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Poem by William Cullen Bryant. On this fair valley's verdant breast. The calm, sweet rays of summer rest.

Oh, never may the purple stain Of combat blot these fields again. Nor this fair valley ever cease To wear the placid smile of peace!

Yes here, beside that battle field, We plight the vow that, ere we yield The rights for which our fathers bled, Our blood shall steep the ground we tread.

Battle of Bennington. The Bennington correspondent of the Springfield Republican gives the following account of this important event in Revolutionary history.

The battles of Bunker Hill and Bennington, though separated by a distance of years and many miles, were the two decisive checks administered by New England militiamen to the picked armies of England.

Before availing myself of the wealth of local tradition which illuminates the bare story of the day, I must outline briefly the events which led up to this battle and its result.

General Burgoyne, with his splendid and confident army, had marched down from Quebec, compelled early in July, 1777, the evacuation of Ticonderoga, acknowledged to be the key to New England and New York.

General Burgoyne had called upon the "inhabitants of Castleton, Rutland, Timonium, Paquet, Wells and Granville, with the neighboring districts, all the districts bordering on White Creek (Salem), Camden, Cambridge, etc., to send ten persons or more from each township to meet Colonel Skene at Castleton on the 15th.

Massachusetts were called on for aid, and the Assembly of the former State organized a brigade of militia for General Stark. Happily he was granted discretionary command of this little army.

The town of Bennington at this time consisted only of the Center village and probably about 1,500 inhabitants. Though it boasted sawmills and frame structures, the town was largely primitive.

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General Stark and the Council of Safety had been ordered to get ready to strike on the 14th he had rallied his brigade sent to Manchester for Colonel Warner's men and to Berkshire for recruits.

Baum had entrenched himself on the hill selected for his main defense, which rises some four hundred feet to the southeast, but slopes away to the rear, and whose base is washed by the Wallomassac River.

Saturday, the 10th, was a rarely perfect day, with nature fresh-washed and dewily fragrant. General Stark got his perhaps 1,500 men—the New Hampshire militia, Green Mountain boys and Berkshire farmers, all fresh from the hay-field.

General Stark's wife was named Elizabeth and she had three children. The first was a girl named Elizabeth, the second a boy named William, and the third a girl named Mary.

Sweden they could not have behaved better. The Yankee farmers, stripped for the fight, and enraged at encountering their Tory neighbors, soon made the intrenchments too hot for the loyalists.

Personal Allen began with prayer, and special prayers ascended at Bennington and Williamstown during the fight, but with the delirium of victory came also the temptation to drink copiously from the enemy's rum barrels.

The Council of Safety continued in solemn session at Catamount Tavern, and at six o'clock a bullet was sent abroad announcing that "the enemy were driven, but being reinforced, made a second stand, and still continue the conflict."

The prisoners were filed into Bennington, and the wounded of both sides tenderly cared for. The dead bodies were buried with no ceremony, one enterprising grainger hitching his horse by a rope around the necks of the bodies and dragging them to a great hole.

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The Capture of Jeff. Davis. Soon after the close of the civil war in 1865, when Generals Lee and Johnston had surrendered to the United States forces, a good deal was said—much of it false—in regard to the capture of Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederacy.

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How the American Aborigines disposed of Their Dead. The moles of disposing of the bodies of the dead in use among the aborigines of America are classed by Mr. Edwin Barber, in the Naturalist, under four heads, viz.: inhumation, cremation, embalmment, and aerial sepulture.

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Cider and Vinegar. We are asked, says the Des Moines Register, if cider can be kept sweet. Certainly can, but it is far more useful than in which state it is a good substitute for the unhealthy and cut-throat vinegar made of muriatic acid and corn.

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Prospects. The Agricultural Bureau's statistics bear out the strongest statements that have been made in the newspapers in relation to the unprecedented bountifulness of the crops of the country.

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The Losers of Freight.

Upon inquiry among a large number of claimants a Times representative learned that Mr. King's circular of the 17th instant, inviting interested parties to send in their claims to the railroad company, to be presented to the authorities of Allegheny county and prosecuted, if necessary, without cost to the claimants, was not well received.

The Electric Light in Warfare.

The adoption of electric light as a means of illuminating the path of ships at sea, during the night, has been followed by the application of this powerful illuminating agent to the purposes of naval warfare.

PAR BELLA AT SEA.

It happened once on board a ship sailing along the coast of Brazil, one hundred miles from land, that the persons walking on deck when passing a particular spot heard most distinctly the sound of bells, varying as in human rejoicing.

A FRENCH NOVEL IN ONE CHAPTER.

Here is the story of an unfortunate young lawyer. This unlucky night was head over heels in love with a beautiful young girl, and was about to be married to her.

CLOSETED and his son lived together.

They were both exceedingly economical in their habits. Young Closeted was not anxious for his father's death. He knew the old man's money was all right, and there was no necessity to trouble about it.

It costs about \$7 to send a ton of wheat from Chicago to Liverpool.