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POETRY.

THE WINGS OF THE NORTH WEST WIND. From my home in the frozen sea, Where I lie and rest with a quiet mind.

I catch the rainbow from the skies And place on maple leaves, I whisper the swallow, away he flies.

I work in the dark of the blackest night, And the stars on their way to bed, When the sun in his noonday might Dims them, I hunt them again.

I draw, as I please, the tender spray Of fern, with its feathery grace, And the stiles on the sun's warm ray I put a piece in place.

But it is only my pleasant play, While unheeded I lie and dream, For I sleep in my chilling clubhouse day, Till the throat of the gurgling stream.

I tangle the fern, and lift the grain From where it lies in the soil; I pinch the grass on their way to gain Their bread by their daily toil.

But when Spring days come I change my mind, So I mount on the wings of the southwest wind, And ride to the Arctic pole.

From the Richmond Dispatch. Letter from A. J. Stuart, Esq., on the Public Debt of Virginia.

Editors Dispatch. There is no subject which has occupied a larger share of the attention of the people of Virginia for the last ten years than the public debt of the State.

It has been discussed in almost every conceivable manner in the public prints, at the hustings, and in our legislative halls.

Several abortive attempts have been made to amend the Constitution to settle it, but it still hangs, like a nightmare, on the Commonwealth, obstructing her advance in the path of progress.

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debts of \$30,000,000, including all three classes, have amounted to \$1,200,000,000, which is just the amount that was being annually paid in the form of tax-receivable coupons on the \$20,000,000 of outstanding bonds in the form of interest, the handsome sum of \$600,000.

The bill, however, was objectionable in several particulars. In the first place, it gave to a "syndicate" the exclusive right of funding the bonds.

The holders of both classes of bonds in the proportion required for funding could not get to the Auditor's office directly and have them funded on their own account, but could approach the government only through the "syndicate."

It will be seen that we have a second class of Virginia bonds, which, though equally just, and in equity entitled to stand on the same footing, are in law and in fact placed on a lower level, as the coupons cannot be used in the payment of taxes, &c., and in the stock markets they sell for about two-thirds of their face value.

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believe the neighbors would know me if they saw me away from home with anything else on."

"I'm sure I shouldn't care for the opinion of the neighbors," answered her husband, loftily. "I always thought you looked extremely well with that dress on. It's warm and comfortable, isn't it?"

"I don't approve of the practice so prevalent among some of the farmers' wives, nowadays, of buying a new dress every time they take a notion into their heads that they'd like one," said Mr. Torrey, very impressively. "We've got to economize if we are to get out of the present financial difficulties. If we all bought needless things, the country'd soon be bankrupt. I don't suppose you understand it. I've been very successful in my business, but I've had to economize as a professor of political economy."

"Not extravagance on my part," responded his wife, who was not much impressed by his reasoning. "I've had a new dress because I need one and there is no extravagance about it. I have earned one, I think; but if you don't think so, you had better keep the money."

"Mrs. Torrey's temper was up. When her husband was in one of his extreme economic moods, she would arouse her spirit. She knew that she was a careful, prudent woman, and she supposed you understood it. I've had new dresses, for that matter, but I've been fully paid for by her economy in little things during the year."

But when her money she had to spend at home all winter. She wouldn't coax him for what rightfully belonged to her. She thought that of her own strong emotion to prompt him to do the fair thing, she'd fall back on the old saying, 'Give as you would be given.' Another season."

"I don't see much force in your argument," said Mr. Torrey. "If I had six more dresses, I'd be more than satisfied."

He folded up the money as if that decided the matter, and put it back in the pocketbook. "You poor old brown thing!" Mrs. Torrey said, next day when she was airing the old winter dress. "You've got to be Sunday best, for another winter, and she held up the dress to the light and inspected it closely."

"The folds were faded a good deal, the trimming was out of date, and it had a kind of genteel-poverty look about it generally."

"I know what I'll do," she said, with a twinkle in her eyes. "I'll buy every thing I can get out of you, if I can, and I'll make him as sick of it as I am. Last winter I wore that to the dance, and that departed this life I'll have to make this do double duty."

Next Sunday she came down arrayed for church in her new dress. "I'm sure that looks well enough for anybody," her husband said. "If you were wearing a new dress, I'd be more than satisfied."

"Mrs. Torrey frowned, and then she smiled. "The farmers' wives at church had on neat new dresses, and her brown one looked more dingy than ever beside them. Somehow, the contrast between her dress and theirs made her feel as if she were the only one who had not a new dress."

"Mrs. Perkins had a quilting Wednesday afternoon, and the men were invited to tea. She had a new dress, and Mrs. Torrey made herself very conspicuous among the other ladies during their pretty garments, and her own was considerably to her disadvantage, and her husband did not fail to notice it; but she was not to be deterred."

"I'll warrant their dresses cost five or ten dollars apiece, and I can't afford that," he thought, and tried to forget that there were such things as dresses in the world."

The next Sunday the brown dress was worn again, and twice during the week it was on duty.

Mr. Torrey began to get tired of brown, but he wouldn't say so. He was sure that he had seen that time the inevitable garment was worn no less than ten times. It was at Mr. Torrey's residence that Mrs. Torrey capitulated, and her own was worn considerably to her disadvantage, and her husband did not fail to notice it; but she was not to be deterred."

"Mrs. Torrey was a nice-looking woman, I think."

"No, no; only economical," was the answer, with a little laugh that made Mr. Torrey tingle to the tips of his toes. "I suppose her worth as much as most of the women in the neighborhood."

"And she hasn't anything better to wear than that?" exclaimed the other lady, indignantly. "Mrs. Torrey wears my new dresses, and she wears one dress three years, I'd--"

"What makes her stick to it as she does?" asked the other lady. "I know I've only been in the neighborhood six weeks, but I've never seen her in any other dress, and I've met her a good many times, too."

"Mr. Torrey began to perspire freely. "It's the only dress she has that's fit to wear away from home in the winter," was the reply.

"Is her husband poor?" asked the other.

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