

BY D. W. CRAIG.

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For the Argus. The Necessitarian's Prayer.

Written and recited by J. L. CLEARY at an exhibition at McAlpin's School-house, in the Waldo Hills, Marion county, Jan. 1, 1861. O, Thou, in whom we live and move, Fountain of justice, truth, and love, Whist angels and archangels raise Their voices in Thy glorious praise, Though lower than the angels we, With them we now would worship thee!

A Prairie on Fire.

An Iowa paper says: We were riding over the Wacouma plains a short time ago, admiring the grandeur of a burning prairie. The grass was rather green to burn well, and very little wind was blowing; yet it was a grand sight. One end of the long string of fire lay within thirty feet of us—

Conspiracy against the Union.

The present secession movement of South Carolina is nothing short of treason. Neither is it a treason started by the circumstances of the moment. It is not because Mr. Lincoln has been elected, not because some of the extreme Northern States have what is called personal liberty bills, that South Carolina raises the palmetto flag.

Foreign Influence Wanting.

The editors of the two fire-eating papers of Charleston, the Mercury and the Courier, are completely taken aback by the course pursued by the English and French journals, no less than by the expressed sentiment of the people of those countries, as far as ascertained, with regard to secession.

Principle of Wales.

The London Globe makes some appropriate remarks on the visit of the Prince of Wales to Mount Vernon, during his visit to the United States. We quote: A Prince of Wales in the capital of the United States is a great fact; but greater by far is a Prince of Wales bareheaded at the grave of George Washington.

Speaking of the struggle going on in South Carolina as to how the grand army of 10,000 men shall be officered, whether by appointment of the Governor or by election by the companies, a Charleston correspondent relates the following amusing incident:

"At a meeting the other day it was proposed to take an expression from the rank and file of their preference. An active caucus had been going on for some time, and every candidate felt sure of being elected to the post to which he aspired.—In order to make it all fair, it was proposed, and agreed to, that the candidates themselves should not participate in the election, but should withdraw. Accordingly, it was requested that all candidates for office should step five paces in front of the line, when all but three made an advance movement! These three, thus clothed with authority, elected themselves, one Colonel, another Lieutenant Colonel, the other Major, and filled up the list from outsiders!"

A late letter from the U. S. Commissioner of Pensions says that there are now but eighty-nine survivors of the army of the Revolution whose names were placed upon the rolls for pensions.

Since the letter was written, Ralph Farnham, the Bonker Hill patriot, has been gathered to his fathers.

At the Old School Synod of Virginia, Dr. Jankin argued that every man licensed to preach the Gospel is de facto a Doctor of Divinity—"doctor" meaning simply "teacher."

The Sioux Indians refuse to make a treaty, and threaten to travel the war-path in the spring—a route that Uncle Sam will be likely to make "a hard road to travel."

A Washington dispatch says that as near as can be ascertained, the total population of our country is 31,000,000.

The ratio of representation in the House of Representatives will be about 125,000.

If one State may secede, another may, and another and another. Suppose they should all secede but Oregon, would we be responsible for the national debt?

POPULATION OF NEW MEXICO.—Mr. Whiting, Postmaster of Santa Fe, New Mexico, was in St. Louis recently, on his way to Washington, with the official return of the census of New Mexico.

The total population, including the pueblo towns, is set down at 80,000. Great difficulty was experienced in taking the census, the native inhabitants not understanding the object, and suspecting that it was for some purpose of taxation.

LEPROSY AT MOUNT SION.—Returning to the interior of the city by the gate of Nebi-Daoud, or of Sion, you traverse heaps of rubbish and offal, which, at certain spots, rise higher than the ramparts, and on which tufts of cactus flourish.

On this melench, irregular soil their lives a miserable colony, completely separated from the rest of the population. It is the allotment of the lepers. Here they await—men, women and children—the arrival of death, to release them from their terrible malady. Leprosy is still very frequent throughout the whole of the East; it is not the white or mealy leprosy spoken of in the Bible, but that still more fearful affection which is called elephantiasis. The epidemics assumes violent and reddish-gray tints; pimples forming in the substance of the skin give birth to abscesses terrible to behold. Little by little, the extremities of the limbs fall to pieces, leaving nothing but shapeless stumps. The roof of the palate comes away in splinters, which gives to these unhappy wretches a peculiarly hoarse and nasal tone of voice. This terrible infirmity, which is the despair of medical science, is not contagious, but is propagated by hereditary transmission. And the lepers continue to marry among themselves, in and in, increasing, multiplying and swarming on their overgrown dunghill, without the slightest interference or attention from any quarter, in company with the mangy dogs which you meet around their huts, more numerous, lean and bad than anywhere else. The wretched dog still remains the faithful friend of the wretched human sufferer.

The Smithsonian Institute is preparing by order of Congress, a most interesting report on Agricultural Meteorology, which will be a welcome boon to our farmers.

Besides meteorological statistics collected during the last ten years, at nearly four hundred stations, it will contain the arrivals and departures of birds, fishes and migratory animals, and also the time of planting and harvesting of crops, &c., at the different points of the United States.

Every member of the United States Supreme Court, it is said, from Judge Taney, the oldest, to Judge Clifford, the youngest in office, is opposed to secession, and denies the right of a State to secede, and insists upon the perpetual obligation of the bond which binds the States in one Union.

THE DOWNFALL OF THE POPE.—Nothing annoys me more than the senseless remarks so continually made in the United States and Canadian newspapers, about the downfall of the Pope.

One would think that the writers had never read a page of history. The Papacy has existed now for upwards of sixteen centuries, during the last thousand years of which it has possessed temporal power, more or less.—But the Italians are a fickle, turbulent people, and during these thousand years, have driven the Pope from his temporal throne, at least a dozen times. During the wars of the Guelphs and the Ghibellines, he had great temporal power one year, and lost it the next. And in the time of the fourteenth century, for 70 years the Pope lived at Avignon, in France, restored only to Rome, by a cessation of intestine feuds. In recent days, since 1798, the Pope has been compelled to quit his dominions several times. Restored in 1815, he left in 1848; reinstated in power by Louis Napoleon, he may again be forced to quit by Garibaldi; but while the Everlasting City exists, sooner or later, the Pope will return to it, be reinstated with temporal power, to be again and again driven out by the turbulence of the people. Who folly, therefore, it is to talk of "The Downfall of the Pope," just as if his present misfortune were a new thing.

HEAR THAT.—The Maryville Democrat says:—We do not know that we are terrible on the advocates of a Pacific Republic. Men have a right to project governments on paper, if they feel like it.

All we have said about it is this, that an attempt to establish a Pacific Republic would be treason to the General Government. We say so, because we think so. Those who desire to embark on the adventure can take the usual chances of rebels and revolutionists. If they win they are safe. If they fail they must swing. We do not think there is any occasion for the establishment of a Pacific Republic, and therefore we are not in favor of rebellion and revolution for that object."

The venerable J. S. Petigru, one of Carolina's noblest names, continues to bear witness to the Union, against the traitors who surround him.

He has no faith in the practicability of their measures, and is prepared for the worst of results to the State and the country. Lately, while attending the church, where, by his presence he for so many years showed that the character of the statesman was complete only when religion gave it grace and solidity, the services were purged (by nullification) of the usual prayer for the President of the United States, the stern-hearted old patriot rose from his seat, and left the church, thus giving a silent but pointed rebuke to treason, which last it should be found, but, where now, in South Carolina, it is most rampant.

ETIQUETTE REQUIRES THAT IN CHINESE conversation each should compliment the other, and everybody belonging to him, in a most laudatory style; and deprecate himself with all pertaining to him, to the lowest possible point.

The following is no exaggeration, though not the precise words: 'What is your honorable name?' 'My insignificant appellation is Wong.' 'Where is your magnificent place?' 'My contemptible hut is at Suchan.' 'How many illustrious children?' 'My vile, worthless brats are five.' 'How is the health of your distinguished spouse?' 'My mean, good-for-nothing old woman is well.'

ABE LINCOLN AN INVENTOR.—We were this morning shown at the U. S. Patent Office the model of a steamer combining buoyant chambers with a steamboat or other vessel, for the purpose of enabling their draught of water to be readily lessened, that they might pass over the bars or through shallow water without discharging their engines. This method of lifting vessels over shoals was invented by Abraham Lincoln, President elect, for which he received a patent May 22, 1849.—Wash. Star.

JIM, I believe that Sam's got no truth in him.

'You don't know, nigga; dare's more in dat nigga than all the rest in the plantation.' 'How do you make dat?' 'Why, he nether let any out.'

The practical youth who stole a joy from fate, has been arrested for robbing anger of her frown.

EUROPEAN NEWS.—Forty thousand weavers were actually starving in country towns of England.

The Times says that the President's Message was a timid evasion of responsibility.

FRANCIS II. calls upon the garrison at Gaeta to resist to the last.

The French were preparing to evacuate Viterbo, which continued insurrectionary. Negotiations for the evacuation of Gaeta having failed, the bombardment was about to recommence.

THE EFFECT OF MODERN REVIVALS.—A celebrated English Divine (ex-President Waddy) of the British Wesleyan Conference) takes strong grounds in opposition to what are technically called "religious revivals," because such movements imply that the regular pastor is not fully competent, because it affects more love for souls than he who redeemed them, and because it exposes the appointed circuit laborers to the disheartening influence of a wearisome stagnation and a dead reaction.

REACTION AND COUNTER-REACTION AT NAPLES.—At Naples a fierce insurrection which had very lately broken out on the part of the Royalists and a portion of the inhabitants of Caserta, had been followed by a terrible counter manifestation.

All the Garibaldian army was collected to suppress it. About a hundred arrests were made, several persons were shot, and many of the inhabitants took flight. At present it looks as though only the speedy resumption of operations by Garibaldi, could prevent a general revolution.

An old farmer, who had two handsome daughters, would not permit them to keep the company of young men.

After the old man had retired to rest, the girls would hang a sheet out of the window, and each bear, with the assistance of his lady who tugged lustily above, would thus gain an entrance. It so happened that one evening the girls hung out the sheet too early; the old gentleman spying the sheet could not conjecture the meaning of it. So he caught hold and endeavored to pull it down. The girls supposing it to be one of their fellows, began to hoist, and did not discover the mistake until the old man's head was level with the window sill, when one of them exclaimed: "Oh, Lord, it's dad!" and letting go the sheet, down came the old gentleman to the ground; dislocating one shoulder. Withdrawing all opposition to their keeping company, he was soon a father-in-law.

An Iowa paper, which has kept a record, states that next to railroad and steamboat accidents, more people have been killed and maimed this year by harvesting machines than by any other cause.

True friendship is very rare in human life; but, like the shadows of the evening, where it exists, it increases till the setting of the sun of life.