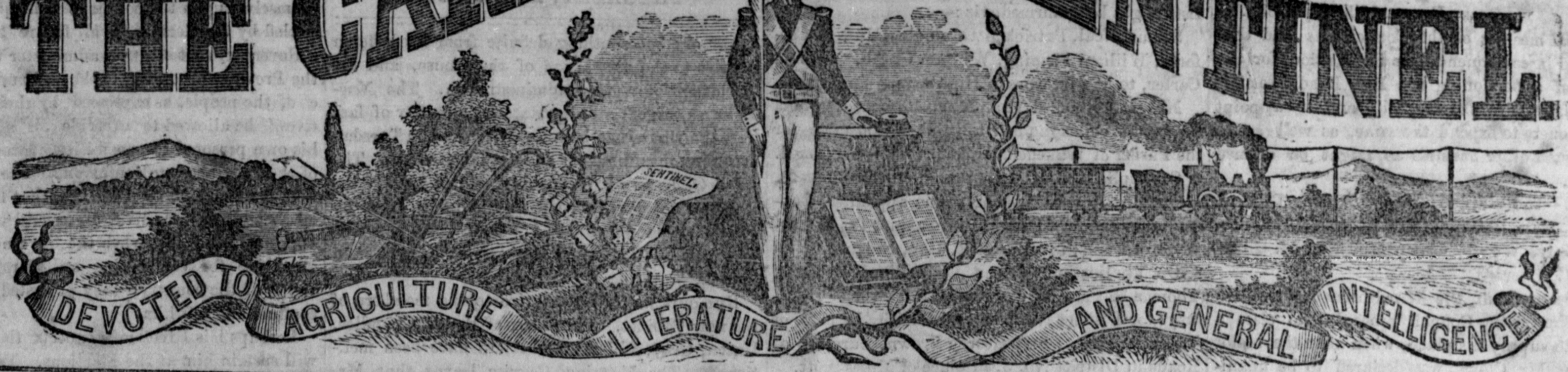


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[By JAMES McLAUCHLAN.

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Poetry.

THE FLOWERS OF SPRING.

BY HORACE W. SMITH.

We have seen them by the forest shade,
And by the sunlit streams;
In childhood's walks, in manhood's years,
They are mingled in our dreams:
And oft they win our memory back
To some forgotten thing,
To seek the joy our childhood found
Among the flowers of spring.

But, ah! they win us back in vain;
No after spring renews
That gift of vanished sunshine which
Our souls so early lose:
The sunlit stream may murmur on,
The birds may gayly sing,
But friends we love have passed away
Among the flowers of spring.

Yet fair and fragrant to the day
Each bright-eyed floweret opens;
They are not withered like our hearts,
Nor blighted like our hopes;
And then each golden dream of youth
Its long-lost light will bring—
And all is bright, and all is hope,
Among the flowers of spring.

General News.

THE TREATY OF PEACE.—The entire text of the Treaty of Paris is now before us. Of the four missing articles, the 5th and 6th provide for a general amnesty and the restoration of prisoners; the 7th and 8th admit Turkey to the public law and political system of Europe, secure her independence and territorial integrity, and engage each contracting Power, in the event of any serious misunderstanding with her, not to proceed to force till they have given the other Powers an opportunity of mediation. The two latter articles are as important as any in the treaty, and it is difficult to imagine how the late war could ever have occurred if they had hitherto been part of the law of Europe. They very considerably modify the peculiar position which Russia has for ages assumed towards Turkey, as a Power it had a right to deal with alone, on principles of its own laying down, and treaties of its own interpretation, deeming the mediation of other Powers a gratuitous interference, which it was a great condescension to allow. Turkey does not receive this new privilege without qualifying herself for European membership. It was not to be expected that the nations of Europe were always to be ready at a moment's warning to rush to arms and spend their best blood and treasure in the defence of a State which still, within its own territories, kept up an odious prosecution against our fellow-Christians and fellow-Europeans. The races so long degraded by the barbarous policy of the Porte were members of our religion, our civilization; and so long as Turkey persisted in denying them political equality there was a cruel absurdity in our strengthening the hands of their oppressor. We could only do so from the obligations of treaty or particular political considerations, for opinion, feeling, and nature itself called the other way. Now we have acknowledged Turkey to be one of ourselves, it is very proper, and indeed a logical consequence, that it should act as one of ourselves and no longer exclude from political rights the mass of its population. On a deliberate review of the treaty, we think it will be found that it cannot be said on this occasion, as it has been so often before, that what we have gained in war we lost in negotiation. The treaty is at least commensurate with our military successes. What more we

might have extorted from Russia, what palpable humiliation we might have imposed, what material guarantees we might have taken, had we more signally vanquished her in the field, it is vain to conjecture. As it is, we have inspired one another with mutual respect, and that respect is reflected in the treaty before us. To use a hackneyed phrase, "the objects of the war" have been "achieved;" and we are really at a loss to discover what has been omitted that we had a right to require. There are, indeed, two points, on which, as often happens, public opinion had defined its own expectations with greater exactness than diplomacy can attain to. When it was announced that the Black Sea was to be neutralised, and that Russia was not only to keep nothing of an armament on its waters, but was to destroy all its maritime forces and arsenals, there arose a question as to Nicholas and—what still more touched the feelings of many—the northern forts of Sebastopol. With regard to the former of these places, we are assured that Russia is dismantling the forts and even removing the stores of Nicolaioff. With regard to the northern forts of Sebastopol, considering that we sat before those forts for twelve months, and did not ever attempt to take them, it might seem too much to require the Plenipotentiaries to do by negotiations what our fleets and armies failed to achieve. Yet we must say that, taught as we are by experience, and compelled to watch closely the fulfilment of the treaty, we shall be apt to test Russia's honesty by her mode of dealing with these forts. The Emperor engages not to establish or maintain any military-maritime arsenal on the coast of the Black Sea. If that does not literally involve the destruction of the stone batteries and earthworks which still command the harbour of Sebastopol, and under the fire of which any works could be carried on, at least it involves the dispersion of all the military and naval stores there collected, and whatever is commonly meant by the dismantling of the fortress. Together with the treaty now appear the conventions annexed to it, and necessary to its full interpretation. The old law as to the Straits of the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus is recognized and revised, the Straits being closed against foreign ships of war so long as the Porte is at peace. In the second convention Russia and Turkey engage between themselves, and by a clause in the treaty are engaged to the European Powers—not to keep in the Black Sea, each of them, more than six steam-vessels, at the most of 50 metres, or 162 feet, in length, and 800 tons burden, and four light steam or sailing-vessels not exceeding 200 tons each. The third convention is between Russia, England, and France; and engages the former, "in order to respond to the desire which has been expressed" by the two latter, not to fortify the Aland Island or maintain any military establishment there. Of these three conventions, that which limits the ships of war in the Black Sea to a force which will not be deemed too much for the purposes of peace is the most important, and is a very great advance on what some politicians were content to demand a twelve month ago. Considering the three purposes of a pacific armament, the maintenance of sanitary regulations, and the repression of piracy and of smuggling, ten vessels, amounting to 5,000 tons, are no very unreasonable amount. It is true that on the immense lakes between British America and the United States we have absolutely nothing, but then we have neither quarantine laws nor pirates in that part of the world. With its armed vessels thus limited, Russia can have no possible excuse for maintaining any of her maritime fortifications.—The Congress did not separate without one further step, in which they flattered themselves they added to the world's stock of civilisation. This is a de-

claration, founded on the practice of this war, against privateering, against the seizure of enemy's merchandize in neutral ships, except contraband of war, or of neutral merchandize in enemies' ships, and against a blockade not actually maintained.—Doubtless we have made a considerable advance even on the practice of the last year, and it is to be hoped every fresh one will be conducted with increasing respect for the persons and property of those not actually employed in it. The inhumanities of war do more to keep it up, by exasperating the feelings, than to shorten it by destroying men and material.

SWEDEN AND ENGLAND.—The Hamburg correspondent of the *Brussels Independence* writes: "The news which we have received from Stockholm leaves no doubt as to the approaching marriage of Prince Oscar, second son of the King, with the Princess Mary of Cambridge. The Prince will leave almost immediately, with the Queen Mother, for Paris. From thence he will proceed to London to make a somewhat prolonged stay, and will complete the arrangements for the projected union.—The fortune of the Princess of Cambridge amounting only to about £3,000 a year, it is believed at Stockholm that at the next meeting of the four Chambers of the Diet the King will ask for an annual grant for his son, in order to enable that Prince to worthily sustain the rank of his court.—This project already excites much public attention.

The *New York Courier & Enquirer's* Washington correspondent writes:—"Mr. Clingman's resolution, authorising the President in effect to make war upon, conquer, and annex, Central America, New Granada, and any other territory coveted by our manifest-destinarians, was extinguished by the following rider, proposed by Mr. Campbell of Ohio:—

Resolved,—That the President be requested to negotiate, through the Department of State, with the Governments of England and Russia, for the acquisition of the Canadas, and all other British and Russian possessions on this continent, and with the Government of Spain, for the acquisition of Cuba on terms consistent with the honor and peaceful relations of the Governments negotiating, and with the consent of the people who occupy said possessions, providing that if said possessions shall be annexed to the United States there shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude therein, otherwise than in punishment of crime.

This was felt by all right-minded men in the House to be an open and manly method of extending our Republican dominion, but the supporters of Mr. Clingman's filibusterism were of the opinion that the time for its consideration had not yet arrived, and the conjoint proposition was suffered to lie on the table. At a proper time, however, Mr. Campbell will present his resolution to be discussed on its own merits, and it is to be hoped, rather than expected, that it will be promptly adopted.

UNITED STATES FOREIGN RELATIONS.—A despatch received in Boston says: "A new complication has taken place in our foreign relations, involving not only the question of peace or war abroad, but of political confusion at home. France has been called on to interfere in Mexico, for the protection of the property of the Catholic Church, lately seized by President Comonfort."—*Quebec Chronicle*.

RAILWAYS IN NOVA SCOTIA.—The *Halifax Chronicle* says that Messrs. David Johnston and John Blakeley, of Canada, are the successful competitors for constructing the new section of Railway to terminate at Nelson's. Their tender was £51,616 18s. 4d., being at the rate of about £4000 per mile.

THE MURDER IN WASHINGTON.—The *New York Mirror*, in commenting upon the recent murderous affray at Washington, uses the following language which will commend itself to the approval of most readers—

We forbear comments to day upon this bloody business, beyond this, that the time, the place, and the relative position of the parties, render the conduct of Herbert wholly inexcusable. No gentleman, in a public dining room, will have any altercation with the servants; and no man, untainted by cowardice or ruffianism, will deem it necessary to go armed into a peaceful breakfast room. If waiters are "insolent," the gentlemanly guest will appeal to the host, and if he refuses to make the amende honorable, the only dignified alternative is to quit the House. We do not believe in hanging; but we would sentence the Honorable Mr. Herbert to the next severest penalty, and place the mark of Cain upon his brow.

A new Bank is to be established at Hamilton, under the name and style of the Union Bank of Canada; the capital to be one million pounds.

MILITARY.—We have exclusive information from England by the Persia's mails, that the total number of troops to be sent out to all the American Provinces is 3,000, making the total number on the continent to be 6,000 bayonets. As a regiment would possibly be sent to Halifax, we may infer from this intelligence, that no more than two additional regiments will be quartered in Canada.—*Toronto Leader*.

We understand that the Attorney General, in company with several other members of the Executive, left town last evening, to attend a meeting of Council to day. His Honor has been in town since the opening of the Circuit Court on Tuesday last, attending to his duties as prosecuting officer on the part of the Crown.—*Cour.*

SAINT ANDREWS AND QUEBEC RAILROAD.

To the Editor of the *Provincialist*.

Sir,—As the prosperity of this community, as well as of a large section of the Province, depends so much on the success which may attend the exertions now making for the prosecution of the line of Railway from this place to Woodstock, I believe that the information received by yesterday's mail from the Secretary to the company in London will be read with interest by your subscribers.

After expressing himself very sanguinely on the future prospects of the undertaking, he says—"We are progressing very favourably with the formation of our new Company, and I have the pleasure to inform you that I have succeeded in obtaining the co-operation of Mr. Crawshaw Bailey and Mr. Marshall of Leeds. They have become Directors of the new Company, so that we have now in the Direction one of the greatest iron masters, and one of the richest Commoners in England. Messrs. Baxter, Ross & Norton, have also consented to be the Solicitors."

As your subscribers may not be aware of the influence and importance of the accession of these latter gentlemen to the Company, I beg to add, that they are one of the leading law firms in London, and were the successful projectors and promoters of the Great Northern Railway in England, in opposition to the London and North Western Company.

It will of course be understood that all these names are in addition to the influential ones already belonging to the Board.

I am, Sir, Your obed't serv't.

JULIUS THOMPSON,

Manager.

St. Andrews, May 12, 1856.