

Poetry.

THE SOWERS.

They are sowing their seed in the daylight fair;
They are sowing their seed in the noonday's glare;
They are sowing their seed in the soft twilight;
They are sowing their seed in the solemn night:
What shall the harvest be?

They are sowing the seed of pleasant thought;
In the spring's green light they have blithely wrought;
They have brought their fancies from wood and dell,
Where the mosses creep and the flower-buds swell;
Rare shall the harvest be.

They are sowing the seed of word and deed,
Which the cold know not, nor the careless heed;
Of the gentle word and the kindly deed,
They have blessed the heart in its sorest need:
Sweet will the harvest be.

And some are sowing the seeds of pain,
Of late remorse and maddened brain;
And the stars shall fall, and the sun shall wane,
Ere they root the weeds from the soil again;
Dark will the harvest be.

And some are standing with idle hand,
Yet they scatter seed on their native land;
And some are sowing the seed of care,
Which their souls have borne, and still must bear:
Sad will the harvest be.

They are sowing the seed of nobler deed,
With a sleeping watch and an earnest heed;
With a careless hand o'er the earth they sow,
And the fields are fairer where'er they go:
Rich will the harvest be.

Sown in darkness, or sown in light,
Sown in weakness, or sown in might,
Sown in meekness, or sown in wrath,
In the broad world-field, or the shadowy path:
Sure will the harvest be.

Miscellaneous.

Death of two Tourists in the Crater of Vesuvius.

The *Revue* of Naples contains the following account of the loss of two gentlemen in the crater of Vesuvius, who, with great temerity, insisted on being lowered down to the dark cavern immediately below the orifice of the crater:

"A party formed to ascend Mount Vesuvius on Friday afternoon, in the Cafe de Europe. The party consisted of two Americans, three Englishmen and one Frenchman. On Sunday night they took carriages from the cafe for Resina, reaching there at 11:30 p. m. Having procured horses, guides and other necessities, they started for the ascent, one Luigi Garoglio leading as cicerone, and arrived at the base of the uppermost cone, further than which horse do not go. The tourists then began the ascent over the hillocks and boulders of lava until the vicinity of the crater was reached, when Messrs. James Wilcox and Francois LeMieur, an American and a Frenchman, insisted on being lowered down to the cavern which is formed below the mouth of the volcano. The guides, who provide themselves with ropes for that purpose, complied with the request of the foreigners, and lowered them down. The mountain being perfectly quiet, no danger was anticipated, but when one of the party above the crater called out to the rash adventurers, no answer was returned. The guides, growing anxious, cried, 'Gentlemen, it would be better for you to hold on to the ends of the ropes.' Still the ropes remained slack, and no answer came from the sulphurous and murky cavern below. Twenty minutes passed, and the adventurers were yet silent. It was then proposed that one of the guides should be lowered down and hold on the ropes until he had investigated the appearance of the cavern base. He had hardly entered when he cried out lustily: 'Up! up! there's nothing here but a very narrow rock!' As far as any living person can tell the rest, the unfortunate strangers, the victims of their own imprudence, were hurried into the mysterious abysses of Mount Vesuvius. In this same month, sixteen years ago, two Englishmen of birth and fortune and a French comedian committed the same error. The same ambition which urged them to scale the icy heights of the Matterhorn also nerved them to search insidious Vesuvius while it slept, and they were either lost in some labyrinth of the lava and ashes, or smothered by vapor of sulphur."

PEACHES REPRODUCING THEMSELVES FROM SEED.—Referring to the statement made at the Farmers' Club that members knew of no variety of peach that invariably reproduced itself from seed, Mr. Flagg writes

to the *Prairie Farmer*: "Perhaps there is none such, yet of a hundred seedlings of the Columbia that we grew ourselves, we do not find one that is not possessed of all the characteristics of that very variety. They even vary but little in time of ripening, color, and size. Besides this, the Heath cling, smock, Indian blood cling, and late serrate (a local variety of our own), all produce seedlings that are identical, or very nearly so, with their parents; but we know of no such conclusive testimony regarding them as we are able to give in relation to the Columbia."

WHEAT.—Trafton's New York Produce Exchange Reporter says:

"It is very evident to us that the surplus of the country has been greatly magnified. Every day's experience confirms this impression; the deficiency in the crop of winter wheat is far greater than the public can be made to believe, but time alone can change those impressions. The improvement in winter wheat advised in our last has been fully sustained, and holders generally are less inclined to sell than early in the week, unless at a material advance, from the fact that we shall close the year with the smallest stock of winter wheat we have held at this season in twenty years. From the northwest we learn they have a large and growing demand for spring wheat from the winter wheat States; so that the surplus of spring for the seaboard is for the present quite moderate."

Statistics continue to show light stocks, compared with last year. The amount in store in New York, Dec. 2, is 1,199,577 bushels, against 4,074,257 bushels on Dec. 4, 1871. Similar difference is reported at Buffalo, Chicago and Milwaukee. The amount in sight in all the principal markets, including Toronto and Montreal, and the shipments by rail, lake and canal, was, at the latest dates received 5,809,412 bushels, against 9,329,697 bushels at the same time last year.—*Country Gentleman*.

On Thursday evening, 26th inst., the incorporators of the Union University Association held a meeting, and the requisite amount of stock having been taken, they proceeded to elect a Board of Directors, as follows: W. J. J. Scott, W. H. Abrams, J. J. Walton Jr., B. F. Dorris and J. M. Thompson. A meeting was held Friday, at which the above persons were sworn to perform the duties of Directors, and then proceeded to organize by electing Hon. J. M. Thompson President of the Board, and T. G. Hendricks, Secretary. A resolution was adopted creating the office of Treasurer, and J. H. McClung was chosen as that officer. J. M. Thompson, J. J. Walton, Jr., and W. J. J. Scott were chosen as a committee to prepare by-laws, rules and regulations for the government of the organization, after which the Board adjourned until Monday evening, the 30th inst., at seven o'clock.—*Eugene Guard*.

Says the *Baker Democrat* of the 18th: Yesterday evening, a little before dark, our attention was called to what appeared to be a volcano about thirteen miles west of this city, in the range of mountains on the west of Powder river valley. The smoke was visible issuing from Mount Powder. This was not noticed before the earthquake of last Saturday evening.

EUROPEAN.

LONDON, Dec. 27.—A special from Berlin says the British Ambassador at St. Petersburg delivered a note to Prince Gortschakoff informing him that England will abstain from interfering with Russian progress in Central Asia if it does not threaten Afghanistan. Nine thousand five hundred Khives troops are besieging the Russian forts on Euba river. Another two thousand Khives are depredating on the Russian fisheries at the mouth of Euba. Reinforcements are sent to the Russian troops in that locality.

The Ministers of Austria, Germany and Russia, at Athens, acting on instructions from their respective governments, jointly advised the Greek government to end the difficulty about the Lawrien silver mines by conceding the demands of France and Italy.

Thirty persons were lost in the steamship *Germany*. Twelve were passengers.

During a Missionary meeting at Salford last evening the floor of the building gave way, precipitating one hundred persons a considerable distance. Many were injured and some fatally.

LONDON, Dec. 28.—It is expected that 70,000 British coal miners will strike work on January 1st.

The *Amyreeta* was lost while on a voyage from Holyhead for Washington. Every person on board perished.

Terrible Casualty.

Some time since the dispatches mentioned the explosion of several cans of nitro-glycerine near the New York and Boston Railroad. The following particulars of the affair are from the *New York Sun*:

Yesterday at noon five hundred pounds of nitro-glycerine exploded near the line of the New York and Boston Railroad, in Yonkers, killing George Hill, aged twenty-one, and Michael Gallagher, aged sixteen; mortally wounding John Donnelly, aged nineteen, and seriously injuring William Terry, aged twenty-one.

Blasting has been going on in that vicinity of late, and as a great amount of this work is necessary, nitro-glycerine has been deposited at different points for use when wanted. Hill, Gallagher, Donnelly and Terry while out gunning, found five cans containing one hundred pounds each. A pit about four feet deep had been dug, and the cans placed in the excavation. A strong fence had been built around it, and on all sides were placards bearing the words, "Danger," "Beware," "Nitro-Glycerine."

The boys walked around the fence commenting upon the improbability of danger from such harmless looking cans, and Hill proposed that as it was Evacuation Day, they should create some fun by smashing the cans. The others readily consented, and all four clambered to the top of a large rock, about fifty feet above the glycerine, and rolled a stone weighing about fifty pounds, to the edge of the rock, Hill and Gallagher proposed to tumble it into the pit. Terry said the darned thing might strike fire and blow the stuff up. Hill laughingly said, "Let her blow; we'll have some fun anyway." Terry seized Donnelly by the arm, and running away about two hundred feet, they hid behind a large tree, at the same time jeered by Hill and Gallagher. Hill then rolled the stone down. It struck the cans, and the explosion was heard and felt for ten miles around. Trees, stones and great chunks of earth were hurled in every direction. The rock where Hill and Gallagher stood, weighing hundreds of tons, was blown into fragments. The ground was blown up hundreds of feet around. A first class earthquake could not have created greater havoc. Every pane of glass in houses for miles around was shattered, and the inmates were terrified. The explosion was heard in White Plains, Tarrytown, Tremont, Washington Heights and even over in New Jersey.

Workers from the railroad hurried to the scene, well knowing what had happened. They found Terry and Donnelly with their clothing stripped from their bodies, lying about two hundred feet from the scene of the explosion, groaning in agony. Donnelly's body was badly lacerated. His legs and one arm were broken, his body was black and blue, and one eye was gone. He was mortally wounded. Terry was the least hurt, and will probably recover. He is the only one left to give any account of the affair.

When the smoke had cleared away, search was made for Hill and Gallagher. Hill's entrails were suspended from the limbs of a tree five hundred feet away. Other parts of the body were scattered for hundreds of feet around. Only a small part of his remains, however, had been found last night. Gallagher's body was not blown into so many particles as Hill's. His legs were found severed from his body, which was stripped perfectly nude. Even his boots had been torn to atoms and scattered among the debris. The body, minus the arms and head, lay about fifty feet from the legs. The scalp and face, without the skull, were found in another place. The arms were shattered, and only portions were found. The skull is still missing.

The wounded men were taken to St. John's Riverside Hospital. Donnelly is insensible, and will not recover. Terry was too badly injured to give a full and detailed account of the explosion last night.

The excitement in Yonkers, and in fact throughout the entire neighborhood, was terrific. All sorts of conjectures were advanced as to the explosion. Some insisted that Hell Gate had blown up, while others thought there had been an earthquake. The superstitious fell on their knees in prayer. The irreverent trembled with fear; but everybody anxiously inquired what the matter was. One old lady in the suburbs of Bronxville was in her yard when a piece of the fence with the word "Danger" fell at her feet, and she fainted on the spot.

All four of the boys lived on what is called Hog Hill, within the city limits of Yonkers. They were of the poorer class and worked at odd jobs in Yonkers.

At the Roseburg Land Office this month (December) 11,006 acres of public lands have been disposed of. Of this amount 2,306 acres were sold for cash, 3,240 acres were covered by homestead entries, and 5,600 acres by pre-emptions.

The editor of the *Corvallis Democrat* has been shown some peanuts, raised by Major Bruce, in Lane county, which were planted in May last, and are equal in flavor and size to the California peanuts.

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