

Home Reading.

"UNCLE SAM'S A HUNDRED."

A CENTENNIAL ODE.

Oh ye Powers! what a roar, Such was never heard before— Thundering, from shore to shore, "Uncle Sam's a hundred!"

Cannon boom and trumpets bray, Fiddles squeak and fountains play— 'Tis his great Centennial day— "Uncle Sam's a hundred!"

Stalwart men and puny boys, Maids and matrons swell the noise, Every baby lifts its voice— "Uncle Sam's a hundred!"

Nervous folks, who tote on quiet, Though they're half-distracted by it, Can't help mixing in the riot, "Uncle Sam's a hundred!"

Brutes that walk and birds that fly, On the earth or in the sky, Join the universal cry, "Uncle Sam's a hundred!"

Well, suppose he is—what then? Don't let's act like crazy men, Must we take to tooling when "Uncle Sam's a hundred!"

There he stands—our modern Saul— Head and shoulders above all; Yet "Pride goes before a fall," 'E'en though one's a hundred.

"What's a hundred in our day?" Foreign Uncle Sam will say; "Let us sit and watch the play— He is but a hundred."

"Granted he's a shapely youth— Fair and ruddy—yet forsooth! He's too young—and, that's the truth! Only just a hundred!"

"When he's twice as old, pardie, 'Twill be easier to foresee What will be his destiny, Now he's but a hundred."

"When he's played his boyish pranks, Should he seek to join our ranks We'll reflect. But now—no thanks! Why, he's but a hundred!"

Yes, our uncle's years are few; He is young—the charge is true; Let us keep that fact in view, Though he counts a hundred.

Don't let's tempt him to ignore Warnings that have gone before; Perils both by sea and shore, Now that he's a hundred.

Let us strive, with earnest heart, Each of us to do his part, So that he may 'scape the smart, Seeing he's a hundred.

And with solemn, grateful thought, Of the deeds that he has wrought, Guided, cherished, favored, taught, Till he's reached a hundred.

Let us, as we vaunt his worth, Mingle soberness with mirth, While we shout to all the earth, "Uncle Sam's a hundred!"

EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS.

Reviewing the history of education in this country, in his address at the opening of the National Educational Association in Baltimore President Phelps gave the following statistics: "Prior to 1776 but nine colleges had been established, and not more than five of these, we are told, were in a really efficient condition. Now more than four hundred institutions bearing the titles of 'college' and 'university' are distributed throughout forty of the States and Territories, with nearly 57,000 students and 3,700 Professors and teachers. Then little was done for the higher education of women. Now there are 200 female seminaries, with 22,444 students, and 2,285 teachers. Then, says a writer in the New England Journal of Education for June 10, 1876, professional schools were almost unknown. The candidate for the honors of the law, the dignities of the ministry, and, generally speaking, for the tools of medical practice, was obliged to pursue his studies under private tutors. Now there are 322 professional schools of the various classes, excluding teacher's seminaries, with 23,280 students and 2,490 instructors. Now 124 are reported in the United States alone, with 54,405 students and 496 instructors. Then there were no commercial colleges; now 127 are in operation, with 23,890 students, and 572 teachers—Then secondary and preparatory schools had scarcely a name by which to live; now 1,122 are said to exist, affording instruction to 109,593 pupils, and giving employment to 6,163 teachers. The kindergarten, that last and best of educational inventions, is a very recent importation. In 1874 we were blest with 55 of these human nurseries, with 1,638 pupils and 125 teachers. May their numbers rapidly increase. "We have no means of giving the school population of those earlier days. It is not likely that it was ever ascertained. Now thirty-seven States and eleven territories report an aggregate of more than thirteen millions, or more than four times the total population of the country in 1776. Then the school enrollment was, of course, unknown. Now it amounts to the respectable figure of 8,000,000. Then the schools were scattered, and their number was correspondingly restricted. Now they are estimated to number 150,000, and as employing 250,000 teachers. The total income of the public schools is given at \$82,000,000; their expenditures at \$75,000,000, and the value of their property at \$185,000,000. The figures thus far exhibited seem to indicate what we have done; there are others which tell us with impressive emphasis that which we have not done. With a school population of 18,000,000, as reported, we have an actual enrollment of but 8,000,000. The number of illiterates by the

census of 1870, above the age of ten years, was in round numbers, 5,500,000. Of these more than 2,000,000 were adults; upward of 2,000,000 more were from fifteen to twenty-one years of age, and 1,000,000 were between ten and fifteen years old. Of the number between fifteen and twenty-one years it is estimated that about one-half have passed the opportunity for education, and since it is well understood that a large proportion of the children in this country leave the schools perhaps at an average age of ten or twelve years, the conclusion is irresistible that thousands of those who are reported as illiterates between ten and fifteen years of age will forever remain so. Of the 930,000 illiterate persons between fifteen and twenty-one years of age who have passed their opportunities for instruction, 137,000 are in the Northern States, 15,000 in the Pacific and 778,000 in the South-ern."

THE HONEYMOON.

A writer in the Saturday Review, upon our honeymoon customs, attacks one of the most absurd products of our civilization. He is referring especially to wedding journeys; but really, from the beginning to the end, the tremendous ado that is made about a marriage; the vast amount of parade and ceremony; the publicity, the fuss, the excessive expense—all these things make a marriage something which women delight in, but men look upon with fear and trembling. The wedding journey, however, upon horror's head horrors accumulate. In this monstrous fashion we condemn, quoting the language of the Saturday Review, "the unfortunate couple to a penance which would try the deepest affection and irritate the sweetest temper." And do any of us know how often the deepest affection succumbs to the tremendous trial, or how frequently the sweetest temper is threatened soured for life. It is notorious that travel tries severely the most confirmed friendship; and it brings to the surface all the most unamiable qualities we possess; that none who are less than angels can be serene, tender, considerate, amiable, entertaining, amid the dust, the heat, the confusion, the whirl, the fatigue, the innumerable nerve-exhausting conditions that pertain to travel; and these trying experiences come at a time when two persons are for the first time delivered solely into each other's society—at a moment when the strangeness of a new relationship is troubling the heart, and the apprehension of an unknown future is filling the imagination with many surmises; they come just when the over-strained nerves need relaxation and peace, when the eager breast is soliciting only for sympathy and calm. No, what is it that usage prescribes? It declares that a young couple should in this most sacred hour of life be subjected, to the curious regards of strangers in cars and waiters in hotels, that dismal hotel parlors and dreary hotel apartments are the nearest approach to domestic seclusion and comfort that can be secured; that excitement, movement, hurry, and fatigue shall make up each day's record. This is what usage sets down as the programme for newly married folk. The marvel is, that it is the bride and the bride's friends of her own sex that demand rigid and uniform compliance with this usage. It is notorious that a woman will submit to every suffering and undergo every penalty required by fashion. She will sacrifice her beauty and comfort of dress, and jeopardize her dearest prospects of life, to the requirements of usage.

A wedding tour may have untold discomforts; it may embarrass her modesty, endanger her conjugal bliss, injure her health, lay the beginnings of bickerings and differences; it may have every known disadvantage, but it will be insisted upon if society utters its best wishes to that effect. It is women who are specially anxious that marriages should multiply, and yet it is women who have given the wedding ceremony such elaboration of display and loaded it with such costly expenditures, that marriage, with a majority of men, is rendered impossible. Fashion, or common sense or some other power, should dictate that marriage ceremonies ought to be simple and unostentatious, and that after the ceremony is performed the calm of some sweet seclusion is absolutely necessary, not only for the future health of a wife whose nerves are already overstrained by the excitement of what is to her a tremendous event; but for the foundation of an intercourse between the newly united couple that shall be sweet and lasting. Have any of our people the courage to defy usage, and act according to their own inclination at this important period. It seems, according to the writer in the Saturday Review, that in England a device is sometimes employed by which Mrs. Grundy is both satisfied and defeated. We quote from the article referred to: "When Hodge and his sweetheart crown their pastoral loves in the quiet old country church, they enjoy a walk in their flannel and white cotton gloves, and then take possession of the cot beside the wood, and settle down at once to conjugal comfort. But they have chances of happiness denied to their richer neighbors. It is a matter almost of moral duty, certainly of superstitious strictness, that when the squire marries the rector's daughter, or my lord marries my lady, the first month of married life must be passed in the discomfort of foreign hotels, or the still less endurable desolation of English inns, as if to strain to the utmost the strength of their newly-made bonds. Now and then, it is true, a bridegroom may know better. He has, perhaps, been married before, and does not forget his old experiences. When the carriage comes round, and his bride and he, amid showers of slippers, and rich, and other senseless manifestations of the inanity of the wedding guests, step in and are whirled away, he drives out by one gate, and, after a short excursion over the hills, returns by the other, treading on the heels of the departing. But such a contrivance requires considerable forethought. Papa and mamma must be persuaded to wink at it. There must be no evening ball, and the junior branches of the family must be dispatched elsewhere under various excuses. Most men contemplate some such es-

cape from the tyranny of usage, but few there be that can accomplish the fulfillment of their scheme. My lord sometimes borrows a friend's house, and exchanges the prying glances of waiters for those of private domestics; but his fate is little different from that of his less-distinguished neighbor; and when modern mothers grumble at the decline of matrimony among eligible young men, they forget that many a man who could walk coolly to the cannon's mouth, or even undergo the amount of ceremonial required by the social usages of a village, cannot, even if he would, face the long and bitter agony of a fashionable wedding—the preparations, the bridesmaids' locketts, the settlements, the bishop and three other clergymen, the sexton of St. George's, the dreary mirth of the breakfast, the speeches, the presents, and finally the four white horses, the down, drawn blinds, the railway station, the luggage, the horrors of the middle passage, and the yawning desolation of the wedding tour."

The device of slipping round and entering another gate is not practicable with us; but at least a resolute bridegroom might have a secluded cottage where, add assist that his newly-won spouse shall pass the honeymoon there, restful and peaceful in his companionship, rather than be dragged a weary round of exciting public travel, the cynosure of every eye, the marked out of the irreverent, with possibly the young store of affections rudely shocked by the exigencies of sorely tried temper and much weariness of mind and body.

"CHARGE IT."

A simple little sentence is this, to be sure, and yet it may be considered as one of the most insidious enemies with which people have to deal. It is very pleasant to have all the little commodities offered for sale in market, and it is sometimes hard to deny one's self of the same when they can be obtained by saying "charge it." But this habit of getting articles, however small the charge may be, without paying for them, keeps one's funds in a low state most of the time.

"I have no money to-day, but should like the article very much," says a young man, who happens to go into a store and sees something which strikes his fancy. "Never mind," says the gentlemanly clerk, "you are good for it."

"Well, I will take it and you may charge it." And so it is that little accounts are opened at one place and another, till the young man is surprised at his liabilities, which though small in detail, are sufficiently large in the aggregate to reduce his cash materially when settling day comes.

In many if the cash were required the purchase would not be made, even had the person the money with him; but to some, getting an article charged does not seem like parting with an equivalent.

Still when pay-day comes, as it always does, this illusion vanishes, and a feeling is experienced of parting with money and receiving nothing in return.

If there is an actual necessity of making a purchase, and the means are not at hand, there is a reasonable excuse to obtain the same on credit; but when the article can be dispensed with until payment can be made, it is much to the advantage of the purchaser to do so.

HOW PEOPLE BECOME ILL.

By eating too much and too fast; by swallowing imperfectly masticated food; by taking too much fluid during meals; by drinking spirits and other intoxicating drinks freely; by keeping late hours at night and sleeping too late in the morning; by wearing clothing too tight, so as to relax the circulation; by wearing thin shoes; by neglecting to take sufficient exercise to keep the hands and feet warm; by neglecting to wash the body sufficiently to keep the pores of the skin open; by exchanging the warm clothes worn in a warm room during the day for light costumes, and exposure incident to evening parties; by starving the stomach to gratify a vain and foolish passion for dress; by keeping up a constant excitement; by fretting the mind with borrowed troubles; by employing quack doctors and swallowing quack nostrums for every imaginary ill; by taking meals at irregular intervals.

THE INFLUENCE OF EATING UPON CHARACTER.

Dr. Everett delivered a lecture upon health at Boston, maintaining that eating had a very important bearing upon individual character and temperament, morally and socially, and fully subscribed to the sentiment an animal can be correctly judged at feast. The doctor divided his subject into easy parts, and dwelt upon the great prevalent evil of eating too fast, and said that thousands were annually hurried into dyspepsia and its disagreeable accompaniments and into many other maladies, by this system. He discussed lucidly the custom of much drinking while eating, and held in common with the great physiologists that it was preferable to drink after eating, or at least to drink very little of any liquid during mastication. He clearly showed that over-eating was the source of facial and even bodily disfigurements. He was of the opinion that men, as a rule, were guilty of sin against nature. Many men, perhaps the majority of men, ate more than they needed or could readily digest, and of necessity nature rebelled in various ways against the burdensome imposition.

Dress plainly—the thinnest soap bubbles wear the gaudiest colors.

Real sorrow is almost as difficult to discover as real poverty.

We value little that which costs us no trouble to maintain.

Is industry really the prime favorite of fortune.

Discretion in speech is more than eloquence.

16 CHENANGO ST., Binghamton, N. Y

The attention of the readers of the Democrat is called to the fact that READY-CASH is taken in exchange

FOR FURNITURE OF ALL KINDS,

at the above named place, and also to the fact that goods bought in this way will prove satisfactory because,

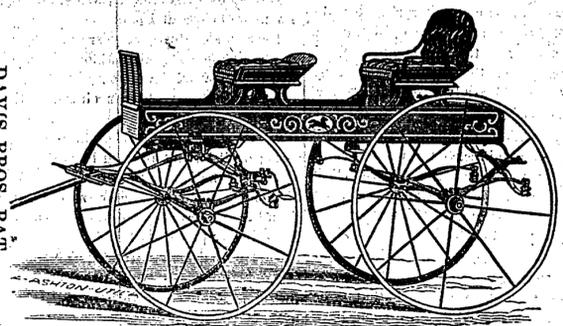
THEY CAN BE BOUGHT CHEAP WHEN CASH IS OFFERED.

The long continued depression in business circles call for cash transactions by manufacturers, and goods bought close for cash can be sold at low prices. To satisfy yourselves of this fact, when at Binghamton, call and examine the general stock of Furniture and prices at 16 Chenango Street.

May 31, 1876.

AVERY CROUNSE

Our Specialty.



AT PRICES GREATLY REDUCED!

1,000 MEN WANTED, ARMED!

with Greenbacks, to buy the best made, easiest-running, and most durable Wagon ever made for the money!

THE LARGEST ASSORTMENT OF PLATFORMS, OPEN AND TOP BUGGIES AND PHLETONS, EVER OFFERED TO THE CITIZENS OF NORTHERN PENNSYLVANIA.

Particular attention is called to our Standard Platforms. We claim to make the best Family and Farm Wagon combined, ever offered for the money. Each Wagon Warranted as represented. We employ none but experienced mechanics. Selecting best stock for cash and pay cash for labor, and we have reduced the prices, as follows: No. 1, Platform 1 1/2 Spoke, 1 1/2 Axle, 1 1/2 Spring, 2 Seats, \$115 00. Add for Trimming, \$5 to \$8; Break \$7. No. 2, Platform 1 1/2 Spoke, 1 1/2 Axle, 1 1/2 Springs, 4x5 Leaves, Drop-tail board, 2 Seats, \$125 00. Add for Trimming, \$5 to \$8; Break \$7. We claim this the most convenient and durable and cheapest wagon in the market. Open Buggies, prices range from \$100 to \$160 00 according to trimming and painting, &c.

D. D. SEARLE, Proprietor.

Montrose, May, 3d, 1876.

Advertisement for Weeks, Melhuish & Co. featuring 'GREAT EXCITEMENT IN MONTROSE', 'NEW STORE AND NEW FIRM', 'DRY GOODS, SILVER WARE, WATCHES AND JEWELRY', and 'TABLE CUTLERY, POCKET KNIVES, POCKET BOOKS'. Includes a list of items like 'Watches, Jewelry, &c., repaired by F. D. MELHUISH'.

Advertisement for Abel Bennett & Co., Binghamton, 'Jobbers of Fine Woollens, ALSO A MERCHANT TAILORING ESTABLISHMENT, REplete with ALL THE LATEST STYLES AND QUALITIES'. Includes a note: 'All our goods have been bought within the last few weeks, for CASH, at a very low price, thereby enabling us to sell cheaper than the other establishments in the city, who are carrying stock bought at much higher rates. April 19, 1876. HAGAMAN BLDG.'.

Advertisement for W. Ousterhout, Harford, Pa., 'BUY YOUR WAGONS, CARRIAGES AND SLEIGHS, OF W. OUSTERHOUT, HARFORD, PA.' Includes a 'PRICE LIST' for various wagons and sleighs, and a section for 'BLACKSMITHING' with prices for shoeing, cording, and setting spurs.