The New Northwest.

THURSDAY.....MAY 8, 1879.

A TOUCHING INCIDENT.

To the Editor of the New Northwest:

Quite recently the personal estate of the late Mrs. Nellie Curl, of Salem, was sold at auction. Her voluminous letters of correspondence, about forty of her books, several rolls of periodicals and her book-case sold for only four and a half dollars. The bidders did not seem to regard the tender reminiscences, the valued letters, or the favorite books of the deceased. Next day I was at her house for some articles, which a kinsman of mine had bought, and in the yard I found the enclosed manuscript of Miss Nellie Stipp—afterward the noble, the talented, and now lamented Mrs. Nellie Curl. If you appreciate those lines of nature's true poetry, as I think you will, let them appear in the columns of the New Northwest, many of which were among her files of papers. A true, noble woman is gone from our midst. Death loves a shining mark. Earth has lost her brilliant gem; heaven has received a glorified angel. I am not writing the obituary of Mrs. Curl. I knew her well, and only bear witness to her extraordinary worth.

I remain your friend and well-wisher,

David Newsome.

The following is the poem alluded to:

Behold banana's favored land,
With luscious fruits and breezes bland;
Where artless hands deck nature's bowers
With verdant leaves and gorgeous flowers.
Here birds of various plumage sing
In groves where blooms perpetual Spring;
And reptiles back near silvery streams
Where sunlight casts its golden gleams.

Behold the land of beauty bright,
Which must all human hearts delight.
Surely, methinks, such land would be
An Eden from all tempters free,
Where all earth's purest joys are found,
And health and harmony abound.
But Oh! behold humanity
Where spreads the fair banana tree.

'Tis here Disease her tendrils twines
With Sorrow's willow-woven shrines;
While energy, ambition, fame,
In this proud zone no spot can claim;
And even purity is doomed
Within its bounds to lie entombed.
Here Spain's proud sons of noble birth
Rank with the lowliest of the earth.

Here indolence all minds corrodes
And genius shuns men's mean abodes,
While luxury's polluting hand
Spreads degradation through the land,
And superstition's frightful ghosts,
Like specters on the Stygian coasts,
Invade each breast with false alarms,
And fills the air with fiendish forms.

Now turn we sadly from this scene,
Though decked in nature's fairest green,
To gaze on lands whose fertile fields
Profusely Erin's tuber yields.

What though bleak Winter rules supreme
Through all the zone and not a gleam,
Of Sol's warm light, their hearts to cheer,
Have northern homes for half the year,
Yet here the hardy sons of toil
With honest labor till the soil,
And show the world that blest is he
Who labors that he may be free.

No land in all this world of ours,
Though decked in tropic fruits and flowers,
No date nor palm-producing land
That does not need man's toiling hand
Shall in her people equal those
Who live where the potato grows.

July 18, 1862.

The Innocent Schoolmaster.

He doesn't know very much. He can ask the questions laid down in his text-book, and determine with a good degree of accuracy whether the answers are repeated correctly. He carries a pen over his ear, a stick in his right hand, and a book in his pocket. He considers it of much more importance to secure obedience and submission than intellectual discipline. He frequently says: "Learn your lesson! If you ask any questions you shall be punished! It is not for you to know the reason why! Wiser heads than yours or mine have written these books, and it is your duty to learn what is written, and mine to make you do it! Study!" He requires absolute, unquestioning submission. He neither thinks for himself nor permits his pupils to do so. He believes his books and follows his nose. He is the sworn enemy of moral schools, teachers' institutes, and universal free education. With new text-books he has no patience, and takes no special interest in new inventions; in fact, he rather more than half believes that Edison is a humbug. He daily puts on the skull-cap of his own ignorance, and lives in the foggy atmosphere of his favorite pipe; and one of these days he will wrap the drapery of his snuff-stained garments about him, and lie down unhonored, unwept and unremembered.

The above is no ideal sketch. We have many such teachers yet lingering in the valleys of our dark corners. It is only by persistent effort that they can be driven from the teachers' ranks into the darkness of obscurity.—*Barnes' Educational Monthly.*

A canny Scotchman proposes to set the women at work against the new Constitution. He suggests that a good talker should be sent to the wife of every man who has a cent deposited in the savings banks, and to every unmarried woman who has any deposits, and explain to them how the Constitution will work in the way of taxation, and how their dividends will be reduced. That well done, he thinks the document would stand no chance at all.—*California Exchange.*

By the kindness of Mrs. J. J. Astor, who placed $1,500 in the hands of the Children's Aid Society, for the purpose, about 120 homeless lads, mostly orphans, from six to eighteen years of age, were sent to homes in the country. During the last ten years Mrs. Astor thus has given homes to about 450 boys at a cost of nearly $6,700. These boys are now self-supporting and doing well.

A bachelor cynic remarks that it is singular how early in life a child gains the reputation of resembling the richest and best-looking of his relatives.—*Yonkers Statesman.*

If you would be clear and forcible, don't use foreign words; be natural. A man never stops to hunt up a foreign word when he is stung by a hornet.

A lawyer named A. Wart resides in Sandy Creek. Unlike the usual run of warts, he is never on hand except when wanted.—*Rome Sentinel.*

Railroad flagmen are men of rare courage. It is not until they are dead that their spirits flag.

How to draw a girl out—set her upon a sled, seize the end of the rope and run.

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

To the Editor of the New Northwest:

When the vote was taken on the army bill, with the repealing amendments attached, the Greenback members in the House voted with the Democrats, with three exceptions. It has since been said that their votes were so cast in pursuance of an agreement on the part of the Democrats to vote for a Monday session, to permit the introduction of certain financial measures, which, under the rules, can only be offered on Mondays. But the motion to adjourn over from Saturday to Tuesday was carried, only a portion of the Democrats voting no with the Greenbackers, and I presume there wasn't any bargain about it. No doubt these gentlemen voted according to their convictions, though they may have hoped to make the Democrats feel under some obligation to assist them afterward in getting their measures before the House. From all I can learn, however, concerning the views of members on the Democratic side, I think the majority of them would prefer to avoid entering into any financial legislation this session. But at the session commencing in December a regular programme, embracing free coinage of gold or silver, with a coinage of the latter to the full capacity of the mints, and abolition of the national banks, will be adopted. Mr. Atkins, of the Appropriation Committee, recently said that this would be about the position of his party, though there will be a wide difference of opinion as to whether greenbacks or treasury notes would be substituted for the national bank note. As the House now stands, there is a decided majority, including both Republicans and Democrats, opposed to any legislation on this subject at present, and I am satisfied none will be accomplished at the extra session, though the Democratic caucus has decided to hold Monday sessions hereafter to permit bills to be introduced.

The idea of authorizing by law the formation of a corps of parliamentary attorneys has again been brought forward. But, as usual, it is made to illustrate the all-grasping disposition of the legal profession, and in that respect needs watching. As proposed, the members of the corps authorized to register for practice before the committees of Congress must be members of the bar. This restriction is grossly unfair and improper. The examination by a committee of a subject upon which legislation is asked or proposed is, in no sense, a judicial process. On the contrary, it is distinctly not a lawyer's argument which, in a great majority of cases, a Congressional committee needs or ought to listen to. Suppose it to be the Ways and Means Committee engaged in revising the tariff; would not a statement from an importer, from a silk manufacturer, from a wine merchant, from the proprietor of a print works, from a carpet-maker, or an ironmonger, be more useful than anything the best lawyer could say? Suppose the subject of proposed legislation to relate to railways and telegraph; must a lawyer be paid to elucidate it? Suppose it an international copyright; must authors speak only through an advocate's mouth? The fact is, the lawyers are over-much represented in Congress, which would be the better for more farmers, merchants and physicians among its members. To make everybody but lawyers ineligible as parliamentary attorneys would be to aggravate an evil that is already obvious enough to all but lawyers.

Mr. Gorham, who has just been relieved of the duties of Secretary of the Senate, rendered his final account a day or two ago. He has been an excellent officer; and, after eleven years' service, during which he has disbursed many millions—for the United States Senate is the most expensive body on earth—he closes his account for the first time. It was found at the Department that there was one cent owing him. In an official letter, which had to be copied, recorded, numbered, etc., the United States Treasurer notified Mr. Gorham of the balance on settlement, and requested him to draw a check for the amount. With the same precision as though a million of dollars was at stake, the check was drawn, and a messenger conveyed it to the Treasury. The books were searched to see if the account was to Gorham's credit, and then the cent was paid—a great big copper one, which the ex-Secretary proposes to keep for luck forever. It seems that, had he not drawn the balance, it would have gone on forever among the liabilities of the Treasury, and occasioned any amount of trouble to the clerks.

Dom Pedro.

Washington, D. C., April 12.

"Mother," said a little square-built urchin about five years old, "why don't the teacher make me monitor once? I can lick every boy in my class except one."

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