



BY JAS. CLARK.

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### Yes or No.

BY SAMUEL LOVER.

There are two little words that we use,  
Without thinking from whence they came,  
But if you will listen to my muse,  
The birth-place of each I will name;  
The one came from Heaven to bless,  
The other was sent from below,  
What a sweet little angel is "Yes!"  
What a demon like dwarf is "No!"

And "No" has a friend he can bill,  
To aid all his doings as well,  
In that delicate arch it lies hid,  
That adorns the bright eye of the belle;  
Beware of the shadowy frown,  
Which darkens her bright brow of snow,  
As bent like a bow to strike down,  
Her lips give you death with a "No."

But "Yes" has a twin sister sprite—  
'Tis a smile you will easily guess—  
That sheds a more heavenly light,  
On the doings of dear little "Yes!"  
Increasing the charm of the lip,  
That's going some lover to bless,  
Oh, sweet is the exquisite smile,  
That dandles and plays around "Yes!"

### THE MYSTERIOUS STRANGER.

BY JAMES REESE.

"Still seems it stranger that thou shouldst live forever!"

This is a miracle.

In the year 1733, a stranger made his appearance in Philadelphia, whose singular manners and some what mingled style of dress, attracted general attention. He kept no company, associated with no one, none knew his lodging place; he was never seen to eat or drink; a strange mystery surrounded him, which none could penetrate or solve. He was evidently in possession of great wealth; this was ascertained in a manner equally as mysterious as were his action and manners, the nature of which we will not detail here.

A sale of old paintings in Second street, in one of those old-fashioned houses, whose age is identified with that of the city, attracted an unusual crowd, and among the number was seen the mysterious stranger. No common motive or idle curiosity seemed to have drawn him there, for as the various pictures were put up, he viewed them with the most critical eye, and it was observed at the time, equal attention. Among the paintings was one of the original portraits of Oliver Cromwell, at the sight of which the stranger laughed outright; but it was so wild, unnatural and sepulchral, that a shudder as at the presence of something awful thrilled the crowd.

Picture after picture was sold, without exciting any peculiar notice, beyond the expression of approbation which some beautiful specimens of art elicited until one was announced as being the likeness of Pontius Pilate! The stranger's eyes glared; his countenance changed from a pale cadaverous hue to the complexion of, as expressed by a gentleman present, "a painted devil!" So intense was his gaze upon the picture, that he scarcely noticed the curiosity his own conduct had excited, and the words, "It is he! It is he!" escaped him rather as a mental thought than as an exclamation. He uttered no other words, his lip moved as from a convulsive emotion, and when the auctioneer demanded "Who was the purchaser?" the sudden announcement "I am!" from the stranger, startled the whole company, and when he seized the painting and rushed from the room, it seemed as if the atmosphere had been relieved from a noxious vapor, for all who were present felt as if something oppressive had been taken from their breasts, and they breathed more freely, and as the auctioneer observed, "bid equally so."

I heard this vivid and fearful legend in my youth and it left an impression on my mind time could not obliterate, and after circumstances have added to the interest and wonderment of the subject.

In 1822 I was travelling in the south of France. It was evening when I arrived at a wretched hotel near the village of L—. A storm was approaching; dark and portentous clouds were careering through the sky, and the deep thunder was rolling and rumbling in the distance. Vivid flashes of lightning shot across the intensity of the darkness, like a fork'd messenger of the lower regions. Noticing a sort of shed, I immediately rode up to it, knocked at the door, which being almost immediately opened, I entered what appeared to be a somewhat comfortable room. But what attracted my attention most, was the appearance of the host. There was something wild, fearful and strange in his looks. His dress and style were different from anything I had seen before. He spoke not, but pointing to a stool, I seated myself, without as yet exchanging a single word; indeed I could not bring my tongue in connection with the words I wished to speak. It seemed palsied but not with fear; a sort of indescribable fullness

about my throat and head left no room for the faculties to operate. I was literally locked-jawed. This feeling passed away, and a few words from the stranger soon lessened the pain of oppression I had suffered.—Casting my eyes around the room, they rested upon a painting of a peculiar and very antique appearance. I examined it somewhat minutely, too much so, perhaps, for the rules of etiquette, but I could not resist the temptation. On a corner I noticed in pencil mark: Lot No. 23, J. J. P., Philadelphia.—Pontius Pilate.

"This painting," I observed, "appears to have been in Philadelphia."

"It was, and what is there remarkable in that?" was his reply

"Nothing, sir."

"I purchased it there myself, at public auction."

"You purchased it?"

Heavens what a thought flashed across my brain. This was, perhaps, the same individual, the same dress, age, and appearance, as described by those who saw the "Mysterious stranger in 1733."

While these thoughts were vividly calling up the various tales connected with the stranger's history, his eyes were fixed upon me.—Such eyes never glared on a human creature!

"Stranger things than these, young man have occurred," he observed, "without exciting special wonder. The mere existence of a painting, and in my possession, has nothing mysterious about it, as your looks would imply."

"I must confess, sir," I remarked, "there does seem something curious in this picture, apart from the subject of it as it was sold at auction, in the city of Philadelphia, some years ago, and connected with which—"

"There was a wild and romantic story. But there is a mystery attached to it, which if explained, would startle you far more than could all the imaginary horrors one, horrified into seeming reality by the pen of Lewis. The painter of that picture was a Flemish artist, and this work was produced by him when only twenty years of age; his name I will not mention—he died in a mad house! He painted it in the aisle of the cathedral at R—, in the year 1307, from an original painting, which I brought from the Holy Land!"

I stared at the individual as he stood before me, in awe, but not in reverence; for there was a mockery on his lips, and a hellish expression on his countenance that awakened fears for my personal safety, any attempt upon which I was determined to resist with all the power I was master of, and I felt capable of doing so, even against odds. With this resolve, I observed—

"You must have erred, sir, when you said this picture was painted in 1307, from an original you brought from the Holy Land!"

"Young man, you are critical. Yet I have not erred. Time and space are not linked to me, nor to my fate, nor I to them. I live for one common event! until that occurs the events of life are to me as passing clouds. Matter and motion are the secondary causes which in me produce effects.—Look at me, young man, may start not—!" I shuddered as I gazed, "and I will tell you more aye more than mortal ears have heard before! Listen—" he placed his mouth close to my ear and whispered.

"Gracious heavens," I exclaimed.

"Silence—listen again—" Again he whispered—I started back—there stood before me the Man of Ages!

"Aye," he went on, "I have seen whole cities consumed; men, women and children butchered—all—all but myself swept away from the earth. Nations, empires, and kingdoms rose and fell; towers, palaces and sculptured marble have all crumbled to dust, and left me a living monument of their histories. Yes, they are written here—here in characters of blood!"

"And you are—"

"Listen," and as he spoke he drew from his inner vest a small miniature, "look at that; view it well—aye, gaze again—did you ever see a face like unto it? Is there not heaven in every lineament? Ah, you start—gaze again—look at that mouth, those eyes the flowing locks. Ah! I see him now as I did that awful moment, when bending beneath the weight of the cross, our Saviour was on his way to Mount Calvary."

"I could hear no more—my hair stood on end—my limbs shook—my eyes became fixed—the fearful being stood like the Archfiend before me; his height was towering, and it seemed as if it was growing and expanding in my sight. I gasped for breath and shouted, in accents of horror—"

"You are—"

"The Wandering Jew!" was his reply.

I fell back in a swoon; how long I remained I know not, but when I came to myself all was darkness, the thunder

rolled in fearful loudness, the lightning flashed, and the rain was pouring in torrents—the Mysterious Stranger and picture were gone!

NOTE.—The legend connected with this most extraordinary character is to the following effect:

"Acheverous was a porter at the gate of Pontius Pilate, and when our Saviour passed out bearing the cross, 'Acheverous struck him with a stick, and exclaimed in bitter mockery, 'Go faster, Jesus!'—'Aye,' answered our blessed Redeemer, 'but thou shalt remain till I come again!' From that dark and eventful period, has the doomed man wandered over the earth; he has been seen in every land, and in every age. Voltaire and Volney both speak of him, and if it be that an individual has so been cursed, then, indeed, have I seen and conversed with the WANDERING JEW."

### Popular Recreation.

Can anything be more lamentable to contemplate than a dull, grim, and vicious population, whose only amusement is sensuality? Yet wild can we expect if we provide no means of recreation; if we never share our own pleasure with our poorer brethren; and if the public buildings which invite them in their brief hours of leisure are chiefly gin palaces! As for our cathedrals and great churches, we mostly have them well locked up for fear any one should steal in and say a prayer, or contemplate a noble work of art without paying for it; and we shut up people by thousands in dense towns, with no outlets to the country but those which are guarded on both sides by dusty hedges. Now an open space near the town is one of nature's churches; and it is an imperative duty to provide such things.—Nor, indeed, should we stop at giving breathing places to crowded multitudes in great towns. To provide cheap locomotives as a means of social improvement should be ever in the minds of legislators and other influential persons. Blunders in legislating about railways, and absurd expenditure in making them are a far greater public detriment than they may seem at first sight. Again, without interfering too much, or attempting to force a "Book of Sports" upon the people, who in that case would be resolutely dull and loggish, the benevolent employer of labor might exert himself in many ways to encourage healthful and instructive amusements amongst his men. He might give prizes for athletic excellence or skill; he might aid in establishing zoological gardens, or music meetings, or exhibitions of pictures, or mechanic's institutes.—These are things in which some of the great employers of labor have already set him the example. Let him remember how much his work people are deprived of by being confined almost to one spot; and let him be the more anxious to enlarge their minds by inducing them to take interest in anything which may prevent the "ignorant present" and its low cares from absorbing all their attention: He has very likely some pursuit or some art in which he takes especial pleasure himself, and which gives to his leisure hours perhaps its greatest charm; he may be sure that there are many of his people who could be made to share in some degree that pleasure or pursuit with him. It is a large, a sure, and certainly a most pleasurable beneficence to provide for the poor such opportunities of recreation or means of amusement as I have mentioned above. Neither can it be set down as at all trifling matter. Depend upon it, that man has not made any great progress in humanity who does not care for the leisure hours and amusements of his fellow-men.—*The Claims of Labor.*

Too KIND.—An old servant, drinking to the health of his young mistress, who was that day made a bride, said, 'I wish her many happy returns of the day!'

Some will do anything rather than own a fault, though every thing depends upon owning it. Seneca's wife, to conceal her own blindness, asserted that the world was in darkness.

A law has been passed in the Cherokee nation, making it the duty of the Sheriffs, to search for whiskey, and if found, to spill it on the ground.

"No Mistake at All Sir,"

A sailor having purchased some medicines of a celebrated doctor, demanded the price.

"Why," says the Doctor, "I cannot think of charging you less than seven and sixpence."

"Well, I'll tell you what," replied the sailor, "take off the odds, and I'll pay you the balance."

"Well," returned the doctor, "we won't quarrel about trifles."

The sailor laid down a sixpence, and was in the act of walking off, when the doctor reminded him of the mistake.

"No mistake at all sir," said the sailor, "six is even and seven is odd, all the world over; so I wish you a good day."

"Get you gone," said the doctor, "I've made four pence out of you as it is!"

### Exciting Affair at Lima. A BRITISH CHARGE THRASHED BY AN AMERICAN CONSUL.

The Washington correspondent of the Baltimore American details the following particulars of a gross insult by an English upstart to the family of Col. Potter, of Maryland, the American Consul to Valparaiso. The manner in which Col. Potter resented the insult will elicit from every American the highest praise.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15, 1850.

News has just reached this city of a personal rencontre which took place at Lima, on the 10th of the last month between your fellow-citizen, Col. Zabdriel W. Potter, the newly appointed Consul of the United States at Valparaiso, and the Hon. Henry Stephen Sullivan, nephew of Lord Palmerston, and Her Britannic Majesty's Charge d'Affaires near the Government of Chili, the particulars of which as well as I can learn are as follows:

On the 9th of December last, it seems that Col. Potter with his family, being en route for Valparaiso, stopped at Lima it being necessary that the steamer should lie by several days at Callao in order to take in a supply of coal. Col. Potter took lodgings for himself and family at the French hotel. After having taken his rooms in the hotel, into which he was shown by the laundry in person, and as he supposed comfortably lodged with his family during the stay of the steamer with a "compagnon du voyage" to take a view of Lima and its novelties and curiosities.

Col. Potter had not long left his lodgings before the Honorable Henry Stephen Sullivan with his family stopped at the hotel and deliberately walked up to the rooms which had been assigned to Col. Potter and family, and took forcible possession of them, and turned Mrs. Potter and her infant child out of doors. Mrs. Potter besought him with tears in her eyes to await the return of her husband, who would only be absent for a few minutes, but it was all in vain. His British nobility told her that she was only a common American cook, and ordered her out with her child in her arms, directing a servant to find other apartments for her. Gen. Herrera, who occupied rooms near those taken by Col. Potter, was appealed to by Mrs. P., and he and his daughter, Mrs. Mickle, went with her to the Charge and besought him to await the return of Col. Potter—but this appeal also was without effect. Mrs. P., was again ordered out of the room, and as she left in tears this accomplished functionary and chivalric gentleman taunted her with words of this sort—"Mamma, don't whip me—I'll be good next time—I will."

Some time after this brutal occurrence Col. Potter returned to the hotel, when he was informed of what had transpired, and as soon as he could hear the story he called upon Mr. Sullivan, who had gone out. After a short time he called again, but was told that the gentleman was not in. Like a true American gentleman, Col. P., declined to disturb the family of this Royal offender or in the least to take advantage of his absence but went immediately to a hotel in the Plaza and procured other lodgings, it being then nearly night.—Early next morning he again repaired to the room of the Charge and found him this time "at home." He requested him very politely to accompany him to the apartments of Gen. Herrera, in order to have an explanation of the disgraceful conduct to Mrs. Potter on the previous evening. Mr. Sullivan coolly declined the request, and told Col. P. that it was he (Col. P.) who must make the apology to his Lordship. Upon this Col. Potter administered a well merited and well applied chastisement, canceling him until they were both completely exhausted with the effort—the one in the passive, the other in the active sense.

This just retribution was witnessed by a large number of gentlemen, among whom were several Englishmen, and every body agreed that Potter was entirely in the right.—It is needless to add that as soon as the news spread over the city of Lima there was a universal burst of admiration of Potter's conduct on the one hand and of condemnation of Sullivan's on the other. It is hoped that this affair will teach Lord Palmerston's nephew that an American citizen, at home or abroad is not disposed to brook any insult, even from one who is of blood kin to his lordship and a high functionary of his British majesty, and he may also profit by this lesson and learn how to resent an injury himself hereafter.

The general sentiment here is that Col. Potter ought not to be allowed to enter upon the duties of his consulate, but that he ought at once to be promoted to be at least Charge d'Affaires to some one of the South American Republics.

### Message of President Taylor

In reply to a Resolution of Congress, calling for information in relation to the organization of a Territorial Government in California:

READ IN THE HOUSE JAN. 21, 1850.

To the House of Representatives of the United States.—I transmit to the House of Representatives, in answer to the resolution of that body, passed on the 21st of December last, the accompanying reports of Heads of Departments, which contain all the official information in the possession of the Executive asked for by the resolution.

On coming into office, I found the military commandant of the department of California exercising the functions of a civil Governor in that Territory; and left as I was to act under the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo; without the aid of any legislative provision establishing a government in that Territory. I thought it best to disturb the arrangement made under my predecessor, until Congress should take some action on that subject. I therefore did not interfere with the powers of the military commandant, who continued to exercise the functions of civil Governor, as before; but I made no such appointment, conferred no such authority, and have allowed no increased compensation to the commandant for his services.

With a view to the faithful execution of the treaty, so far as laid in the power of the Executive, and to enable Congress to act at the present session, with as full knowledge and as little difficulty as possible, on all matters of interest in these territories, I sent the Hon. Thomas Butler King, as bearer of despatches to California, and certain officers to California and New Mexico, whose duties are particularly defined in the accompanying letters of instruction addressed to them severally by the proper departments.

I did not hesitate to express to the people of those territories my desire that each territory should, if prepared to comply with the requisitions of the Constitution of the United States, form a plan of a State Constitution and submit the same to Congress, with a prayer for admission into the Union as a State; but I did not anticipate, suggest, or authorize the establishment of any such Government, without the assent of Congress, nor did I authorize any government agent or officer to interfere with or exercise any influence or control over the election of delegates, or over any convention, in making or modifying their domestic institutions, or any of the provisions of their proposed constitution; on the contrary, the instructions given by my orders were, that all measures of domestic policy must originate solely with themselves—that while the Executive was desirous to protect and defend them in the formation of any government, republican in its character, to be at the proper time submitted to Congress—yet it was to be distinctly understood that the plan of such a government must, at the same time, be the result of their own deliberate choice and originate with themselves, without the interference of the Executive.

I am unable to give any information as to laws passed by any supposed government in California, or of any census taken in either of the territories mentioned in the resolution, as I have no information on these subjects, as already stated. I have not disturbed the arrangements made by the Executive in the territories, or any of the provisions of their proposed constitution; on the contrary, the instructions given by my orders were, that all measures of domestic policy must originate solely with themselves—that while the Executive was desirous to protect and defend them in the formation of any government, republican in its character, to be at the proper time submitted to Congress—yet it was to be distinctly understood that the plan of such a government must, at the same time, be the result of their own deliberate choice and originate with themselves, without the interference of the Executive.

Under the Constitution, every State has the right of establishing, and from time to time altering its municipal laws and domestic institutions, independently of every other State, and of the general government, subject only to the propositions and guarantees expressly set forth in the Constitution of the United States. The subjects thus left exclusively to the respective States were not designed or expected to become topics of national agitation. Still, as under the Constitution, Congress has power to make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territories of the United States, every new acquisition of territory has led to discussions on the question, whether the system of involuntary servitude, which prevails in many of the States, should, or should not, be prohibited in that territory? The periods of excitement from this cause, which have hitherto occurred, have been safely passed; but during the interval, of whatever length, which may elapse before the admission of the territories ceded by Mexico, as States, it appears probable that similar excitement will prevail to an undue extent. Under these circumstances, I thought, and still think, that it was my duty to endeavor to put in the power of Congress, by the admission of California and New Mexico as States, to remove all occasion for the unnecessary agitation of the public mind. It is understood that the people of the western part of California have formed a plan of a State Constitution, and will soon submit the same to the judgment of Congress, and apply for admission as a State. This course on their part, though in accordance with my wishes, was not adopted exclusively in consequence of any expression of my wishes, inasmuch as measures tending to this end had been promoted by the officers sent there by my predecessor, and were already in progress of execution before any communication from me reached California. If the proposed constitution shall, when submitted to Congress, be found to be in compliance with the requisitions of the Constitution of the United States, I earnestly recommend that it may receive the sanction of Congress.

The part of California not included in the proposed State of that name, is believed to be uninhabited, except in a settlement of our countrymen in the vicinity of Salt Lake.

A claim has been advanced by the State of Texas to a very large portion of the most populous district of the territory, commonly designated by the name of New Mexico. If the people of New Mexico had formed a plan of State government for that territory, as ceded by the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, and had been admitted by Congress as a State, our constitution would have afforded the means of obtaining an adjustment of the question of boundary with Texas to a judicial decision. At present, however, no judicial tribunal has the power of deciding that question, and

it remains for Congress to devise some mode for its adjustment.

Meanwhile, I submit to Congress the question whether it would be expedient, before such adjustment, to establish a territorial government, which by including the district so claimed, would practically decide the question adversely to the State of Texas—excluding it, would decide it in her favor. In my opinion such a course would not be expedient, especially as the people of this territory still enjoy the benefit and protection of their municipal laws, originally derived from Mexico, and have a military force stationed there to protect them against the Indians. It is undoubtedly true that the property, lives, liberty and religion of the people of New Mexico are better protected than they ever were before the treaty of cession. Should Congress when California shall present herself for incorporation into the Union, annex a condition to her admission as a State affecting her domestic institutions, contrary to the wishes of her people, and even compel her temporarily to comply with it, yet the State could change her constitution at any time after admission when to her it should seem expedient.—It is to be expected any attempt to deny to the people of the State the right of self-government in a matter which peculiarly affects themselves will infallibly be regarded by them as an invasion of their rights; and upon the principle laid down in our own Declaration of Independence, they will certainly be sustained in their resistance against it by the great mass of the American people.—To assert that they are a conquered people, and must submit to the will of their conquerors in this regard will meet with no cordial response among the American freemen.

Great numbers of them are our own countrymen, not inferior to the rest in intelligence and patriotism, and no language of menace to restrain them in the exercise of an undoubted right, substantially guaranteed to them by treaty of cession itself, shall ever be uttered by me, or encouraged and sustained by persons acting under my authority. It is to be expected that, in the residue of the territory ceded to us by Mexico, the people residing there will, at the time of their incorporation into the Union as a state, settle all questions of domestic policy to suit themselves. No material inconvenience will result from the want, for a short period, of a government established by Congress over that part of the Territory which lies eastward of the new state of California, and the reasons for my opinion, that New Mexico will, at no very distant period, ask for admission into the Union, are founded upon official information, which, I suppose, is common to all who have cared to make inquiries on the subject.

Seeing, then, that the question which now excites such painful sensations in the country will, in the end, certainly be settled by the silent effect of causes independent of the action of Congress, I again submit to your wisdom the policy recommended in my annual message, of awaiting the salutary operation of those causes—believing that we shall thus avoid the creation of geographical parties, and secure the harmony of feeling so necessary to the beneficial action of our political system.

Connected as the Union is, with the remembrance of past happiness, and the sense of present blessings, and the hope of future peace and prosperity, every dictate of wisdom, every feeling of duty, and every emotion of patriotism, tend to inspire fidelity and devotion to it, and admonish us cautiously to avoid any unnecessary controversy which can either endanger it or impair its strength—the chief element of which is to be found in the regard and affection of the people for each other.

(Signed) ZACHARY TAYLOR.  
Washington, Jan. 21st, 1850.

GEN. JACKSON'S FIRST APPEARANCE IN CONGRESS.—When Mr. Gallatin was a member of Congress in the year 1796, Tennessee was admitted as a State into the Union, and sent her first member to Washington. One day, when in his seat in the House, Mr. Gallatin noticed a tall, lank, uncouth looking individual, with long locks of hair hanging over his brows and face, while a queue hung down his back, tied in an eel skin. The dress of the individual was singular—his manner and deportment that of a backwoodsman. The appearance of so singular a character on the floor of the House of Representatives, naturally attracted attention, and a member at his side asked who he was. Mr. Gallatin replied that it was the member for the new State. 'Well,' said his friend, 'he seems just the sort of chap one might expect from such an uncivilized region as Tennessee.' The individual in question was Andrew Jackson.