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Original Poetry.

Lines To— By Clifford

I knew you, Clementina, Some fifteen years ago; You were the beauty of the place,

I saw you, Clementina, When you were sweet sixteen— And I was but eleven then; Girls thought me rather "green,"

I knew you, Clementina, Some fifteen years ago; And you were fair and wealthy, then, But I was poor, you know;

Since then, Miss Clementina, Some sad, sad years have flown; And you and I, by different paths, Have trod the world alone—

Since then, you've flirted gaily With many a "nice young man," But age has dimmed your beauty,

If now I'd make the offer, I made ten years ago, Perhaps you'd change your notion,

The Schoolmaster Abroad.

EDITED BY SIMON SYNTAX, ESQ.

Teachers and friends of education are respectfully requested to send communications to the above, care of "Bedford Gazette."

At the second annual meeting of the Bedford Union Teachers' Institute on Saturday, December 14, the Business Committee reported the following program of exercises for the 3d regular meeting to be held Saturday, December 27th:

- 1. Essays—Mr. Points, Miss O'Conner, Mr. Irving, Mr. Kuntz. 2. Class Drill—Chanting Mountains and Rivers of Asia from outline maps.—Miss Jennie Smith.

Decisions of the State Superintendent.

The following decisions are from the December number of the School Journal. We print them because they have a practical bearing on school matters in this county at the present time.

52. QUESTION: The school law requires the teacher to teach twenty days and attend a district institute two days, for every month.

ANSWER: The law being correctly stated in his question, the answer is, that the teacher cannot be compelled to give more than the 22 days therein stated—on any grounds.

This is clearly illegal, even according to the widest construction that can be given to the section.

58. QUESTION: Have directors the legal right to dismiss a teacher from his school, for refusing to attend the Institute of the district?

ANSWER: They have, and should do it. The two days each month for Institutes, are expressly set apart for that purpose; and the Board should see to it that they are devoted to it by the teachers.

59. QUESTION: How much of each Saturday is to be spent in the exercises of the District Institute?

ANSWER: Every alternate Saturday is the teacher's day for school; and the same number of hours is to be given to its exercises as to those of any other school day.

Speech of Hon. William A. Richardson, OF ILLINOIS,

On the President's Message.

Delivered in the House of Representatives, December 8, 1862.

The House being in the Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union, Mr. Richardson said:

Mr. Chairman:—The annual message recently sent to this House by the President of the U. States, is the most remarkable of any that has ever been delivered to Congress. It is remarkable for what it says, and it is still more remarkable for what it omits to say.

Sir, it is a remarkable document. It is an extraordinary message, when we come to think of its sum and substance. To feed, clothe, buy, and colonize the negro we are to tax and mortgage the white man and his children.

A friend of mine from New England the other day made a mathematical analysis of the message. He said, one from one and naught remains. Naught from naught and the message is the result. [Laughter.]

So far as it relates to the white race, that mathematical calculation is right. So far as it relates to the negro, or in the court language of the President, the "free American of African descent," rivers of blood and countless millions of treasure are not enough for his benefit and advantage.

Now, sir, when our people have anxiously looked to the message from the President of the United States to learn what they have to hope of a restored Union, and a return of the blessing of peace once more to their fire-sides, by inference we learn, if not directly, that if we will carry out all of the President's plans; if we will carry out his schemes 37 years from now, the people may again behold the restoration of the Union, and the return of peace.— True, the message states that at the end of those 37 years but few of us will then be living to enjoy the blessings we once enjoyed in this now distracted and divided country.

But, Mr. Chairman, there are a few passages in the message so extraordinary, so wonderful, that they require at least a passing notice. There has been, and still is, a great anxiety felt and expressed by our people that this negro population shall not jostle them in the occupations they have heretofore pursued in the various industrial pursuits of life in the great fertile regions of the West. The President on that head uses the following language:

"And yet I wish to say there is an objection urged against the free colored persons remaining in the country, which is largely imaginary, if not sometimes malicious. It is insisted that their presence would injure and displace white labor and white laborers. If there ever could be a proper time for mere catch arguments, that time surely is not now. In times like the present, men should utter nothing for which they would not willingly be responsible through time and in eternity. Is it true, then, that colored people can displace any more white labor, by being free, than by remaining slaves? If they in their old places, they jostle no white laborers; if they leave their old places, they leave them open to white laborers. Logically, there is neither more nor less of it."

Now, sir, I will not do logic the violence to say that that is an argument. He tells our people, those who supported him because they believed he and his party intended to keep the non-slaveholding States and all the Territories of the Union for the sole occupation of the white race, if you do not like my plan of disposing of the black race, if you fear from their introduction among you that their labor will be brought into competition with that of your own, all you have to do to avoid this competition is to quietly leave your present fields of labor, homes to which, perhaps, you may be attached, and the graves of your kindred, and emigrate southward, and occupy the places made vacant by the exodus of what his Excellency terms the

"free Americans of African descent." That is the sum and substance of it.

But, for the sake of argument, admit, if you choose, that all the plans of the President touching emancipation and colonization of the negro were to-day successfully carried out, what would it accomplish in the great work of restoring the Union? Nothing—worse than nothing.

The President recommends in his annual message three propositions to amend the Constitution of the United States. I will not trouble the committee with reading them; every gentleman here is familiar with the articles he proposes to adopt for amendments. The first, second and third are for the benefit of the negro.

The people are sick and tired of this eternal talk upon the negro, and they have expressed that disgust unmistakably in the recent elections. The President's proposed amendments as a whole, or either of them, could not receive the suffrages of a majority of the people of more than two States of this Union.

While upon this subject I desire to call the attention of the committee to a single feature in relation to these amendments. In the message he recommends an amendment to the Constitution as follows:

"And, Congress may appropriate money, and otherwise provide for colonizing free colored persons, with their own consent, at any place or places without the United States."

In this recommendation he seeks to give power to do what he claims he has the power to do without it; and by this recommendation he admits he has been exercising unauthorized and illegal authority. Is not this in itself an admission that the Constitution, unamended, grants no power to Congress or the Executive to appropriate or use the money of the people for any purposes contemplated in this amendment? He calls upon us to compromise. What compromise is that? For whom does he propose a compromise? What for? In order that you may have more power to advance the negro. That is all there is in it, and there is nothing less of it.

He tells us there are differences of opinion among the friends of the Union "in regard to slavery and the African race among us." He says to all of those who differ with him, surrender your convictions and come to my plan—and he calls that compromise! Compromise! Yes, I trust in God the day is not far distant when the people of this country will compromise and save the Constitution and the Union for the white people, and not for the black people. Our people are for no other compromise than that.

There are other portions of the message upon which I should like to bestow some attention, but I will forbear to do so now, for I desire to call the attention of the committee to another proposition of the President connected with this subject.

The proclamation of the 22d of September last, issued by the President, took the country by surprise, and no one of its citizens more than myself. I had fondly hoped and been anxious that the President of the United States as Chief Magistrate, that I could lead him my support. I have been driven, with thousands of others, into opposition to the policy contained in that proclamation, for reasons which must commend themselves to every reflecting man sincerely desirous of terminating this war and suppressing the rebellion.

Mr. Lincoln, on the 4th of March, 1861, on the east portico of this Capitol, took a vow, which he said was registered in heaven, to support the Constitution of the United States. In his inaugural address, delivered on that occasion, he said he had no lawful authority or inclination to interfere with the institution of slavery in the States where it exists. In his proclamation of the 22d of September last, he assumes that he has power to forever free "all persons held as slaves within any State, or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall be in rebellion against the United States," thus violating the pledge so solemnly made in his inaugural address.

If the object of the proclamation was not to aid the rebellion, its effect was. It has strengthened the rebellion by driving into their army every person in the South that it was possible to drive there. Was its intent to affect those who are in rebellion? Certainly not. The slaves of every man in a rebellious State were to be free. The loyal man owning twenty slaves, and the man in the rebel army owning a like number, were, by that proclamation, to be affected precisely the same. The object of the proclamation was to benefit the negro, not to restore the Government or preserve the Constitution. It was nothing more, nothing less. It goes a bow shot beyond anything done by this House at the last session of Congress.

But again, if the proclamation is to be carried into effect, the war must continue until every slave is free. If every rebel should lay down his arms on the 2d day of January next, or on any subsequent day, and submit himself to the laws and Constitution of the United States, the war would still have to go on, unless the slaves were all free, for the proclamation declares that "the Executive Government of the United States, including the military and naval authorities thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of such persons." It strengthens the arm of the rebellion, and postpones the time of restoring peace to this country, by the declaration of the purpose for which the executive power shall be used. In what respect has our cause—the cause of the Union—been advanced? Up to that time, throughout the great Northwest, you had but to call for volunteers and they rushed to the army. Since then you have had no volunteering. Prior to that time it was not necessary, as the Secretary of War—as I am told, for I have not read his report—now declares it is necessary to have provost marshals in every county to arrest deserters from the army.

We are informed that but a few days before the issuing of this proclamation, the President himself declared, in a conference with some gen-

tlemen who were urging him to this step, that it would not only be wholly inoperative in the object sought, but would directly weaken us in the border States, but significantly added that it might increase our strength in the North. I pause here to inquire where the additional strength in the North was to be obtained? Not certainly from the Democratic element in the North. If additional vigor was infused into the service, it must come from some other quarter which until then had not heartily sustained the policy of the Administration. I need not particularize what class of individuals were to be thus induced to lend their support—the country well knows the baleful influences of this class, and the ends they seek to accomplish.

But this is not all. The record of the military operations shows to-day almost conclusively what the country had for some considerable time suspected: that success, in a military point of view, was not so much the object sought as the bringing about a condition of things when a proclamation of this sort could be urged as the only means of securing to us success.

Some of the reasons are now before the public why McClellan did not capture Richmond. At the last session of Congress I commented on the fact that the armies on the Potomac, instead of being massed, were divided in four or five corps, and each corps under an independent commander; no two of them co-operating together; thus enabling a mass corps of rebels under Jackson to defeat three of them, and to unite before Richmond in repulsing McClellan. I will not now repeat what I then said. I refer to the fact as a link in the chain of evidence which I shall to-day adduce.

There were during the whole time McClellan was at the head of the Army, continual demands that he should advance upon Richmond. The class of persons who raised the outcry were the persons who favored emancipation. This clamor forced from McClellan his plan of campaign, as we are told by the Prince de Joinville, which the rebels learned in a few days after it was known in Washington. Of course they prepared to meet it. McClellan moved forward from Fortress Monroe with one hundred thousand men. He approached the position of the rebels under Magruder, expecting McDowell to go by another route to cut off the retreat, when they were driven back; McDowell never reached or started for the position he was to occupy. The rebels were defeated and driven back; instead of their retreat being cut off, the road to Richmond was open to them. If this had been assailed by McDowell on their retreat, their capture or destruction was certain, and the march of our army to Richmond would have been unobstructed, and its capture beyond all doubt. The rebellion could not have continued sixty days. This opportunity was lost. And why and whom? Not by McClellan.

The Prince de Joinville tells us that McClellan is reinforced by Franklin's division while on the Peninsula, and that was all of McDowell's forces that ever came to him. The valor and endurance of our troops overcame all obstacles, and drove back the enemy to the entrenchments around his Capital. McClellan has no information from Washington as to the position of the various troops around Washington, doing nothing, protecting nothing; but from rumors—camp rumors—learns that McDowell's forces are at Fredericksburg, and to the front. Porter's corps, from the right wing of the army, is seen to open communication with McDowell, if possible. Porter drives the enemy from Mechanicsville, and learns that McDowell's advance is only fifteen miles distant. The news of the fact gives great joy to the army. Forty thousand additional troops are to aid in the capture of Richmond. Its fall is certain. An order comes from Washington, and McDowell withdraws his forces, blowing the bridges up as he retires. McClellan is overwhelmed by superior numbers, and forced to retire, fighting as no retreating army ever fought before.

Thus we see, that twice the rebel capital is saved from falling into our hands, not by any skill or courage of its defenders, but by some unexplained acts of our own rulers. I repeat that the fall of Richmond—the defeat of the rebellion.

The reasons for the movement of the army under McClellan from the James river, so as to unite it with the one near Washington, is before the country, and needs no comments from me. The correspondence between General Halleck and McClellan vindicates the one and condemns the other.

When Pope's army retires to Washington before the army of Lee, let loose from their prison in Richmond by the removal of McClellan's threatened, Maryland invaded, and Pennsylvania-menaced, McClellan is again called to assume command, and drive the insolent foe across the Potomac. He reorganizes the disordered battalions, brings order out of confusion, marches a large army over one hundred miles, and in less than twenty days fights two battles, wins them both, and drives the rebels across the Potomac; relieves the capital and gives courage to our army. Things being in this position, on the 22d of September the President issues his proclamation to free the negro, and follows it up by the one of the 24th, to make slaves of white men. McClellan refused or failed to endorse either of them in his order to the army, and then his removal was decided upon. His competency to command had nothing to do with his removal. He had vindicated that. The idea of these people seems to be that proclamations are all that is necessary to make war successful. They issue proclamations to free the negro, and call that a vigorous prosecution of the war.

The charge that McClellan failed to relieve Harper's Ferry is a mere pretext, got up to order by a commission of inept descendants of Justice Shallow, and they, like their ancestors, have written themselves down as asses. Their finding has but to be read to be condemned. The

learned commission find Colonel Ford censurable because he surrendered Maryland Heights after he was relieved, and the same commission censured McClellan because he did not relieve that point. Here is their finding:

"The General-in-Chief also testifies that in his opinion General McClellan could and should have relieved and protected Harper's Ferry, and in this opinion the commission fully concur.

"By reference to the evidence, it will be seen that at the very moment Colonel Ford abandoned Maryland Heights, his little army was in reality relieved by General Franklin and Sumner's corps at Crampton's Gap, within seven miles of his position."

Truth is consistent; falsehood and error are inconsistent. The finding of the commission gives facts and dates which show conclusively that McClellan did all that could be done to relieve Harper's Ferry, omitting one that I will supply. On the 11th of September he telegraphed Halleck to have Colonel Miles ordered to join him at once. All communications had been destroyed on the 7th with Harper's Ferry. On the 12th of September, Halleck telegraphed Wool to place his troops under the command of McClellan, (which included Harper's Ferry.)

On the 13th of September, McClellan, for the first time learns the situation of Harper's Ferry, and without delay, as is shown by the commission itself, orders Sumner's and Franklin's corps to its relief. I give but a brief state of the facts; it is sufficient. On the same day Harper's Ferry was placed under command of McClellan, Brigadier General White arrived at Harper's Ferry. He waived rank to Colonel Miles, thereby confessing his inability to assume command in conformity to his rank, yet the commission say he did noble and gallant service, did nothing to enoble in him, and I suppose in due time he will be promoted for this gallant forbearance. The commission censure General Wool for continuing Miles in command at Harper's Ferry, but applaud White for waiving rank that Miles might surrender what Wool commanded him to hold.

Wool put a quibus upon them by showing that the War Department had directed Miles to report directly to that office from day to day, and he could have shown the following telegram from this city to Colonel Miles:

"The Department have perfect confidence in your ability and in your competency, and direct that you hold your position to the last extremity."

Stanton, Halleck, and Lincoln have confidence in Miles; they continue him in command of an important position; White waives rank for him—but McClellan must be censured, and this is one of the points on which they seek to assail him.

But Halleck says he disobeyed orders in not crossing the Potomac and giving battle to Lee. Of necessity, McClellan's army was shattered by the battles in Maryland. His army was, of necessity, much shattered, and Halleck had himself, under his own command, seen the evil result of throwing in the face of a masked foe an inferior force. Such folly at Pittsburg Landing, clothed in mourning the Northwest. The East had felt its effect in Pope's campaign, under the eye of Halleck. There has been quite enough of this. When we recollect Halleck's rapid and expeditious march from Pittsburg Landing to Corinth, then we can comprehend why he is so anxious for the rapid marches of McClellan. Neither in Halleck's complaints, nor in the finding of the commission, do we find anything to warrant the removal of McClellan from his command, and hence my mind is brought to the irresistible conclusion that it was his failure to endorse the proclamation that was the real cause of his removal. These remarks are not made for the purpose of bringing forward General McClellan, or any other person, in connection with the Presidency of 1864.—At the appropriate time, I shall be prepared to take my position on that subject. I will be for the wisest and firmest, and most patriotic of our statesmen—for him who is for the preservation of the Constitution and the restoration of the Union—for him who is devoted to civil liberty and constitutional guarantees.

On the 17th March last, my colleague (Mr. Lovejoy) having heard that two negroes had been arrested, introduced a resolution instructing a committee to inquire into the facts, which resolution passed this House by a majority of two to one. On the first day of this session I introduced a resolution directing an inquiry into the causes why white citizens of Illinois, without charges being made against them, were detained in the various forts and bastilles in the country, and that resolution was laid on the table, on motion of Mr. Lovejoy, by a similar vote. The Army is being used for the benefit of the negro. This House is being used for his benefit. Every department of the Government is being run for his benefit.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I have a single word to those who are temporarily exercising the functions of the executive department of the Government. I fear they have not studied the history of the people of this country, or the characteristics of the race from whom they are descended. That history, correctly understood, shows that in contests with power they have ever wrenched, even from unwilling hands, fresh guarantees for their liberty. I am led to make these remarks in view of the arrest of thousands of men in loyal States, without due process of law, by the order of executive officers of this Government, at the times and places where, in all cases, courts of justice were entirely open, and the execution of the laws wholly unobstructed. The most remarkable page in the history of our race is the fact that while these outrages have been committed upon the rights of our people, no resistance has been offered, no violence done, and no life has been taken, as the penalty for the wrong. The desire of the people to preserve the peace in their own midst has restrained them thus far from the commission of violence.

Attempts have been made to intimidate our people at the polls. Provost marshals have been sent everywhere, and yet our people have not been provoked to violate order. But they are in earnest. They mean to preserve their liberties and their rights. The results of the last elections were of no temporary character. Such a triumph has never before been witnessed in this country. There is not a man who voted the Democratic ticket last fall, throughout the country, who is not prepared, when the proper time comes, to lay down his life rather than sacrifice his liberty.

We may as well understand this. Let us talk plainly about it. Let us not try to deceive ourselves or others. We are not assassins. We are not law-breakers. Our people have endured a great deal. They have submitted to arbitrary arrests and imprisonments. But let me say to you, in God's name, "pause, stop; you cannot go any further." Our people are resolved that you shall not. They are determined. Do not misunderstand them. We are for the Union. We are for liberty—constitutional liberty. Our ancestors, in all times past, have sacrificed to it; and their descendants, after long suffering, will, if need be, vindicate it before God and the world.

I repeat it, Mr. Chairman, our people are in earnest. They mean all that they have said. They love the flag, because it represents Constitution, order, law. They do not wish to be slaves, and do not mean to be made slaves. We have had a bill passed here to-day, under whip and spur, without debate, without inquiry, extending amnesty to those who have thus wronged our people. I think you had better also pass a bill extending amnesty to those of you whom the people have condemned for your course here, so that you can have a political resurrection hereafter. That is the only way in which you can ever have forgiveness. If you expect that when the courts come to look at the monstrous bill which you have passed to-day, wiping out all the rights of those who have been immured in prison, they will hold it as constitutional you are greatly mistaken. No court of justice will hold that that gives indemnity for the wanton, reckless, tyrannical exercise of power. It is not justice on earth. It is not justice before God in Heaven. My opinion about it is that you had better have left the courts open to our people, and let those men who had ruthlessly and recklessly violated every precept, law, and Constitution, take the legal consequences of their acts.

But, Mr. Chairman, there is no excuse or palliation for the arrests that have been made. I care not whether you take the case of the old man, like Mahoney, tottering to the grave; or the little boy in New England, who sells newspapers for a living; or men of high and spotless character and devoted fidelity to the laws, like Judge Duff, of Illinois, or the unfortunate who was confined in Camp Chase, who could not pay his washerwoman's bill, and was, therefore, accused of disloyal practices; or take the men of great intellect, like Elton B. Olds, of Ohio, or the unlearned squirrel-hunter from my friend's (Mr. Johnson's) district, who did not know but that Robt. Davis and Lincoln were on the same side; or the intermediate between these extremes—there is not one of them that could not have been tried in the place where the offense was said to have been committed, and, if found guilty, correct public sentiment would have seen that the penalties of the law were fully enforced upon them.

In all these cases you have violated the Constitution and the laws. You have disregarded them both. And now you turn round and pass an act of immunity to all concerned in inflicting these outrages and wrongs. You have had immured in prison men equal, you superior, in intellect to the President or any Cabinet officer; men more devoted to the Constitution and laws of the country than all of them together. Now, after all of these outrages, you propose to invest the President with power to suspend the writ of habeas corpus, the great birthright of Englishmen and Americans; and which has never, until now, been disregarded, under any circumstances, in this country, except inside the actual lines of the army.

Mr. Chairman, I have talked warmly on this subject, because I felt deeply. I have advised, and now a wiser, moderation. Our people want peace. They mean to preserve the Constitution and the Union. They know that you cannot persist in the course which you are now taking. That course leads to the destruction of both the Constitution and the Union. I am not authorized to speak or lay down the plan which is to govern any body in future. I do not speak to-day for that purpose.

Perhaps I should not anticipate the course of the President of the United States in regard to his proclamation. I trust that he will reconsider it; that he will pause and not go forward with it. This Government cannot be restored with the sword alone. You must carry with it the olive branch. The President says we are making history. I trust we are not making such history as the incendiary who swung his lighted torch in the air to burn the temple of Diana at Ephesus, and who has left his as a beacon, while the wisdom of him who reared that temple has perished from our memories. I think we may expect that, under a change of policy, the blessings of the Union may yet be restored and made perpetual.

Mr. Chairman, I am very much obliged to the committee for this attention with which it has listened to my remarks. I have spoken freely and fairly, and attempted to do my duty in this great crisis of our country.

COAL OIL.—The amount of coal oil shipped to Europe, from Philadelphia, between the 1st of January and the 1st of October, was 1,877,151 gallons, valued at \$329,386, and the total amount exported from the United States, during the same period, was 6,294,819 gallons, being an increase of 6,965,879 gallons over last year.