[Written for the Cambridge Democrat.]

## A CHRISTMAS REVERIE.

BY E. J. DATY.

There's a rich music thrilling,
Celestially fair;
With a fanciful feeling,
A christian air;
There's a magic bell ringing
In the hearts musing lair,
As a dream it is winging
The soul from dispair.

There's a lone star impending,
'Mid the day-beams on high;
While a life seems unending,
Drawn back to its sky;
There's a life-giving token
Of mercy divine,
Of love, deep, unspoken—
That bliss may be mine.

Like a deep mythic river,
With murmuring tide,
Sweep though on forever
In heaven borne glide.
As a concert unbroken,
A still breathing prayer;
There's a melody spoken,
To the soul—'tis a care.

## A New Aspirant.

To literary honors has recently written the following wonderful story:

As a gentleman was surveying a field of investigation he discovered two saw-horses. He had them caught in the meshes of the law, and broken on the wheel of fortune. He attached them to a vehicle of information, by the bonds of friendship, and covered them with a mantle of snow, to protect them from the flies. He then started with surprise, sitting upon the seat of government, holding illustrious reigns in one hand of followship, and the scourge of Egypt in the other. He passed through a rolling gait, over the grounds of coffee, until, in crossing the path of a snail, he was run into by a train of reasoning, and thrown over the heights of ambition into the waters of contention. By industry and frugality he soon gained the shores of time, where he formed a canoe of the bark of a mastiff, with the north pole for a mast, and a sheriff's sale. He rowed his boat with the ores of iron, and, reaching the river's mouth, leaped upon a tongue of land. Here he was seized by a severe headache, who carried him to the cell of a honey-comb, where he was secured by a chain of evidence, and fastened in with a thunderbolt. The jailor at length gave him his liberty, as a Christmas present, and read to him the report of a fowling piece. He then went to sleep in the chamber of a rifle, where a bail was held: but he drew the curtain of his mind, with a lead pencil, on a sheet of water, and sank into a troubled sleep. He was soon fished up by means of sandy hook and a line of conduct, and dried in the heart of debate.—Afterwards he dealt so much in the depreciated stock of a pistol, that he came near falling from want of vitality, but he was checked by the cashier in a bank of earth, who informed him that the sun was rising, the river falling, the sky remarkably quict, and the earth firm. On hearing this, he ascended in a rising periodical, walked on the dome of the firmament, and reported the music of the spheres in notes of hand.—While sitting on the lide of the eye of heaven, he witnessed a fight between the great bear and the dog star, whom he separated by the staff of life. But while wrapping himself in a cloak of hypocrisy he was surprised by the sun's appearance, and killed by a stroke of policy.

It is said of the Duke of Wellington, that he had every variety of garments, that his servant dare not bring any one of them to him until he had gone himself to the window, hoisted it, and by the protrusion of his immense long nose out into the atmosphere, had calculated with this new feeler the state of the weather, and the coat adapted to it.

A young lady in Indianapolis arose in her sleep the other night, and cut off her hair as close as it could be cropped by a penitentiary barber.—When she got up in the morning and looked in the glass she was horrified, and complained that some one had shorn her head while she slept.

Incendiary fires are frequent of late at Centreville, Md. A nightly patrole has been established.

Why is Brooklyn a few shades ahead of Newport? Newport is all beach—Brooklyn is all Beecher.


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## STAR OF THE PRESS.

### 1861.

"GREAT IN MOUTHS OF WISEST CENSURE."

### THE NEW YORK MERCURY

FOR THE NEW YEAR.

**The Largest Literary Weekly in the World!**

ALTHOUGH the patriarch of the weekly press (being now in its twenty-third year), THE NEW YORK MERCURY teems with the fire and vigor of youth, as well as with the wisdom and dignity of mature years. Presenting, as it does, the *creme de la creme* of literature—enriched with the entrancing master-pieces of the greatest romancers in the world—glittering with the brilliant wit and humor of the sharpest pens of the time—abundantly garnished with the rarest gems of native posey—overflowing with "thoughts that breathe and burn" from the great writers of its immense contributorial staff, and honored all over the country for its perfect freedom from anything calculated to wound or repulse the most sensitive moralist or class of people—it has been for years the luxury, the teacher, the monitor, and the welcome guest of hundreds of thousands of American homes.

The publishers and proprietors of the New York Mercury, have made the motto of its columns:

"Here shall young Genius wing his eagle flight,
Rich dew-drops shaking from his plumes of light;"

and during the present year (1861) its grand, inimitable army of writers—*whose united salaries exceed the total of those paid to the President and Vice-President of the United States*—and its brilliant constellation of literary specialities will be materially extended. Thus, one of the proprietors' new engagements is that of the witty, waggish, quizzical, whimsical, world-renowned, and pungent

Q. K. PHILANDER DOESTICKS, P. B., who contributes to THE MERCURY a side-splitting series of Burlesque Biographies, Lectures, Sermons, Fashion Articles, Criticisms of Paintings, Plays, Statues, etc., under the general and significant title of "DIVERSIONS OF DOESTICKS, or, HARLEQUIN HITS AT THE TIMES."

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|---|---|
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| Joseph Barber, | S. R. Urbane, |
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| Wm. R. Wallace, | Hattie Tyne, |
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OR,

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Volume 16.


## AN OLD POEM.

Who shall judge a man from manners?
Who shall know him by his dress?
Paupers may be fit for princes,
Princes fit for something less.
Crumpled shirt and dirty jacket
May be clothe the golden ore
Of the deepest thoughts and feelings—
Satin vests could do no more.

There are springs of crystal nectar
Hidden, crushed and overgrown;
God, who counts by souls, not dresses,
Loves and prospers you and me,
While he values thrones the highest
But as pebbles of the sea.

Man, upraised above his fellows,
Oft forgets his fellows thei;
Masters, rulers, lords, remember
That your meanest hinds are men—
Men by labor, men by feeling,
Men by thought, men by fame,
Claiming equal rights to sunshine
In a man's ennobling name.

There are foam embroidered oceans;
There are little weeded rills,
There are feeble inch-high saplings,
There are cedars on the hills;
God, who counts by souls, not stations,
Loves and prospers you and me,
For to him all vain distinctions
Are as pebbles in the sea.

Toiling hands alone are builders
Of a nation's wealth or fame;
Titled laziness is pensioned,
Fed and fattened on the same.
By the sweat of others' foreheads,
Living only to rejoice,
While the poor man's outraged freedom
Vainly lifteth up its voice.

Truth and justice are eternal,
Born with loveliness and light;
Secret wrongs shall never prosper
While there is a sunny right;
God, whose world-heard voice is singing
Boundless love to you and me,
Sinks oppression with its titles,
As the pebbles in the sea.

## LETTER FROM COLEMAN YELLOTT, Esq.,

STATE SENATOR OF BALTIMORE CITY, TO GOVERNOR HICKS.

BALTIMORE, Jan. 24, 1861.

*To the Hon. Thos. Holliday Hicks, Governor of Maryland*—Dear Sir:—While returning from Annapolis on Monday morning last, I read with some surprise an article in the Balt. Sun of that date, headed "Governor Hicks and the Legislature." That article contained the following extract from the report made by the Talbot county committee in regard to their recent interview with you:

"The Governor stated that from information on which he relied, and which was derived from sources not accessible to the people of the State, he was convinced that the Legislature, if convened, would at once declare in favor of the Southern States, and send as ambassadors to those States gentlemen who have been prominent in urging the call of the Legislature. That immediately on this declaration being made, the city of Washington would be taken by a body of 8,000 men now organized for that purpose. That civil war would be caused by this step, and would thus be brought about by convening the Legislature."

Presuming that the Talbot committee have reported you correctly, I feel it to be my duty, as one of your political and personal friends, to address you this letter, for the purpose of endeavoring to relieve your mind of an unfortunate illusion which I fear has caused you many sleepless nights.

If you are right in the opinion that the present Legislature, if convened, would assume and exercise the power of "fully committing this State to secession," then it was most wise and patriotic on your part to warn the people of their danger, and refuse to lend your agency in bringing about an extra session of *such* a Legislature! If the General Assembly of Maryland, "chosen eighteen months since," had assumed to exercise the power of annexing our State to a Southern confederacy, they would have been guilty of outrage upon the rights of the people, and a flagrant *usurpation.* They would have done what no Legislature of South Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi, Alabama or Florida dared to do; for in each of these States the Legislature merely passed an act calling a convention, so as to enable the *people* (through delegates chosen to such convention) to decide for themselves for or against secession, as they might prefer. The purport of all your recent published letters is to charge that the General Assembly of Md., if convened, would usurp powers, which in other States, have been exercised only by *conventions* elected immediately from the people.

This is a grave charge against the members of the present General Assembly, and you should have had very strong and reliable evidence of its

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