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POETRY

Shall we Recognize our Earthly Friends in Heaven?

The following lines were found in the coat pocket belonging to a young man, soon after his death which was occasioned by consumption.—[National Era.

Is it wrong to wish to see them,
Who were dear to us on earth?
Who have gone to heavenly mansions,
Who surround a brighter bark?

Is it wrong to hope to meet them
Yet upon that blessed shore,
And with songs of joy to greet them,
When this life of toil is o'er?

I've a mother up in heaven,
And Oh! tell me if you will,
Will that mother know her children?
Will she recollect them still?

Can she look down from those windows,
To this dark and distant shore?
Will she know when I am coming?
Will she meet me at the door?

Will she clasp me to her bosom,
In her ecstasy of joy?
Will she ever be my mother?
Shall I ever be her boy?

And I, too, loved one, who didst leave us,
In the morning of thy bloom?
Dearest sister shall I meet thee,
When I go beyond the tomb?

Shall I see thy lovely features?
Shall I hear thy pleasant words,
Sounding o'er my spirit's heart-string,
Like the melody of birds?

And I think me of another—
Of a darling little one—
Who went up among the angels,
Ere his life had scarce begun.

Oh! I long on more to see him,
And to hold him in my arms,
As I did when he was with us,
With his thousand budding charms.

Ah! 'tis true, the soul must suffer,
And be bound with anguish down,
Ere 'tis fitted for its dwelling,
Ere 'tis ready for its crown.

But, Oh, Jesus! blessed Jesus!
Who art loved without alloy,
Thou wilt meet us, thou wilt bless us,
Thou wilt give us perfect joy.

Miscellaneous Reading.

Interesting Intelligence from the East.

Supposed discovery of the tower of Babel.

The Syrian correspondent of the *Boston Traveller* in a letter dated Beirut, December 8th, 1856, gives some exceedingly interesting facts connected with the supposed discovery of the Tower of Babel. We extract the gist of the letter, as matter which will be interesting to our readers. The Mr. Place mentioned, is the French Consul at Mosul, and a man of much learning and research. After speaking of the darkness which has heretofore enshrouded the history of the Titanic structure referred to, and the surprise and delight caused by the unexpected discovery, the *Traveller's* correspondent says:

The substance of the information which has just been circulated relating to the discovery of the tower of Babel, I will give in few words expecting soon to receive further details, at the same time remarking that the French Consul-General of Beirut, Mr. Lisups, has received various curious articles which were found in the tower, which I hope soon to see and describe. I think my hand, if not my heart, will fairly tremble, if once it takes hold of the shovels, the trowels, and the hods used by those old masons and builders.

The villa of Arbela, so famous in history for the decisive battle fought near it by Darius and Alexander, is only a few days' journey from Mosul, to which Mr. Place, seated on the monotonous wonders of Nineveh, set off with his accustomed enthusiasm in search of new discoveries, in a region celebrated in classical history. On his way an incident occurred which proves to what a degree the statements of history respecting the locality are the simple truth. The escort of Mr. Place dismounted when they reached the field of Arbela, following the example of the Consul who wished to study the battle field; and this he was obliged to do standing, as Turkish Etiquette permits no one to remain seated in his saddle. Soon, however he mounted again: in order to secure the plain, and the escort did the same, except a single Turk of enormous proportions, who followed on foot, puffing and bathed in sweat. Mr. Place, pitying him for his sad plight, asked him if he did this because he preferred walking to riding.

"By no means," replied the Turk; "but I am unable to remount my horse, because I need the help of a stone in order to ruga my surrup, and who can find a single stone in all the plain of Gingarceli!"

Now it is well known that Darius employed 300,000 men for many days in leveling this plain and in breaking whatever would interpose an obstacle to his cavalry and chariots of war. In the centre of the old battle-field of Arbela rises a hill of colossal dimensions, whose object the party vainly conjectured, thinking it might be a tomb, or a triumphal monument, or more likely both. Unfortunately they had not time to examine it, nor the appliances necessary for exploring it.

Passing on, Mr. Place and his party at length discovered what they believed to be nothing less than the veritable remains of the tower of Babel—the wonder of wonders, and the grandest spectacle which the eyes of men can contemplate in this age of the world. This proud tower, which was built in defiance of Heaven, and aimed to pierce the very skies; has lost in the course of ages its cloud-reaching elevation. Six of its eight stories have fallen and crumbled into dust; but the two which remain are so high that they may be seen for fifty or sixty miles around. The base of the tower is quadrangular, and each side about six hundred feet long. The tower is made of bricks of the purest clay and of white color, which is a little shaded with a yellow tint. Under a clear sun, and as a whole, the ancient monument of human skill and daring presents a fine blending of colors which sets the painter's pencil at defiance. Before being baked, the bricks had been covered with characters traced with the accuracy of a hand of a writing master. Near the top of the letters the straight strokes were adorned with flourishes resembling the heads of nails. All was neat, regular and severe; and, indeed those who saw these specimens of ancient calligraphy affirm that the fathers of the human race wrote a better hand than their children.

Another curious fact arrested the attention of the exploring party. The sacred record runs thus: "And it came to pass as they journeyed from the East that they found a plain in the valley of Shinar, and they dwelt there. And they said one to another—Go to, let us make brick and burn them thoroughly; and they had brick for stone. (or instead of stone) and slime had they for mortar." Modern skeptics may ask: Where could these builders obtain all this bitumen? for a vast quantity must have been demanded to meet the wants of so many travelers. It is a singular coincidence that Mr. Place discovered a fountain at a small distance from the tower, whose waters flow in such abundance as almost to form a river. The stream would force its way into a river in the vicinity, did not the people hasten to stop it by setting the bituminous fluid on fire, when they tranquilly wait till the fire is extinguished for the want of aliment. Thus the old fountain still pours out inexhaustible quantities of bitumen, or slime, which supplied these old builders in their vast enterprise. Bitumen also adds to the durability of bricks, as well as firmly consolidates them in masonry. Could anything be added to the marvel of the coincidence? Thus travels and expeditions in Assyria become Biblical corollaries, and new proofs are never wanting of old truths.

Among the interesting discoveries of Mr. Place were certain inscriptions on fill of gold silver and copper, and also upon a metal now unknown, and which has somewhat the appearance of ivory. It has been submitted to the experiment of an intelligent metallurgist, and its qualities will soon be ascertained. Some very curious photographs, taken by the expedition, completed their labors, one of which was of the ruins of the palace of the famous Queen Semiramis. This ancient monument, situated on the height of a mountain raised by the hands of men, overlooks the awful solitude which surround Lake Van—a body of water six or seven times larger than Lake Geneva.

It is not strange that a gentleman who had seen and handled some of the articles brought from the tower of Babel by Mr. Place, should be excited as he says he was. "In relation to archeological news I take the liberty of informing you that I have just seen the oldest things of the old world. Indeed, I do not know that I should be more surprised by seeing the fragments of the ark itself. Fancy to yourself that I have just touched and held in my hand, and turned again in every way, a little morsel of the tower of Babel! This trinket of moulded clay, illustrated and baked by the sons of Noah, has passed from the plains of Shinar, to the chapel of St. Mesmin, and is the fruit of the strokes of the hammer in the hand of Mr. Place, our learned and enterprising Consul, to whom I am indebted for a sight of this precious relic, about which cluster so many grand souvenirs."

I would only add, that if your readers wish to obtain a distinct and accurate idea of the region referred to, in which lies the battle-field of Arbela, and the plain of Shinar, they should open their atlas and survey the country between Mosul, Tigris, and Lake Van, southeast of Mount Ararat. It was very natural that the sons of Noah, descending from Ararat, should commence their agricultural labors in the fertile and well watered plain of Shinar, lying to the east, where, in terrible remembrance of the flood, they vainly and impiously attempt-

ed a work which should protect them from the recurrence of the disaster. Recently I met an English gentleman, Major Fraser, who belonged to the staff of Gen. Williams, the hero of Kara, who, with three or four other Englishmen, had gained the summit of Mount Ararat—the first feat of the kind since the children of Noah descended from it. Thus, by a singular coincidence, about the same time, the sacred summit was reached where the ark rested, and the tower discovered which was erected on the plain at its base.

OMENS.
When Mr. Buchanan was nominated, of all days of the week, upon Friday, we do not know that any delegate lifted up his forbidding voice at the unlucky omen; but without the slightest superstition, the shrewd observer must have felt during the progress of the canvass that success would bring no security to the Buchanan party, and that the trouble would follow closely upon the triumph. This was certain not merely because the Pro-Slavery organists had officially and explicitly discarded honesty and good faith; not merely because it relied mainly upon a single interest and upon the votes of a section of the country; not merely because it was profane of libels, which always plague the inventor much more sorely than they do those against whom they are aimed; but because the party did not agree upon a common construction of the Nebraska puzzle; because, in the event of the success, there would be more mouths to fill than provender where with to fill them, and because, to secure the votes of sundry hot-headed and hair-brained people, the Cincinnati Convention made promises of a peppery nature, which it may be feared exceedingly inconvenient to perform.

Nor was Mr. Buchanan in a category less dubious than that of his champions. What parts he possessed, what skill he acquired, legendary he was master of, had all been expended in getting the Presidency. Every body knows that it is one thing to be dexterous in grasping at power, and quite another thing to be dexterous in using it to advantage. Whatever our opinion may be of Mr. Buchanan's administrative abilities, it would be unfair to prejudice him; and yet who can fail to see in the thick coming portents of the hour unmistakable indications of future embarrassments, mortifications and failures? Of these none are so prominent as the election of Gen. Cameron to the Senate of the United States by the Legislature of Pennsylvania. This was a catastrophe upon which Mr. Buchanan could hardly have counted. He has just swept the State by a large majority, his political friends were in the ascendancy in the Legislature, and certainly it would not have been too great a compliment for Pennsylvania to have sent a Buchanan Senator to assist in giving an initial impetus to the administration of her greatest statesman. Mr. Forney, the opponent of Gen. Cameron, and the regular caucus candidate of the Keystone Democracy, had earned the votes of his party if ever man earned them; for, without meaning to be harsh, we must say that very few persons would have rendered such services as those performed through *The Pennsylvania* to be made forty times a Senator. And yet, in the face of all these facts and considerations, we find the life-long friend of Mr. Buchanan defeated.

This must be regarded as only the beginning of insubordination; nor can the President elect tell, just at this time, his friends from his foes. Who knows in what quarter the next revolt may occur? Who can tell which section of the Pro-Slavery band may next turn upon their chiefs? If not certain of the support of Pennsylvania, how can Mr. Buchanan be certain of the support of South Carolina or of Virginia? How can he be sure of the Senate itself? Really, if he had laid the flattering epithet to his soul, that the ancient drill and discipline of his party can be preserved, or that he will be sustained with unquestioning obedience as Jackson or even as Van Buren was sustained, he has not very shrewdly studied the political phenomena of the hour. Before any President can so hope to rally a compact and trustworthy party, the common sense and the common virtue of the people must be appreciated. As affairs are at present, Mr. Buchanan represents a great fraud, a legislated lie, a broken compact, a sectional policy, and a poor, platitudeous fallacy, an adherence to which must disintegrate the strongest party in the world. We have got precisely where the sharpest chicanery cannot serve a President, we have outgrown all politicians of the Buchanan school; and now, when the people are demanding living principles and manly thought, the President will find all his dearly purchased skill obsolete and of small avail. Great monarchs, with unlimited military resources and with irresponsible power to command, have failed to combat successfully a sound popular opinion. The record of their makeshifts and misfortunes renders the pages of history comic. How can a President of the United States pursue a course like this, and hope for a result as ignominious?—[N. Y. Tribune.

CORRESPONDENCE.

COLUMBUS, O., Jan 19, 1857.
Messrs. Editors: A few days since the Committee on the Penitentiary had a certain Loco-foco physician tried for operating upon the legs of one of the convicts, in consequence of said operation the convict lost the sight of both of his eyes. The operation had been performed at two different times. The last time was earnestly remonstrated against by the convict, but whose remonstrances were utterly disregarded. The doctor, as I suppose, thinking him a convict was a fit subject for him to experiment upon;—this operation took place early in April last, about the time of the adjournment of the legislature. The result of the investigation I have not yet learned.

The weather on last Sabbath day was extremely cold here.—the coldest decidedly that we have had this winter.
The Cincinnati people, the poorer classes to

particular, appear to be almost in a suffering condition for the want of fuel. Coal has become so very high that they are unable to buy an amount sufficient to render themselves comfortable. The citizens of Cincinnati, in general, are making voluntary contributions to alleviate their sufferings. Coal sells there from 45 to 80 cents per bushel.

The reports made by the "smelling committee" as the Loco-foco call them, are not yet printed, as I have understood. The public printing is done yet by a Loco-foco, under a contract made a few years ago which has not yet expired. It seems that when the printing of certain kinds of matter is put into their hands, in which the base and corrupt doings of locofocoism is to be exposed, they delay the printing thereof as long as possible. The efforts will be on hand before long, I presume; and if I can procure a copy, of each committee's report, I will send you them. There will no doubt be something rich in them.

To-morrow, Tuesday, the 29th, it is expected the committee appointed to investigate and report upon the difficulty that took place in the House between two members, Slough, of Hamilton county, and Caldwell, of Ashland. He, (Slough) a few days after the rencontre, attempted to make an apology, the substance of which was in fact an attempt more at justification and a plain and firm decision on his part to do so again under similar circumstances, merely regretting that there was necessity for his pursuing the course which he did.
CANDOR.

Two Widows fighting for the same Dower.—An unusually interesting decision was pronounced by the Surrogate of New-York on the 10th inst.

The litigants in the case were two women, each of whom claimed dower in the estate of John Black, deceased, as his true and lawful widow. It seems that John and Rebecca Black married in 1825, lived together twelve years, and had two children. In 1837 Mrs. Black left her husband. After living in practical seclusion for a dozen years, the husband, having made an unsuccessful application to the Legislature of New-York, had recourse to a Court of Chancery of New-Jersey, where his wife had been residing, and finally procured a decree divorcing him a *vinculo matrimonii*—wilful desertion, by husband or wife, for five consecutive years, being sufficient ground for divorce under the New-Jersey statutes, provided the defendant shall have been an actual resident of the State during those years. The bill was filed in September, 1849, and the decree entered in 1850. John Black shortly thereafter took to himself another spouse in the person of a lady who became Mrs. Elizabeth Black. Elizabeth and Rebecca severally ask letters of administration as John's only true and lawful wife.

The real question in the present controversy is whether the first wife was bound by the decree of divorce. This question turns upon the point of personal notice—the lady maintaining that she was not served with process. The surrogate decides that the regularity of the proceedings, and the Sheriff's return of "served" on the writ—being deemed—raise a presumption in favor of the validity of the decree, which is not overcome. He therefore pronounces in favor of the wife subsequently married.

LIBEL SUIT.—The Hon. Horace Greeley has sued the editor of the *Cleveland Plaindealer* for libel, laying his damages at \$10,000.

The *Plain Dealer* which is under the editorial charge of Mr. Gray, Post Master at Cleveland has contained many charges upon Mr. Greeley, charges which could have found no palliation in the heated political contest of the Autumn even, but which now are particularly malicious and unprovoked. For example on the 29th of Dec. last the *Plain Dealer* contained the following:

"**OLD DRAB IS LIMO.**"—Horace Greeley is getting to be about as well known by his friends as by his enemies. Bennett used to be charged with receiving all the *Black* mail of the New-York press, but lately it has lately been ascertained that Sir Horace is as fond of "hush money" as the "Old Satanist." He owned up last fall to receiving four thousand dollars from the liquor dealers in New York city for the use of two columns of his paper to advocate the claims of that nefarious traffic. He was no doubt bought at a high figure to go for Fremont. And now a correspondent of the *Chicago Press*, a Free Soil paper, writing from Iowa city, where the legislature of that State is in session, boldly charges him with receiving a bribe from that locality. He says the committee to investigate the affairs of the Des Moines River Improvement Company have struck "rich leads." It is stated that "Old White Coat," of the New York Tribune, has received a thousand dollars from that Company for aid and comfort rendered them, and that this fact has been brought out by the Committee.—Wonder what the priests who have been acting as missionaries for said Horace, think of all these things? "A person is known by the company he keeps."

Why should a man of high and influential position, a man conscious within himself of an honest purpose—wears conical red—endure

such things tamely? We are glad that Mr. Greeley has taken the shield of the law to ward off these poisoned arrows. We have no doubt he will teach his swarm of defamers a lesson.

Every locofoco press in the country stands ready to snatch at any item which irresponsible scribblers can hatch up against this man. They hate him because of his dogged honesty, and they fear him for the telling blows which he spends his life in dealing upon them. We notice that the *Post* of our own city is not content without multiplying the circulation of the story for which Mr. Greeley has brought his action. It quotes as follows:

The *Iowa State Gazette* says, that among the items of expenses of the Company to improve the Des Moines river, is the sum of \$100,000 paid to Horace Greeley for playing "bores" at Washington, to get the large grant of lands from the government. His receipt for the money is shown. Oh! Immaculate Horace!

Can any political exploit be made out of such continual slander upon one person? We trust the blows against Mr. Greeley may not recoil severely upon any body.—*Pittsburgh Gazette.*

THE CORRUPTION COMMITTEE.—The Washington letter-writers think that appearances indicate something more than "smoke" as the result of the examinations now being prosecuted by the committee of investigation. Several arrests have been made, and one good result has followed the "rumpus" kicked up by the affair, the lobby has been very much the gainer by the thinning out among the birds of prey who haunt the precincts of corruption as the obscene bird haunts the offal field. They catch the carrion afar off, and are no less sharp at "smelling a rat." They have scattered a good deal as we have seen a flock of crows at the sight of the muzzle of a musket poked around the corner of a farmer's barn.

Mr. Simonton, the correspondent of the *New York Times* has been before the committee several times. It will be remembered that an article of his in the *Times* first called attention to the matter. He is said to have refused to answer several questions propounded to him by the committee, on the ground that he could not do so without violation of confidence. Mr. Simonton says in a recent letter to the *Times* that he is threatened with violence, has been warned that a man is hunting him up with a raw-hide etc.

The following dispatch from Washington, dated the 19th:

Mr. Simonton was recalled to-day and informed by the committee that they had come to the unanimous determination to insist on his answering the question in substance as follows: "As you have admitted that members of Congress have approached you confidentially with the request to you to procure them a pecuniary interest in measures pending before the House, we ask you to give the names of such members." After some suggestions by the committee to the witness as to the extent of his duty and power, Mr. Simonton answered as follows: "I do not here dispute the powers of the committee. I have not declined to answer the question on that ground. I have all due respect for the House and the committee. My refusal is not based on a desire to screen individual members, nor can it be supposed that an answer to the question would reflect discredit on me. I have read in deference to the wishes of the committee, the case of Anderson against Dunn, and after full deliberation as to what I ought to do in view of that case, and from other considerations I have come to the determination that I must persist in declining to answer, no matter what the penalty may incur, because to do so would involve a dishonorable breach of confidence."

A dispatch from Washington on the 20th says:

The Sergeant-at Arms of the House has sent a telegraph dispatch from Philadelphia, stating that he has arrested Mr. Chester, who refused to appear before the Corruption Investigating Committee, but both were detained there in consequence of the effects of the snow storm.

Mr. Chase, an ex-member of Congress, was before the Corruption Investigating Committee this morning. He was asked whether he, as an agent of any company, or in any other capacity, ever executed a bond or obligation to convey any land, or any other valuable consideration, to any person or persons, on condition that any Railroad bill passed or pending in Congress should pass.

Mr. Chase respectfully denied the right of the Committee to inquire into his private dealings with persons other than members of Congress, and declined to answer the question, as he was advised by his counsel he had the right to do.

STATE FAIR.—It is reported that the State Board of Agriculture have located the next State Fair at Cincinnati.

PENNSYLVANIA POLITICS.—QUEEN REVOLUTION.—Hon. Kenneth Bayner has been making a speech at Raleigh, N. C., in defence of his political course during the Presidential canvass, especially in regard to the charge brought against him of having sought to aid in the election of Fremont. He acknowledged that he was desirous of adopting any measure that would defeat Buchanan, but denied that he had any sympathy for Fremont. After explaining his own course of action he paid special attention to the Democrats and straight Fillmore men of Philadelphia, and said that "a gentleman of his acquaintance, was approached by an emissary from Forney, who told him if he would start himself, not for the Democratic party, but for the straight Fillmore ticket, \$100,000 would be placed to his credit in any bank he might select." The Fillmore ticket, he added, was the one supported by Mr. Anderson, who, said Mr. R., "it was well known, had not heard the jingle of a dollar for many a month; yet since the election he has been able to purchase a house worth \$50,000."

THE Hon. Horace Greeley has sued the editor of the *Cleveland Plaindealer* for libel, laying his damages at \$10,000. The libellous statement which appeared in the *Iowa State Gazette*, and which has since been copied by journals in *New Jersey* and *Ohio*, was to the effect that Mr. Greeley had acted as paid lobby agent at Washington, for the D. & M. Moine River Navigation Company.—*Steubenville Herald.*

FINANCIAL.—The *Cleveland Bank Note Reporter* of the 15th inst. says, "The extreme stringency in the money market continues, though not quite so apparent as at our last issue. Two years ago we predicted hard times for two years at least, and a material improvement during the third year. Thus far our predictions have been realized, and the indications are favorable for a further realization the coming season. Our Jobbers are preparing for a brisk Spring business, and their facilities offers great inducements to the retail trade of Ohio and Indiana as well as more remote points."

A late English paper states that at St. Hilliar, in the Island of Jersey, a baker named Abel, married the daughter of a grocer named Cain, and the name of the magistrate who performed the marriage ceremony was Adam.—The time of the wedding we suppose was "dewy Eve."

A KANSAS CARE FOR SUMMER.—A correspondent to the *N. Y. Tribune*, says:

The *Free-State* Kansas boys have forwarded by Mr. Robinson, a "section" case to their eloquent Massachusetts champion. The head of it represents a hand choking a snake. The snake's body is coiled half-way down the case. Between its folds are fifteen knots, each of them it is supposed, representing a slave State. On the lower part of the case are sixteen knots—ones for every Free State. Where's Noble? Will President Pierce issue another proclamation? The Union is in danger, this time, sure!

A BEAUTIFUL SIGNIFICATOR.—"Alabama" signifies in the Indian language, "Here we rest." A story is told of a tribe of Indians who fled from a relentless foe in the trackless forests in the southwest. Weary and travel worn they reached a river flowing through a beautiful country. The chief of the band stuck his tent pole in the ground and exclaimed: "Alabama! Alabama!" ("Here we shall rest! Here we shall rest!")

IMPORTANT DECISION.—The Supreme Court of Ohio, now in session at Columbus, gave an important decision last week, declaring the Free Banking Law to be constitutional, and in full force at the present time. The point contested was, whether the new constitution which took effect in 1851 abrogated the law which was passed in the spring of 1851. The decision was unanimous that it did not.

A minister of the Gospel was arrested at Sankofa, Ill., on the 10th inst., charged with tearing up the track of the O. & M. R. R. He was bound over in \$1,200 to answer.

One of his cows was accidentally killed on the road, and he accepted this measure to get satisfaction. Not much of the spirit of his master about him. Methinks I hear some one say, but there were no railroads in Palestine 1800 years ago.

Simon Cameron, Republican, was elected United States Senator from Pennsylvania, on the 13th inst. The vote stood for Cameron, 57; John W. Forney, 53; Henry D. Foster 7; Wilkins, 1.

In New England they plant school houses and raise men. In these six States there are seven hundred thousand children that attend school.

When the Massachusetts Senate voted for U. S. Senator, every member was in his place and every member voted for CHARLES SUMNER!—That is what Massachusetts has to say to South Carolina.

CAROLINIAN.—More property is destroyed by fire every year in the United States, than in all the rest of the world.
To some men it is indispensable to be worth money, without it they would be worth nothing.