E. K. Hooper

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POET'S CORNER.

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

From the Southern Churchman.

THE "OLD CHURCH BELL."

Hark! hark! it is the "old church bell"—
Those sounds I dearly love—
Its soft, melodious voice foretells,
Of endless peace above.

How often in my childhood's days,
I've listened to that bell;
It taught my youthful feet the ways
I loved to tread so well.

Long years! long years! around have roll'd,
And cares have come apace,
Since first I heard that old bell toll'd
From out that holy place.

E'en now where'er I hear that sound,
Come merrily o'er the lea,
It seems as if relief I've found,
From earthly misery.

It has a sweet, a joyful sound—
Like music of the spheres—
It makes my rebel heart rebound,
From earth to heavenly cares.

THE ILLS OF LIFE.

By some 'tis said, "this world's a shade
That's given for man's delusion"—
And strive to show, that all below,
Is discord and confusion.

I'm frank and free to disagree
With all this kind of reasoning;
Ills in life's cup, like salt in soup,
Are sprinkled, just for seasoning,

We should not prize our greatest joys,
If we knew nought of sorrow,
And all we know of bliss below,
We from the contrast borrow.

While health is mine, I'll not repine,
Nor trouble, beg nor borrow;
I'll not essay, to heap to day
With evils of to-morrow.

All must allow, our wants are few;
And few our real sorrows;
Our greatest woes are often those
Imagination borrows.

Then let us strive, while here we live,
T' appreciate each blessing,
Nor nurse our woes, 'till each one grows
From slight to sore distressing.

With cheerful hearts, let's act our parts,
Nor murmur, nor repine;
The mighty hand, that all things plan'd,
Is holy and divine. H. W. P.

Miscellaneous.

NO TIME TO READ.

The United States Journal thus discourses to those who say they have "no time to read." How often do we hear men excuse themselves from subscribing to a paper or periodical, by saying they have "no time to read." When we hear a man thus excuse himself, we conclude he has never found time to confer any substantial advantage, either upon his family, his country, or himself. To hear a freeman thus express himself, is truly humiliating, and we can form no other opinion, than that such a man is of little importance to society. Such men generally have time to attend public barbecues, meetings, sales, and other gatherings, but they have "no time to read."

They frequently spend whole days in gossipping, tippling, and swapping horses, but they have "no time to read." They sometimes lose a day in asking advice of their neighbors—sometimes a day in picking up news, the prices current, and in borrowing newspapers—but these men "never have any time to read." They have time to hunt, to fish, fiddle, to do nothing, but "no time to read." Such men generally have uneducated children, unimproved farms, and unhappy firesides. They have no energy, no spirit of improvement, no love of knowledge; they live 'unknowing and unknown,' and often die unwept and unregretted."

THE POOR WIDOW.

When the broad doors of a truly generous heart are opened, what a gush of music thrills through the soul! And yet a generous heart—a heart whose first impulsation is, as it were, a throb of love for all on earth, may be by *deceit*, made the abode of a spirit chill and cold as that which reigns in the midnight of winter.—Generosity exists in all classes, but more particularly is it found in the "short but simple annals of the poor." A poor man is seldom if ever unwilling to divide his mite with his suffering brother, whilst very often—too often, his richer compeer, springing from the same dust, breathing the same air and hoping for the same happy heaven, clutches his purse-strings and walks on unheeding the mourn of the orphan or the almost stifled sigh of the helpless widow.

Daubers as we are in the delineation of human suffering, we will endeavor to paint a scene of actual occurrence, in which the moral of hope is blended with the bitterness of misery. Some three or four weeks ago, in an humble tenement in the upper part of the city, lived a poor lady with two young children, who, God help them! were fatherless. Tender things!—they could not earn their bread, and when disease had wasted their poor mother's frame almost to a shadow, they ate with eager gladness the cold bits of bread and meat that some neighbor, almost as poor as themselves, had the charity to send them. That kind neighbor moved away, and mother and children were left without any one who knew of, or felt willing to relieve their distress—without a penny to buy food or medicine. The widow, from the deep well of a woman's heart, although sick and wearied almost to death, still found words of hope to cheer her suffering babes. But, alas! no succor came! To the widow death would have been welcome—but the poor children! To leave them to the mercy of the world? No! Her woman's heart nerved with iron, said No! No! No! Her children without bread—there was no friend near—no soft hand to pat the cheek of the youngest babe, or smooth the dark brown tresses of the elder—no kind word to whisper, "God be with thee, widow!" All was comfortless—all was drear—not a star was there discernable in the sky of hope! Stretched on her humble cot, the sick widow clasped her hands before her eyes, and *wept lowly* that her children might not hear her sobs.

There was a tap at the door, and a stranger, a somewhat uncouth man, dressed in a sailor's garb, entered the apartment. The widow did not hear the knock, and the children were so much amazed that they did not speak. The stranger looked at them, and while a big tear which he vainly strove to hide, flowed down either cheek, he kissed the poor innocents, and almost sank on a chair. The noise startled the mother, and painfully she turned her poor, pale face towards him.

There was a swelling of the throat—a brightning of the eye, and then burst forth in that humble room the glad cry of "Brother! Oh, God, my Brother!"

In a moment the thin white arms of the widow were clasped about the brawny neck of the noble sailor! Oh what a thrill of joy! He had come—her brother—he had come—no more cries for bread, God had heard her prayer, aye, and answered it. The children clasped their uncle about the knees, and in the fullness of their little hearts shouted for joy!

A day or two ago, the widow, her children and her gallant brother started for the North. We heard her history related when surrounded by her babes, she stood upon the vessels deck, we thought she must have said in her heart: "Surely the God of love will not desert the widow and the orphan."—*N. O. Delta.*

SELF-MARRIAGE.—A couple had been living together as man and wife, in Philadelphia, for some time. The gentleman, perhaps, becoming tired of the incumbrance refused to support his reputed wife. She instituted a suit to obtain a share of his worldly substance. The defence was that they were not legally married. It appeared that no clergymen or minister of the law officiated at the marriage ceremony, but that the parties acknowledged themselves man and wife in the presence of witnesses. This Judge Sargent decided to be a legal marriage, and ordered the husband to give security for the payment of $10 per week for the support of his wife.—With this decision the husband refused to comply, and was imprisoned for contempt of court. He was subsequently brought before the court, backed by an extraordinary array of legal talent, on an application for a discharge; but all to no purpose—the Judge was inexorable. This interpretation of the law was established in England many years ago, and a law providing for marriage in this form was adopted in South Carolina in 1809, 'in order that none may be hindered in so necessary a work, there being no ministers."

THE WESTERN CONTINENT.—A new mammoth sheet, to bear the above title, is announced, the first number of which will be issued at Baltimore, early in January. It will be similar in size and general appearance, to the Saturday Post, Courier, and Neal's Gazette, of Philadelphia; and will be published by Mess. Taylor, Wilde & Co., Baltimore, at *Two Dollars per annum.* It will be under the editorial management of Park Benjamin, Esquire, well known as a poet and a critical writer, and the former editor of the New World; assisted by W. T. Thompson, Esq., of Augusta, Georgia, whose talents as a writer of wit and humour, will be admitted by all who have read the celebrated "Major Jones' Courtship" of which popular work Mr. Thompson is the author. With such editors, the "Western Continent" cannot fail to be a readable sheet, and will doubtless obtain a high and deserved popularity.—*Cincinnati Times.*

Keeping warm all winter with a single Log of Wood.—To enjoy health, warmth, peace of mind, and a vigorous constitution, if you have nothing else to do, take a log of wood of moderate size, carry it to the upper garret and throw it from the window into the street, taking care, of course, not to knock any body on the head, this done, run down stairs as fast as you can; take it up again to the garret and do as before.—Rspeat the process until you are sufficiently warm—when you may lay away the log for another occasion.—*Old Recipe.*

The British Navy at Defiance.—The New York Sun has been authorized to say that a model for Steam Battery is being completed in that city, on an entire new projection, which will set at defiance any attempt to enter our harbors. An appropriation from Congress will be applied for in a few days, to erect one of these batteries at the Narrows.

Speech of General Cass.

NATIONAL DEFENCE.

Mr. Cass then called for the reading of the following resolutions, presented by him on the 9th instant.

Resolved, That the Committee on Naval Affairs be instructed to inquire into the condition of the navy of the United States, and into the quantity and condition of the naval supplies now on hand; and whether an increase of them is not necessary to the efficient operations of the navy, and to its preservation and augmentation; and, generally, into its capacity for defending our coast and our commerce, and for any service the exigencies of the country may probably require.

Resolved, That the Committee on Military Affairs be instructed to inquire into the condition of the national fortifications and their armaments, and whether other defensive works are necessary; and into the condition and quantity of the military supplies; and into the state of the means possessed by the government for the defence of the country.

Resolved, That the Committee on Militia be instructed to inquire into the present condition of that great branch of the public service, and into the state of the militia laws; and that they be further instructed to report such changes in the existing system as will give more experience and efficiency to that arm of defence, and will place it in the best condition for protecting the country, should it be exposed to foreign invasion.

Mr. CASS, in support of the resolutions then rose and said:

MR. PRESIDENT: It is impossible to peruse the President's message, and to observe the progress of public opinion in England, as this is indicated in the declarations of her statesmen in Parliament and in her daily journals, without being aware that a crisis is fast approaching in the intercourse between that country and ours, which demands the serious consideration, and may require the cordial and active co-operation of the whole American people. The President has told us that the negotiations respecting Oregon, if they have not reached a close, have, at any rate, reached a position almost equivalent to it. The claims of the respective nations are utterly irreconcilable; and a compromise by a voluntary sacrifice of a portion of their pretensions by one party, or by both, or a submission of the whole matter in controversy to some foreign power, seems the only alternatives by which peace can be preserved.

Our government has already declined to submit our rights to foreign arbitration.—That is a process which, under equal circumstances, may well be adopted by independent nations to terminate disputes, which would otherwise seek the arbitrament of war. It preserves the honor of both parties, and ought to preserve the just interests of both. It substitutes reason for force, and is therefore suited to the advancing opinions of the age, and to the duties and feelings of Christian communities.—But these equal circumstances do not exist in our present dispute with England. There are obvious considerations, into which I need not enter here, growing out of the relative situation of that country and of ours with those powers of Europe from whom an arbitrator would almost necessarily be selected, and out of the influence she possesses over their counsels, and, I may add, growing out of the nature of our institutions, and the little favor these enjoy at present upon the eastern continent, which may well have made the government hesitate to submit important interests at this particular juncture, to such a tribunal. It may well have thought it better to hold on to our right, and to hold on also to our remedy, rather than commit both to a royal arbitrator. War is a great calamity, and ought to be avoided by all proper means; but there are calamities greater than war, and among these is national dishonor.

I did no rise, sir, as will be seen, to discuss in whole or in part the question of our right to Oregon. That subject will come up in its own time. There may be some difference of opinion, as well in Congress as in the nation, respecting the territorial extent of that right; though I take this opportunity of expressing my entire and hearty concurrence in the claim as advanced by the President. But I am sure there is no great party, and I trust there are few individuals in this country, who are prepared even in an extreme spirit of compromise, to accept the most liberal offer that England has yet made. Her pretensions and ours are so widely separated, that there seems no middle ground on which to meet. Our most moderate claim, and her most liberal offer, leaves the parties asunder by seven degrees of latitude, and by a large portion of the territory in question. What, then, is our condition?—Can we recede? Can we stand still? or must we advance?

As to receding it is neither to be discussed nor thought of. I refer to it, but to denounce it—a denunciation which will find a response in every American bosom. Nothing is ever gained by national pusillanimity. And the country which seeks to purchase temporary security by yielding to unjust pretensions, buys present ease at the expense of permanent honor and safety. It sows the wind to reap the whirlwind. I have said elsewhere what I will repeat here, that it is better to fight for the first inch of national territory than for the last. It is better to defend the door sill, than the hearth stone—the porch, than the altar. National character is a richer treasure than gold or silver, and exercises a moral influence, in the hour of danger, which, if not power itself, is its surest ally. Thus far, ours is untarnished, and let us all join, however separated by party or by space, so to preserve it.

If we cannot recede, can we stand still? No, Mr. President; in this, as in all the other elements of national power and greatness, our duty and our destiny are onward. We might as well attempt to stay the waves of the Pacific, as to stay the tide of emigration, which is setting towards its shores. If this government had the disposition, it has not the power to arrest this human current. But it has neither—neither the power nor the disposition to do it. There are questions of public right which may rest in abeyance; which are not called into daily exercise; and need be asserted, only when required. But such is not the right by which we hold Oregon. We must maintain it, or abandon it. A vigorous and enterprising people are fast increasing there, who will possess the country by the best of all titles—that of occupation and improvement; and if we do not provide them a government, they will provide one for themselves. Already necessity has compelled them to organise their civil society, and to make those arrangements for the preservation of order, without which no civilized community can exist. It is only a few days since they made known to you, by a judicious and well-written memorial, their condition and their wants; and asked your interposition to remove the serious difficulties with which they find themselves environed. And think you, that if their prayer is unheard, and their grievances unredressed; and if the present state of things continue, that you will find a distant colony patiently awaiting your tardy movements, and ready to admit your jurisdiction, when you may be ready to exercise it? No; they will feel themselves neglected, cast off, left to their own resources, the victims of diplomatic chicanery or of national pusillanimity, and they will seek their own security in their own power. The great truth, not applicable alone to republican governments, but common to all, and which lay at the foundation of our own revolution, that protection and allegiance are reciprocal, will soon be heard upon the banks of the Columbia, and will inspire the councils of the hardy pioneers who, while they have sought a new home in a distant country, have carried with them the sentiments of true liberty to the regions beyond the Rocky mountains.

It is clearly impossible that the present state of things should continue, nor, I must confess, do I see how it is possible that a community, inhabiting the same region, and possessing the same right to every part of it, can hold a divided allegiance, and be governed at the same time by two distinct and distant sovereignties. When the present anomalous provision was made the country was unsettled; for the few hunters who roamed over it could hardly be dignified with the name of settlers; and it probably never occurred to the negotiators, nor to their governments, that this arrangement would outlive the then existing state of things, and would come to operate upon a civilized, a stationary, and a rapidly increasing community.

But what kind of order can a double-headed government preserve? How are its departments, legislative, executive, and judicial to be administered. How are rights to be enforced, or wrongs to be prevented or punished? Two neighbors, living within hearing of each other, are responsible to different tribunals, and governed by different codes of laws. An American killing an Englishman must be tried by an American court and by American laws. But how are English witnesses to be summoned, of English disturbers of the proceedings of the court to be removed or punished? Possessory rights are to be judged by the courts of the party last getting possession. Contracts are to be enforced by the courts of the party charged with violating them.—And wrongs are to be redressed, or satisfied, or punished by the courts of the party accused of committing them. A single American, in the midst of an English settlement, or a single Englishman in the midst of an American settlement bears with him a charmed life. He may do what he will and as he will; but he is beyond the reach of restraint, and almost of punishment.—He is invulnerable; and the arrows of justice cannot pierce even his heel. The nearest magistrate who has jurisdiction over him, may be hundreds of miles removed, and were he nearer, his national sympathies might naturally be excited in favor of his countrymen. There can be no regular grants of land—none, in fact, of those public improvements essential to the progress and stability of society. I present merely the most general views of this subject; but they are sufficient to show how impracticable it would be to attempt to establish this double jurisdiction. It would be easy to pursue the investigatiom much further were it necessary.

Who does not see that bitter disputes would soon arise? That each party would accuse the other of partiality and injustice? That violence and bloodshed would flow, and that an intestine war would establish the ascendancy of one or the other of these rival and national parties? All this is so plain that he who runs may read. And we are warned by the surest instincts of our nature not to trust our rights and our cause, and the cause of humanity, to such a partition of authority.

If, then, Mr. President, we can neither retrace our steps, nor check them, we must go onward. And England has placed herself in the path that is before us; and if she retain her position, we must meet her. If the last proposition she has submitted is her ultimatum, it is effectively a declaration of war. Its advent may be delayed a few months; but as soon as the notice expires, if she persists, as she will do, in her occupation of the country, the struggle must commence. It is not the notice which is a belligerent measure—for that is a treaty-right—but it is the subsequent and immediate course the parties will probably pursue that must lead to war. I hope—or I ought rather to say I wish—that England would awaken to a sense of her injustice, and would yield where she could yield honorably, and ought to yield rightfully. But will she do so? It is safest to believe she will not, and this dictate of prudence is fortified by every page of her history.—When did she voluntarily surrender a territory she had once acquired, or abandon a pretension she had once advanced? If a few such cases could be found in the record of her progress and acquisitions, they would be but exceptions, which would render the general principle of her conduct only the more obvious. For my own part, I see no symptoms of relaxation in the claim she has put forth. And the declarations in Parliament of the leaders of the two great parties that divide her government and her people—Sir Robert Peel and Lord John Russell—show a union of opinion, and foreshow a union of action, should action be necessary, rarely to be found in the political questions that agitate her councils, and are the index, if not the assurance, of an equal unanimity in public sentiment.

In the London Morning Chronicle of April 5th, is the report of the proceedings in Parliament of the proceding day, on the receipt of the President's inaugural address. I hold the paper in my hand; and, as the discussion was a pregnant one, and ought to be a warning one, I shall take the liberty of reading a portion of it.

Here Mr. C. read extracts from the paper containing the remarks of Lord John Russell on what he considered the spirit of aggrandizement displayed by the government and people of the United States, in their course respecting the annexation of Texas.

Mr. C. then continued: Here, sir, we find the leader of the great whig party, in his place in Parliament, in effect denouncing the course of the United States in the annexation of Texas, because it tends towards territorial aggrandizement; and the eternal cant about British moderation and philanthropy, and American injustice and ambition, is heard, and read, and believed in every corner of the British dominions. I must confess, sir, I am heartily tired of it. Were the subject and its consequences not so important, these declarations would excite ridicule, as they now excite regret and surprise. They are not confined to ordinary political discussions and to the journals of the day, but they come from the highest men, in the highest places.—And here is an eminent English statesman asking the administration what course they intend to pursue in the altered policy of the United States, as he terms it—as tho' the voluntary union of two independent people upon this continent were an injury to England, which demanded her immediate attention, and might demand her armed interposition. And he tells us, he understands that communications have been sent to the United States, to Mexico, and to Texas, on the subject of what he calls the new policy of the United States. And we know that those communications to Mexico and to Texas contained large offers to prevent annexation. But thanks to the onward course of our government, and to the feelings and determination of the Texan people, this interposition was fruitless; as was the communication to Mexico, if this were designed to embroil us with that country. The well-timed rebuke, administered by the President in his message, to the French government for its interposition in our affairs with Texas, might with equal justice, have been administered to England; and I presume would have been so, had not the President looked upon the course of the one power as natural, judging from past events, while the course of the other was unnatural, impolitic, and unexpected.

But this whig leeture of Lord John Russell, upon the ambition of the United States, and these perpetual eulogiums upon the moderation of England, are in strange contrast with the practical principles and the progress of her empire. The moderation of England, and the ambition of the United States! Why, sir, the world has never seen, since the fall of the Roman empire, such a colassal power as England has built up. She has girded the earth with her fortifications, and covered the ocean with her fleets. A comparatively narrow island, off the western coast of Europe, she numbers as her subjects 153,000,000 of people—being one-sixth part of the human race; and has reduced to her subjection 3,800,000 square miles inhabited by them, being one-eigth part of the habitable globe. And in the long series of her acquisitions from the reduction of Ireland downwards, with the exception of her union with Scotland and some recent discoveries in the South Sea, I believe all have been gained by the sword. And when has it happened in her history, that a people or the smallest fragment of a people, has voluntarily sought peace or protection under her sovereignty? Her armies and fleets have have too often been sent out wherever to be subdued, or the fruits of their industry to be secured. I have no pleasure in dwelling upon this course of ambition. I have no pleasure in national crimination and recrimination. I had far rather dwell upon all she has done and she has done much to command the gratitude of mankind, and much for the progress of civilivation, of improvement, and of knowledge. But we cannot shut our eyes to the fact that this country and its institutions enjoy little favor in England. That there is a systematic attack upon our character, and upon what we are, and have been, and upon our future, so far as it is given to foresee and to fear it. I confess, all this has produced a lasting impression upon me; and I feel little disposed, in any controversy with that country, to submit to unjust demands, urged in a spirit of unfriendliness, if not of menace.

And if England is moderate, we are ambitious! Why, sir, we have made but three acquisitions of territory since we have been a nation. And these were not distant colonies, but coterminous regions. And all three have been made peacefully, bloodlessly. Two were colonies belonging to European monarchies, where the assent of the people to the transfer of their allegiance could not be asked. But they have since shown their satisfaction by their patriotism, and their prosperity has been the reward of it. No where is the Union more prized, nor would it anywhere be more zealously defended. The third and last, and most glorious of these acquisitions is now in the progress of completion, by the voluntary action of a neighboring people, who knew the value of our institutions, and sought to participate in them, and who asked admission to our confederacy. And we shall receive them with open arms.—And it is an encouraging spectacle to the lovers of freedom throughout the world, and the best tribute that could be offered to its value.

I said, Mr President, that this was the latest, but I hope it will not be the last of our acquisitions. While I would sacredly respect the just rights of other nations, I would cheerfully extend the jurisdiction of our own, whenever circumstances may require it, and wherever it can be done without injustice. I have no fear that an extension of territory will weaken our government, or put in peril our institutions. We have an adhesive and a life-preserving principle, in the exercise of political power by the great body of the people, which is a surer bond of union and preservation than fleets and armies, and central powers. If this administration could crown its labors (and in what it has done, it has labored with not less ability than success) by the peaceful annexation of California, it would secure imperishable honor for itself, and would command the lasting gratitude of the whole country.

But I will again advert to the Morning Chronicle, to show the spirit of the discussion in the British Parliament, and the views taken by the British statesmen of their own claims to Oregon and of ours.

Lord John Russell said: "The President of the United States has made, as I have already read to the House, a peremptory claim to the whole of this territory. He has claimed the whole possession of it for the United States, and has, in an unusual manner, called upon the people of the United States, with their wives and children, to occupy that territory. That district is becoming, on account of the forts on the Columbia river, more important every year. After that statement of the President of the United States, I consider it impossible that her Majesty's government should not endeavor to obtain a speedy solution of this question. I am sure they will feel it impossible to allow the present undefined and unsettled state of relations between the two countries to continue without danger; that the people of the United States, acting upon the suggestions of the President, may endeavor to disturb British subjects in rights which they hold in virtue of existing treaties, and may produce a state of things dangerous to the peace of the two countries. For my own part I will say in moderation, that I am not prepared to say that this country ought to put forward any arrogant pretensions. I do not pretend to define—what it properly belongs to her Majesty's advisers to define—the diplomatic proposals that should be made. I will not pretend to say what line ought to be laid down; but this I will say, that I do not think we can make any proposal which will be less than the proposal made by Mr. Canning, (that was the line on the parallel of 49° to the Columbia near its mouth,) with any regard for our own interest or our own honor. [Cheers.] I may be told that it does not matter if this rocky and barren territory should be claimed, or occupied, or taken by the United States. Yes, sir, I must say it does matter. [Cheers.] It cannot be a matter of indifference that a large territory, to which we have a better and a juster title, should be yielded to what I must call a blustering announcement on the part of the President of the United States. It cannot be matter of indifference that the communication between that country west of the Rocky mountains and China; the East Indies, and the whole of South America, should be surrendered at once to a foreign power; but, above all, it cannot be a matter of indifference that the tone of the character of England should be lowered in any transaction we may have to carry on with the United States."

Sir Robert Peel said: "As this subject has been brought under discussion, I trust not improperly by the noble Lord, I feel it my imperative duty on the part of the British government, to state in language the most temperate, but, at the same time, the most decided, that we consider we have rights respecting the territory of Oregon, which are clear and irresistible. We trust still to arrive at an amicable adjustment of our claim; but having exhausted every effort for the settlement, if our rights shall

(Conclusion on fourth page.)

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