

Wm. E. Walker

# THE SPECTATOR.

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## POETRY.

**Last Words of Col. Crittenden.**  
"A Kentucky knave to none but God."  
Ah! tyrants forge thy chains at will—  
Nay! call the flesh of mine,  
Yet, thought is free, unfetter'd still,  
And will not yield to thine.  
Take, take the life that Heaven gave,  
And let my heart's blood stain thy sod;  
But know ye not Kentucky's brave  
Will kneel to none but God!  
Ye've quenched fair Freedom's many light,  
Her music tones have stilled;  
And with a deep and dark'd night,  
The trusting heart has fled!  
Then do ye think that I will kneel  
Where such as ye have trod?  
Nay! point your cold and thral'ding steel,  
I'll kneel to none but God.  
As summer breezes lightly rest,  
Upon a quiet river,  
And gently on its sleeping breast  
The moonbeams softly quiver—  
Sweet thoughts of home light up my brow  
When gazed with the red;  
Yet, these cannot unman me now—  
I'll kneel to none but God.  
And tho' the sad and mournful tone  
Is coldly sweeping by;  
And dreams of bliss forever flown  
Have dimm'd with tears mine eye—  
Yet, mine's a heart unyielding still—  
Heaven my spirit unshrinkingly will—  
I'd kneel to none but God.

## ON A CONTRARY WIFE.

By T. B.  
A drollish chap, whose wizen wife,  
By dawning, had her precious life,  
Called out his neighbors all around,  
And told 'em that his spouse was drowned  
And, spite of search, could not be found;  
He knew, he said, the very nook  
Where she had tumbled in the brook,  
And he had dragg'd along the shore,  
Above the place, a mile or more,  
"Above the place?" the people cried—  
"Why, what'd ye mean?" the man replied,  
"Of course, you don't suppose I'd go  
And waste the time to look below?  
I've known the woman quite a spell,  
And learn'd her fashions to be well—  
Alive or dead, she'd go, I swear,  
Against the current any how!"

(Boston Post.)

As an illustration of how life is sustained in the Polar latitudes Surgeon Kane mentions that he fell in with a Dane over seventy years of age, who had spent fifty-five years of age, 73 deg., subsisting during that period entirely on birds, fish, bears, and other animal food. He had not seen a vegetable in his whole time.

**A PLACE VACANT.**—The Government of Mexico can get no person to act as Minister of Finance. As there is no money in the public treasury, and none likely to be, the business of the department will not suffer much from the vacancy.

Two severe earthquakes were felt in this city on Friday last, between the hours of half-past nine and twelve o'clock.—Sunday Dispatch, Dec. 29.

**To the Public.**  
OREGON CITY, O. T.,  
Jan. 28, '52.

**EDITORS SPECTATOR:**—In your paper of the 2d inst. a communication from the Rogue River country appears, implicating in the highest degree the character of my son, Worthington Bills, and also my own. Feeling that the letter alluded to does me great injustice, I wish to give you a simple, plain statement of facts, supported by such evidence as I herewith offer to you:—My son is now in the hands of the law, and therefore as he is removed from all liability of being affected by prejudice or passion, I am content that he should await the action of the authority having control over him, and if he is found in the end prove that he has been unjustly accused, I should be pleased to have the same publicity given to a notice of his innocence, as has been given to the accusations against him. With regard to the letter of Mr. Painter's, the spirit of candor with which it seems to have been written, forbid the thought of its having been prompted by any other motives than honest convictions, therefore I conceive I am the more called upon, in justice to myself, to offer to the public the following. In the letter alluded to it is stated:—"This Bills and his father had taken claims at the falls, some five or six weeks subsequent to my arrival. They entered into an agreement with the Indians for a tract of land which contains some five or six sections." That portion of the above assertion which says that my son had taken a claim in Rogue River valley is correct, but I never had a claim there myself, nor have I ever laid claim to any piece of land in the Rogue River country any where; but on the contrary I then owned a claim in Lane County upon which I resided most of the time after leaving Portland in February last, until about the 10th of October, when I started for the mines near Rogue River. The reason of my going to that country, was simply, that sometime previous my son took a quantity of goods to that country to be sold, and receiving a letter from him to the effect that my presence was needed to settle up some business connected with their sale, and getting the balance due for them, I immediately started. After settling this business, and being pleased with that part of the valley, I looked some farther about the country, and made up my mind to settle in it. My son at this time made a claim, built a house upon it, and made other improvements preparatory to making a farm. I remained and assisted him some in commencing his improvements. At the same time his improvements were going on, I built for myself a house, on what is called the "gold bar," intending to devote my attention for a time to mining or trading at that point;—I also with a view to the promotion of good feeling and harmony between the whites and Indians, about this time built a house for the war chief 'Sam,' upon the condition that he should not permit the Indians to molest in any manner the whites in that section, or those travelling through it; and also that he should prevent the other Indians from burning off the grass in that vicinity. There was no other condition of any manner or kind attached to this transaction; and so far from my having anything to do in building this house for this chief, he was only engaged in assisting me to fulfill my own engagements, which was no more than others there also done; among whom was Mr. Dean, who was employed to bring my son into this valley—he, Mr. Dean, and all others in the vicinity being familiar with the purpose for which it was being built, and every one in the neighborhood knowing to the circumstance of my building the house for the chief, highly approved of the idea, and thought it would be of much service in promoting good feeling between all parties. Among those thus approving, was the gentleman last named, and the Indian Agent himself.

With regard to the second assertion, quoted above from this letter, it is entirely unfounded, so far as I am concerned, and I have no knowledge of my son being engaged in any such transaction; but if he has, as I said before, he is responsible to the tribunals of his country. In this letter it is charged against me that about the 18th ult. (his letter being written in December) I left for the Willamette valley, and that I "borrowed two or three horses from the mines" and have "not been heard of since." The facts are that I left there on the 10th of December to come to this valley for the purpose of settling my improvements and claim in this valley, and of procuring a load of supplies to take back to Rogue River valley for winter use. Before leaving I made an arrangement with Mr. Jacob Painter, Mr. Blinn, and Mr. [unclear] for two horses and one mule belonging to those gentlemen, to be brought by me to the settlements, loaded with provisions, &c., and drove back again; the loads of each of those animals, upon their arrival, to be equally divided between the owner of the horse and myself. This I have done. I loaded the animals and started them for that section, in the care of Mr. Hill, some days since, and at this time they must have accomplished something more than half their journey.

Mr. Painter also says, "it is the opinion of the citizens that he (the old man) laid the plan to exterminate all the whites, and that Worthington, his son, was to carry it out during his absence; and they were to have the Indians rob all the pack trains and they would reap the rewards of the looting arising therefrom." It would seem to be quite idle for me to simply deny the truth of any part of this assertion, inasmuch as perhaps some evidence besides my own denial might be called for; but it is simply an assertion—and one quite easy to make—and perhaps quite as difficult for the author to prove correct, as for me to show unfounded. What the secret intentions and designs were not as above represented, I acknowledge would be impossible for me to prove by others. But with regard to the above assertion, I am willing and anxious that my acts while in that country should meet and undergo any examination that may be considered called for by the circumstances of the case. I am conscious of no such designs, and am prepared to undergo an investigation of all things connected with my residence there at any and all times.

With regard to the allusion in this letter, to my being the same man published by Mr. Dyer, of the "Oregonian," last spring, for leaving the country indebted to him, this is the first notice of such publication that I have received. When I left Portland I was not aware that I owed the editor of the "Oregonian" a penny, nor am I now. It is true I had some business with him in the way of advertising and having had bills printed, &c.; but I always either paid each bill thus made myself or left the means with which it should be done in the hands of my clerks, with orders to pay it to him—and if any bill has ever been left unpaid it was on account of my directions not being attended to—and in no case intentional. If by any means any just demand thus holden by Mr. Dyer, has not been paid, I do now and have at all times stood ready to pay it upon presentation. With regard to his hasty publication of me in this manner (which I have never seen) I would simply say, that no gentleman would thus treat another. He, nor any other man ever had the slightest reason to suppose that I intended to leave this country, and if a bill did remain against me, due to him, he had no reason to suppose I would refuse to pay it; for I had a good deal of printing done at his office, and always paid him promptly, as he cannot deny.

In support of my own statements, as to where I resided previous to starting for the Rogue River country, as I said before, I offer the following certificates.

**LELUEL BILLS.**  
LANE COUNTY, Jan. 10, 1852.  
We, the undersigned, have been acquainted with Lemuel Bills, from five to eighteen months, and have known him to be upright and straight forward in all business transactions.  
E. F. SKINNER,  
E. L. BRISTOW,  
J. W. POINDEXTER,  
and ten others, citizens of the same County.

I have been acquainted six months with Lemuel Bills. He has been laboring on my mill. His dealing with me has been honest.  
H. SNOW.

We agree in the above, with regard to

the character of Mr. Lemuel Bills.  
LOUIS CALHOUN,  
WM. BREYER,  
JOHN LEASUER,  
P. F. CASTLEMAN.

Several other certificates of a like nature with the above, were shown us by Mr. Bills, which it is considered unnecessary to publish.—Etc.

**From the New York Bee.**  
**Last words of the Presidents.**  
When Washington was seventy-six years old, he lay upon his death-bed. I was in the room, and he said to me, "I am dying," and he said, "I am dying, and I am not afraid to go. I believe, from my first attack, I should not survive; my breath cannot last long."—And so he ceased to breathe.  
More than a quarter of a century elapsed before a similar scene was witnessed. Thomas on the same day, the jubilee of the nation, Adams, at 89 years of age, and Jefferson at 85, came down to their last hour. "I resign myself to my God," said Jefferson, "and my children to my country." Soon after Adams exclaimed, "In dependence forever!" and all was over.—They, too, had ceased to breathe.  
Five years after this, at 71 years of age, Monroe ceased to breathe.  
Five years after this, at 85 years of age, Madison ceased to breathe.  
Nearly five years after this, at 65 years of age, Harrison remarked:  
"Sir, I wish you to understand the true principles of the government; I wish them carried out; I ask nothing more." And he ceased to breathe.  
Four years after this, at 74 years of age, Jackson observed, in substance: "My sufferings, though great are nothing in comparison with those of my dying Saviour through whose death I look for eternal happiness." And he ceased to breathe.  
In less than three years after this, at 87 years of age, the second Adams declared: "This is the last of earth; I am content." And he ceased to breathe.  
In a little more than one year after this, at 83 years of age, Polk bowed his head in baptism, confessing his Saviour. And he ceased to breathe. The lamented Taylor, at 85 years of age submitted to the solemn decree. "I am ready for the summons," said he; "I have endeavored to do my duty, and I am ready to leave my friends." And he ceased to breathe.

The young man whose father don't take the newspaper was in town the other day. He was last seen on the south side of the public square eyeing very attentively a large wooden watch with painted hands, which to the initiated indicates that a watch maker may be found in the vicinity. After eyeing the sign for some moments, he leisurely drew forth a huge silver watch, and observed, "I've been wanting to regulate my watch for some time, and here is a first rate chance to get the true time." "Excellent," replied a bystander, "that watch don't vary a second in a month." The green one proceeded to set his watch by the true-very-true time, and then traveled.

Who would not die with such a Spade and Shovel? We are informed by an eye witness, says the Buffalo Republic, that upon the occasion of the commencement celebration of the Canadian Railroad on Wednesday last, when Lady Elgin and the Governor General attended to turn the first sod a solid silver spade was presented by the corporation to Lady Elgin, and an elegantly polished black walnut wheelbarrow to the Governor General. With the silver spade the first shovel full of earth was taken out by the lady, and in the black walnut barrow it was wheeled away by her spouse. This is the style in which they "manage these matters" in Canada.

**WHAT IS TARIFF?**—This question, so frequently propounded since the fugitive slave bill was passed, was answered by the Hon. William H. Seward in a debate of that day.  
"I am ready to resist, and to oppose the execution of any statute of the United States by force, if they are only guilty of a high misdemeanor; but if they proceed to carry such an intention into execution by force, they are then guilty of treason by levying war.—(Whiston's American Criminal Law, 580, United States vs. Mitchell, 9 Dall, 348.)"

**SILVER DISCOVERY.**—The Russians have discovered four important veins of silver ore in the Caucasus. The veins are rich in the yield of silver. The working of them has already been commenced by order of the Emperor.

The Emperor of Russia has ordered a diamond bracelet to each of the policemen who was on duty at the Russian jewelry department in the World's Fair.

**History of the Book of Mormon.**  
As the Book of Mormon, or Golden Bible, (originally called,) has excited much attention, and is deemed by a certain new sect of equal authority with the sacred Scriptures, I think it a duty which I owe to the public to state what I know touching its origin.

Solomon Spaulding, to whom I was united in marriage in early life, was a graduate of Dartmouth College, and was distinguished for a lively imagination and a great fondness for history. At the time of our marriage he resided in Cherry Valley, New York. From this place we removed to New Salem, Ashland county, Ohio, sometimes called Cooncut, as it is situated on Cooncut creek. Shortly after our removal to this place his health sunk, and he was laid aside from active labors. In the town of New Salem there are numerous mounds and forts, supposed by many to be the dilapidated dwellings and fortifications of a race now extinct. These ancient relics arrest the attention of the new settlers, and become objects of research for the curious. Numerous implements were found, and other articles evincing great skill in the arts. Mr. Spaulding being an educated man and passionately fond of history, took a lively interest in these developments of antiquity—and in order to beguile the hours of retirement and furnish employment for his imagination, he conceived the idea of giving a historical sketch of this long-lost race. Their extreme antiquity led him to write in the most ancient style; and as the Old Testament is the most ancient book in the world, he imitated its style as nearly as possible. His sole object in writing this imaginary history was to amuse himself and his neighbors. This was about the year 1812. Hull's surrender at Detroit occurred near the same time, and I recollect the date well from that circumstance. As he progressed in his narrative his neighbors would come in occasionally to hear portions read, and a great interest in the work was excited among them. It ceased to have any value written by one of the lost nation, and to have been recovered from the earth, and assumed the title of "Manuscript Found." The neighbors would often inquire how Mr. Spaulding progressed in deciphering the manuscript; and when he had a sufficient portion prepared he would inform them, and they would assemble to hear it read. He was enabled, from his acquaintance with the classics and ancient history, to introduce many singular names, which were particularly noticed by the people, and could be easily recognized by them. Mr. Solomon Spaulding had a brother, Mr. John Spaulding, residing in the place at the time, who was perfectly familiar with the work, and repeatedly heard the whole of it read. From New Salem we removed to Pittsburgh, Pa. Here Mr. Spaulding found a friend and acquaintance in the person of Mr. Patterson, an editor of a newspaper. He exhibited his manuscript to Mr. Patterson, who was much pleased with it, and borrowed it for perusal. He retained it for a long time, and informed Mr. S., adding that if he would make out a title-page and preface he would publish it, and it might be a source of profit. This Mr. Spaulding refused to do. Sidney Rigdon, who has figured so largely in the history of the Mormons, was at that time connected with the printing office of Mr. Patterson, as it was then in that region, and as Mr. Rigdon himself has frequently stated, became acquainted with Mr. Spaulding's manuscript, and copied it. It was a matter of notoriety and interest to all connected with the printing establishment. At length the manuscript was returned to its author, and soon after we removed to Amity, Washington county, &c., where Mr. S. deceased in 1816. The manuscript then fell into my hands, and was carefully examined by my daughter, Mrs. McKinstry of Monroeville, Massachusetts, with whom I now reside, and by other friends. After the Book of Mormon came out a copy of it was taken to New Salem, the place of Spaulding's former residence, and also very place where the manuscript found was written. A woman preacher appointed a meeting there, and in the meeting read and repeated copious extracts from the Book of Mormon. The historical part was immediately recognized by the older inhabitants as the identical work of Mr. Spaulding in which they had all been so deeply interested years before. Mr. John

Spaulding was present, and recognized perfectly the work of his brother. He was amazed and affixed that it should have been perverted to so wicked a purpose. His grief found vent in a flood of tears, and he arose on the spot and expressed to the meeting his sorrow and regret that the writings of his deceased brother should be used for a purpose so vile and shocking. The excitement in New Salem became so great that the inhabitants had a meeting and deputed Dr. Philastus Harbut, one of their number, to repair to this place, and to obtain from the original manuscript of Mr. Spaulding, for the purpose of comparing it with the Mormon Bible, to satisfy their own minds, and to prevent their friends from embracing an error so delusive. This was in the year 1834. Dr. Harbut brought with him an introduction and request for the manuscript, which was signed by Messrs. Henry Lake, Aaron Wright, and others, with all of whom I was acquainted, as they were my neighbors when I resided at New Salem. I am sure that nothing would grieve my husband more, were he living, than the use which has been made of his work. The air of antiquity which was thrown about the composition doubtless suggested the idea of converting it to the purposes of delusion. Thus a historical romance, with the addition of a few pious expressions and extracts from the sacred Scriptures, has been construed into a new Bible, and palmed off upon a company of poor deluded fanatics as Divine.—The Mormons, or Latter-day Saints.

**A Soldier's Privileges.**  
It is well known that "Old History" was equally popular in the army and among the people at large. No man ever lived in this country about whom so many characteristic anecdotes have been related, by those who were among his personal friends. Below we give two of these which we do not remember to have seen in print before.

Several years ago, an officer who was one of the most distinguished in the army, was from a dinner party, on a certain occasion, that he became intoxicated with the idea that the fire plugs were set for him in hot haste. Under those circumstances, he determined to conceal himself in a friendly gutter, and wait until his enemies had disappeared. In this condition he was found, and, of course, one of the numerous troop of office hunters was found ready to communicate to Gen. Jackson, then President of the United States, that the gallant defender of Fort Mifflin had been found drunk in the gutter. The old man stood for a moment reflecting, then turning to his informant, said:—"Very bad conduct, sir, in the Colonel. But, by the Eternal! he has done fighting enough never to draw another sober breath in his life!" Ever afterwards, it was the recognized right of the veteran colonial to get drunk as often as he pleased, provided he kept himself out of sight.

About the same period, the late Major Gibbon was Collector of the Port of a southern city, to which office he had been appointed by the elder Adams. Of course the Major as a Federalist and one of Gen. Jackson's political opponents. During the struggle of the American Colonies for independence, Major G. had distinguished himself on several occasions. He had commanded a forlorn hope under Mad Anthony at Stony Point. After the inauguration of Jackson as President, the Major, who was as bitter a politician as he had been gallant as a soldier, in an excited discussion about politics, declared that "Old History" was a damned scoundrel. The words were general, and he was supposed a remedy would be certain. "Well, what will you Jackson's reply?" "The man who committed a forlorn hope of Anthony Wayne, has full right to curse anybody he pleases!"

**PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NEW YORK.**—The average daily attendance of pupils, male and female, in the various public schools of this city, including the Free Academy, nominal and evening schools, is estimated at 50,000. The total number who receive instruction yearly, is 119,000. The cost of instructing these is over half a million of dollars per annum.

**U. S. SENATOR FROM TENNESSEE.**—Esq. James C. Jones, of Tennessee, was elected a United States Senator, by the Legislature of that State, to serve six years from the 4th of March last, when the term of Mr. Tazewell expired.

**THE SPANISH TARIFF.**—It is now said there is no truth in the dispatch relative to the Spanish Minister threatening to demand the extradition of the demand of the Government for the extradition of the New Orleans Consulate, was not complied with.

**Father Melchior's American on Steamboats.**—It is stated that he is now entirely free from debt. In his pasting speech he announced that he had saved more than 500,000 dollars since he had been in America.