebbs away;
Man is ever weary, weary,
Waiting for the May.

A FIGURE AS TRUE AS BEAUTIFUL.

In the whole range of literature, we do not remember to have read a more striking and beautiful comparison than in the following, which we copy from "The Autocrat of the Breakfast-table," by Dr. O. W. Holmes, of Boston. The figure is so natural and perfect, the application so graphic, as to render it one of the happiest efforts in the English language. It is especially applicable to the present time:

"Did you never, in walking in the fields, come across a large flat stone, which had been, nobody knows how long, just where you found it, with the grass forming a little hedge, as it were, all around it, close to its edges? and have you not, in obedience to a kind of feeling that told you it had been lying there long enough, insinuated your stick, or your foot, or your fingers, under its edge, and turned it over as a housewife turns a cake, when she says to herself, 'It's done brown enough by this time.' What an odd revelation, and what an unthought and unappreciated surprise to a small community—the very existence of which you had not suspected, until the sudden dismay and scattering among its members produced by your turning the old stone over! Blades of grass flattened down, colorless, matted together, as if they had been bleached and ironed; hideous crawling creatures, coleopterous or horny-shelled turtle-bugs, once upon a time to call them; some of them softer, but cunningly spread out, and compressed like Lempire watches; black, glossy crickets, with their long filaments sticking out like the whips of four horse stage-coaches; motionless, slug-like creatures, young larvae, perhaps more horrible in the pulp stillness, than even in the infernal wriggle of maturity!"

"But no sooner is the stone turned and the wholesome light of day let upon this compressed and blinded community of creeping things, than all of them who enjoy the luxury of legs—and some of them have a good many—rush wildly, butting each other and everything in their way, and in a general stampede for underground retreats, from the region poisoned by sunshine. Next year you will find the grass growing tall and green where the stone lay; the ground bird builds her nest where the beetle had his hole; the dandelion and the butter-cup are growing there; and the broad fans of insect-angels open and shut over their golden discs, as the rhythmic waves of blissful consciousness pulsate through their glorified being."

"There is meaning in each of those images—the butterfly as well as the others. The stone is ancient error. The grass is human nature borne down and bleached of all its color by it. The shapes which are found beneath are the crafty beings that thrive in darkness, and the weaker organisms kept helpless by it. He who turns the stone over is whosoever puts the staff of truth to the old lying incubus, no matter whether he do it with a serious face, or a laughing one. The next year stands for the coming time. Then shall the nature which had him blanched and broken rise in its full stature and native hues in the sunshine. Then shall God's minstrels build their nests in the hearts of a newborn humanity. Then shall beauty—divinity taking new lines and colors—light upon the souls of men as the butterfly, image of the beautiful spirit, rising from the dust, soars from the shells that held a poor grub, which would never have found wings had not the stone been lifted. You never need think you can turn away any old falsehood without a terrible squirming and scattering of the horrid little population that dwells under it."

"Husband and wife should be adapted to each other's needs," said a gentleman; when a wag in company immediately put the following pose: "Are we then to infer, sir, that a woman without arms and a man without legs would be a fair match?"

A man's boots and shoes get tight by imbibing water, but the man doesn't.

BARBARIETY OF THE REBELS.

There have been many denials on the part of sympathizers with the rebels that they have manifested any unusual barbarity towards loyal men who have fallen into their hands either by arrest or as prisoners of war. Unfortunately for the credit of the insurgents these denials have been made in the face of the most irrefragable evidence continually accumulating. Citizens of unquestioned honor and veracity have published narratives of their personal sufferings at the hands of Southern rebels, and no responsible person has ever contradicted their statement. They have been guilty of atrocities and barbarities at which even savages might revolt, and which have no parallel in history of civilized nations, and when the veil is lifted, as in process of time it most assuredly will be, from the horrible cruelties that have been practiced in Southern states since the rebellion commenced, their perpetrators will receive what they pre-eminently deserve, the bitter scorn and execration of the whole civilized world. Their treatment of prisoners of war has been infamous, the latest development on that subject being made by the prisoners who have lately returned to Washington, who were part of the military expedition despatched last year by the late Gen. Mitchell to destroy the rebel communications on the Georgia State Railroad. These men were subjected to a thorough examination by Judge Advocate Holt, and the facts disclosed by them are enough to make one blush that their captors and tormentors were countrymen.

Their capture was effected by hunting them down with bloodhounds. When captured, one of them, yet but eighteen years of age, was immediately stripped and flogged to the extent of more than a hundred lashes, the torture being employed to make him betray the secrets and objects of the expedition in which he was engaged.

Rebel officers robbed the prisoners of all their money, and then thrust them into a negro jail, filthy and loathsome beyond description. The prisoners were twenty-two in number. The only entrance to the place was a trap door, through this spoiled food was lowered to them in a bucket. Part had to stand while others slept, and the heat was so oppressive that they had to strip themselves naked to endure it. Here they were kept for three weeks, bound together with chains around their necks, and handcuffed, their leader having in the meantime been hung. Subsequently, seven others were hung under circumstances of most revolting barbarity. The sufferings of the remainder through the winter were terrible.

But the record of their treatment is too revolting for minute statement. It was but a repetition, however, of blood-thirsty cruelties and atrocities to which Union citizens and soldiers have been subjected in the rebel States since the rebellion broke out. And yet it is towards men of such natures that the hearts of some Americans and some foreigners yearn with sympathy. It is with reference to such barbaric cruelties that Northern sympathizers with the rebellion can keep unbroken silence, while they are loud in their denunciations of the Government if a known traitor is temporarily incarcerated in clean and wholesome quarters, with a supply of all the necessities and many of the comforts of life.

A rebel must not be punished; his property must not be confiscated and he must be treated with the most distinguished consideration, or loud are the denunciations against the President and his minions. But a Union soldier may be stripped and tortured; all his comrades robbed and then thrust into a jail worse than the Black Hole of Calcutta notoriety, manacled and chained like runaway horses or slaves, hung without an hour for prayer or reflection, and be the subjects of the grossest atrocities, but not a word of condemnation have the Northern sympathizers with the rebellion for such barbarities. And yet they call themselves patriotic. Thank Heaven such patriots in the loyal States are few and far between.

ALL ABOUT KISSES.—The girls never grow weary of kissing—we beg pardon, we mean the subject is ever congenial to their taste. But what an absurd idea it is in a man to ask a lady to kiss him, just as if he, the senseless being, thought the poor trembling little creature was going to do it! The idea of a man asking for a thing so easily obtained! Why, it is ridiculous! and a man with the least particle of brains would hoof at the idea. She'd say no till doomsday. And you, poor believer, would forego the happiness of drawing nectar from the rosebud mouth, simply because you were ignorant enough to ask for what you might have taken. There are ten thousand ways to kiss a girl without asking the privilege. Direct her attention to something on the table; ask for a book which you know to be there, and whilst she is there, look with the affected purpose of helping her to look for it; be particular to get at her left side—do you need any more telling? If you do, you do not deserve the kiss that might be so gracefully taken.

A man who would ask a kiss of a fair maiden ought to be tarred and feathered as a craven-hearted monster. Don't do it; don't; for goodness sake, ask the girls to kiss you. Kiss them if you want to, but do it like gentlemen. Kiss them if you can.

"SUPERNATURAL FIRES."

A friend residing in this city, says the Detroit Free Press, but who is on a visit to Owosso, Michigan, informs us of a very singular and unaccountable affair that is now transpiring in Bush town, 5 miles north of Owosso.

A farmer named Stearns, residing in that town, has an adopted daughter by the name of Frennar, who is ten years of age. While this little girl was sweeping the sitting room, about a week since, she discovered the carpet to be on fire, and the inmates having put out the fire undertook to learn its origin. There had been no fire in the room that morning; no light had been carried into the room, nor could the family in any way account for the fire. In less than an hour flames were seen issuing from some rags in another room.

The same day the girl's clothes caught fire, and the next morning a damp towel that Mrs. Stearns had used in wiping her face, upon being hung on a nail commenced burning. The last occurrence took place in the presence of some twelve persons, some of whom are among the most respectable citizens in the place. Next a straw stack near Mr. Stearns' house was consumed. At one time, when a number of persons were in the house, the falling of some heavy substance was heard in the chamber directly above their heads. Upon going up stairs, it proved to be a bag filled with rags and books, and suspended by a cord to a beam. The bag was on fire, and the string was also burning when the parties entered the room.

Mr. Stearns and family became so much alarmed by these movements that they left their home. When the furniture was being moved, a trunk, said not to have been opened for more than a year, was discovered to be on fire, and when opened the flames burst forth consuming its contents. The family are now living in a house some three miles distant from their farm, but the mysterious torment, termed by the doubting a "humbug," by the spiritualists the "manifestation of the spirits," by the Millerites the "period of fire and brimstone," and by Dr. Tappan "the works of the devil," is bound to stick to them like a brother.

No sooner had the girl entered her new home than her clothes took fire in three different places. And now, one other family, where she has visited, are as badly tormented as is the family of Mr. Stearns.

In Owosso, as well as in the adjoining village of Corunna, the excitement is most intense. People are looking from every direction to witness this truly wonderful mystery. Some of the most profound scholars of the State, among whom are Dr. Tappan, Chancellor of the University of Michigan, President Fairchild, of Hillsdale College, and others, have been to "see the sights," and all agree that there are hidden mysteries beyond the depth of the closest observers.

One man remarked that "the judgment of God was about to be inflicted upon the heads of His wicked people." Another bloated old Democrat says that the cause in which our army is engaged is unholy, and that this is a "fire in the rear," soon to belch forth and devastate the whole North. We suspect, however, that a good practical chemist and a skillful detective could soon unravel the mystery.

WONDERFUL SIGHTS IN WASHINGTON.—We recently spent a day in the city of Washington, D. C., and were struck with the extraordinary medley of characters which present themselves on the public thoroughfare. There are statesmen (?), foreign ministers, attaches, politicians, civilians, office-holders, office-seekers, admirals, commodores, major generals, brigadiers, colonels, majors, lieutenants, captains, surgeons, sutlers, peddlers, many soldiers in robust health, some on crutches, some with one arm or one leg or one eye; a few armless, legless, and eyeless; a large number bearing marks of severe disease, and just crawling out from the dismal hospital to bask in the sun; some borne along by their comrades to the railroad cars, with visions of happy homes dancing through their minds; others patrolling the sentinels weary beat; others galloping down the avenues as if the fate of the nation hung upon the fleetness of each trooper's steed; others marching to add force, to take the "post of duty," which is to them a post of danger. Besides all these unusual sights, there are countless male and female contrabands, contractors, gamblers, and mountebanks; horses, mules—or shadows which resemble those animals; then there are hogs, dogs, goats, army wagons, ambulances, forges, guns, pistols, sabres, knapsacks, and many other things too numerous to specify; indeed it would seem as though the *tabris* of the universe had been emptied into the Federal metropolis.—*Scientific American.*

The "Democratic" Commissioners of Northumberland county would not grant the use of their Court house for the formation of a "Union League." But a good one was formed nevertheless.

Kansas has a variety of soldiers in the field, namely, a dozen regiments of white men, five regiments of Indians, and two of Negroes.

A cotemporary boasts that he "can stand on his intellectual capital." We suppose he means that he can stand on his head.

Drunkness, which is called the besetting sin of the age, is more peculiarly the besetting one. That's a fact!