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PERSEVERE.

BY JOHN BROUGHAM.

Bonnie, the Bruce, in his dungeon stood,
Waiting the hour of doom,
Behind him the palace of Holyrood,
Before him—a nameless tomb.
And the foam on his lips was flecked with red,
As away to the past his memory sped,
Upcalling the day of his past renown,
When he won, and he wore the Scottish crown;
Yet come there shadow or come there shine,
The spider is spinning his thread so fine.

"I have sat on the royal seat of Scone,"
He muttered below his breath;
"It's a reckless change, from a kingly throne
To a felon's shameful death."
And he clenched his hands in his mad despair,
And he struck at the shapes that were gathering there,
Peeing his cell in impatient rage,
As a new-caught lion paces his cage:
But come there shadow or come there shine,
The spider is spinning his thread so fine.

"Oh, were it my fate to yield up life
At the head of my Highland all,
In the foremost shock of the battle-strife,
Breaking my country's thrall,
I'd welcome death from the foeman's steel,
Breathing a prayer for old Scotland's weal;
But here, where no pitying heart is nigh,
By a loathly hand it is hard to die;"
Yet come there shadow or come there shine,
The spider is spinning his thread so fine.

"Time and again I have fronted the tide
Of the tyrant's vast array,
But only to see, on the crimson tide,
My hopes swept far away;
Now the landless chief and a crownless king,
On the broad, broad earth, not a living thing
To keep me court, save this insect small,
Striving to reach from wall to wall;"
Yet come there shadow or come there shine,
The spider is spinning his thread so fine.

"Work! work like a fool, to the certain loss,
Like myself, of your time and pain,
The space is too wide to be bridged across,
You but waste your strength in vain."
And Bruce for the moment forgot his grief,
His soul now filled with the sure belief
That, howsoever the issue went,
For evil or good was the onces sent;
Yet come there shadow or come there shine,
The spider is spinning his thread so fine.

As a gambler watches the turning card
On which his all is staked;
As a mother waits for the hopeful word
For which her soul has ached;
It was thus Bruce watched, with every sense
Centred alone in that look intense;
All night he stood, with scattered breath—
Now white, now red, but as still as death:
Yet come there shadow or come there shine,
The spider is spinning his thread so fine.

Six several times the creature tried,
When at the seventh, "See, see!
He has spanned it over!" the captive cried;
"Lo! a bridge of hope to me:
Thee, God, I thank, for this lesson here,
Has tutored my soul to PERSEVERE!"
And it served him well, for ere long he wore
In freedom the Scottish crown once more:
And come there shadow or come there shine,
The spider is spinning his thread so fine.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS.

WASHINGTON, D.C., October 18, 1866.

Colonel H. W. Benneson, and Major H. V. Sullivan, Quincy, Illinois.

GENTLEMEN,—It would give me great pleasure to comply with your request, and visit Illinois to meet my old friends and neighbors, and talk to them face to face upon the great questions now before the country. But it is not practicable for me to do so. My public duties forbid it.

Our Government is worth preserving. No people were ever blessed with one better worth it. But it is not certain we will save it. There are now two tendencies in public affairs, both of which are fraught with danger. One is to a centralization of power in the General Government; the other, an absorption by the legislative department of many of the powers and prerogatives of the executive and the judiciary.

The safety of a free government is in keeping the power near the people. This was well understood by the statesmen who formed the original thirteen States, and united them and their people in one Federal Government. They gave to the General Government only such powers as were necessary for the whole people of the United States, reserving all other powers to the States respectively and to their people. And in framing State constitutions and laws they placed as much power as was compatible with the general welfare of the State in the government of counties, townships, and lesser municipalities. To guard still farther against abuse, or too great concentration of power, they distributed the functions of government, States and Federal, in separate bodies of magistracy. The national tendency of power is to strengthen its hands and enlarge its sphere of action; and if the Federal Government absorb great powers heretofore reserved to the States, or if one department usurp important functions of the others, the structure of our complex system will be radically changed, and our free government will descend into despotism.

The legislative is much the strongest of the departments—and the most aggressive, because its members are responsible to no power but the will of the dominant party for acts of usurpation. It is the only department from the encroachment of which any serious danger to our institutions is to be apprehended. It has heretofore exercised more influence than is compatible with safety and entire freedom over both the Executive and the judiciary. It has sometimes impressed a pernicious influence upon judicial action, and where it has failed to accomplish that in advance of judgments, has subsequently overruled and annulled them. And, without at all impugning the motives of legislators, I may venture to say that if the present Congress were not restrained by positive and emphatic provisions of the Constitution, they would greatly abridge, if they did not altogether annihilate the power of appointment to and removal from office, now confined to the Executive, and the salutary restraint which he holds over legislation through the veto power. This is a danger always present when the executive and the legislative departments are in antagonism, and it is certain in times of high party excitement to manifest itself, no matter what party may be in power. Safety is to be found only in holding each department firmly and closely within its orbit.

If the proposed amendments of the Constitution be adopted, new and enormous powers will be claimed and exercised by Congress as warranted by such amendments, and the whole structure of our Government will perhaps gradually, but yet surely, be revolutionized. And so with the judiciary: if the proposed amendments be adopted, they may, and certainly will be used substantially to annihilate the State judiciaries.

The first section of the proposed article contains, among others, the following provision:

"Nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law."

Why insert such a provision in the Federal Constitution? It really contains the following: "No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law." This is identically the same, except that it is a restraint upon the powers of the General Government alone, and has no reference or application to State governments. And most of the State constitutions, I believe all of them, contain a similar provision, as a limitation upon the powers of the States respectively. Now, when in the Federal Constitution there is this guarantee against arbitrary and oppressive invasions of the rights of the citizen by Federal authority, and a similar guarantee in the State constitutions against like oppressive action by the State governments, why insert in the Federal Constitution a new provision which has no reference to the powers of the General Government, and imposes no restraints upon it, but is simply a repetition of a limitation upon the powers of State governments, which is already present in the State constitutions? The object and purpose are manifest. It is to subordinate the State judiciaries, in all things, to Federal supervision and control—to totally annihilate the independence and sovereignty of State judiciaries in the administration of State laws, and the authority and control of the States over matters of purely domestic and local concern. If the State judiciaries are subordinated, all the departments of the State governments will be equally subordinated, for all State laws, let them relate to what department of government they may, or to what domestic or local interest, will be equally open to criticism, interpretation, and adjudication by the Federal tribunals, whose judgments and decrees will be supreme, and will override the decisions of the State courts, and leave them utterly powerless.

The Federal judiciary have jurisdiction of all questions arising under the Constitution and laws of the United States; and by virtue of this new provision, if adopted, every matter of judicial investigation, civil or criminal, however insignificant, may be drawn into the vortex of the Federal judiciary. In a controversy between two neighbors about the ownership of a pig, the unsuccessful party may allege that the State tribunals have deprived him of his property without due process of law, and take the case before the Federal tribunals for revision. So if a man be indicted for larceny, or other crime, convicted, and sentenced, upon allegation of deprivation of liberty without due process of law, he may bring the case before the Federal tribunals for revision and reversal. So, too, if a murderer be arrested, tried, convicted, and sentenced to be hung, he may claim the protection of the new constitutional provision—allege that a State is about to deprive him of life without due process of law, and arrest all further proceedings until the Federal Government shall have inquired whether a State has a right to punish its own citizens for an infraction of its own laws, and have granted permission to the State tribunals to proceed.

Under such a system the liberties of the people could not long be maintained. As already remarked, free governments can be preserved only by keeping the power near the people, to be exercised through local agencies. Under this new system State and local authority would not at once disappear. For some time they would contest jurisdiction with the Federal Government; but the inevitable and constantly increasing tendency would be for the control of domestic affairs to steal away from the people, the States, and local municipal bodies, and centralize and concentrate in the hands of the Federal Government; and as party conflicts intensified, and party victories alternated, the power would be more and more inexorably used by the dominant party to punish its enemies, reward its friends, and strengthen and perpetuate its hold upon the power and patronage of the Government.

Be assured, if this new provision is ingrafted in the Constitution, it will in time change the entire structure and texture of our Government, and sweep away all the guarantees of safety devised and provided by our patriotic sires of the Revolution. It is impossible to maintain our wise and happy form of government without preserving the independence and sovereignty of the States within their appropriate and constitutional spheres. They are of primary and vital importance. The States may exist and perform all their functions without the Union or the Federal Government; the Union and the Federal Government cannot exist without the States. And they must be States. And they must be states of equality—equal in dignity—equal in rights—equal in power—equal in the control, absolute and unconditional, of all things pertaining to their internal and local policy and interest.

Another blow which the proposed amendment aims at the Government which our fathers founded, is in the change of the basis of representation. Aggregate population is the true basis of representation. No matter how the elective franchise be disposed of, whether exercised by few or many, all classes of the community are represented. The interests of all classes of people in the same community are so interwoven and commingled that they cannot be separated, and whoever wields the representative power must do it for the good or ill of all—perhaps not precisely in the same degree, but he cannot use it so largely to benefit one class without to some extent benefitting all, or to injure and oppress one class without, to a greater or less extent, injuring and oppressing all.

There are always, even in this country, where the right of suffrage is most widely extended, large numbers who do not vote at all, whose interests, nevertheless, are cared for, and whose numbers, being computed in the apportionment of representation, widen the foundations of the representative assemblies. Such are all persons under twenty-one years of age, females of all ages, and unnaturalized foreigners. Why are they not permitted to vote? And not being permitted, why are they counted in fixing the ratio of representation? They are not allowed to vote because they are not supposed to be sufficiently instructed in political economy and governmental affairs to be entrusted with the elective franchise. They are computed in fixing the ratio, because they are part of the same community with those who do vote, having interests in common with them; and their influence ought to be felt in shaping the laws by which their rights of life, liberty, and property are to be determined. And although they do not vote, their influence is felt and their interests are cared for, precisely because they are counted in fixing the relative weight of the communities to which they belong in the legislative assemblies, although their voices are not directly heard in determining who shall represent them.

It is not true, as is constantly alleged, that the relative strength of the States which were in rebellion will be increased by the result of the war if they are now allowed representation in the National Councils. The present ratio of representation is adjusted by the census of 1860, and cannot be changed until after the census of 1870. Till that time, therefore, the relative strength of the several States of our country must remain precisely as it was under the census of 1860. After the census of 1870 the positive and relative strength of the Southern States in Congress and the Electoral College will both be diminished, even if the non-voting black population be included in the basis. In 1860 three fifths of all the black population of the Southern States was counted. The census of 1870 will show the whole of the non-voting black population to be less than three fifths of 1860.

Nor is it true that a vote in the South will outweigh a vote in the North, if the non-voting negro population be included in the basis of representation. If the proposed amendment be adopted, all the non-voting black population of the South will be excluded, while all the non-voting, unnaturalized foreign population of the North will be counted. The great preponderance of unnaturalized, and consequently non-voting foreigners, is in Northern and Northwestern States. They and their families number hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions, and yet they are all counted in fixing the ratio of representation. This is right. I do not object to it. They are a part of the community. They help to make up the strength and productive wealth of the State, and ought to be computed in fixing its political power. But if it is right to count non-voting population in one State it is equally right to count it in another. And if counted in one and not in the other, it gives the one an advantage over the other incompatible with the equality of the states, and of dangerous and revolutionary tendency. While the unnaturalized, non-voting population of one section of the country will be constantly increasing, the non-voting black population of the other section, by obvious causes, not now necessary to be mentioned, will be as constantly decreasing. It would be better for all parties and interests, and far more hopeful for the perpetuity of our Government, if something like an equilibrium of strength between the different sections of the country could be maintained.

The third section of the proposed amendment disenfranchises the great majority of the educated men of the States which have been in rebellion, and excludes them from any participation in the affairs of the States and Federal Governments. The entire control of the government of those States will be placed in the hands of a meagre minority of the men at all qualified for such control; and they, as a general thing, not of the most intelligent and capable classes. No such sweeping and indiscriminate proscription is remembered since the days of Philip II. of Spain. It is not to be expected that in this age and country, and with our race, a majority of the educated men of ten States will long submit to be excluded from all share in making and administering the laws by which their lives, liberties, and property are to be judged, without the constant presence and pressure of a force adequate to coerce obedience. The adoption of this amendment will involve the necessity of maintaining an army to enforce it, which of itself will be dangerous to liberty, and add greatly to the burdens of taxation, already grievous.

I can see no good to result from the proposed amendments. I see much evil. We had better adhere to the form of government which our fathers gave us. It is, in my judgment, the most perfect political production of human wisdom and patriotism. For three quarters of a century it secured us unexampled prosperity and happiness, and, at the end of that time, enabled us to meet and overcome the most stupendous rebellion in the history of nations. Why change it? For seventy-five years we have hardly known that we have had a Government. When we did know it we knew only by its beneficence. And it has shown itself as strong as beneficent—capable of successful resistance to the fiercest and most desperate assaults that it is possible to make upon a government. Why change it just as it has vindicated its power and glory, and lifted us to an eminence among the nations of the earth we never till now attained?

We have tried the Constitution and know its capabilities. We have not tried the new, as proposed, but can readily see the confusion and disaster which it would bring. We had better let well enough alone. But if we should change it at all, we should not change it now. The public temper was never less auspicious to calm, conscientious, wise consideration of great questions of State. Passion and prejudice should never lay rude hands upon fundamental and organic laws. In a day they may do mischief which years of repentant, patriotic labor will not repair. In a day they may open a Pandora's box, which the patriotism and statesmanship of a century may not be able to shut.

I do not regard the recent and pending elections as indicative of the judgment of the people of the Northern States upon the Constitutional amendments. They are really not the issues presented to and considered by the people. They have not been calmly and dispassionately discussed and reflected upon. The people have had their fears alarmed and their prejudices and passions aroused, and perhaps never voted under more delusive ideas as to the character of the issues before the country.

The people have been assured that President Johnson is a traitor and a usurper. He usurped no power. When the insurrectionary governments were overthrown and expelled, the States were left with constitutions which, according to the most solemn sanctions of the Federal Constitution, had been declared republican in form, and under which those States had for many years maintained their place as constituent members of the Union. But they had no *organizations* under their constitutions. The President, therefore, doing what it was his imperative duty as Commander-in-Chief to do, and what he would have been most culpable for not doing, prevented anarchy by appointing temporary Provisional Governors, under whose advice the people brought their regular governments again into operation under their Constitutions. This was a thing with which Congress had nothing to do. It was a matter purely of military cognizance. The public enemy had just been expelled by military force, and it was the duty of the Commander-in-Chief to see to it that anarchy and confusion did not ensue, and that the machinery of the legitimate governments was again put in operation for the preservation of order and the protection of life and liberty and property from lawless violence. It was the duty of the President, too, as the Executive head of the nation, to see to it that the national laws were executed and the relations between the States and the Federal Government restored. President Lincoln had taken precisely this action in respect to Virginia, Tennessee, Louisiana, and Arkansas, for which he was applauded and endorsed by Congress during the first three years of the war, and thereafter vehemently denounced by the same men who now most violently denounce President Johnson for precisely the same reasons. A protest was issued by the Radicals against Mr. Lincoln's renomination to the Presidency, and a convention called at Cleveland to supersede him as the candidate, for resolutely adhering to his restoration policy, which both Houses of Congress had repeatedly endorsed during the first half of the war. In the appeal then made by the Radicals from President Lincoln to the war party they were overwhelmingly defeated, and his policy endorsed by the party and the country. President Johnson strictly adhered to the policy of Mr. Lincoln; and it was not until long after the governments of all the Southern States had been reorganized that any noticeable objection was made to his action. In fact, it seemed to meet the hearty approval of all sections and parties until last December, when Congress assembled, and when the old issue made against Mr. Lincoln, and decided by the people then, was revived against him.

If President Johnson had in all other respects pursued precisely the course he has, but had insisted on negro suffrage as a condition precedent to restoration, does any candid man doubt that he would be high in favor with the party which now so bitterly denounces him? Last Spring Senator Stewart offered in the Senate a proposition for universal amnesty and universal suffrage as the best adjustment of all existing difficulties. It was eagerly accepted and advocated as the grand panacea of all our political woes by Messrs. Sumner, Wilson, and the leading Radical Senators. There was no longer any wish expressed to make treason odious. If the States could be coerced to bestow the right of suffrage upon the negroes, all opposition to the re-enfranchisement of traitors who had fought to destroy the Government, and "whose hands are red with the blood of our sons and brothers," was to be withdrawn, and they were at once to be readmitted to the full enjoyment of all the rights they had ever possessed. There were to be no more test-oaths, no more military commissions, no more indictments for treason, no more horror of the desecration of the halls of Congress by the presence of "unwashed and unrepentant traitors." I do not complain of this. I do not say that the men who advocated the measure did not believe it to be the best and quickest means of restoring peace, fraternity, and prosperity. I do not say they were not thoroughly honest, conscientious, and patriotic in their convictions. I am willing to believe they were. But I mention it only to show that negro suffrage is the real and only substantial cause of controversy between the executive and legislative branches of the Government, and to ask in the most solemn terms, and implore my fellow-citizens to give it the most earnest and dispassionate consideration, whether upon such an issue we are to be plunged into another fratricidal war, and imperil all there is of our country sacred in the past, grand and valuable in the present, and hopeful and glorious in the future. Had the President consented to join Congress in forcing negro suffrage on the South, all would have been fair and smooth, and instead of being denounced as a fiend, he would now be worshipped as an idol by those who so bitterly and unrelentingly assail him.

Those who are sincerely desirous of seeing a pacification of the country, and a restoration of the integrity of the Union, ought to feel assured of the purely patriotic and sincere intentions of the President, when they remember that he is, in good faith, carrying forward the policy inaugurated by President Lincoln, and that the only two men who went into the administration with Mr. Lincoln at the beginning of his first term (the Secretary of State and of the Navy), and the only two who were trusted and confided in by him through his entire official career, and to the end of his life—who stood by, encouraged, and sustained him when the storm and tempest of rebellion was beating most fiercely upon him, and the Ship of State was tossing upon the waves of a turbulent sea, with broken masts and shattered sails, and who knew his most secret thoughts as to the best measures to be adopted to bring her into port—are standing by President Johnson, with a courage and heroism equally sublime, and cheering him on in his heroic efforts to achieve the same ends. They were villified and denounced then; and by the same men, are villified and denounced now. They did not quail before the storm that beat upon them then—they do not quail before the tempest that rages around them now. Mr. Lincoln was heroic then, and Mr. Johnson is heroic now. I am sure no man can be sincerer in his purposes to preserve the Constitution and save the country than he is. No man can be actuated by a purer patriotism, or be more averse to usurpation of power. He has not violated the Constitution in the past; he intends no infraction of it in the future; but he does intend a firm and faithful performance of all the trusts which that sacred instrument has devolved upon him. With every disposition to be charitable toward those who differ from me in opinion, it is difficult to believe them sincere in charging the President with intention of violently forcing rebels into Congress and giving them the control of the Government. What act has he ever done that gives the slightest sanction to such a charge? Not one can be specified. He has neither transcended his own powers nor invaded those of the co-ordinate departments; and the only pretext for the charge is, not what he has *done*, but what he has *said*, in declaring again and again his conviction that it was the duty of Congress to obey a plain constitutional provision, and each House *for itself* to judge of the elections, returns, and qualifications of each individual presenting himself as a member.

Our country is in peril—in very great peril—not from a public enemy, but from the violence of our own passions. Safety is to be found only in a strict adherance to the Constitution and laws. As long as they are obeyed no evil can come upon us. We are in danger only when we attempt something they do not sanction. I trust it will stay the pride and glory of the friends of the Administration, in the threatening contests through which we are passing, to keep their passions in subjection to reason, and to do no act not fully warranted by the Constitution and laws. Ours is a Republican Government, where the majority has a right to rule; minorities cannot, without subverting the Government. And when, according to the forms prescribed, the will of the majority is expressed in the Constitution or the law, it is the duty of all to submit to it, until it can be fairly and constitutionally changed. Such I know to be the President's intentions, and such I know he wishes to be the rule of conduct for his friends and supporters. No man has a profounder reverence for the Constitution than he, and his purpose as the Executive head of the nation to maintain and preserve it as it is, until it be changed in the form prescribed by it, is firm and immutable. He is not brave enough wilfully to violate it. He is brave enough to uphold and defend it in all that his duty requires.

In conclusion, let me beseech you, calmly and dispassionately, but earnestly and firmly, to do your duty to your country in this trying hour, and to stand by our glorious Constitution as it is. There is no safety for us but in this. Do your duty faithfully, and trust to God for results; and reverently implore Him to save us from the madness and infatuation which threaten us with self-destruction, and with the loss of the last hope for the perpetuity of free governments.

Your friend and fellow-citizen,

O. H. BROWNING.

A VIRGIN HEART.

THE author of De Vere has made some beautiful observations on the worth and devotion of an unpractised heart: "There is nothing under Heaven as delicious as the possession of pure, fresh, and immutable affections. The most felicitous moment of man's life, the most ecstatic of all his emotions and sympathies, is that in which he receives an avowal of affection from the idol of his heart. The springs of feeling, when in their youthful purity, are fountains of unsealed and gushing tenderness—the spell that once draws them forth in the mystic light of future years and undying memory. Nothing in life is so pure and devoted as woman's love. It matters not whether it be for husband or child, or sister or brother, it is the same pure and unquenchable flame, the same constant and immaculate glow of feeling, whose undeniable touch-tone is trial. Do but give her one token of love—one kind word or gentle look, even if it be amid death—the feelings of that faithful heart will gush forth as a torrent, in despite of earthly bond or mercenary tie. More priceless than the gems of Golconda is a virgin's heart, and more devoted than the idolatry of Mecca is woman's love. There is no sordid view, no qualifying self-interest in the feeling. It is a principle and characteristic of her nature—a faculty and an infatuation which absorbs and concentrates all the fervor of her soul and all the depths of her bosom. I would rather be the idol of one unsullied and unpractised heart, than the monarch of empires. I would rather possess the immaculate and impassioned devotion of one high-souled and enthusiastic virgin than the sycophantic fawnings of millions. There is more thrilling felicity derived from the union of two guileless and uncontaminated hearts, than all the conquests of Alexander, the wisdom of Socrates, or the wealth of Croesus would afford. The general world knows nothing of these things. None can appreciate the refinement of pure feeling but those who by nature or some peculiar property of the mind are qualified to drink of the depths of its gushing and sparkling fountains. None can know the elysium of possessing a heart until they know the value of a gem so priceless—until they can think of its embeddings as something too holy to be mingled with the grosser images of passion and humanity—until they at least imagine the spirit of a seraph has been clothed with a form of imperishable mortality. When this wild dream mingles with the colder and more calculating visions of life—the world may put forth its anathemas—fortune may shower down its adversities, but in vain, even the sword of Asrael (the angel of death) would scarcely destroy the unutterable ecstacies of this heaven-descending happiness."

THE MOTHER.

THERE is something in sickness that breaks down the pride of manhood; that softens the heart, and brings it back to the feelings of infancy. Who that has languished, even in advanced life, in sickness and despondency; who that has pined on a weary bed, in the loneliness and neglect of a foreign land, but has thought on the mother "that looked on his childhood," that smoothed his pillow and administered to his helplessness? Oh! there is an enduring tenderness in the love of a mother to a son, that transcends all other affections of the heart. It is neither to be chilled by selfishness, nor daunted by danger, nor weakened by worthlessness, nor stifled by ingratitude. She will sacrifice every comfort to his convenience; she will surrender every pleasure to his enjoyment; she will glory in his fame and exult in his prosperity; and, if misfortune overtake him, he will be dearer to hearer to her from misfortune; and if disgrace settle upon his name, she will still love and cherish him in spite of his disgrace; and if all the world beside cast him off, she will be all the world to him.

RECENTLY, in Wisconsin, a bear and an Indian were found in each other's embrace, dead. The Indian stabbed the bear, and the bear broke the Indian's head.

"ONLY A SIMPLE FLOWER."

"IT is only a simple wild flower," said a friend as he saw her eyes fixed intently upon a little blossom by the wayside.

Yes, only a simple flower to him, neither pretty nor bright enough to attract a careless eye; but most lovely and dear in our eyes from sacred memories which make it to us the holiest of all God's countless flowers. With it comes back to us the pleasant sounds and quiet gladness of a peaceful homestead, now a heap of blackened ashes. We close our eyes and we hear once more the laughter of joyous children, echoing through its corridors and groves of oak. Busy little feet come pattering in from the woodland, and nimble fingers choose, from their floral spoils, this very flower as a love-offering for the best beloved of the home circle. Crossed are now the little hands in their still repose, quiet the busy feet, and the sweet voice will greet us no more until we hear it in the choir of angels on the resurrection morn.

"Only a simple flower!" but it bordered a school-path trodden by one who-e feet from childhood, through the short twenty-two years of his pure young life, never swerved from the path of duty. He, too, has gone to tread the eternal courts, and the dust of our darlings lies side by side in the country church-yard.

"Only a simple flower!" but the dearest memories of a life, the bitterest throes of mortal anguish, the dumb despair of a crushed woe, and the dawning of a new and divine hope lie within its leaves for us. It, too, will fade and crumble into dust like the hands that gathered it, and it, too, has a resurrection and a new life.

A RESPONSIBLE TASK.

THEY tell a good story, in Baltimore, of General Wool, who was at one time in command of the Middle Department. During the invasion of Maryland by Stonewall Jackson, rumors were rife in Baltimore, that that ubiquitious leader, at the head of fifty thousand men, was marching upon the city. As the story goes, General Wool, accompanied by his staff, rode out on the Frederick turnpike to reconnoitre. As they were returning to the city the General stopped at the toll-gate, and, calling to the keeper, thus addressed him, in that sharp, precise way of which he is famous:

"See here, my man! It is rumored that Jackson and fifty thousand rebels are advancing upon Baltimore, by this road. I want you to shut this gate, and keep it shut against them. If you let a man of them pass through I'll hold you personally responsible."

Leaving the gate-keeper overwhelmed with the grave responsibility of his new duty, the General quietly pursued his way back to the city.

THE London *Times* thinks this country will be plunged into another civil war before the next Presidential election.

IN Detroit a woman recently placed a sealed tin can of tomatoes on the stove, and was killed by an explosion.

THE widow of the late President Lincoln has engaged a suite of apartments for herself and family, at the Metropolitan Hotel, New York, for the Winter.

A FISH was caught in the Ohio River, near Cincinnatti, a few days since, the stomach of which, on being opened, was found to contain a morocco wallet, holding a two dollar bill and a valuable diamond ring.

OFFICIAL correspondence relating to Jefferson Davis is published. The Attorney-General says the President can do nothing further toward his trial, and that Davis will be delivered to the civil courts upon proper application.

A FOUR-YEAR old went to church Sunday, and when he got home his grandmother asked him what the minister said. "Don't know," said he; "he didn't speak to me." A good many older people might answer in the same way.

A FELLOW coming out of a tavern, one frosty morning, rather top-heavy, fell on the door-step; trying to regain his footing, he remarked: "If it be true that the wicked stand on slippery ground, I must belong to a different class, for it's more than I can do."

POST-OFFICE clerks occasionally get off a funny thing. A clerk in our post-office heard a tap at the window of the ladies' department, when who should he find there but a man by the name of Drake. "Mr. Drake," said the clerk, "will *you* please go to the other side; this department is for ducks."

A CORRESPONDENT entered an office and accused the compositor of not having punctuated his communication, when the type earnestly replied, "I'm not a pointer, I'm a setter." A st[illegible]er in our printing-office asked [illegible] what his rule of punctuation [illegible] up as long as I hold my [illegible] put in a comma; when [illegible] a semicolon; and wh[illegible] of tobacco, I make a [illegible]

THE late John W[illegible] like Falstaff, for[illegible] is told of him [illegible] assisted by a [illegible] overthrown, [illegible] would talk [illegible] dred on [illegible] half [illegible] af[illegible]