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Volume 15.

THE FOURTH OF JULY.

BY SPENCER WALLACE CONE.

All hail! the bright, the glorious day
Whose sun arose on freedom's birth,
And shed its first majestic ray
Proudly o'er an unfranchised earth.
All hail the day our fathers hands
Asunder broke all feudal bands,
And, vowed to Liberty or Death,
Cast from the sword the useless sheath,
When fortune and honor, and life to the last
Where joyously staked on rebellion's dread cast.

Oh! hallowed be their earthly bed
Whose names on Freedom's charter shine
So bright; it seems those glorious dead
Were human-half—and half divine,
Who would not give a life of fame
To hear their voices prophet tone
Commanding Freedom's sacred flame
Blaze up, as from an alter stone,
On every hearth, and know as the word was spoken,
The spell of the tyrant forever was broken.

Aye! broken quite. The flame flashed out,
The signal blazed on every height;
And stern a new-born people's shout
Burst forth to hail its natal light.
Uprose from earth the giant child,
An infant Hercules uprose,
And, from his western cradle wild,
Sent bootless back his baffled foes,
To tell the world that in freedom's fight
The babe was a match for the manhood's sight.

From broken chain, and prison bars,
The Imperial Eagle soared again,
To bear our bannered stripes and stars
In triumph high, o'er land and main.
Soar on, thou monarch of the sky,
Emblem of Freedom's heavenward flight,
And stainless bear that flag on high—
Triumphant still in every fight!
A pledge to the world and a holy token
That the spell of oppression forever is broken.

Then hail! All hail! the day—
Proud day which gave us birth;
When first fair freedom's ray
Shot brightly down on earth;
When the word of might was spoken,
And the tyrants bond was broken.

[From the New York Mercury.]

A LEAP-YEAR PROPOSAL.

BY MILLIE LINWOOD.

"Well, girls, here is leap-year half gone, and not one of you has had spirit