

National Republican

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LITERARY NOTICES.

NATIONAL HYMN. How I was written and how it came to be the National Hymn. By Philip S. Johnson. New York: Published by the author, 150 Nassau Street.

This work is the only public result of the operations of the celebrated National Hymn Committee. It is, by far, the most interesting book of the season, and contains much of interest in relation to National Hymns, heretofore but little known.

As there were twelve hundred competitors for the \$500 prize, and several of them belonging to this locality, they, at least, will like to know how the Committee conducted itself, and how their Hymns were disposed of; we will therefore tell them all about it.

The Committee usually met at Mr. White's house, where the venerable Gulian C. Verplanck, so well and favorably known in all literary circles at home and abroad, sat as father of the Committee. When all were ready, the manuscripts containing words alone were first opened, the music being laid aside for separate consideration. The verses were then read by the member who opened the envelope containing them. If they were condemned at once by a nearly unanimous vote, they were cast into a waste basket ready at hand; if not, they were reserved for future consideration. But, by a waste basket must not be understood any of those ordinary wicker conceivings known to mortals by that name. A vast wicker-basket—a "back basket," big enough to hold Falstaff himself—was made; the temporary tomb of these distinguished hopes; and this receptacle was filled five times with rejected manuscripts, which were seized upon for incendiary purposes by the cooks of the gentlemen at whose houses the readings took place.

The music was winked separately at a piano, by approved professors, and about twenty or thirty each of original airs and hymns came out of the ordeal with the stamp of excellence, if not of nationality, and these were laid aside, pending the proposal to make a book of them. But these were greatly reduced in number by the refusal of some to have their verses printed, and by the withdrawal of others. Of the conduct of some of the authors, Mr. White thus speaks:

"Certain of the hymns which would otherwise have been published were withdrawn by their authors in a very courteous and good-natured manner; but the people who talked and fumed, who wearied the members of the committee with calls and letters of remonstrance and inquiry, who waylaid them in the streets, who entered the office of the publishers big with bombast and terrible with threats—some, if their verses were published, some, if they were not—were these whose manuscripts had fallen on the first reading dead into the waste basket, leaving not even a trace behind them in the memory to aid a guess at what their rejected authors were raving about."

The New York Evening Post gives a very amusing informal report of the doings of the committee, from which we make a few extracts.

The sessions of the committee were not dull affairs at any time. Beside the constant sense of expectation—only equalled by that of the player at Baden, that the true red might win at the next deal of a manuscript—there was the frequently recurring excitement of a subjected poem—either purposely or unintentionally funny.

Here, for instance, is a specimen of one which we must class among the former sort:

A NATIONAL HYMN.
All hail our country great,
May never be
But every darning Nationist
Be hung up by a halter!

(Attended by the author of the verses.)
"It is supposed that the committee understand fugue and figured bass. The money may be sent to the author at Albany."

Another competitor wrote that he could not think of giving his hymn to the public for less than \$250, and he, being evidently of the serious indignant class, called his diversion "The Nation's Bride." He had prepared the following little arrangement for her:

And lo! here is the side-saddle
Which the bride, with horse and bridle,
May at her pleasure take a ride
In the longevity of her prude.

He adds, at the close of his communication, that the only reason he had not written the music as well as the verses for this "Hymn," was because he didn't know how.

Another poet sends on a mere trifle of one hundred and ten lines of lambe-Heptameter Hypermeter, which begins with this cheerful paraphrase of the Declaration of Independence:

When in the course of human events, a people
Must dissolve the bonds that did them to an
other bind!

But fancy a committee tempted to suicide by the poetic madness of "A Constitution Hymn," whereof this is a specimen:

What is that stings the Ear?—It sounds as of yore
Is the Nation a Breeding—by the Cannon once more
Some links seem severed—From the Union's Through
The Hammer stay stay—To the Union Helong

—Corus—Then all his Constitution—Thy spirit
We'll keep
For thy star-spangled banner—it never
shall sleep

God's wild free to man—All things that he
needs
From his birth to his grave—while onward he
speeds
Yet peace from an union—the best boon to life
Except what God made—when he made man a wife.

A PROSE CONTRIBUTION.
Sometimes the poet accompanied his rhythmic venture by a protracted dissertation in prose. Mr. White gives one specimen of this kind of thing.

It comes from a "lone female" in Connecticut, who, even were Connecticut less famed for moral steadfastness, could scarcely be imagined as suffering from her loneliness (certainly she would never be disturbed in it) if her letter be any just index of her general mental style. She begins with the following singular recognition of providential interference—in behalf of whom it would be difficult to say, unless, perhaps, the committee, by way of wholesome encouragement:

"Men will be Field and others of the National Hymn Committee New York City God the Father and Creator of all things has caused

me to see a Notice in the N York Tribune that you are a Committee to award a prize of Five Hundred dollars for a National Hymn.

"The five hundred dollars is a great inducement to those that God has given that Talent, The knowledge that God has created in me is to know how to accomplish the Mission of the Saviour and bring Peace on Earth and Good will amongst Men. And the Committee know that woman was Created for a help meet for man. And woman does help Man Create the family of Man. But in this Nation woman is Not allowed to help make Laws to Govern what she helps Create. And the Nation Cannot be Governed by righteous Laws without the knowledge of women to help make righteous Laws. And I want to ask the Committee what is the use of a National Hymn? where is it to be sung? Is it to be sung in the Churches or is it to be sung when Men are going to Murder (war) and Make widows and orphans, and wretchedness, suffering and Death?"

The hymn which most nearly approaches the true standard is Richard Storrs Willis's, both in words and music. We were able to print the score as well as the verses, we think our readers would be disposed to accord this hymn a very rare degree of lyrical excellence. The former being impossible, behold the latter:

I.
Anthem of Liberty,
Solemn and grand,
Wake in thy loftiness,
Sweep through the land!
Light in each breast anew
Patriot fire,
Pledge the old flag again—
Fling of our sires!
Fling all thy folds abroad,
Banner of light!
Wave, wave forever,
Flag of our might!
God for our banner,
Freedom and Right!
Amen! Amen!

II.
Spirit of Unity,
Potent, divine,
Come in thy kindness,
All hearts entwine!
Prove to our enemies
Ever a rock,
And to each traitor scheme
Ruinous shock!
Wake the old banner word!
Shout it aloud!
Union forever!
Once and again—
Union forever!
God it maintain!
Amen! Amen!

III.
Shades of our forefathers,
Pass through the land,
Clothed in full majesty,
Terrible, grand!
"Faith, Hope and Charity"
Role in each breast!
Faith, in our Fatherland,
Hope, in our Lord,
Charity, still to all!
Blindly who've erred!
God save the Government!
Long it defend!
This is the Kingdom,
Father and Friend!
This be the glory,
World without end!
Amen! Amen!

THE REBELLION: ITS LATENT CAUSES AND TRUE SIGNIFICANCE. By Henry T. Tuckerman. New York: James G. Gregory, 161. For sale in Washington by W. D. Shepherd.

The author of this valuable little book is known as a graceful writer and a poet, but the rebellion has induced him to throw aside his literary pen and assume the political, in which, taking the work before us, he is equally successful. The object of "The Rebellion," which is in the form of letters addressed to a friend abroad, is to point out the real causes underlying the hideous rebellion, and to cheer the hopes of the patriot with a discernment of its necessary issues. He first speaks of the crisis, and the animating scenes by which it has been accompanied; he then traces the recent decline of public spirit, shows next the provincial aspects of the Southern mind, produced by its peculiar form of society; dwells upon the difference of character at the North and the South; states the fundamental grounds of our nationality, and the reasons for alienation from it; and, finally, after a brief glance at foreign opinion, gives the reasons for his conviction of the certain triumph of the North.

CHEAP COTTON BY FREE LABOR. By a Cotton Manufacturer. Boston: For sale in Washington by E. A. Atkins.

Here we have a valuable essay, by a writer who understands his subject, on the economy of producing cotton by free labor. The writer assumes that foreign recognition of the Southern Confederacy is possible, and, in that event, "our first need would be to crush the rebellion at home by the most positive measures—the first of which would be the immediate emancipation of the slaves, since the chief strength of the rebel force arrayed against us is, in their power to collect and support a large army without being obliged to draw upon their laboring force." To render the emancipation idea more popular, we must get rid of the notion that cotton cannot be raised by free labor, which the writer attempts to prove by facts, which would be conclusive to unprejudiced minds.

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR MEN OF WAR. By Capt. U. P. Levy, U. S. N. For sale by Franck Taylor, Washington.

This little volume contains a Manual of Internal Rules and Regulations for Men of War, and for any person on ship-board is invaluable. It was originally published to assist young officers, but it is now revised and republished for the benefit of the new officers taken from the merchant service and temporarily employed in the naval service. It embraces all the rules observed on board a man-of-war.

AN Oration. By Edward Everett. Delivered at the New York Academy of Music, July 4, 1861. For sale by W. D. Shepherd.

This is one of Mr. Everett's greatest efforts, in which he clearly and eloquently sets forth "the great issues now before the country."

THE CAUSES OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR. By John Lothrop Motley, LL. D., D. C. L. For sale by W. D. Shepherd.

This is a letter addressed to the London Times, by an able writer, who has espoused the cause of the Union, and clearly establishes

the wrong of secession and the right of coercion.

THE FALLACY OF NEUTRALITY. An address by Hon. Joseph Holt, to the People of Kentucky, delivered at Louisville, and for sale by W. D. Shepherd.

Besides the Address, this pamphlet contains Mr. Holt's letter on the same subject, to J. F. Speed, Esq. Both are eloquent and patriotic productions, and will always be read with interest and instruction.

SPEECHES OF HON. JOSEPH HOLT, delivered in Boston and New York. These eloquent and timely speeches have been handsomely printed by Mr. Polkinhorn, of this city, at the cost of Thomas H. Dodge, Esq., who very wisely demonstrates his patriotism and his admiration for Mr. Holt, and his Union efforts, by having a large edition of these speeches published, and gratuitously circulated wherever they would probably produce the greatest effect in favor of the Union sentiment. Mr. Dodge deserves the thanks of the loyal community.

REVISED REGULATIONS FOR THE ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES. The present rebellion has made this book necessary, as thousands of our bravest officers really know little of the rules and regulations of the army. This was foreseen by the War Department, and the Secretary ordered a revision of the army regulations, and their publications, and they are now, by his order, the standing authority upon the matter therein contained. The work embraces every thing touching the internal government of the army, and the duties of every person connected therewith. It is published by Lippincott & Co., of Philadelphia, and is for sale in this city by Hudson Taylor.

NAPOLEON'S MAXIMS OF WAR. This volume contains a circle of maxims deduced from the highest source of military science and experience, with practical illustrations of the principles taken from the most celebrated campaigns of modern times. It is highly recommended by Gen. Scott, and should be possessed by every officer and soldier. It is for sale by Shepherd.

LOYD'S MAPS. These enterprising map publishers have just issued a map of the eastern half of Virginia, on a large scale, and adapted to our present wants, as it is prepared with special reference to the war. They are accurate, and contain all necessary information, and are published at a cheap rate.

LOYD'S OFFICIAL MAP OF MISSOURI, also, just been published. This is another of Lloyd's series of war maps, and is made from the latest official surveys. Any, or all, of the series, may be sent by mail, and the cost is but twenty-five cents. Lloyd's publishing house is in the city of New York.

RUSSELL'S PICTURES OF SOUTHERN LIFE, being the letters of William H. Russell, written while upon his Southern tour, to the London Times. They contain much truth—are written in his peculiar style, and are full of interest. For sale by Shepherd.

THE AFRICAN REPOSITORY for October, is more than ordinarily interesting. Those who take an interest in African affairs should read this monthly. It is published in this city.

THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER, as seen from the hurricane deck of a Mississippi steamer, has just been produced by Schenberger & Co., New York, and is for sale here by Hudson Taylor. It is published on a square sheet, but may be cut so as to form one piece, presenting a panorama nearly ten feet long. It shows all the towns and cities on the river, and every locality of interest.

AN ADDRESS delivered on the 4th of July at Mt. Kisco, New York, by John Jay, Esq., for sale by W. D. Shepherd. Like everything emanating from Mr. Jay, this address bears the impress of his genius, eloquence and statesmanship. The subject is "The Great Conspiracy," upon which Mr. Jay throws a flood of light.

NEW AIR LINE ROUTE.
THREE TRAINS DAILY TO NEW YORK.
TWO TRAINS DAILY TO PHILADELPHIA.
WITHOUT CHANGE OF CARS.

On and after MONDAY, June 10, 1861, the Passenger Train will leave the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Depot, at Harrisburg, for New York and Philadelphia, as follows, viz:

EASTWARD.
Express Line leaves Harrisburg at 9:30 A. M., on arrival of Pennsylvania Railroad Express Train from the West, arriving in New York at 4 P. M. A sleeping car is attached to the train through Pittsburgh without change.
Mail Train leaves Harrisburg at 8 A. M., arriving in New York at 4 P. M., and Philadelphia at 1:30 P. M.
Fast Line leaves Harrisburg at 1:40 P. M., on arrival of Pennsylvania Railroad Fast Mail, arriving in New York at 9:45 P. M., and Philadelphia at 6:40 P. M.

WESTWARD.
Fast Line leaves New York at 6 A. M., and Philadelphia at 8:15 P. M., arriving at Harrisburg at 8 P. M.
Mail Train leaves New York at 11:00 noon, and Philadelphia at 8:15 P. M., arriving at Harrisburg at 8 P. M.
Express Line leaves New York at 1 P. M., arriving at Harrisburg at 9:30 A. M., and connecting with the Pennsylvania Express Train for Pittsburgh. A sleeping car is also attached to this train.
Commodious cars made at Harrisburg with trains on the Pennsylvania, Northern Central, and Cumberland Valley Railroads, and at Reading for Philadelphia, Potsville, Wilkesbarre, Allentown, Easton, &c.
Baggage checked through. Fare between Harrisburg and New York, \$3.25 in No. 1 cars, and \$2.70 in No. 2.

For tickets or other information apply to
at New York, J. J. O'LEARY,
Aug 23 General Agent, Harrisburg.

THIS IS TO GIVE NOTICE, That the undersigned hath obtained from the Orphan's Court of Washington County, in the District of Columbia, letters of administration on the personal estate of Rebecca E. Peake, late of Washington County, deceased. All persons having claims against the said deceased, are hereby warned to exhibit the same, with the vouchers therefor, to the undersigned, on or before the 23rd day of October next; they may otherwise, by law, be excluded from all benefit of the said estate.

Given under my hand this 23rd day of October, 1861.
J. H. PEAKE,
Administrator.

SICK AND WOUNDED SOLDIERS, IN HOSPITAL.

Published in conformity with the resolution of the Senate of July 16, 1861.

At General Hospital on E street, between Fourth and Fifth streets, Washington, Oct. 18.

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