AMERICAN CITIZEN.

"Let us have Faith that Right makes Might; and in that Faith let us, to the end, dare to do our duty as we understand it"--A. LINCOLN.

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AMERICAN CITIZEN
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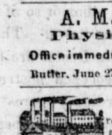
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Original Poetry.

POLLY PRUNELLO'S TROUBLE.

Just now a thing of great momentum,
In the village of Tarentum
Is transpiring—What's the matter,
Has the din, the clang and clatter
Of the engines running through it,
Caused recoffus? Could it do it?
Something's turned the minds of freemen,
Something—some unearthly demon;
Something occult, quite mysterious,
Of a nature sad and serious.

Knots of men are oft seen standing
At store doors, at Baker's landing,
At street corners, at the depot,
As if they were playing, "peep-oh!"
Talking low in tragic whispers,
Just as though the little lispers
Who are lilly round them playing,
Might o'erhear what they are saying:
Just approach them, boy or lady,
And see how quick they all turn shady.

Various things, prognostications,
Have appeared at several stations,
Showing that some mystic order
Has appeared within our border:
I. O., O. F., above a dog chain,
Nigh as thick as father's log chain,
Little hooks and curious crotches,
Are engraved on seals and watches,
Finger-rings, and scarf and shawl pins,
Bearing these, are thick as dolphins.

My dear husband, too, has taken
This disease, or I'm mistaken,
When I say, my dear Prunello,
Are you not a sworn Odd-fellow?
All he says, is my dear Polly,
You are getting somewhat jolly,
Odd *I am*, and always *will* be,
Odd *you are* and *odd you still* be,
Don't you know that the Prunello's,
Always were odd-kind of fellows?

This gives me no satisfaction,
Almost drives me to distraction,
Yet I'm bound, I *will* find out,
The truth of it beyond a doubt.
What takes him eve, of every Monday,
Off from home? now Missus Grundy,
Says her Samuel—says Prunello,
is, in fact, a strict Oddfellow.
Oh! dear me, I would not doubt it,
But, I'll find out all about it.

Just to think—that him a deacon—
Should at night-fall go a sneaking,
At somebody's hod or heckon,
Just to ride the *goat*, I reckon,
Or to be baptized like *Potter*,
In a tub of scapy water:
To be pounded with a bladder,
Or to mount the rolling ladder.
Never fear, when I've caught him,
I will sift it, to the bottom.

SALINA, December 19, 1866. L. W.

Select Miscellany.

TRUE BENEVOLENCE;

OR, "IT IS BETTER TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE."

"And you strip yourself of comfort, for the sake of adding to this rich merchant's gains?"

The widow replied with flushed cheek, "It may seem a light thing to you, but the thought that I am slowly and surely wiping every stain from my husband's honor, is my greatest earthly comfort.—Mr. Miner is his last creditor, and, God willing, every cent shall be paid."

Her coarser relative responded with an emphatic "fiddle-stick," and angrily left her presence.

"At last I have it," said a silvery voice, and a sweet face, glad and brilliant, brightened up the gloom.

"Only see, mother! ten dollars, all my own ten more makes twenty; so we shall have a nice little sum for Mr. Miner."

Tears trembled on the widow's lashes, and glittered on her pale cheek. "It is to be the price of thy life, my precious one?" she thought. "Is the canker worm at the heart of my beautiful flower?—Must I give thee up to weary toil, a sacrifice upon the altar of duty? Can it be that God requires it?"

Eva knelt at her mother's feet, where she had fallen with all the abandon of a child, her glance fastened to the shining gold.

Lifting her glance she met that of her mother, full of anxiety, touched with sorrow. A sudden smile broke over her delicate features.

"I was only thinking of the endless things this money would buy—don't look so grave, mama; such a beauty of a warm shawl for you, and a neat crimson cover for that untidy old arm chair; a bit ever so little of carpet, to put down by the bed; that your feet need not feel this cold floor; and a pretty cap, besides coal, and tea, and sugar, and such nice comfortable things. But never mind,"—and she sprang to her feet, brushed back her brown curls, and drew on her neat little bonnet,—"never mind, I'll may be write a book one of these days, that'll make you and I rich And, dear mother, you shall ride in your own carriage, and may be those that scorn us now, only because we are poor, may be thankful for our notice. A truce of romance," she gravely continued; "stern reality tells me to go directly up to Madison street, find Mr. Miner, give him this twenty dollars, take a receipt, and then come home and read and sing to my mother."

Hurriedly Eva passed from her house along the narrow streets. As she went onward, street after street diverged into pleasant width and palace-lined splendor The houses of greatness and wealth glittered in their marble beauty under the golden sunlight. Up broad steps, through portals carved and shining, passed the timid steps of Eva Sterne.

At first the pompous servant smiled a contemptuous denial; but after a moment, perhaps softened by her childish simplicity and winning, blue eyes, he deemed it best not to deny her urgency; and she entered this palace of a rich man's home.

Softly her feet sank in the luxurious hall-carpet. Statuary in bronze and marble, lined all the way to the staircase.—The splendor of the room into which she was ushered, seemed to her inexperienced sight too beautiful for actual use, and he who came in, with his kindly glance and handsome face, the noblest perfection of manhood she had ever seen.

"Well, young lady," he said, blandly smiling, "to whom am I indebted for this pleasure?"

"My father, sir, died in your debt," said Eva blushingly, speaking very softly. "By the strictess economy and very hard work, we, my mother and I, have been able to pay all his creditors but yourself. If you will be kind enough to receive the balance of your account in small sums—I am sorry they must be small, sir—we can in the course of a very few years fully liquidate the debt, and then we shall have fulfilled my father's dying wish, that every stain might be wiped from his honor." She paused a moment and said again falteringly, "My father was very unfortunate, sir, and broken in health for many years, but, sir, he was honorable, he would have paid the last cent if it had left him a beggar."

Mr. Miner sat awhile thoughtfully, his dark eyes fastened upon the gentle face before him. After a moment of silence, he raised his head, threw back the mass of curling hair that shadowed his handsome brow, and said:

"I remember your father well, I regretted his death. He was a fine fellow—a fine fellow," he added musingly; "but, my dear young lady, have you the means—do you not embarrass yourself by making these payments?"

Eva blushed again, and looking up, ingenuously replied, "I am obliged to work sir, but no labor would be too arduous that might save the memory of such a father from disgrace."

This she spoke with deep emotion.—The rich man turned with a choking in his throat, and tears glistened on his lashes. Eva timidly held out the two gold pieces: he took them and bidding her stay a moment, hastily left the room.

Almost instantly returning he handed her a sealed note, saying, "There is the receipt, young lady, and allow me to add, that the mother of such a child must be a happy woman. The whole debt, I find, is nine hundred and seventy-five dollars. You will see by my note what arrangements I have made, and I hope they will be satisfactory."

Eva left him with a lighter heart, and a burning cheek at his praise. His manner was gentle, so fatherly that she felt he would not impose hard conditions, and it would be a pleasure to pay one so kind and forbearing.

At last she got home, and breathlessly sitting at her mother's feet, she opened her letter. Wonder of wonders—a bank note enclosed; she held it without speaking or looking at its value.

"Read it," she said, after a moment's bewilderment, placing the letter in her mother's hand—"here are fifty dollars; what can it mean?"

"This," said the sick woman, bursting into tears, "is a receipt in full, releasing you from the payment of your father's debt. Kind, generous man—Heaven will bless him—God will shower mercies upon him. From a grateful heart I call upon the Father to reward him for this act of kindness. Oh! what shall we say, what shall we do to thank him?"

"Mother," said Eva, smilling through her tears, "I felt as if he was an angel of goodness. Oh, they do wrong, who say that all who are wealthy have hard hearts Mother, can it be possible we are so rich? I wish he knew how very happy he has made us, how much we will love and reverence him whenever we think or speak of him, or even hear him spoken of?"

"He has bound two hearts to him forever," murmured her mother.

"Yes, dear Mr. Miner! little he thought how many comforts we wanted. No we need not stint the fire; we may buy coal, and have one cheerful blaze, please God. And the tea, the strip of carpet, the sugar, the little luxuries for you, dear mother; and the time, and a very few books for myself. I declare I'm so thankful, I feel as if I ought to go right back and tell him that we shall love him so long as we live."

That evening the grate heaped with Lehigh gave the little room an air of ruddy comfort. Eva sat near, her curls bound softly back from her pure forehead inditing a touching letter to their benefactor. Her mother's face, lighted with the loss of cankering care, shone with a placid smile, and her very thought was a prayer calling down blessings upon the good rich man.

In another room, far different from the widow's home, but also bright with the blaze of a genial fire whose red light made richer the polish of costly furniture, sat the noble merchant.

"Pa, what makes you look so happy?" asked Lina, a beautiful girl, passing her smooth hand over his brow.

"Don't I always look happy, my little Lina?"

"Yes, but you keep shutting your eyes and smilling—," and her bright face reflected his own. "I think you've had something very nice to day; what was it?"

"Does my little daughter really want to know what has made her father so happy? Here is my Bible; let her turn to the Acts of the Apostles, 20th chapter, 35th verse, and read it carefully."

The beautiful child turned reverently the pages of the holy book, and as she read, she looked up in her father's eyes—

"And to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

"Ah! I know," she said, laying her rosy cheek upon his hand; "you have been giving something to some poor beggar, as you did last week, and he thanked you and said, 'God bless you,' and that's what makes you happy."

Lina read a confirmation in her father's smile—but he said nothing, only kept repeating to himself the words of the Lord Jesus, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."—*Olive Branch.*

The Wells Tariff Bill.

Enough is khown of this bill to make it certain that it opposes the system of protection agreed upon by the House, and embodies the views of the opponents of that legislation. It in effect re-enacts the present rates of duty, though an advance is proposed on many articles and a decrease on quite a number. The free list is materially increased. The bill is accompanied by a long report, in which he discusses the ills which the industry and business of the country languish under, and gives his reasons for administering substantially freetrade tariff as the remedy for them. His main idea is that the inflation of the currency is the real enemy of our prosperity, and that before we can manufacture successfully we must return to specie payments. He takes the ground that what he calls our cumulative system of protective duties is ruinous to our industries; that with resumption of specie payments no protection would be needed upon the leading articles of wool, coal, and pig iron; that the only interests which need protection are those whose products are fine and require skilled labor and large capital; that if Iowa, Kansas and Texas can grow wool at a profit, Ohio and New England have no right to complain; that the revenue taxes on depressed or exposed industries should be lightened or taken off; that the condition of our currency and the suffering state of our manufactures are unfavorable to any sudden modification of the tariff. So far as the main features of the report and the bill have become known, there appears to be much opposition to it, the ideas regarding a return to specie payment being against the prevailing opinion in Congress. It may be stated that it is, as yet, a confidential document, and difficult of access. It will be furnished to members of Congress some time this week.

AN EVENING'S ENTERTAINMENT.—A young lady being asked how a necromancer performed his tricks, gave the following answer, which may be read 4,900 ways:

e v i l h e l p l e h l i v e
d e v i c l p s p l e i v e d
e d e v l p s h s p l v e d e
h e d e p s h i h s p e d e h
T h e d s h i m i h s d e h T
h e d e p s h i h s p e d e h
e d e v l p s h s p l v e d e
d e v i c l p s p i e i v e d
e v i l h e l p l e h l i v e

which commencing at the capital T at the end of the middle line and reading up or down by frequently turning corners, the answer is constantly the same—"The Devil helps him."

Let any of our readers knock the nine letters into "pi," and then spend the evening in arranging them as they are now.

NOBLE WORDS.—A bankrupt merchant returned home one night and said to his wife:

"My dear, I am ruined: everything we have is in the hands of the sheriff."

After a few moments of silence, his noble wife looked him calmly in the face and said:

"Will the Sheriff sell you?"

"No."

"Will he sell me?"

"No, no!"

"Then don't say we have lost everything. All that is most profitable to us, manhood, womanhood, childhood. We have but lost the result of our skill and industry. We can soon make another fortune if our hearts and hands are left us."

TURNING GRAY.

Fanny's hair is growing gray!
She laments, not so do I;
I may love her freely now,
None will question why.

Some might think I loved too well
Were she young, and fair, and gay;
But all censure's silenced now—
Fanny's hair is gray!

I could love her none the more
Were her youth renewed to-day;
So I only smile to think
Fanny's hair is gray!

Could her smile more sweetly shine,
Could her eyes more soul betray,
If she were a girl again,
Than now when she is gray?

No! I would not have her changed,
Nor younger by a day;
'Tis a secret joy to me,
"Fanny's hair is gray!"

WIT AND WISDOM.

—The poet for fishermen—Crabbe.

—Who was Jonah's tutor?—The whale who brought him up.

—The full dress of a native lady of Colombo is a hair-pin and a garter.

—When is a doctor's pocket like a music store?—When it has a viol in it.

—Why is a cheese-factory like some of the fixed stars?—Because it is in the milky way.

—When does a man entertain his guest and horse alike?—When they both feed at his table (his stable).

—"A check in time saves nine," says a mean husband, explaining that unless you give your wife's extravagance a check, she will ask for one every week.

—The following epitaph is actually to be seen on a stone in Wolverhampton Church, dated 1690:

Here lies the bones
Of Joseph Jones,
Who ate while he was able;
But once o'erfed,
He dropt down dead,
And fell beneath the table.
When from the tomb,
To meet his doom,
He rises amidst sinners;
Since he must dwell
In heav'n or hell,
Take him—which gives best dinners.

—Why is the letter A like the meridian?—Because it is the middle of day. Why is the letter B like hot fire?—Because it makes oil boil. Why is the letter D like a fallen angel?—Because by its association with evil it becomes a devil. Why is the letter E like the end of time?—Because it is the beginning of eternity. Why is the letter G like wisdom?—Because it is the beginning of greatness and goodness. Why is the letter H like the dying words of Adams?—"This is the last of earth." Why is the letter J like the end of spring?—Because it is the beginning of June Why is the letter K like a pig's tail?—Because it is the end of pork.

PROSAIC POETRY.—I gave her a rose and gave her a ring, and I asked her to marry me then, but she sent them all back, the insensible thing, and said she'd no notion of men. I told her I'd oceans of money and goods—tried to frighten her with a growl, but she answered she wasn't brought up in the woods, to be scared by the screech of an owl. I called her a coquette and every thing bad, I slighted her features and form; till at length I succeded in getting her mad, and she raged like the sea in a storm.—And then in a moment I turned and smiled, and called her my angel and dear, she fell in my arms like a wearisome child, and exclaimed, "We will marry this year!"

"IT VOS DICKER."—An honest miner from Colorado recently had his pocket-book stolen, containing sundry greenbacks and several *nuggets*, one of which was of a peculiar wedge shape.

The marshal soon scented out and arrested a suspicious charater, upon whose person the nuggets were found. Upon the examination the prisoner brought forward a Dutchman to prove that the nuggets found with him were his, and that the witness had seen them in his possession previous to the theft. The Dutchman was sworn, and told his story, and was cross-examined by C——, plaintiff's attorney who asked him if one of these nuggets was *thinner* at one end than the other:

"V-o-s?" says Dutchie.

"I ask you," says C——, "if one of these nuggets you describe was *thinner* at one end than at the other.

"Oh! No: it vos *dicker* mit one end as it vos mit de odder!"

A shout was raised, and the Dutchman retired from the witness-stand with a bewildered look, muttering to himself: "It vos dicker!"

Educational.

(From the Pennsylvania School Journal.)

Soldiers' Orphan School.

(*Continued.*)

RULES FOR ORDER, NEATNESS AND WORK.

1.—4.30 A. M., Male attendant arises, makes fires in school-room, recitation rooms and in wash kitchen.

2.—5.45, Bell for puplls to rise.

Male attendants to awaken the boys.

Matrons to awaken the girls.

The chambers aired by lowering upper sashes.

Male attendant assists the boys in washing.

Matron assists the girls in washing.

There are to be at least 20 Basins for each sex, and the washing is to be done in separate apartments, which shall be comfortable and well supplied with water, towels, combs, wash-rags, soap and looking glasses.

The towels shall be changed every day.

Special details to report immediately after washing to cooking department, eating-room, for such work as is to be done before inspection.

3.—5.25. Bell for inspection.

6.30. Inspection.

No pupils to be excused from inspection, or roll-call, except those actually required in the kitchen or eating-room, or such as may be sick.

The *Principal*, himself, shall inspect, and acquaint himself with the condition of each pupil as to cleanliness of face, neck, ears, hands and head,—proper adjustment and cleanliness of clothing—the condition of hats, boots and shoes.

Pupils with torn garments, or buttons off, shall be directed to report, immediately after breakfast, to the Matron and have the garments replaced; and she shall at once place the defective garments in the hands of the seamstress for repairs.

Pupils not passing inspection in regard to cleanliness of person, shall be immediately referred to the matron, or to the attendant upon the boys, for correction of the neglect or oversight.

No pupil shall be punished who fails to reach the standard required to pass inspection, unless the fault is manifestly and perversely his or her own.

4.—7 o'clock; 6 in the summer. Bell for Breakfast.

The pupils shall pass in order, to the eating-hall from the school room, or other place of assembly.

The Principal and teachers shall eat at the table with the pupils; and the pupils shall be the same as that for the Principal and teachers.

Pupils only to be excused from appearing at table, by the Principal; and all shall remain till the time for eating has expired, when they shall retire in order, as upon entering; except in special cases, when permission to retire has been granted by the person presiding at the table of the pupils asking to be excused.

A reasonable degree of silence shall be maintained while eating.

The pupils shall be taught to eat decently and observe rules of politeness at the table.

5.—8 o'clock. School being opened, the regular details are to be sent from the school room to work, and not before, and any special details announced.

At the bell for change of details, the pupils at work shall return to school without awaiting the arrival of the relief.

Not less than six girls shall be at any time employed in the sewing-room, and as many more as the force of the school will admit of; but when six will leave a deficiency of female help for the other departments, the aid of boys will be resorted to, in such kinds of work as are suitable for them.

Details for the dormitories, kitchen, eating room, &c., shall be so made that pupils shall not be employed more than one week in the same special department.

No labor shall be exacted from pupils during the hours set apart for play; or for evening exercises; or after the hour for retiring has arrived.

6.—11-45. School dismissed for Dinner,—which is to be regulated in the same manner as Breakfast.

1 P. M. School re-assembled.

4-45. School dismissed for the day.

5-30. Supper; to be regulated as Breakfast and Dinner.

7.—8 o'clock. Pupils retire for the night, passing in order to the dormitories, accompanied by the matron and male attendant, to see that they go in an orderly manner to bed.

The matron and attendant shall see that the pupils have a sufficiency of bed clothing for the season, and notify the Principal of deficiencies, that he may supply them.

Two blankets, one comfort and two sheets shall be provided for every two pupils in the winter, and a sufficiency, including two sheets, at other seasons.

The chaff bag shall be made of strong ticking, and well filled with clean chaff, fine cut straw, or corn husks.

The bolsters shall also be made of good ticking and filled with the same material as the bed, or feathers when procurable, and covered with muslin cases.

Sheets and bolster cases shall be washed every week.

Not more than two pupils shall be allowed to sleep in one bed.

Night stools, covered, shall be near the sleeping apartments, and easy of access to every pupil.

The Principal or teachers, before they retire, shall acquaint themselves with the state of the air in the dormitories, and take all necessary steps to secure a healthful ventilation.

Clothes hooks shall be put in each sleeping apartment, sufficient for all the pupils to hang up their garments.

WEDNESDAY INSPECTION.

On Wednesday, after the opening of the school, the boys of each class in turn, shall report to the Principal or other competent person for a rigid inspection as to personal cleanness, discovery and treatment of cutaneous diseases, and the presence of vermin; and the half hour of each class devoted to recitation on other days shall be employed in this duty.

The girls of the same classes shall report in like manner, to the Principal's wife or matron, for the same purpose.

This inspection is to be made regularly and rigidly, and in addition to the daily inspection, and to the bathing of all the pupils on Saturday. The following is recommended as the order and time for this examination of the classes, according to the programme of school exercises:

C Class from	8	to 8-30	E Class from	10-15	to 10-45
D " "	8-30 "	9	H " "	10-45 "	11-15
G " "	9 "	9-30	A " "	11-15 "	11-35
F " "	9-30 "	11	B " "	1 P M "	1-30

SATURDAY'S OPERATIONS.

The programme of the morning until after breakfast, the same as on other days. After breakfast the Principal shall announce the following details, for the next week:

1. Of girls for making beds and sweeping chambers.

2. Of girls for scrubbing and general house-work.

3. Of boys to assist the Farmer.

4. Of boys to assist in making fires &c., &c.

For Saturday:

5. Of boys to clean yard and premises.

6. Of boys not on other duty, to black or grease their shoes, wash and bathe.

It is expected that all work to be performed on Saturday shall be completed by noon, and every pupil be then clean and neatly clad, for dinner.

The afternoon of Saturday shall be entirely for play and recreation, except that in fine weather, one hour shall be employed by the boys in military, and by the girls in systematic physical exercises.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

HOW TO MAKE AN OATH STRONG.—On the accession of a new auditor in one of our custom-houses, several years ago, he found considerable looseness in the machinery by which the fishing bounties were paid at that establishment. He determined to correct the proceedings, and then return with joy to the original and honest state of things. Be it known that the oath required of an applicant for this bounty is a long rude compilation of solemnities, and had usually been sputtered over with indelicate and unseemly haste. One day a blustering and confident-looking skipper came to the desk with his bundle of papers, looking as if he had robbed the circumlocution office, and wanted some bounty. The new auditor rose to a tall majesty, took the great book of oath in his hand, fixed his keen eye on Mr. Skipper, requested him to uncover his head, hold up his right hand, and repeat after him the oath as he read it. They had not traveled more than half way through the serious business when the hand of the skipper fell as if his arm had been struck by a chain shot. "You may stop there," he exclaimed; "I can't swear to any more of that. Give me back the papers." He nervously grasped the package, hurried out of the office, and to this day his fate and reflections are unknown.

—The following is a specimen of a telegraphic message recently received from India:

"Nile has arrived Pith third Buffs on Board all well hornet writhe last wing has been spoked at sea all well save this published in times."

It should have read:

"The Nile has arrived, with 2d Buffs on board, all well. The Hornet, with left wing, has been spoken at sea, all well. Have this published in the *Times.*