

POETRY.

"THE LONG AGO."

The author of the exquisite poem published below is generally unknown. His name has escaped our memory, but we remember that he was the editor of some obscure paper in Texas, and about five years since was killed by a steamboat explosion on the Mississippi river. Poor fellow, he had the "vision and faculty divine whatever his name may have been on earth:

Oh! a wonderful is the river of Time,
As it runs through the realm of tears,
With a faultless rhythm, and a musical rhyme,
And a broader sweep, and a surge sublime,
And blends with the ocean of years!

How the winters are drifting like flakes of snow,
And the summers like buds between,
And the ears in the sheaf—so they come and they go,
On the river's breast, with its ebb and flow,
As it glides in the shallow and shoal!

There's a magical Isle in the river of Time,
Where the softest of airs are playing;
There's a cloudless sky, and a tropical clime,
And the Junes with the roses are staying.

And the name of this Isle is Long Ago;
And we bury our treasures there—
There's a lute unswept, and a harp without strings,
There are broken vows and pieces of rings,
And the garments she used to wear.

There are hands that are waved when the fairy shore,
By the image is lifted in air,
And we sometimes hear thro' the turbulent roar,
Sweet voices heard in the days gone before,
When the wind down the river is fair.

Oh! remembered for aye, be that blessed Isle,
All the day of life till night;
When the evening comes with its beautiful smile,
And our eyes are closing to slumber awhile,
May that "greenwood of soul be in sight."

THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

[CONCLUDED.]

Since your adjournment in December last, the Court of Errors in this State have, with a single dissenting opinion, declared the Stay Law and all amendments thereto unconstitutional. This decision has produced restiveness and dissatisfaction in many parts of the State. Public meetings have been held in several districts, and the Legislature has been appealed to, to furnish some protection to the debtor class, who anticipate general suing in the fall term of the Courts.

After a careful examination of the opinion of the able and learned Chief Justice, as well as other authorities, I feel it my duty to say that I concur fully in the opinion of the Court, and believe that their exposition of the constitutional question is unanswerable.

The people of South Carolina have been proverbially law abiding; and when anarchy reigned supreme, after the fall of the Confederacy, lawlessness was universally discouraged by the better classes in every community. Now, when civil law is restored and we are reminded to our own laws and Courts to protect rights and redress wrongs, surely no citizen of good repute will advise tumult and violence against the solemn judgment of the highest judicial tribunal in this State.

In view of the circumstances surrounding us—when it is remembered that the State has just emerged from a long and disastrous war, in which not only her sons but her resources were prodigally bestowed; that our banks have been destroyed; that more than three hundred millions of property have been annihilated; that all the fountains of credit and property have been broken up; that our system of labor has been thoroughly disorganized; that the refreshing and revivifying showers have been withheld from a parched and exhausted soil, and that want, if not famine, will keep ghastly vigils in mansion and in hovel, when it is remembered that nearly all of the merchants of the State have been able to compromise their indebtedness to Northern merchants on the most liberal terms—surely, the creditor class will practice forbearance and give their debtors still further indulgence. If compelled to enforce collections, they should, in the same fair and liberal spirit, make compromises with debtors, so as not to drive them and their families from home, kindred and friends.

The existing embarrassments growing out of the indebtedness of the country will, like other evils, produce beneficial results. Debtors will find it to their interest to make final adjustment of their debts, even though they are compelled to surrender their property. As long as their debts remain, interest will be accumulating to culminate in more disastrous bankruptcy. If they surrender their property, now, to creditors, they can resume their occupations and labor with cheerfulness—knowing that its proceeds will sooner or later, rebuild their broken fortunes.

The debtor who desires to compromise with his creditors has the means of compo-

ling the veriest Shillock to accept fair terms, or exclude him in all share of his estate by assignment, giving liberal creditors the preference, or by voluntary confession of judgment.

Believing that no Stay Law can be passed, embracing antecedent debts, that will not conflict with that clause of the Constitution of the United States which declares that "no State shall pass any law impairing the obligations of contracts," I respectfully recommend for your consideration for the relief of debtors:

1st. That imprisonment for debt, on *meine* and final process be abolished, except in case of fraud; and then, as a punishment for the crime rather than as a means of enforcing payment of the debt.

2. That no cost be taxed against a defendant, either for the officers of the Court or for the Attorney.

3. That the Insolvent Debtor's Laws be so extended as that any debtor may, by petition, after due notice, summon in all his creditors, and upon assigning his estate and effects for their benefit; be discharged from all further liability, not only to suing but to all other creditors. Being thus relieved from the incubus resting on him, the honest and enterprising debtor will go to work with alacrity and prove himself a useful member to society.

The Congress of the United States has authority, under the Constitution, to pass uniform laws of bankruptcy; but there is no prohibition upon the States, and as Congress has not exercised the authority delegated to them, the State may, with great propriety pass such laws—and they will continue of force, until Congress adopts a general bankrupt act—which would supercede all State legislation on the subject.

The General Bankrupt Act of 1841, passed by the Congress of the United States, extended its provisions to antecedent debts, and its constitutionality was not controverted by the Courts. No constitutional obstacle, therefore, could preclude the General Assembly from incorporating the same feature in their legislature.

It is proper here to remark, that if a Stay Law could be passed which could be free from all constitutional objection, it would not protect debtors from suit in the Federal Courts. A creditor residing in the State who had determined to enforce the payment of his debt, could readily transfer it to a non-resident, and if the sum exceeded five hundred dollars, such non-resident could at once institute suit in the United States Court, recover judgment, issue execution and sell the debtor's property notwithstanding the existence of the Stay Law. Such a law would not be recognized or enforced in a Federal Court.

The complete disorganization of the labor of the State in 1865, resulted in the production of very short provision crops; and to supply the deficiency, large quantities of breadstuffs have already been imported into the State, at enormous cost. The imperfect organization of the system of free labor, and the unprecedented drought which has prevailed during the months of July and August, throughout the State, as well as an unusually short wheat crop, foreshadow a gloomy future for the people for the next year. Coming as you do from every District, you have the means of making an estimate, approximating accuracy, of the extent of the failure of the provision crop, and what amount of supplies will be needed to save the poor, dependent and helpless from starvation. I invite your earnest and prompt consideration of the subject.

Sound political economy ordinarily condemns the feeding population by the Government, as the inevitable consequences are of increase idleness, pauperism and crime. But where the provision crop of a whole country is destroyed by blight, or where production is suspended by long continued drought, and the deficiency is traceable to these causes rather than to the idleness of the population, humanity and sound policy alike justify the Government in lending or giving its means to save the people from starvation—to arrest that increase of crime which want always produces, and to stay emigration to more favored localities. The present population is insufficient to till the soil of the State, and to develop its resources; and it is a high duty of the Government to remove, as far as possible, the necessity for emigration beyond its borders. The embarrassment of supplying food for the needy will be greatly increased after the first of October, when the Freedmen's Bureau will cease to issue rations for the indigent and helpless whites and freedmen, who have been heretofore furnished with subsistence. You may find it necessary to increase the powers, duties and responsibilities of the Commissioners of the Poor, and to organize such bodies in all Districts of the State. In most of the Districts, land and buildings have heretofore been acquired and erected for the whites, but they must be enlarged, so as to provide accommodations for pauper, idiotic and helpless freedmen.

The failure of the Board of Commissioners of the Poor to provide for the helpless, is a great crime against humanity, and additional penalties should be imposed by law against such a neglect or refusal to perform properly this philanthropic duty.

The capitation tax imposed by you, at the last session of the Legislature, on freed-

men, has not generally been collected. The Comptroller-General, following a suggestion made by me and approved by the Attorney-General, instructed the Tax-Collectors not to issue executions against the freedmen, for the capitation tax, until the present session of the Legislature. This was to avoid all conflict with the military authorities, arising out of the fact that our courts were not used for the protection of the freedmen, and no provision was made for the helpless. Whenever your legislation renits the custody of persons of color to the State laws, these executions may be issued. Proper diligence of the Sheriffs will enforce the satisfaction of most of these executions, and the fund may then be appropriated exclusively to the support of the class from which it is derived.

If you should in your wisdom, determine to make an appropriation to buy subsistence for the indigent white and colored, the several Boards of Commissioners of the Poor, would be, perhaps, the best agents for its distribution.

To meet any appropriation made, there is no resource available, and the funds can only be raised by issuing and selling State bonds. The credit of the State has heretofore been untarnished, and a reasonable hope is entertained that bonds issued for such a purpose will command nearly par, in the money markets of the United States or Europe.

As the present is a called session, and you may desire to return to your homes at the earliest day compatible with your public duties, I shall defer, until the regular session, bringing to your attention the general financial condition of the State, or making any recommendation for putting it on a safe and satisfactory basis. Under the authority of your Act authorizing the issue of bills receivable, in payment of the indebtedness of the State, the Treasurer had engraved and printed bills to the amount of \$300,000 and has paid out, to the public officers and other creditors of the State, only \$150,000. Most of the Tax-Collectors have made their returns, and the legal tender United States notes paid into the Treasury together with the bills receivable heretofore issued, will enable its operations to be conducted without embarrassment until your regular session. Of the bills issued, they have already been redeemed in payment of taxes, \$72,000. No appropriation was made to defray the expenses of engraving and printing the bills, but the Treasurer, acting upon my recommendation, advanced the expenses incurred from proceeds of the loan heretofore authorized to be made. The amount paid by him, was \$4,436.12. I recommend that an appropriation be made to cover this amount.

If the Treasurer had declined to make the payment in advance of the appropriation, the Act could not have been carried into execution, without convening an extra session of the General Assembly.

At the last session of the General Assembly, "full power and authority" was given the Governor to make "such regulations as in his opinion might be necessary to prevent the entrance and spread of Asiatic cholera in this State." In February last, I opened a correspondence with Major-General Sickles, with reference to the establishment of a rigid quarantine over all the seaports in the State, which resulted in the military authorities undertaking to establish and enforce proper quarantine regulations. I am happy to say to you that the duties, under orders from General Sickles, have been well performed, and not a single case of cholera or yellow fever has occurred within the limits of the State.

The work of re-organization and reconstruction is progressing slowly, but steadily. Our Senators and Representatives have not been admitted to seats in the Federal Congress, and we have received no relaxation from onerous taxation, notwithstanding we have been denied representation. It is believed, however, that our fellow-citizens in the North and West will not much longer permit this flagrant injustice to be continued. The State Government is entirely re-organized—the law Courts held their regular sessions in the spring and despatched much business, which has been accumulating for years, and very generally cleared the criminal dockets. The Courts of Chancery have also been regularly held on all the circuits. The machinery of justice is in full operation, and private rights and public wrongs can be enforced and punished.

However much all may deplore that the progress of the State has been retarded; and its prosperity paralyzed by loss of fortune and credit, and by short crops, the wise and manly course of our people is to redouble their energy—banish unavailing regrets—meet adversity with a stout heart and brave hands, and through the approving smiles of a gracious Heaven, our venerable mother will again be prosperous, and her children contented and happy.

JAMES L. ORR.

The love of the beautiful and true, like the dew-drop in the heart of the crystal, remains forever clear and liquid in the inmost shrine of the soul.

The public libraries of the United States comprise more than 5,900,000 volumes.

Incendiary Speech of B. F. Butler, &c.

BOSTON, August 26.—At a political meeting at Gloucester, last evening, B. F. Butler, was one of the speakers. Butler, on being introduced, said:

The issues now before the country were the same substantially as those of 1860, and in this conviction he proceeded to trace the causes which led to the rebellion and the part taken by the Northern States in the attempt to overthrow the government. He contended that by their rebellion they had forfeited their property their rights, and their lives, if rebels were hanged, which, unfortunately, he said, they were not. Passing on he spoke of the failure of the Southern representatives to secure their seats in Congress, and said that if any portion of the Southern States had sent a loyal man to Congress, it was only to get him admitted, and when they had secured a representation they would send disloyal men. Referring to the Philadelphia Convention, he said it was composed of a set of men who proposed to settle a war which they did not fight, but which they opposed, in all possible ways, and it is the intention of loyal people to know by what right they arrogate to themselves that privilege. It is the men who did the fighting, he said, who are to do the setting. Butler characterized that body as the most remarkable that ever assembled, and said that the delegates from neither section of the country represented their constituents. He then referred to the New Orleans riot, and read a portion of the correspondence relating to it, and said the whole tenor of President Johnson's despatches to General Sheridan was to gloss over the terrible affair. If this state of things cannot be altered, Butler continued, we will march once more, and wee him who opposes us! In considering the Constitutional amendments recently adopted by Congress, he said he was not in favor of the one relative to negro suffrage, but accepted it as the best he could get. He was in favor of a full and impartial suffrage, and he would try, by every means in his power, in whatever position he might be placed, to secure it. In concluding his speech, the general said that unless the people of the North were firm in upholding their Congress, they would have their work of the last four years to do over again.

The general was frequently applauded during his speech, and at the close was honored with three cheers.

A WAR ON WOMAN.—During the war, the Roman Catholic Sisters of Charity in the Border States ministered to the comfort of Confederate and Union soldiers alike—whether in hospital or camp. Their Christian education and training prohibited them from making any distinction. Now the radicals out in Missouri have placed under arrest some of these Sisters for not taking an oath substantially affirming that they have never given aid and comfort to an enemy—in other words, that they never gave a cup of cold water to a dying Southern soldier; that they never cooled his fevered brow, never wrote a letter for him to a friend or relative far away; never said a prayer for him on his dying bed—never, in short, did any act of Christian kindness to a fellow mortal in extreme distress. Of course, the nuns spurned that oath, and have given bonds to appear and answer at the next Circuit Court of Cape Girardeau. As the radical seem to have pretty much the control of judges and jury all in, unhappy Missouri, it would not be at all surprising if the sisters should be found guilty, and dealt with accordingly. As Methodist, Episcopal, Baptist and Presbyterian Ministers have been sent to jail, why should Sisters of Charity escape?

General Hardee was, at latest accounts, in St. Louis, concerned in the responsible direction of certain important railroad interests between Vicksburg and Selma.

ADVERTISING RATES.
Ordinary advertisements, occupying not more than ten lines, (one square,) will be inserted in THE NEWS, at \$1.00 for the first insertion and 75 cents for each subsequent insertion.
Larger advertisements, when no contract is made, will be charged in exact proportion.
For announcing a candidate to any office of profit, honor or trust, \$10.00.
Marriage, Obituary Notices, &c., will be charged the same as advertisements, when over ten lines, and must be paid for when handed in, or they will not appear.

A LAUGHABLE SCENE—GETTING ABOARD IN A HURRY.—The New Lisbon *Buckeye State* writes up, in the following graphic style, a little incident that occurred at the Salem railroad depot a few mornings since. A traveller, bound for Cincinnati, where he had business of importance to transact, and rested over night, with his wife at the Broadway Hotel, in order to be sure to hit the morning train, which leave at an early hour. In the morning the traveler was sleepy. His lady had arisen dressed herself, and gone down to breakfast, expecting her lord to follow immediately. While eating hastily and scolding mentally, in view of the husband's tardiness, she heard the whistle of the locomotive. Rushing frantically up stairs, her horror may be imagined when on opening the bedroom door, a snore from the conjugal sluggard saluted her ear.

A slight scream and a rough shake awoke him. He heard the whistle. Pulling on his boots, he hastily gathered in his arms the rest of his attire, and pushing the lady before him, put for the train at a two-forty gait, dressed only in boots and shirt! The train reached the depot. Throwing all but his shirt upon the platform, the lady hurriedly sought to obtain tickets at the office, while the husband proceeded to clothe himself with his No. 1 garment. While it was yet fluttering over his head, the whistle again sounded maliciously, and off started the train. The unfortunate creature entered the car, his flesh having a pimply goose-like appearance, while his blushing lady, spreading out her crinoline like the sacred veil of charity, converted herself into a screen, that his nakedness might be hid from his fellow travellers. The other female passenger, putting her hand over her eyes, with her fingers spread wide apart, declared, before turning her head in another direction, that, "it was shocking!" And so, we suppose, it must have been to the unlucky wight who had to make such a spectacle of himself.

Didn't Like Fighting.

It was always clear to the Southern mind that the negro had no desire to fight on either side, whether for or against his liberty, and this fact is somewhat strikingly illustrated in the following anecdote, related by the *Savannah News and Herald*, which was given by a faithful Virginian servant of an officer in the Confederate army. Shortly after the news had reached the camp, in North Carolina, that the Confederate Government contemplated putting the blacks into service, the object was frequently discussed among the negroes around the camp-fires:

"It you gwine to list, Thornton?" asked a spirited darkey of a staid old fellow, who had followed his master through the war.

"No," replied Thornton, "I don't want nuffin to do with fightin'. Nigger got no business with musket."

"But," inquired the other, who pretended to favor the idea, "aint you willin to help to lick the nasty, stinkin' Yankees, what our folks make trabel so fast? Aint you gin em?"

"Yes, I is 'posed to them, but do way to help to whip dem varmint is, for de nigger to use de hoe. He knows what to do wid dat, but don't wid de musket!"

"Th, Thornton, you don't want to fight no how?"

"Dat's de fact—what nigger got to fight 'bout?" Do white men, de Yankees and 'federates, is two dogs fighten for a bone. Nigger is de bone. You see dogs fight bone, but neber see de bone fight."

"Dat's de fact," said the other; "den, if de bone don't, he gits mighty bad chawed sometimes."

This naive conversation, simple as it is, illustrates the situation of the negro more clearly than the most *recherche* treatise we have upon this subject. Yes, the negro has been terribly "chawed" in the late conflict between the North and the South, the extent of which no one has any knowledge; but his present condition, under the fostering care of the munificent Freedmen's Bureau, is decidedly worse. *Sic transit negrophia mundi!*

GENERAL GUSTAVUS W. SMITH.—In a letter from Chattanooga, to the editor of the *Memphis Avalanche*, General Smith denies that he wrote the criticism of the Dalton campaign recently published, and says: