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By George W. Sherwood.

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POET'S CORNER.

"To charm the languid hours of solitude, He oft invites her to the Muse's lore."

WINTER IS COMING.

Winter is coming, who cares? who cares? Not the wealthy and proud I trust; Let it come, they cry, 'what matters to us How chilly the blast may blow? We'll feast and carouse in our lordly halls, The goblet of wine we'll drain, We'll mock at the wind with shouts of mirth, And snuff a cooling strain.

CHARITY.

In the hour of keenest sorrow— In the hour of deepest woe, Wait not for the coming morrow, To the sad and suffering go, Make it thy sincerest pleasure To administer relief— Freely opening thy treasure To assuage a brother's grief.

Miscellaneous.

[From the Boston Olive Branch.]

DECEMBER.

BY D. C. COLESWORTHY.

The year, which has been so pleasant to many of us, is drawing to a close. Yet there is nothing gloomy in the reflection, if during the months that are past, we have discharged our duties as citizens, as neighbors, as friends and as relatives. If we have improved our time, cultivated our talents, and lived constantly in view of our accountability to Heaven, not a regret should linger in our hearts. As time passes, we but draw nearer to that state where seasons are unknown and sickness and death cannot enter.

Caston Star.

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not for medicine to clear their systems and prepare them for summer, but are perfectly healthy. Let this truth be remembered and all who wish, may enjoy the winter and secure for themselves that vigorous health, which they will certainly enjoy, when the winter is past and gone and the singing of birds has come.

INDIAN HISTORIANS—THE CROW COUNTRY.

In modern times some of our historians have been complimented on the elegance of their descriptive powers, but we doubt whether their descriptions in terseness, strong natural coloring, clear natural explanations and satisfactory results, exceed, if they equal, the following from an old Crow Chief, describing the Nebraska Territory. "The Crow country, is a good country. The Great Spirit has put it exactly in the right place—while you are in it you fare well—whenever you travel you will fare worse. If you go to the south, there you have to wander over great barren plains—the water is warm and bad, and you meet the fever and ague. To the north it is cold—the winters are long and bitter, with no grass—you cannot keep horses there but must travel with dogs—What is a country without horses? On the Columbia they are poor and dirty, paddle about in canoes and eat fish. Their feet are worn out—they are always taking fish bones out of their mouths. Fish are poor. To the east, they dwell in villages—they live well—but they drink the muddy water of the Missouri—that is bad. A Crow's dog would not drink such water. About the forks of the Missouri is a fine country—good water—plenty of buffalo. In summer it is almost as good as the Crow country—but in winter, it is cold—the grass is gone and there is no salt weed for the horses. The Crow country is exactly in the right place. It has snowy mountains and sunny plains all kinds of climates, and good things for every season. When the summer heats scorch the prairies, you can draw up under the mountains, where the air is sweet and cool, the grass fresh, and bright streams come tumbling from the snow banks. There you can hunt the elk, the deer, and the antelope, when the skies are fit for dressing—there you will find plenty of white beans and mountain sheep. In the autumn, when your horses are fat and strong from the mountain pastures, you can go down into the plains and hunt the buffalo, or trap beaver on the streams. And when winter comes on, you can take shelter in the woody bottoms along the rivers—there you will find buffalo meat for yourselves, and cotton wood bark for your horses—or you may winter in the Wind river valley, where there is salt weed in abundance. The Crow country is exactly in the right place. Every thing good is to be found there. There is no country like the Crow country."—[Green Bay Republican.]

SELECT PROVERBS OF ALL NATIONS.

A drowning man will catch at straws. All truths must not be told at all times. A fool's tongue is long enough to cut his throat. A hand saw is a good thing, but not to shave with. A wicked man is his own hell, and his passion and lusts the fields that torment him. A libertine life is not a life of liberty. A goose quill is more dangerous than a lion's claw. There is no fishing for trout in dry brooks.—Spanish. Use soft words and hard arguments. When flatterers meet, the devil goes to dinner. We never know the use of water till the well is dry. To whom you betray your secrets you give your liberty.—Italian. Wealth is not his, who gets it, but his who enjoys it. When a man is not liked, whatever he does is amiss. Who will not a penny keep, will never have money. We are bound to be honest, but not to be rich. At the gate which suspicion enters love goes out. A woman that loves to be at the window is like a bunch of grapes on the highway. A woman that paints, puts up a bill that she is to let. Commend a wedded life, but keep thyself a bachelor. From many children and little bread, good Lord deliver us! He that marries a widow, will often have a dead man's head thrown in his dish.—Spanish. Every man can guide an ill wife, but he that hath her. If the doctor cures, the sun sees it, but if he kills, the earth hides it. Bear and forbear is good philosophy. Better be alone than in ill company. Norfolk Draymen.—The Norfolk Herald explains a singular custom among the negro draymen of that city, who, by convention, have established as a law among themselves that any draymen who shall work for less than the rates established by ordinance shall be whipped. Two were detected on Friday in this unbecoming work and were duly flogged in a retired part of the city. They evinced a "law abiding" resignation, and took the lash without resistance!

SURVIVING NAVAL HEROES.—War was declared in June, 1812. Peace was signed at Ghent, December 24, 1814, and proclaimed by the President, Feb. 19 1815.

There were fifteen naval actions between British and American vessels of war. In eleven battles, fought by single ships, the Americans conquered, in four only the British triumphed; two of which were by single ships, viz: Chesapeake, of 74 guns, taken by the Shannon, 62, and the Argus, 16 guns, taken by the Peacock, 20. The other two captures were two to one and four to one against us. During the war there were captured from the British, and smaller ships, 3 frigates and 134 gunboats, 31 them frigates and 103 gunboats.

The whole number captured by the Americans were 31. The British frigates were destroyed, at navy yards, but 23 armed vessels, viz: 3 frigates, Chesapeake, President, and Essex, 12 sloops and gun brigs and 8 Schooners.

Of the commanders who fought the naval battles, there have died.

Deane who took the Macedonian, October 23, 1812. Bainbridge who took the Java, December 29, 1812. Lawrence who took the Peacock, February, 1813. Burrows, who took the Boxer, Sep. 1813. Blakely, who took the Reindeer, June, 1814, also the Aron, Sept. 1814. Com. Perry of the Lawrence, Almy of the Somers; Conklin of the Tigress; Senat, of the Porcupine, of Com. Perry's squadron. Macdonough, of the Saratoga; and Henley, of the Eagle, of Com. Macdonough's squadron, that captured the four British vessels on Lake Champlain, Sept. 11, 1814. Allen, of the Argus, taken by the Pelican 1813. Com. Isaac Hull, who took the Guerriere, August 1812, who died in January, 1844. David Porter, who took the Alert, Aug. 1812, and fought the ships Phoebe and Cherub at Valparaiso in 1814, died at Constantinople in 1844, and was buried at the foot of the flag staff at the navy yard, Philadelphia.

The surviving naval commanders in the last war who achieved victories are: Jacob Jones, who took the Frolic in 1814. Lewis Warrington, who took the Epervier. Chas. Stewart, who took the Levant and Cyane with the Constitution, in 1815. Jesse D. Elliott, who commanded the Niagara, in Perry's victory. D. Turner, who commanded the Scorpion. Stephen Cassin, of the Ticonderoga, in Macdonough's victory.

THE ASSISTANT EDITOR.

It chanced during the late summer, that a country editor fell ill of a fever. The fact was announced to his readers, along with a notice, to the effect, that during his indisposition, the editorial management would be confided to an Assistant. Well, it turned out the Assistant contrived to please the readers of the Journal better than the Chief himself and they demanded his name. The convalescent editor informed them it would be impossible for him to divulge the name of his aid-de-camp, but that he would in the next number of the "Spartan" present his patrons with a family portrait of the Assistant. Expectation balanced itself on tip-toe for a week, & when the anxiously looked for "Guide" appeared at last, lo! and behold! at the head of the editorial column appeared a full length engraving of a portly pair of Scissors. Beneath was printed in starting capitals: Korrek! Pourtrait of the 'Sistant Editor from Life.

WELL ANSWERED.

Uncle Bill Tidd was a drover from Vermont. Being exposed to all weather, his complexion suffered some, but at the best, he was none of the whitest. Stepping at a public house at Brighton, a man rich in this world's goods, but of notoriously bad character, thought as Uncle Bill came in, to make him the butt end of a joke. As the dark face of the weather-beaten man appeared in the door-way, he exclaimed: "Mercy on us, how dark it grows!" Uncle Bill, surveying him from head to foot, coolly replied: "Yes, sir; your character and my complexion are enough to darken any room." A man travelling in Vermont, came late to a public house, and as the next stage would go out in the course of two or three hours, concluded to take a nap; charging the waiter, at the same time to wake him in season. He had but fairly gone into a snooze when there came a thundering rap at his door, and the usual cry, "Stage ready!" Hurrying down, he asked what he was to pay for his lodgings? "Twenty-five cents." "Well, sir," said the traveller, "I'm sure I thank you for calling me so soon, for if an half hour's sleep is worth so much, I shouldn't have been able to pay you if I'd slept till morning."

A Guarded Answer.—In the Registration Court, Cupar Fite was called on to appear as a witness, and could not be found. On the Sheriff asking where he was a grave elderly gentleman rose up, and with much emphasis said, "My Lord, he's gone." "Gone! gone!" said the Sheriff, "where is he gone?" "That I cannot inform you," replied the communicative gentleman, "but he's dead."

THE CASUALTY REPORT.

We had before our readers last evening the report of the Secretary of the United States, in relation to the tariff. It is probably the most important document of all the papers which will be sent to Congress by the Secretary had in relation to the tariff. It is a very able and interesting document, and contains a great deal of information of great value to the public. It is a very important document, and contains a great deal of information of great value to the public.

The Secretary's report will command the attention which it so well deserves. It will attract attention, not only for its vigor and manly tone, but for the bold suggestions which it makes for improving the navy, and bringing into efficient action all the talent and energy of its officers. To benefit the service, it is necessary to reform its faults; and to this work of reform Mr. Bancroft seems to have given his earnest and careful attention. It lays before the country a complete view of this important arm of the public service—its condition, destination, and services, during the present year.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.

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The navy during the year has been called into unusual activity; and the report does justice to the services of our various squadrons. It looks ahead to its future operations and presents the most gratifying evidences of the energy which rules over the department. It is difficult, in a hasty sketch like this, to present a complete analysis of its various statements and suggestions. The very condensation of an extended summary. And yet it is comprehensive, as well as condensed.

The Secretary of the Navy steps at once in medias res. There is no preparation or preface to the work. Like a working man of this working cabinet, he proceeds to the task in hand. He tells the country where our squadrons have been employed during the past year, what our vessels have been doing in the Mediterranean, on the African coast, on the Brazil station, on the Asiatic station, (embracing Commodore Parker's cruise to the Chinese coast, as well as Com. Biddle's destination to the same station) and what vessels have constituted the Pacific and the Home squadrons. He devotes a short but striking passage to the employment of the home squadron under Com. Conner, which (he says) "was much larger than has usually sailed under one American pennant. It gave efficient protection to our interests in the Gulf of Mexico, and contributed to spread a sense of security over our country to its extreme limits of the Delaware."

It refers to our navy-yards, to the naval asylum in Philadelphia, and to the Navy hospital fund. It presents an interesting sketch of the new naval school at Fort Severn, at Annapolis, which, for less than the sum of \$25,000, already appropriated by Congress for employing professors to teach the young officers of the navy, is calculated to teach a great number of midshipmen and to imbue them better with some of the most important elements of their gallant profession.

It refers to the Observatory at Washington, to whose superintendents (officers of the navy) it pays the compliments to which they are so justly entitled for their attainments and services. It calls for a liberal provision to extend and improve the navy-yard at Pensacola, and whilst it doubts the adaptation of a navy yard at Memphis to the repairs of ships of war, it explains the decided advantages it possesses for building steam-ships, and establishing a manufactory of cordage, in the immediate vicinity of the hemp-growing region. It reserves the subject of lake defences for a special communication to Congress. It recommends the preservation of our live-oak plantation to be transferred to the appropriate care of the land office—in the same manner as the President recommends the superintendence of the mineral region to be given to the same admirably conducted bureau, under Judge Shields. It states that the balance of appropriations on hand will be sufficient, with the

use of rigid economy, for the remainder of the fiscal year. The estimates contemplate no increase in the force to be employed for the next year. The marine corps, is noticed in a brief but ingenious manner, and it declares that no increase of the officers is needed for naval purposes even, or an increase of the men. It makes no estimate for the increase of the navy—upon which subject the Secretary avails the instructions of Congress. He calls the attention of Congress to the propriety of adding to the number of our sea-going steamers.

I earnestly hope that our gallant navy, during the next year, as heretofore, may perform its whole duty, displaying the flag of our republic in every ocean, protecting our commerce, extending the bounds of human knowledge, overawing semi-barbarous nations, restraining the piratical traffic in African slaves, and by its presence promoting the preservation of the peace of mankind. It contains all the elements of efficiency. It has able and skillful officers, who compete with alacrity for every post of danger or adventure. Its men excel in seamanship, courage, and fidelity to their country. Unsusited to purposes of maritime dominion, it inspires respect for the American flag in every part of the world. Yet a regard for its best interests, a desire to promote the welfare of its meritorious officers, and a sense of justice to the country, induce me to add, that its annual cost is disproportionate to its magnitude; and the system of its organization and preferences deprives merit of hope, by conferring the highest rank in the profession without much regard to capacity or previous activity in the public service.

Favorable mention is made of the apprentice system, as capable of producing valuable results, notwithstanding the difficulties which have thus far attended its execution. The Secretary calls for some amendments of the present law to protect the treasury, and respecting the corps of pursers. In reference to the officers Mr. Bancroft is at once liberal and just. Recognizing the great merit which abounds in the service, he seeks to encourage it by giving it suitable reward; and proposes therefore, to substitute in the navy, for promotion by seniority, promotion by selection. We can add nothing to the force of argument by which he sustains, in his own language, the importance of this change.

The number of officers in the higher grades of the service is represented as greater than the country can usefully employ; and the report recommends that a portion of these—such as from infancy or from some other cause are not adapted to active duty—should be placed on a retired list and receive half-pay. These are important proposals; but they recommend improvements which other countries, to a great extent, have adopted, and which our own will not fear to adopt, if, upon examination, it shall believe them wise.

It expatiates, with great beauty and force, on the condition of the common seaman. One of the most gratifying features of the report is the tribute which it pays, as just as it is eloquent, to the sailors of the navy; and the determination which it manifests to protect the American seaman in all his rights, most commend itself to the warm approval of the country. We cannot deny ourselves the pleasure of quoting the following passage on this subject: "It is the glory of our navy that our sailors are held by affection and choice. They enlist voluntarily; they are freely discharged on their return from a cruise; and, with few exceptions, they readily enlist again. They love the service; and on whatever sea they are found, they are Americans at heart."

Efforts have been made to break up a violation of law which has too long existed on ship-board. The mercy of the statute intrusts the power of the lash exclusively to the commanding officer. No other officer worthy of a command will inflict punishment except after due examination into the offences charged. The former custom of delegating this power to subordinate officers is a flagrant violation of the will of Congress and the people. The men have rights and must be protected in them. Experience shows that discipline is never so good as when the commanding officer sets the example of subordination, by obedience to the laws of his country.

Freedom to enter the service; protection in their rights during their service; freedom to leave it after a cruise; skillful medical attention, with comfortable quarters of naval hospitals, in case of sickness; a pension in case of disability; a home at the naval asylum in old age—these provisions show that the sailor has not been neglected by his countrymen.

I cannot close this communication without repeating, that the evils in our navy to which I have called attention spring from the defects in the system that have been followed, rather than from the want of proper personal qualities in the officers. A period of peace, which it is to be hoped may continue, left employment at sea without the strong attraction that comes from the prospect of winning renown; and the department, while it possesses the services of all, without exception, has yet had no opportunities of rewarding alacrity and capacity. An exploring expedition was, indeed, sent forth and kept at sea for a long series of years; and many cases of ordinary employment have imposed great hardships and privations; but not a lieutenant or a midshipman has in any one instance received so much as the slightest advancement beyond those who remained during the same period of shore, or at easier stations.

Ours is the only service where activity and inactivity have fared alike; and it is the highest evidence of the capacity and integrity of our officers, and the vast amount of talent which a proper system