

Poetry.

To the Southern Cross.

In the charming memory of Mrs. Emily C. Judson, by Professor Kendrick, published by Sheldon & Company, New York, are many gems. Known in the literary world as "Fanny Forester," she became for five years the wife of Rev. Dr. Judson till his death in Burma, when she returned to find an early grave in her native land. "She gazed and gazed," says the poem, "upon the receding shores of India, caught for the last time the spicy breeze that blew from those groves of balm and islands clothed with eternal summer, and once more the southern cross looked down upon her— but with a deeper, sadder meaning than when she first gazed on it through the glowing atmosphere of hope. Its strange blended lesson of severity and kindness she thus sweetly interpreted."

Street of the southern cross,
That slumbers in the south,
Thou gazer mournfully on me,
As mindful we have met before.

When first I saw the polar star
Go down behind the silver sea,
And greeted thy mild light from far,
I did not know thy mystery.

My polar star was by my side,
The star of hope was on my brow;
I lost these both beneath the tide—
The cross alone is left me now.

Not such as thou, sweet thing of stars,
Moving in quietly state on high;
But wrought of stern, old iron bars,
And borne, ah me, so wearily!

Yet something from these soft warm skies
Seems whispering, "Thou shalt be blest;
And gazing on thy radiant meeting
The symbol brightens on my breast."

I read at last the mystery
That slumbers in the south;
The weary pathway to the sky—
The iron cross—the diadem.

Selected.

BARBARA BLYTHE.

BY SOPHIE MAY.

[Concluded.]

It was March, and the white hills were blotched with specks of bare ground, when examination day came.

All the boys who had linen collars wore them, and the girls came in their very best dresses, with smooth hair brushed the very last thing.

Ah! who does not know the flutter at the heart when the three "committee men" knock, and are solemnly asked in a treated? For of us have felt this kind of flutter for the last time, but, children, you can understand precisely how the scholars felt that day, with their parent and older sisters and neighbors to look on and criticize.

Willy was in his old seat. There was a beautiful pink glow on his cheeks, which every one knew was the flush of excitement.

And over by the window on the right sat thoughtful little Barbara, looking very tidy in her red dress and white apron. Everybody wondered which of these two best scholars would get the prize.

The "committee" asked the questions, and such a drilling as the children went through—one could not have "drilled" the eye of a needle more carefully.

Barbara's grey eyes lit up with earnestness, and the hectic flame in Willy's cheeks burned a deeper crimson.

Spelling: so many odd words were "put out" words they had almost forgotten were in the Spelling Book; but though they might hesitate, it was hard to catch Barbara or Willy tripping. All the others missed, but they two held their ground.

At last the word "pillow" was given. Barbara spelled it with an "a" instead of an "o." She knew the mistake in a second, and Mr. Reynolds paused, willing she could correct herself but no—Barbara was at once too proud and too generous.

The flash in Willy's eyes as he spelled the word after her was not one of triumph. He was really sorry that Barbara had not done better for herself.

Next came Arithmetic. This had always been Willy's weak point, and Mr. Reynolds at first asked questions slowly, to be sure and give him time to think. But it was soon evident that he knew very well what he was about, and could not be easily puzzled. To be sure, Barbara had gone over more ground, but this the committee would not have known if the teacher, Mr. Garland, had not informed them in a side whisper.

"Ah, yes, yes," said Mr. Reynolds, nodding his head and peeping over his spectacles at Barbara, as if he would have added, "Well done, well done."

In Geography, Willy and Barbara were well matched. If there was any difference, Willy excelled in giving long descriptions of places, for his verbal memory was unusual.

The committee were really surprised to find the two rivals so well informed, while at the same time they were puzzled how to decide the matter. They whispered to one another and smiled, and Mr. Reynolds rubbed his spectacles as if they would help him to see his way clear, and Mr. Snow scratched his head, and Mr. Allen leaned back in his chair to rest.

The spectators felt somewhat as people do in a court-room while the jury are out making up their minds on a verdict. Willy's mother was there in her faded black dress, looking at her son from time to time anxiously, as if she feared the excitement would be too much for him.

All while the prize was lying on the desk wrapped in brown paper. What it was no one knew, but it seemed about the size of a large family Bible. The scholars were walking uneasy, and the teacher himself walked the floor, as if he thought it nearly time a decision was made.

At last, when Mr. Reynolds had finished rubbing his spectacles, he took from the brown paper wrapper a beautiful rosewood writing-desk, and held it up to view, opening it to show the elegant workmanship.

"Now," said he, "I would like the attention of the school for a few moments. Upon examination, we find two of you nearly equal, that it is no easy matter to decide which deserves the prize. Miss Barbara does well, exceedingly well. Her composition, which we have read, we consider superior to Willy's, and her copy-book is neater."

"The prize," he said, "which we had two prizes to give instead of one. But as that cannot be, we have at last concluded to award the writing desk to—William Harlow."

"We wish you distinctly to understand why we do this," continued he, placing the tips of his forefingers together. "It is because we think the progress he has made in Arithmetic, since the last examination, deserves a reward. He has always been a good student; but with his low prices he has made his progress in Arithmetic more remarkable."

There was a general hum of satisfaction. Poor Mrs. Harlow was fairly trembling with joy, and Willy looked as if a star had dropped from the sky at his feet.

As for Barbara, her heart was so full that she could hardly hold back the tears. They shouldn't fall, if she could help it—no, indeed; for of course nobody would guess crying for joy."

When Willy whispered to Barbara that night, "Barbara, I shouldn't have got it, if it hadn't been for you," it would be hard to tell which was the happier—grateful Willy or Barbara.

Mrs. Blythe furnished the desk with the choicest writing materials. It gave her pleasure to see her son making in his daughter's desk, and she was ever ready to help him. The writing-desk was Willy's greatest treasure. He often said it was his dearest and a dearer to him. Dear boy! all that was in his mind.

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After he died, no one could look on the still face, so lovely in death, without aching with tears of sorrow. But as Barbara went with the other school-children to take a last look of Willy, there was one sweet thought which softened her grief—it was the thought of the smile which might have been hers if she had chosen.

Mrs. Harlow did not survive her boy many months. Before she died, she said to a neighbor— "Give Willy's writing-desk to Barbara Blythe, and tell her to keep it to remember him by."

And Barbara will keep it sacredly as long as she lives.

Captain Rhodes on the Halifax Route Overland.

To the Editor of the Quebec Mercury:

SIR.—It is really shameful to see the exaggerated accounts that are being published in English newspapers about the Portage Road, between Rivière du Loup and New Brunswick. I, too, was quartered at the Degle, Lake Temiscouata, in the years 1840-41, for fifteen months; I had therefore plenty opportunity of experiencing the so-called miseries of the "First Camp in the Wilderness," also the "volcanic" smoke of the suffocating "character," &c.

I lived in the very camp referred to. The fact of the matter is, I have always looked upon the Degle as the best quarters I was ever in. Being a young man at the time, eighteen years of age, I used to shoot, fish, garden and farm; and in all these occupations I was as successful as a person of my inexperience could expect.

When we were in the camp, the food was good, and the weather was good, and the people were good, and the work was good, and the pay was good, and the quarters were good, and the food was good, and the weather was good, and the people were good, and the work was good, and the pay was good, and the quarters were good.

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amount received by the shelling out of the clam banks to the hardy diggers in the winter months may be set down at least \$30,000. The clam peddlers generally start at sunrise to go their rounds, and their professional cry is "Here's blams; buy any blams to-day." They are not ashamed of their calling, and in fact earn an honest living at the business. Many they always reap a good dividend from the banks.—*Sunday Herald.*

THE IRON DUKE IN BATTLE.—The Duke of Wellington was remarkable for the coolness with which he gave directions. Even in the heat of an engagement he has been known to give humorous observations, especially when it seemed to raise the spirits of the men. Thus when the British were storming Badajoz, his Grace rode up while the balls were falling around, and observing an artilleryman particularly active, inquired the man's name. He was answered, "Taylor." "A good name too," answered the Duke. "Cheer up, my men, for Taylor will soon make a pair of breeches in the walls." At this rally the men forgot the danger of their situation, a burst of laughter broke from them, and the next charge carried the fortress.

Canadian Census of 1861.

The Census returns for Upper and Lower Canada have just been completed, and the Quebec Chronicle of the 15th, gives the following summary:—

"First, as to the 'origins' of our population:—

"Of the 2,506,755 inhabitants of Canada, 1,917,777 were born within the Province. The native Canadians of British and those of French origin are nearly equal in their numbers, being 1,037,170 and 880,607, respectively. Next to these, the two most numerous classes of our population, come the Irish, with 241,423; the English and Welsh, with 127,429; the Scotch, with 111,952; the natives of the States, with 64,399; and the Germans and other Teutons, with 23,855. Among these are 1,413 colored persons, almost all resident in Upper Canada. The rest are too few in number to have much weight in the community. It is noticeable, however, that there are only 12,717 Indians left among us, and that only 3,061 Frenchmen make Canada their home, of whom more than three-fourths are residents of Upper Canada.

"Coming to the question of religions, we perceive that 1,200,870 are Roman Catholics, and that the Church of England, with 374,870, is the largest of public worship. The Methodists, Wesleyans being the strongest branch, with 372,462; the Presbyterians with 346,091, of whom the members of the Free Church slightly outnumber those of the Kirk; and the Baptists with 69,310. It is not a little lamentable to find 18,750 professing no religion at all, and we hope these figures are to be referred to the indifference with which these certain individuals replied to the enumerators' queries.

"Coming to the question of education, we find that in 1861, we were in 1852, we note that the total population of the country has increased 36 per cent, from 1842-265 to its present figure. The native Canadian population numbered then only 73 per cent of the total; they are now 76 per cent, or more than three-quarters of the whole; they are now nearly 38 per cent, a proof of the common statement that the rate of increase is more rapid than that of the population of the United States. The Church of Rome then counted 47 per cent of our people within its folds. Were it not now too long, it would be interesting to mark the increase or decrease of other nationalities and religions also.

"If we compare our progress with that of other countries, we shall have every reason to be satisfied. Great Britain increased its population only about 13 per cent, from 1842 to 1859; our rate of increase is more than twice as much, and although the States augmented their figures from 23,191,876 in 1850 to 31,429,891, it will be seen that this is an increase of but 35 per cent, and therefore inferior to ours."

Practical Lessons.

The editors of the *Star in the West*, who are ingenious designers and logical instructors, have furnished gratis, the following corrections of some popular errors: It is a mistake to suppose that the subscription price of a paper is clear gain to the publisher.

It is a mistake to suppose that he gets his white paper for nothing.

It is a mistake to suppose that it is printed without cost.

It is a mistake to suppose that he can live, bodily, by faith.

It is a mistake to suppose that any one was ever enriched by a religious paper—except the reader.

It is a mistake to suppose that the half cent or cent a week profit contributed by each paying subscriber toward their living buys the editors and proprietors, body and soul.

It is a mistake to suppose that it is easy to please every body.

It is a mistake to suppose that two dollars a year entitles every reader to the repetition of his own opinions on every line.

It is a mistake to suppose that a paper is now buying which contains only what one knows and believes already.

It is a mistake to suppose that taking and paying for a paper "patronizes" it any more than a subscriber.

It is a mistake to suppose that money due for the paper would be as good to us in a year as it would be now.

It is a mistake to suppose that we would not be thankful for what is due us, and for new subscribers.

American Consuls.

The Quebec Chronicle, in noticing the recent extraordinary announcements of Secretary Seward, in relation to the spy system established in these Colonies through American Consuls, says:—

"At the time when these arrangements were made, and the two Consuls arrived in Quebec, we heard a variety of statements that they were intended to act in a 'confidential' capacity. We took no notice of these reports, but Mr. Seward himself now confirms them. It will be recollected that Mr. Ashmun was sent himself at the beginning of last year, for a similar purpose, but recalled (according to Mr. Seward's own declaration) because of a remonstrance sent to the State Department by the British authorities, to employ any one here as a sort of spy. While quite willing to bear testimony to the high personal character of the Consul at Quebec, and to believe that he is above adding to his commercial duties those of a political detective, we are sorry to find that Mr. Seward has been indiscreet enough to say that a duty was expected of him which no high-minded gentleman would like to fulfill."

Effects of the Blockade.

The correspondent of the Boston Journal, at Ship Island, Miss., makes the following statement in regard to the effects of the blockade:—

"I am told by a secession prisoner that in respect to the blockade of Southern ports is producing a beneficial effect among those whom it is designed to injure, by developing the industrial skill and enterprise of the people. Land which grows sugar, cotton and rice is well adapted to the culture of grain, which has, in the opinion of my informant, been raised in the Confederate States the past season, to feed the people of the year. If the blockade continues, the plantations which have heretofore produced cotton and sugar will be devoted to cereals. Tanneries have been built, and a large establishment for making pegged shoes is in successful operation in New Orleans. Necessity being the mother of invention, the war is stimulating the ingenuity of Southerners; and implements of agriculture and the mechanic arts are now thought of where the people depended upon the North to supply their demand."

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A Humiliated Nation.

(From the Richmond Dispatch, Jan. 3.)

In the surrender of Mason and Sillidell the British government will ascertain the exact capacity of the Yankee press. In submitting to the English demand the Yankees demonstrate that they have no sense of national honor, and that dollars and cents are their supreme law of action in matters public as well as personal. They boarded the Trent with every circumstance of bravado and indignity; the Government made the act its own by receiving the Commissioners into its possession, and confining them as prisoners; the Secretary of State and the House of Representatives, in England, and the House of Representatives, in the United States, have both declared the outrage to be the whole press of the United States teemed with the most uproarious and defiant exultation over the act of Wilkes, and hectoring, bullied and humbled the British Lion in every conceivable shape and form. After all this to back down instantaneously, and at the first menace of England, to surrender the Commissioners, is to exhibit not only a lack of all pride, but a want of manliness and a want of honor and manliness. The Stars and Stripes will become a badge of degradation and infamy throughout the world. This humiliating surrender, so far from propitiating the European world, will convince them of the conscious weakness and paralyzing cowardice of the blustering power that, with six hundred thousand men in arms, permits its nose to be pulled and its face to be split upon without an effort at resistance. We believe that the Government of England and France will demand that the Federal Government recognize the independence of the Southern Confederacy upon penalty of their displeasure, they could not only recognize it, but be glad of the chance. Certainly there can now be no longer any fear of consequences on the part of those governments in themselves recognizing the Southern Confederacy, or even in opening the blockade.

The New York World thus discourses on the injurious effects of repudiation, and just seems to have discovered that after all, "Honesty is the best policy."

"The repudiation of their debts by a few of the states of this Union has cost, and will continue to cost, the country millions of dollars yearly. It has destroyed the credit of the nation abroad, and to-day detracts from the value of the federal securities and enhances the difficulty of negotiating loans even with our own bankers. The unbusinesslike habit of not paying promptly is a grievous fault with our government. It will cost us untold millions before this war is over. The following remarks by Mr. Barks, of this state, to the House of Representatives, tells the story of English and American credit:—

"The finance ministers of Great Britain have had the sagacity to understand and carry it in practice the essential principle of credit—prompt payment. Every one who knows that money means an individual may possess, if he does not pay promptly, his credit will be impaired, and although he may obtain money, it can only be done by paying high rates of interest, and may purchase what he requires, but it must be at a high price. The same inflexible rule will apply to nations. The failure of several states of the Union to pay interest promptly has cost this nation millions, and tens of millions of dollars. Had it not been for that financial blunder, we might at this time have been able to suffer, we need at this time borrow all the money we need at five per cent."

NEWBURYPORT FISHERMEN.—The fisheries are gradually falling off, and the number of boats in the harbor is less than it was a few years ago. The number of boats engaged in codfishing was 25, and of codfish 10,486 quintals of fish, and 8890 gallons of oil; and will receive \$420 in government bounty.

One of the vessels of the harbor was 93, which landed 712 barrels. This is nearly a hundred vessels less than thirty years ago, though the vessels are now larger, and carry more hands. Last year, the fisheries paid very poorly; and it will probably be better for the people, and perhaps, but that they may no longer rely upon the fisheries, but turn their attention to what is more profitable.—*Newburyport Herald.*

PRODUCTIVENESS OF CALIFORNIA.—California is a wonderfully productive State. Almost every kind of fruit and vegetable grows there, and every kind of fruit and farm produce is abundant and cheap. During the autumn full grown fat cattle have been sold for \$3 to \$5 per cwt; horses from \$10 to \$50; hogs at all prices; sheep from 75 cents to \$1.50. Contracts for good fat beef were made for the army at \$1.50 per 100 pounds; and still, such are the facilities for raising stock in that climate, money can be made at the above prices. Good, clean barley, in 100 pound sacks, is selling at \$1.50 per ton. Wheat, at \$3.00 to \$3.50 per bushel. Potatoes this year are unusually high, there having been but a short supply planted. They sell at 24 cents per pound, twice as high as grapes.

The Winter Navigation of the St. Lawrence.

Notwithstanding the formal protest of the experts which we published yesterday, to the effect that ships can come to Bic Harbour every year until the middle of end of January, we hold to our formerly expressed opinion that the Lower St. Lawrence is not navigable for such steamers as are now constructed for crossing the Atlantic, after our winter's frost has fairly set in. Had the *Persia* and the other transports come into the river a week or two earlier, they would have landed their men at River du Loup, and the question of winter navigation would have remained open. As they did not, they have finally settled it. The *Persia* would certainly not have put off to sea had she been able to stay with safety. The *Parana* would not have turned back, when nearly up to Father Point, had it been at all practicable for her to proceed. The *Australasian* would not have reported that she could not get up the river, had there been no grounds for her assertion. The *Melbourne* would not have turned back unless there had been other difficulties than those which could be overcome by the ice saws with which she was furnished. We should of course be far more pleased if we could draw any other conclusion than that the one which is irresistibly forced upon us. But until vessels are built whose bows can cut through ice-fields, and whose slides are packed against the small ice-bergs, and the ice-bergs are packed against the channels leading into and out of the Gulf, we feel that we must depend upon railways, not on steamships, to give us the means of access to the open sea. Build the Intercolonial Railway as soon as possible; that is the political, military and commercial lesson of the time and events now passing.—*Chronicle.*

STORES AT RIVER DU LOUP.—The Imperial Government have accumulated at the River du Loup, and at other places along the route over which the troops will have to pass, all the stores necessary for their comfort. There is an abundance of provisions, including the spirits deemed necessary on a winter march, clothing, medical appliances, &c. Great Britain takes good care of her soldiers.

THE ISOLATION OF QUEBEC.—Referring to a former article on this subject, from the Quebec Chronicle, we add the following from the same paper:—

The ferry between this city and Lévis is becoming more difficult to the winter. The river, in many places, has been filled with large fields of floating ice, rendering our primitive canoe navigation anything but pleasant or rapid, notwithstanding the admitted skill and activity of the ferrymen. On Monday night a canoe went to pieces close to the Island d'Orléans, after having been carried a great distance out of its course, and seven persons who were in it escaped with some difficulty.

Another canoe was jammed between the sheets of ice, yesterday morning, during the snow storm, and had to be abandoned by the persons who were crossing in it—all of whom, however, managed to reach the shore in safety."

DEATH OF MRS. MERRITT.—Mrs. Merritt, wife of the Hon. W. H. Merritt, died on the 24th inst. of a long illness. She was a native of New York, and was married to her husband, who was a member of the House of Representatives, in 1840. She was a devoted wife and mother, and was highly respected by all who knew her. She was 60 years of age at the time of her death.

THE NEW YORK WORLD OF LAST SATURDAY.

Money is easy at six per cent. Foreign exchange has broken down, and prices are unsettled and tending lower. Gold is a drug in the market at one to one and a half per cent. The dry goods imports for the week were \$1,084,750, against \$2,711,638 last year and \$4,246,352 in 1859. The stock market is unsettled, and prices are tending downward. The market for wheat is unsettled, and prices are tending downward. The market for cotton is unsettled, and prices are tending downward. The market for sugar is unsettled, and prices are tending downward. The market for coffee is unsettled, and prices are tending downward. The market for tea is unsettled, and prices are tending downward. The market for opium is unsettled, and prices are tending downward. The market for silk is unsettled, and prices are tending downward. The market for wool is unsettled, and prices are tending downward. The market for flax is unsettled, and prices are tending downward. The market for hemp is unsettled, and prices are tending downward. The market for iron is unsettled, and prices are tending downward. The market for steel is unsettled, and prices are tending downward. The market for tin is unsettled, and prices are tending downward. The market for lead is unsettled, and prices are tending downward. The market for zinc is unsettled, and prices are tending downward. The market for copper is unsettled, and prices are tending downward. The market for silver is unsettled, and prices are tending downward. The market for gold is unsettled, and prices are tending downward. The market for platinum is unsettled, and prices are tending downward. The market for palladium is unsettled, and prices are tending downward. The market for rhodium is unsettled, and prices are tending downward. The market for iridium is unsettled, and prices are tending downward. The market for osmium is unsettled, and prices are tending downward. The market for selenium is unsettled, and prices are tending downward. The market for tellurium is unsettled, and