A WOMAN'S WORD FOR THE HOUR.

[For The N. Y. Tribune.]

I.

Now that the smiling Spring ushers in the full, glad Summer,
As the bride-maiden the bride, to grow modest beside her,
"Here is my sister," she saith, "but more fashioned and perfect,
Come to a fuller growth in the heart of the Highest,
She the decision, I the intent of His kindness—
Her receive, O ye mortals, for good and fruition.
And as my blushes are lost in the glow of her beauty,
So let your pleasures give place to the earnest of Wisdom.
Wisdom, the true joy extatic, made good through upholding
The burden of noontide, with multiform splendors o'ercharging
Man's weak brain, which resists them and therefore is manly.
Ye who walk happy to-day, who unclasp the light vesture,
That to the heart the warm sunshine may do its glad mission,
That through the breast may strike rapturous joy and expansion;
Ye will have sighs to give forth ere the mantle fold closer;
Ye must be sadder and wiser ere Summer shall leave you."
What should the Summer prove, what the brunt and the bearing,
When the fair Spring-tide doth leave us a sting in her blossoms?
What shall the action be, what the striving and tearing?
When the great heart of a Nation, in wildest commotion,
Stokes with its terrible heaving the green earth beneath us?
Heart like a woman's (the heart is the woman in all things,)
That, through false guidance betrayed from its own nobler instincts,
Wakes yet to consciousness, learning too late the foul treason,
Cries thence for succor, if there be justice in heaven.
What are these passions, the fiendish, that rush into transport?
What are these voices, the earnest, that rise to rebuke them?
What is this anguish? the poor heart grows passive and breathless,
Frightened with terror lest they, the malignant, should conquer,
Lifting its hope to the Godhead that, brooding above us,
Says of the Chaos, this, too, is my righteous appointing.
Yes, but the Chaos knew the command of its master,
Sleeked its black roughness, and sank at his feet like a watch-dog.
'Twas but the threshold I kept of thine uncounted treasures;
Take them unwasted, master, bring out their fair beauties.
Fling to the wondering deep the new sun and the planets,
Build in the infinite largeness the heavens that shall praise them.
Oh! had it risen instead with a purpose persistent,
Said: I am somewhat, and that which I am I continue,
Why should I yield my tumultuous joy of rebellion,
That thy law should remodel my ancient dominion;
That thy will, which I care not to know, should be accomplished?
With what a smile had the lips which I dare not imagine,
Struck the rude outlaw to mute and immediate homage.
How had the outstretched finger vouchsafed its calm guidance,
Till the dark pulses should leap to the thrill of His music!
So, from the wilder tumult these symbols would picture,
Let the tern heart of my country turn, silent and steadfast,
Seized with the courage of good, till the uproar receding
Be as the thoughts of a child, who, admonished at bedtime,
"Thou hast been froward," creeps nearer the breast of his mother,
Strangely recalling the passionate cries of the morning.

II.

Who are those that sweep on to the House of the People,
Cherished like song-birds, warm with their own downy wrappings?
Splendors of feathers we see, as of laces and diamonds.
Splendors of beauty, that shame the adornment of either.
Met by the Marshal, and led to the smile of the Magnate.
Bland is his greeting—blandly they please him with curtseys.
Fairest of women tender white hands for his touching;
Men of the haughtiest wait for the nod of their patron.
Has he betrayed the trust that was left to his swearing?
Hush! 'tis the Chair Presidential to which we do homage;
Every man cringes where any man may aspire.
One I discovered, haply not seen by my fellows;
Young and a Virgin, wearing her fillet of oakleaves,
Wearing the green nodding plumes of the Court of the Prairie,
Gyves on her free-born limbs, on her fair arms shackles,
Blood on her garments, terror and grief in her features.
Oh! she was weary, upholding the crown of her virtue,
Keeping the watch and the ward that brave men should have kept her.
Oh! she was weary with crying aloud from the West land
Faintly and fiercely: "Brothers! will none of you help me?"
Where with hum and confusion scarce tempered by music,
The brilliant assemblage thronged their chief man for his virtue,
Sudden she stood, like a guilty ghost at a banquet.
"I am Kansas," she shrieked, and her hand gave its menace,
"Kansas,' and seized the crisp locks for a terrible shaking.
"Me dost thou murder—me dost thou sell in thy shambles.
Coined from my blood is the gold that should keep thee in power.
Thou hast heard my loud shrieking—hast counted my struggles;
Scarcely I hold from my heart the death wound of thy Bravos."
"Tremble," she cried, "tho' the battle seem thine for a season,
Not a drop of my blood shall be wanting to judge thee—
Tremble, thou fallen from mercy, ere fallen from office.
The heart of the Nations shall loathe ere it gladly forget thee.
Known for thy vileness alone, and the sorrow it wrought us."

III.

While she yet spake, from the heaven God's thunder had fall'n,
And I heard: "The crime, not the paltry offender so stirs us.
Take heart, thou lone one—a champion leaps to defend thee,
Armed with the loftier issue, the art and the moral.
Eloquent lips, and the integral heart of Conviction,
Powerful still, when the arm of the spoiler has crumbled.
Doctrine of Right, and the Old-World tradition of Freedom—
Doctrine of Justice, thank God, no New-England invention,
Known to the Ancients, known to the Gods and their poets,
Known to great Varres, whose pillars of perfect marble
Stand in the temple of Truth, his remembrance for Ages.
There shall thy record be, Knight of the wronged and the helpless,
There shall thy weapon be kept, with the motto: "I hurled it."
How hast thou hardened the living heart and quick feelings
To stand up and speak the great spirit-dividing sentence,
To stand, a mark for the thief and assassin to aim at.
More than our envy, more than thy hope was thy guerdon—
Setting the seal of thy blood to the word of thy courage.
If but the pure of heart in a pure cause should suffer,
SUMNER, the task thou hast chosen was thine for its fitness.
Never was Pascal victim more stainlessly offered,
Never on milder brow gleamed the crown of the martyr.
Stand thence, a mark for the better and nobler ambition,
For they are holy, the wounds that the Southerner dealt thee.
Count them blessed, and blessed the Mother that bore thee.
Would that the thing I best love, aye, the Son of my bosom,
Suffering beside thee, had shared the high deed and its glory.
Shall we bend over those wounds with our tears and our balsams?
Tears warm with rapture, balsams of costliest clearness.
Take thy deserving then—wear it for life on thy forehead,
Crowned with those scars shalt thou enter the just man's heaven.
Crowned with those scars shalt thou stand in the record of heroes.
If earthly counsel were vain, should the heavens befriend thee
Sinking Orion, flung far in the wrath of the tyrant,
Calls not in vain on the dumb heart of Nature to help him;
Lo! the deep comes to his aid, and its monsters upbear him;
Hesper stoops over the Ocean her long shining tresses
Till he is drawn by them up to the zone of her beauty;
And, like fair sisters, the stars close around him forever.

IV.

Scarcely the hush of horror gives way thro' the country
Ere from the Westland breaks the wild war-cry that grieves us.
Here the oppressor has come, he has reaped his rude harvest,
And the black ridges are left in the desolate corn field.
Low lies the village; the people stand, dull and disheartened,
Wondering what miscreant shall march with the banner of Freedom.
Oh! thou blue banner of God, with the stars of thy promise,
Wave in thy fary, avenge this usurping and insult!
Crack! thou crystal lit flames from the high empyrean.
Sweep from the outraged earth the vile chief and his legions.
Lawrence is fallen! Our friends and our brothers are murdered!
And your smug President soothly subscribes their death-warrant.
Man! walk not forth, lest the beasts of the meadow upbraid thee—
True to their office, fulfilling the task God appointed.
Even the mastiff shall greet thee with howls of derision—
He, who, left with the treasure, forsakes not its keeping—
Mocking the thief, giving battle till one of them perish.
Yea! let the meanest thing that is faithful deride him;
Let stocks and stones thank God that they cannot do treason.
Set him aside, my country, be great and impeach him!
Write out his dark account, tell his deeds as he did them.
Chosen to serve the people, his servants shall bind them.
Sworn to uphold the law, he will cheat and degrade it.
Blood has he counseled—not once, but again and often.
Blood shall he have, poured to God with a holy intention—
True blood of Seventy-Six, that brave men have bequeathed us—
Left to be spent as they spent it, freely for Freedom.
Hark! E'en the pulpit rebukes the slow drowse of the anthem,
Praising of God, amid actions that praise him in no wise.
Here some brave priest lifts his voice; the far rapine and bloodshed,
And murderous manners at home, move his eloquent finger.
"Shame on you, Christians," he cries, "if with such you have friendship.
And, if you be not ashamed, let your Pastor disown you."
Thanks! good pastor, our tribute of thanks for thy fervor—
'Tis but a spark—let it kindle the wide congregation
With that clear redness of shame which hath grace before Heaven.
With that good tingling that rouses men's slumbering virtue;
Each confessing to each, we were careless and brutish;
Sat unawakened by, while they hewed down our brethren.
Thus, by the sorrowing face shall the heart be made better.
This is as things should be—let the priest lead the people,
Stamp them, as melted wax, with high feeling and purpose.
Who hath anointed the man who shall stand looking Godward,
That he should pipe to the tune of their wanton wishes?
Oh! what a heathen Church shall we have if men's passions,
Traffic and greed, are to measure the text for the preacher.

V.

Finite is human help—many words are a hindrance.
Words for the Muses should bear the slow pressure of patience,
Scarcely one leaves them content, after utmost endeavor.
Visit me not with your anger, ye powers poetic,
If, in my hotness and haste, I have jarred you sweet fetters.
But, while your presence I feel, thrilling through and above me,
Listen a moment longer; suspend your high sentence
(Towards which I leap, when the daring is more than the danger,)
While with the name that has grown to a presence ideal
As with a sound of sweet music, I pass from your hearing.
Washington! thou art set as a symbol of greatness,
Of courage that boasts not, of honor that knows not temptation.
Thee all men praise—not a town in thy multiplied country
That hath not thy name and thy bust for its empty Valhalla.
How is it with thee, calm looking down from the death-cloud?
Is not thy soul astound with the praise and the practice?
Dost thou not point to the niches, the wreaths, and the statues,
Asking: "What is it ye honor, who know not my maxims?
Mocking my spirit, when patriots catch its far echoes.
Wherefore these splendors?—the skill of the draftsman and sculptor—
Marbles, whose whiteness stands not for your whiteness of virtue,
Filth of the market, defiling the innermost temple—
Wherefore these columns?—this dome that shall pierce the high heaven?
Were not the narrow walls wide enough for your mercies?
Was not the low roof too high for your poor aspirations?
Can you not see that the heart of your city is meanness?
Give it another name, lest it stand to defame me."

VI.

No, not Washington, springtide must end my brief lessons.
Sweetness of Nature alone for these woes can console us.
Blessed is he who takes comfort in seed-time and harvest,
Setting the warfare of life to the hymn of the seasons.
In the garden, the whispering walls are our refuge,
Closes with music its gate on the outer confusion.
The heaped green grapes rise up in their congregation
Lifting their heads to answer the sunshine with gladness.
Birdlings sing aloft in the blossom-hung branches,
Tell of the promise in which they bring up their young households,
Tell of the faith in which God has deserted them never.
So—we will lift our heads—these men too are our brothers—
They should be gathered with us in the fold of the Future.
Heaven enlighten their hearts, ere we close for the death-tug,
Flinging them far from our bounds with their wrath and their rapine,
As the man tears from his side the beloved who betrays him,
Lest her soft vices insensibly ruin his virtue,
Lest he too fall, undermined by the white tooth of falsehood.
Keep the promise of Spring, O! thou Father of fathers—
Give us, great God, beyond these anarchic convulsions,
The high, sympathetic repose of thy progress and order.

A. P. F.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

LEX PARLIAMENTARIA AMERICANA. ELEMENTS OF THE LAW AND PRACTICE OF LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLIES IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. By LUTHER STEARNS CUSHING. 8vo. pp. 1063. Boston: Little, Brown & Co.

Anybody who compares this very bulky volume of near eleven hundred very large pages with the little pocket 18mo. of Jefferson's Manual—so long the sole authority in use among us as to parliamentary law—will come to the conclusion either that the practice of our American legislative assemblies in the last sixty years has shed a flood of new light upon the subject, or else that the public interest in it has greatly increased.

A cursory examination of this huge volume leads us to the conclusion that its size is chiefly due to the latter consideration, since the new information conveyed is by no means in proportion to the difference in bulk of the two volumes. Indeed, Mr. Cushing applies to his own work the very description which Jefferson gives of his, that of a sketch which successors will gradually correct and fill up till a code of rules shall be formed, the effect of which may be accuracy in business, economy of time, order, uniformity and impartiality—results to which it must be confessed that our American parliamentary assemblies are yet far from having attained.

Mr. Cushing has arranged his work into nine parts, each of which is again distributed into portions called chapters and sections, several chapters of the same part being occasionally classed together as a division. The first Part treats of the election of members under the several heads of constituencies; persons competent to be electors; persons competent to be elected; the mode of election; the return; controverted elections and returns.

The second Part discusses the constitution of legislative bodies, under the heads of assembly; qualification and organization; officers; place and manner of sitting, and formal proceeding for the transaction of business; functions of the executive in conjunction with the legislative department; vacancies and elections, to fill them; session; adjournment; prorogation; assembling by proclamation; dissolution.

The third Part treats of the privileges and incidental powers of a legislative assembly under the heads of their general nature; the personal privileges of members; collective or aggregate privileges; incidental powers.

We give from this part the following extracts, both as specimens of the style and execution of the work, and as having at the moment a special interest.

FREEDOM OF DEBATE AND PROCEEDING.

Freedom of speech and debate has always been enjoyed by the members of both Houses of the British Parliament; as one of their most ancient and necessary rights and privileges, and entirely essential to the free and independent exercise of their functions. This privilege, though originally intended as a protection against the power of the Crown, has always been equally effectual to protect the members against the attacks of their fellow subjects. After many controversies between the two Houses themselves, or one of them and some other court or authority, it was finally settled at the Revolution, and expressly declared by the Bill of Rights, as one of the fundamental liberties of the people, that "the freedom of speech and debates, and proceedings in Parliament, ought not to be impeached or questioned in any court or place out of Parliament."

In this country this privilege has been expressly declared by Constitution in favor of the members of all our Legislative Assemblies, except those of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Mississippi, Iowa, Texas and California, in substantially the same form as above stated, and with the same legal effect; though, in general, somewhat more tersely expressed, the language being for the most part that, "for any speech or debate in either House, members shall not be questioned in any other place." In the States above mentioned there does not appear to be any provision of constitution on this subject; but the Constitutions of Mississippi and Iowa, after conferring certain specified powers and privileges upon the Houses of their Legislative Assemblies, contain a general grant to them of all other necessary powers; and in South Carolina the existence of the privilege, as a constitutional one, is only to be inferred from its being therein made a punishable offense to threaten harm to any member for anything said or done in the house of which he is a member. There can be no doubt, however, that, according to the principles already laid down, the privilege of freedom of speech and debate exists in these States as fully and effectually as if it had been expressly provided.

The privilege, secured by this constitutional provision, though of a personal nature, is not so much intended to protect the members against persecutions, for their own individual advantage, as to support the rights of the people, by enabling their representatives to execute the functions of their office, without fear either of civil or criminal prosecutions; and, therefore, it ought not to be construed strictly, and confined strictly within the literal meaning of the words in which it is expressed, but to receive a liberal and broad construction, commensurate with the design for which it is established. It is accordingly held, that this privilege secures to every member an immunity from prosecutions for any thing said or done by him as a representative of the people, in the exercise of the functions of that office—whether such exercise is regular according to the rules of the assembly, or irregular and against their rules; whether the member is in his place within the house, delivering an opinion—uttering a speech—engaging in debate—giving his vote—making a written report—communicating information either to the house or to a member; or, whether he is out of the house, sitting in committee and engaged in debating or voting therein, or in drawing up a report to be submitted to the assembly; in short, that the privilege in question secures the members of a legislative assembly against all prosecutions, whether civil or criminal, on account of anything said or done by them during the session, resulting from the nature and in the execution of their office.

PROTECTION AGAINST PERSONAL VIOLENCE.

All attacks upon the persons of the members or officers of a legislative assembly, or others attending as witnesses and parties, whether by actual violence or by threats, and all disorders in, near or about the place of sitting, have been always deemed high breaches of privilege, and punishable accordingly.

EXPULSION OR DISCHARGE OF A MEMBER.

The power to expel a member is naturally and even necessarily incidental to all aggregate, and especially all legislative bodies, which, without such power, could not exist honorably, and fulfill the object of their creation. In England, this power is sanctioned by continued usage, which, in part, constitutes the law of Parliament. It is in its very nature discretionary—that is, it is impossible to specify beforehand all the causes for which a member ought to be expelled; and therefore, in the exercise of this power, in each particular case, a legislative body should be governed by the strictest justice; for if the violence of party should be let loose upon an obnoxious member, and a representative of the people discharged of the trust conferred upon him by his constituents without good cause, a power of control would thus be assumed by the representative body over the constituent wholly inconsistent with the freedom of election.

The power to expel also includes in it a power to discharge a member, for good cause, without inflicting upon him the censure and disgrace implied in the term expulsion; and this has accordingly been done, in some instances, by the House of Commons.

Analogous to the right of expulsion is that of suspending a member from the exercise of his functions as such, for a longer or shorter period, which is a sentence of a milder character than the former, though attended with somewhat different effects; for during the suspension the electors are deprived of the services of their representative, without power to supply his place; but the rights of the electors are no more infringed by this proceeding than by an exercise of the power to imprison.

We proceed now with our statement of the contents of Mr. Cushing's book. The fourth Part treats of the powers and functions of assemblies in the matter of legislation including their general powers in the making of laws; relations of the different branches to each other; evidence and information on which a parliamentary proceeding may be founded; forms in which legislative power is exercised; rules by which legislative proceedings are regulated.

The fifth Part treats of the communications between the different branches of a legislative body; between them and the executive; accounts, papers and returns presented to them, on their own orders or in compliance with the law; witnesses and their attendance and examination; hearing parties interested; public officers subject to the orders of legislative assemblies; petitions.

The sixth Part treats of the forms and methods of proceeding under the several divisions of motions, order in debate, and method of ascertaining the sense of the assembly. Motions are discussed under the heads of their general nature; their substance and their form; time of making them; secondary motions in relation to the disposal of some matter already before the house; order, succession and precedence of motions. Order in debate is treated under the heads of members to speak, and personal deportment while speaking; all speaking to be on some motion; not speaking more than once to the same question; how long debate continues open; relevancy; statements introduced into a debate; preservation of order and decency; harmony and independence of the branches; regularity of proceeding; respect of members for the assembly and the government; proceedings in cases of disorderly words; conduct of members during a debate. Method of ascertaining the sense of the assembly is considered under the heads of right and duty of voting; different modes of taking a question; the question thus taken; disallowance or addition of votes.

The seventh Part treats of committees under the several divisions of select committees, committees of the whole and joint committees.

The eighth Part relates to the passing of bills, treating, in two separate divisions of public bills and private bills.

The ninth Part relates to impeachments.

The work, we do not doubt, from the known accuracy and thoroughness of the compiler, contains about all that exists in the way of authority as to the proceedings of American deliberative assemblies. The objection we have made upon the work grows rather out of the defect of material than from any fault of the author, though it does seem to us that the information he conveys might have been compressed into a considerably smaller compass.

THE CAMEL—HIS ORGANIZATION, HABITS AND USES, CONSIDERED WITH REFERENCE TO HIS INTRODUCTION INTO THE UNITED STATES. By GEORGE P. MARSH. 12mo. pp. 224. Boston: Gould & Lincoln. New-York: Sheldon, Blakeman & Co.

During his late residence in the Turkish Empire as United States Minister, Mr. Marsh enjoyed peculiar opportunities for investigating the question of introducing the Camel into the United States for economical purposes—a subject which had previously engaged much of his time and attention. The present volume is a carefully digested summary of the information in regard to the natural history and peculiar habits of the camel that is found in the most authentic sources, together with the results of extensive personal observation. The author is firmly persuaded of the feasibility of naturalizing this oldest of domestic quadrupeds in the new world, and sets forth the grounds of his opinion in a singularly instructive manner. His work, accordingly, has a direct bearing on the question which the American Government is attempting to bring to a practical test.

The disposition of this animal, which has received almost universal praise from traditional writers until the "Howadji in Egypt" expressed a strongly dissenting opinion, shows less amiable traits than he has usually been clothed with in the descriptions of imaginative travelers.

The camel, though less vicious than the horse, is not altogether so patient an animal as he is generally represented. His anger is indeed not easily excited, but when once thoroughly irritated he long remembers the injury which has provoked him; and the "camel's temper" is a proverbial expression used by the Arabs to denote a vindictive and unforgiving disposition. Although he sometimes strikes with the forefoot, yet the hoof being unarmed, his blows are feeble, and his only dangerous weapon is his teeth. These are used with powerful effect in the barbarous fights which are sometimes got up as spectacles, but it is only under certain special circumstances, which are easily avoided, that he attacks his driver.

His only ordinary manifestation of discontent is the harsh and ill-natured growl he sets up whenever he is approached to be loaded or mounted, and especially when any attempt is made to overcharge him. In the stillness of the desert the growl of a caravan, preparing for the morning's march, is heard for miles around; though the true mahari seldom growls, and it is said there are breeds which have entirely lost this disagreable peculiarity; yet, in general, silent as is the march of a burden caravan, its halts are very unmistakably announced to all wanderers within a long distance of its track. So harsh indeed is the growl of the camel that Father Huc gravely declares that his camel-driver on one occasion put a pack of wolves to flight by tweaking his camel's nose till he roared again.

Mr. Marsh confirms the usual accounts of the temperate habits of the camel—a quality on which his great value chiefly depends:

By means of the nutriment derived from the absorption of the hump, and the fluid preserved in and perhaps also secreted by the water sac, he is able to travel several days without any new supplies of either meat or drink. The period of abstinence depends upon the temperature and season, the breed, training, and habits of the particular animal, and the amount of labor demanded of him.

With respect to food, there is no doubt that the camel sometimes endures two, three, and even more days of entire privation; but long abstinence from food is seldom necessary, because, although there are well-attested instances of the existence of tracts of desert frequently crossed by caravans, six days journey in width, and absolutely without a particle of vegetation, yet there are few portions of the Libyan or Arabian deserts where more or less of the shrubs on which the camel feeds do not occur at very much shorter intervals.

On the ordinary routes, therefore, the camel is not fed at all, even on long journeys, but is left to snatch his food as he can during the march of the caravan, or gather it more leisurely while it halts. In a journey of seven weeks which I made with these animals in Arabia Petræa, in the months of May and June, but a single camel of the caravan received any food from his driver. This was a fine large animal bred by the Ababdeh Arabs, which was fed at every evening halt with from a pint to a quart of beans. His habit of feeding as he walks is a serious inconvenience to the traveler. At the commencement of the day's march, he is ever on the look-out for the stunted acacias and other prickly plants, which, with occasionally a more succulent herb, constitute almost his sole diet, and he snatches them in passing, giving you an uncomfortable jerk as he turns to seize them, or suddenly stops, at some hazard of throwing you over his stooping shoulders, and, in spite of your most urgent persuasives, browses at his leisure.

The statements of travelers differ very considerably with regard to the quantity of solid food required by the camel. My own observations would lead me to think it extremely small. As I have already stated, he is often not fed at all; and in traveling, his only opportunity of gathering his food is between the evening halt and sunset, when he returns to the camp (for he never feeds in the night), with such scattering mouthfuls as he can snatch upon the march. The vegetation of the desert is usually so sparse that the quantity of nutritious food which can be collected after the day's journey is performed must be very inconsiderable; and though upon starting in the morning the animal shows signs of hunger, and much annoys his rider by suddenly stopping or starting aside to crop a tempting thorn, twig or thistle, yet in an hour or two his appetite is satisfied, and he performs the rest of his task without seeming to crave food. I was assured by the keeper of the herd at Pisa that when fed entirely on hay, the camel consumed little more than half as much as the horse; while, on the other hand, a correspondent in the Crimea informs me that the Bactrian camel requires at least fifty pounds of hay per day in Winter, and another in Bessarabia estimates the daily Winter supply of hay and straw at seventy pounds. Pottenger states that although the camels of Beloochistan can almost wholly dispense with food for five or six days together; yet they ordinarily receive about fifteen pounds of meal daily, beside grass and shrubs; and he adds the singular fact that the Beloochs give these animals considerable quantities of opium and *goor*, a kind of inspissated molasses, with their food. Burckhardt says that the Berber traders give their camels twelve pounds of dhourra every two or three days, and that, when loaded with burdens of six or seven hundred pounds, they require a daily allowance. The Turkmans, according to the same authority, give their beasts every evening a ball of barley-meal, kneaded with water, and weighing about one pound. The difference in this case is no doubt occasioned by the comparative scarcity and abundance of green fodder; and it may be considered on the whole as established that the camel thrives and labors with a less proportional supply of nutriment in quantity, and that too of a coarser and cheaper quality, than is required by any other domestic quadruped. The power of the camel to abstain from water is much more frequently and severely tested than his ability to dispense with food. The testimony of travelers, as well as of native observers, on this subject varies widely; but their discrepancies can generally be explained by difference of breed, of season, or by the greater or less succulence of the solid food consumed by the animal.

Nor have his powers of useful labor been overrated.

The camel, with his slender and shrunken limbs, his light quarters, and his shambling gait, seems little adapted to the performance of any labor requiring either speed or strength; but his powers of endurance enable him to accomplish a long journey in a shorter space than even the horse; and he bears a burden greatly disproportioned to his own weight. The camel of the great Arabian Peninsula, though remarkable for his speed, is less powerful than the Bactrian, the Turcoman, the Syrian, or the Egyptian animal. In Arabia Petræa, his load does not ordinarily exceed three or four hundred pounds. Brown estimates the burdens of the camels of Soudan at the same weight; and Burckhardt that of the Nubian camel at four or five hundred pounds. In India, according to Forbes, his proper burden is five hundred pounds, though some powerful animals may carry from six hundred to seven hundred. Fraser states his load in Khorasan at from four hundred and fifty to seven hundred pounds. Col. Chesney found the loads of a caravan of several hundred camels, in the Syrian desert, to average five hundred and fifty pounds, though he elsewhere states their common burden to be six hundred.

In Algeria, he carries two or three hundred kilogrammes, (450 to 675 pounds), but at Cairo, according to Burckhardt, fifteen hundred pounds for a distance of three miles, and one thousand from Cairo to Suez, which is eighty-four miles. In Cabul, according to General Harlan, the burden of the Arabian camel is, upon the plains, four hundred pounds; that of the cross between the Bactrian and Arabian, under similar circumstances, six hundred, and over mountainous roads four hundred pounds. In European Turkey, the one-humped camel is said to carry from four to five hundred pounds; and Burnes estimates the load of the same animal in Bokhara at five hundred pounds. The burden of the Turcoman camel, according to Burckhardt, is eight hundred pounds. Forbes rates it from seven hundred to one thousand, Fraser one hundred pounds higher, and Tavernier at one thousand; and, for short distances, even fifteen hundred. Timkowski states the burden of the Bactrian of Northern Tartary at from four hundred and twenty to four hundred and eighty pounds; Erman, at about six hundred pounds. Burnes estimates that of the same animal in Bokhara at six hundred and fifty pounds, and Bergmann, among the Calmucks, at eight hundred. I was told by one of the keepers of the Grand Duke's camels, at his farm near Pisa, that these animals would carry their own weight, which he estimated at twelve or thirteen hundred pounds, but I thought the weight of the burden and probably that of the camel exaggerated.

With regard to the main question of the volume, the introduction of the camel into the United States, Mr. Marsh concludes that the territory west of the Mississippi is well adapted to his habits, and that he can be turned to excellent account in that region, both as a beast of burden and an animal of war. Whatever decision may finally be reached on this point, the volume now issued will be welcomed as an able and comprehensive monograph on an interesting member of the animal kingdom.

PETER GOTT, THE CAPE ANN FISHERMAN. By J. REYNOLDS, M. D. Boston: John P. Jewett & Co. New York: Sheldon Blakeman & Co.

Mr Peter Gott, the hero of this narrative, may not be a veritable personage of flesh and blood, but at all events he is a genuine representative man, and we follow him in his various fortunes with perpetual interest, as a type of the hardy, sun-burnt, bold-spirited and good-hearted fisherman of Massachusetts Bay. Pigeon Cove, a little rocky basin on Cape Ann, is well known to many of our Summer tourists for its fine salt breezes and its delectable fresh fish, and it is at this renowned locality that we are first introduced to the adventurous Peter. He had just caught a noble fare of cod and haddock, but before being sold to the hawkers, who are waiting on the shore, they must be dressed:

So, taking his clam bucket and reel, the fisherman goes to the fish-house where he keeps his gear, and depositing them in their proper places, he takes his hand-barrow, his oil bucket, and a sharp knife, and returns to his boat. Then placing his barrow across the bows, he takes his stand in the water by its side. Then seizing a fish by the head with his left hand, he makes a cut across the throat, just behind the gills; then slitting down the belly with one stroke, he seizes the liver between the edge of his knife and the thumb of his right hand, and, detaching it from its connections, drops it into his oil-bucket which stands before him, towards the stern. Now dropping his knife upon a thwart, he seizes the whole mass of entrails in his right hand, and holding the fish firmly in his left, tears out the whole with a sudden jerk, and throws it into the water. Then he throws the fish into the barrow, and seizing another with his left hand, and his knife with his right, goes through with the same motions. Thus he proceeds with the rapidity and regularity of a machine, until the fish are all transferred from the bottom of the dory into the hand-barrow. He now carries up his oil-bucket and empties the livers into a cask or butt which he keeps for the purpose. He is now ready to dispose of his fish. If the boats are all in, and the fares are not very large, the hawkers will offer seventy-five cents a hundred. After a good deal of haggling, Peter gets eighty cents for his. Taking them to the scale, which stands near the passage leading down to the beach, they are found to weigh 150 pounds. They are now taken to the wagon of the purchaser, who pays Peter one dollar and twenty cents. He now returns to his boat, takes out his oars, dips up a bucket of water, washes out the boat, and throwing a bucket of water into it, rolls it over on to its side and lets the water run out. Then carrying up his killick high on to the beach, he gathers up his oars, and carries them to the fish-house. These houses are generally occupied in common by several dory men, each of whom pays rent for the corner in which he keeps his own gear.

Peter's mode of living, while pursuing his profession on the Banks, exhibits a variety not found on the bill of fare at the Astor House or Delmonico's:

Fishermen in those days ate much more fish on their trips than they do at the present time. They were fitted out with a good supply of salt pork and molasses, with a plenty of Indian meal, a little flour and hard bread. Their bread was made of meal and water, with a little salt and molasses added, and baked upon tin sheets or pieces of barrel heads, before the fire. Once or twice a week they had tea made, by putting tea into a boiler and adding a quantity of molasses and boiling it as coffee is boiled. Coffee was seldom used at sea in those days, and their sugar was kept to sweeten their grog, which was duly served out to them twice a day. On Sunday it was common to have a flour short-cake, which was prepared in the following way: The head was broken out of a flour barrel; the flour scooped out of the center so as to make a basin-like cavity, sufficiently large for the cook's purpose; he then poured into it a pint of pork-fat, which he had fried out of slices of salt pork, a quantity of molasses and a little hot water, and mixed in the flour until it was of the proper consistence. It was then taken out in a mass and baked in a Dutch oven over the fire. This is no contemptible dish, and contains nearly as many good qualities as Lord Peter's leg of mutton; and many a hearty breakfast of a Sunday morning do the fishermen make of it, with their pot of boiled tea. Those who have never tried a dish of boiled tea, will be surprised to find how good a substitute it is for coffee, especially if a little sweet milk is added just at the close of the boiling. In modern times, the fishermen are fitted out with a much greater variety and abundance of food, than in the days of which we are speaking. Salt pork and beef, potatoes and cabbages, flour and hard bread of a superior quality from Johnson's bakery, and coffee three times a day, is their common fare. Cape Ann fishermen are famous for their good living. I have known men among them who have drank their strong coffee three times a day for forty years, and, as if on purpose to prove the fallacy of all that has been said about the injurious effects of coffee, they have persisted in having good health for the whole of that time. But fish, fresh or corned, was the principal article of food at the time when Peter made his first trip to the Banks.

Do the lovers of lobster salad know the antecedents of their favorite refection?

Lobsters are taken in a sort of baskets called lobster pots. These are about three feet long, and two feet wide, of semi-cylindrical form, that is, the bottom is flat and the sides and top are in the form of an arch. At each end is an opening for the ingress of the lobster; around this opening are placed short flexible pieces of wood, projecting into the basket, so arranged that they will easily separate and allow the lobster to enter, but their points close together after him and prevent his egress. They have a door upon the top, through which the lobster is taken out.

A long line is attached to these pots; a heavy stone, sufficient to sink them, is placed in them, and they are baited with the heads or offal of fresh fish, and sunk to the bottom at about low water mark; the other end of the line is made fast to a block of light wood, called a buoy. The fishermen go out with their wherries, freighted with these pots, and drop them at short intervals along the shore. During the season of lobster fishing, which lasts from March to July, hundreds of these buoys may be seen bobbing up and down like so many seals' heads. The fishermen visit them every morning, draw them up alongside of their boats, take out the lobsters, replenish the bait, and drop them again into the water. The lobsters, when first taken, are very fierce, and seize with their strong pincers upon whatever may be within their reach. When thrown together into the boat, they will grapple with each other and tear off each other's feelers and legs. Without much care in handling them, the fingers of the fishermen get many a hard bite. To prevent them from injuring each other, the fishermen provide sharp-pointed wooden pegs, which they insert into the joint or hinge of their pincers, which prevents them from closing. When they have visited all their pots, they row to their landing-place. If they now wish to preserve them for several days, they put them into a long box or kennel, made of plank and bored full of holes, which is moored in the water at a little distance from the shore. If they wish to prepare them immediately for market, they are taken ashore in hand-barrows and carried to a sort of shed, in which is fixed a large cauldron. This is filled with water. A brisk fire is kindled under this kettle, and when the water boils, the living, crawling, squirming lobsters are thrown into it and covered with a heavy plank cover. Here they are kept boiling until their color, which when taken out of the water was a dark green, becomes a bright scarlet. They are now ready for the market. In this state we see them for sale on the stalls in our cities and hawked about the streets.

Peter Gott, too, found the mackerel a rather queer fish:

The habits of these fish are very peculiar. And although they have been taken in immense numbers for three-quarters of a century their habits are not well understood. They often move in immense bodies, apparently filling the ocean for miles in extent. They are found near the surface. Sometimes they will take the hook with the greatest eagerness. At other times not a mackerel will bite for days, although millions of them are visible in the water. When they are in the mood for taking the bait, ten, twenty, and even thirty barrels are taken by a single vessel in a few hours. They usually bite most freely soon after sunrise in the morning and toward sunset at evening. They all cease to bite about the same time, as if they were actuated by a common impulse. They are easily frightened, and will then descend into deep water. It has often happened that a fleet of vessels has been lying off the Cape, a mile or two from the shore, in the midst of a school of mackerel, and taking them rapidly upon their decks, when the firing of a gun or the blast of a rock would send every mackerel fathoms deep into the water, as suddenly as though they had been converted into so many pigs of lead; and perhaps it would be some hours before they would reappear. They are caught most abundantly near the shore, and very rarely out of sight of land.

Mackerel, it seems, are fond of an early breakfast, and the discovery of this oddity of taste was a stepping-stone to Peter's fortune and fame:

He laid his course for Mount Desert Island, and lay for several days in the vicinity of the island. Soon signs of mackerel began to appear. They threw over their baited hooks, and now and then caught a mackerel. They continued in this way for several days, fishing through the whole day, and at the end of the week had taken two barrels of poor, small fish. Some of the crew were getting discouraged, when suddenly, one morning, just as the sun was rising, they found themselves surrounded by mackerel ready to take the hook the instant it touched the water. They would seize the bait, whether large or small, with the greatest avidity. They took them on to the deck with great rapidity, jerking them from the hook as soon as they were over the rail, and dropping the hook again instantly into the water. So voracious were the fish that they would oftentimes seize the bare, unbaited hook, almost before it struck the water. This exciting scene continued about two hours, when all of a sudden they ceased to bite, and not another fish could they induce to take even the best-baited hook. Finding they could catch no more, they ceased their labor and partook of their breakfast, which the cook had had ready for them more than an hour. After breakfast they dressed and salted their fish, and found they had taken twenty barrels in two hours. After cleaning the deck they again threw over their hooks, but few mackerel were to be seen, and of those which they saw swimming about the vessel only now and then one would take the hook.

The next morning the same scene was repeated. They turned out at daylight and chopped into small pieces with a hatchet upon a block the smallest of the mackerel which they had caught the preceding morning, and which they had preserved in a barrel of salt water for this purpose. They thus prepared two or three bushels of bait, that no time might be lost in preparing it after the fish began to bite. Just before sunrise they began their work, and this morning they took fifteen barrels. They could not account for these singular movements of the fish. But they did not forget them, and learned to be always ready to try their fortune with the rising of the sun. This accidental discovery, that the mackerel had a habit of feeding early in the morning, contributed greatly to the success of their voyage.

Clam digging has many temptations for the fish-