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Poetical.

The Snow.

BY A DISMAL MAN.

Fierce blasts, chill airs, like those of a coquette;
Canadian noses, blue and frozen toes;
Sidewalks of glass, o'er which the waller goes
Shambling along, in agony's cold sweat;
Iceland's snow drifts, in which you fall,
At suffocation's risk, and sadly feel
The fiend rheumatic through your vials steal,
While furious drivers at your lingering bawl;
The basin's water all a mask of ice;
Holes in your boots that ne'er had holes before:
Expensive sleigh rides, called by school girls nice; [o'er!
The jingling bells, the bank that tips you
And then to feel that folly, frost and flaw
Are but precursors of a splashy thaw!
Ugh!

In delightful contrast to the above, read the following. It is like a whipped syllabub after sour-krout:

On the Same Subject.

BY A YOUNG LADY.

Dear! ain't it nice! O, what a charming snow!
How sweet it falls—so featherly, soft and white!
Scene of enchantment, fairly-like and bright!
And how the winds romantically blow!
O, won't we have a glorious sleigh ride now?
With lovely bells, the dearest little horse!
And Harry, he will go with me of course,
And we will gallop, Lord! I can't tell how!
We'll have the ride! We'll have a splendid dance!
And supper too, and some of that mulled wine!
And afterward his dear devoted glance,
As we come back by moonlight so divine!
And then one pleasure, I must ne'er forget!
'Twould heavenly be, if we could just upset!
Hurrah! [Buffalo paper.

☞ We converse with those we love through flowers; with those we worship through the stars.

☞ How independent of money peace of conscience is, and how much happiness can be condensed in the humblest home!

☞ Every home on earth should be a miniature of heaven.

☞ Peace is the evening star of the soul, virtue is its sun, the two are never far apart.

☞ Lost wealth may be restored by industry—the wreck of health regained by temperance—forgotten knowledge restored by study—alienated friendship soothed into forgetfulness—even forfeited reputation won by patience and virtue. But who ever again looked on his vanished hours—recalled his slighted years, stamped with wisdom and effaced from Heaven's record the fearful blot of wasted time!

☞ Fashion is the race of the rich to get away from the poor, who follow as fast as they can.

☞ Too much sensibility creates unhappiness; too much insensibility creates sin.

☞ It is an attribute of true philosophy, never to force the progress of truth and reason, but to wait till the dawn of light; meanwhile, the philosopher may wander into hidden paths, but he will never depart from the main track.

☞ MAN AND HIS ATTRIBUTES.—The horse has eight times the strength of man.—Not man holds the horse in subjection.—The bull can toss the stoutest Goliah on his horns. Yet the whole bovine race bows in meek to the yoke, which man imposes. Air, and water, heat, cold, and lightning all seem to be his master. Yet, he makes the winds his minister, the ocean becomes his playground, the summer sun ripens all his harvests, the cold builds for him bridges and highways, without cost, and the lightning meekly travels the wire, bearing his messages of business, or of love.

Miscellaneous.

Remarkable and Startling Discoveries in the East.

DISCOVERIES OF THE RUINS OF THE TOWER OF BABEL.

[From the Boston Evening Traveler.]

BEIRUT, Monday, Dec. 8, 1856.

EDITOR OF THE TRAVELER:—It is nearly two years since that I informed your readers of the grand and instructive discoveries in ancient Ninevah, made by Mr. Place, the French Consul in Mosul. Following up the ancient researches of Mr. Botts and Mr. Layard, he brought to light monuments of that long entomed city, which equally amazed and delighted the world. A man of genius and enthusiasm, he was encouraged by his successes to extend his researches, which he now closes with an achievement, which if his opinions shall be verified, will add imperishable lustre to his name. The Tower of Bable was supposed to exist only as a Biblical souvenir—a thing of memory and not of substance. And, indeed, to many who contemplate it only in its audacity and folly, it seemed a myth or a fancy only of Oriental imaginativeness or superstition. Besides, no locality was assigned to the structure, except the great plain of Shinar, and no debris or ruins remained as the proof of its veritable reality.

How surprising, then, its discovery,—if discovery it shall prove—that Titanic structure, whose base was laid in the earth yet soaked with the waters of the flood, and whose summit was designed to pierce the very heavens! And why not discovered? Nineveh has yielded up its secrets after a burial of long centuries. Babylon, once the glory of the Chaldean's excellency, has opened her gates again, if not to her Persian besiegers, at least to the living generation, of all races, and in her cylinderical books offers her history to the world's inspection. What remained for discovery in the wreck and ruin of the old world, but Babel, that mighty tower which was designed to pierce the skies and defy a second deluge! If it seems too much for belief, what should be thought incredible, when Nineveh and Babylon are brought back to the land of the living by a sort of resurrection, and their monuments of art are traveling through the nations to amaze and delight mankind.

Besides, there is a providence to be traced in these discoveries. They serve not only to arouse but to instruct; they not only gratify the curiosity, but establish beyond all doubt and controversy the veracity and inspiration of the Sacred Records. The light of pure Christianity begins to beamupon the early seats of the human race; it is meet that it should be met by the lights of the remotest antiquity.

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 fuller details, at the same time remarking that the French Consul-General of Beirut, Mr. Lisseps, 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 village of Arbela, so famous in history for the decisive battle fought near it by Darious and Alexander, is only a few days' journey from Mosul, to which Mr. Place, wearied with the monotonous wonders of Nineveh, set on 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 scour 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 used the help of a stone in order to regain my stirrup, and who can find a single stone in all the plain of Gingernellat?"

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 a white color, which is a little shaded with a yellow tint. Under a clear sun, and as a whole, this ancient monument of human skill and daring presents a fine blending of colors which sets the painter's pallet at defiance. Before being baked, the bricks had been covered with characters, traced with the accuracy of the 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 calligrapy 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 trowels. 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 forces its way into a river in the vicinity, did not the people hasten to stop it by setting the bituminous flood 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 corrolaries, and new proofs are never wanting of old truths.

Among the interesting discoveries of Mr. Place were certain inscriptions on fillets of gold, silver and copper, and also upon a metal unknown, and which has somewhat the appearance of ivory. It has been submitted to the experiments of a celebrated metallurgist, and its qualities will soon be ascertained.

Some very curious photographs, taken by the expedition, completed our labors, one of which was of the ruins of the palace of the celebrated Queen Semiramis. This ancient monument, situated on the heights of a mountain raised by the hands of men, overlooks the awful solitudes which surrounds Lake Van—a body 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 Place, should be excited as he says he was. "In relation to archæological news, I take the liberty to inform you that I have just seen the oldest things of the old world. Indeed, I do not know that I should be more surprised at seeing the fragments of the Ark itself. Fancy to yourself that I have just touched and held in my hand and turned and turned in every way, *a little morceau of the Tower of Babel.*

This trinket of moulded clay, illustrated and baked by the sons of Noah, has passed from the plain of Shinar to the chapel of M. 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 the sight of this precious little relic, about which cluster so many grand souvenirs."

I will 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 on the Trigris, 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 attempted a work which should protect them from the recurrence of the disaster. Recently I met an English gentleman, Major Frazer, who belonged to the staff of Gen. Williams, the hero of Kars, 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.

Spirit of the Press.

The Elkhart County Times, a Republi- paper, in commenting upon the Governor's Message, speaks as follows in reference to the Bank of the State of Indiana.

To that portion of it devoted to the newly created "Bank of the State of Indiana," we especially invite the attention of our readers. The Governor has not over estimated the importance of the subject. It was believed the day had gone by in the history of banking, when the unsecured issues of irresponsible corporations, should be permitted to impoverish the toiling millions, and that the ruin which had so frequently been sown broadcast over the land by their explosion, had taught our legislatures wisdom. But we were mistaken. The legislature, not the people, passed the law creating the Bank of the State of Indiana. The means used to effect this the Governor boldly portrays, and for doing which he is entitled to the thanks of every honest man. According to the Governor, bribery and perjury were the concomitants of its passage, fit predecessors of what the final consummation of an institution must be, of such extraordinary powers as are granted to this.

The Governor recommends a repeal.—Shall it not be done? Shall a law so procured continue to disgrace the Statute books of our State? We say emphatically *Repeal!* It is not sufficient to say that the charter is irresponsible. If this were a valid answer, it would allow a party to take advantage of his own wrong, which is contrary to every rule of moral or legislative ethics. If Gov. Wright *is right*, the charter, was obtained by fraud. The Corporation of the Bank has, without the consent of the people, and without giving any consideration thereof, appropriated privileges constituting a portion of the sovereignty of the State. If the soverign gave, the soverign can take away, and should do it whenever the public good requires it. It is too late in the day to say that a charter unduly obtained, and in derogation of public right, and for which no consideration was given, cannot be repealed? Let the people therefore resume the priveleges of which they were so improperly divested. It is no answer or excuse to say that Experience has shown that the Free Banking system has proved a failure. Such is not the fact. Experience has shown that a banking system with perfect idemnity to the public is attainable by proper legislation. The working of the Free Banking system in New York proves this, where under perfected law the public have not sustained the loss of one dollar. In Banking the motto should be "full security to the bill holder," and that security placed beyond the control of the banker. If it be said that such was the case with the securities of the Gramercy and Shawnee Banks, and that yet the public are swindled, we say that this occurred through dereliction of duty, amounting to *crime*, of the public officer charged with their custody, and which must be in the nature of things a rare occurrence.—And even if under a Free Bank system, so well guarded as the present, losses occur, what ought we to expect of that system when the banker has the custody of all the securities for the redemption of the notes, and is allowed to issue paper money upon articles of value in small bulk, *ad libitum*.

We insist, from the known fallibility of human nature, that ultimate disruption is inherent in every such organization, and a plundered people is the necessary consequence. It has been well said that the time had gone by when banks were necessary to commerce. At best they are now but a convenience to it, and if we cannot have a system affording a perfect guaranty to the public, we, for one, say *down with all banks.*

We hope the present legislature will either give us a secure system of banks, or repeal the laws authorizing them.

Hospital for the Insane.

[From the Indiana Journal.]

We have before us the eight annual report of the Commissioners and Superintendent of the Indiana Hospital for the Insane. From it we gather that 1,030 cases have been admitted to the benefits of the Asylum since its first erection.—Five per cent. of the whole number of patients have been discharged unimproved. Fifty-five per cent, have been entirely cured, and nearly ten per cent. have partially recovered, which is not estimating the number now in the Hospital.

The appropriation last asked of the Legislature for improvements to the south wing of the Asylum building have proved inadequate by upwards of $20,000, while the appropriations for the current expenses of the Institution are full and ample.

The estimated number of Insane persons in the State including those in the Hospital, is 1,200.

Some interesting remarks on the intermarriage of relatives, as a cause of insanity, are found in the report.

The report recommends several improvements about the hospital, and asks for an appropriation with which to purchase a library.

An appropriation of $68,000 is asked for as a support for 245 patients for two years after the first of April next.

It is proposed to extend the north wing of the Asylum, a part to be occupied in 1856 and a part in 1858. For the two years 80,000 is asked for in extending the building.

The amount asked for the support of the patients and for liquidating the debts of the institution for two years, is $91,271 34.

The number of insane seeking homes in the hospital is larger than its present dimensions will accomodate.

During the year ending October 31, 1856, there were admitted into the hospital 186 patients. In the same period 17 died, 6 were improved, 109 discharged as recovered. The number under treatment during the year was 366.

In 1080 cases of insanity that have been treated the probable causes are stated in a table.

We extract:

Unknown	108
Physical diseases	90
Religious excitement and anxieties	86
Constitutional	57
Puerperal	67
Disappointment in love	37
Domestic bereavments	70
Epilepsy	40
Spiritual Rappings	35
Intemperate drinking	80
Fatigue and anxiety	23
Masturbation	28
Excessive use of tobacco	23
Intense application	25
Loss of sleep and exposure	21
Domestic dissensions	29
Ill-treatment from relatives	18
Abuse from drunken husbands	19
Followed fever	24
Suppression of the menses	20
Loss of property	19
Cessation of menses	15
Jealousy	14
Disappointed ambition	11
Mania a potu	6
Seductions	6
Defective education and dissipation	9
Dyspepsia	7
Spinal irritation	8
Injury to the head	13
Pulmonary disease	7
Fright	10
Excessive lactation	4
Excessive use of quinine	4
Husbands in California	3
False accusations	8
Financial difficulties	13
Coup de soleil	4
Paralysis	2
Want of occupation	3
Knownothingism	5
Nostolgia	1
Violent temper	6
Mexican war excitement	2
Millerism	2
Sterility	3
Erysipelas	3
Emigration and disappointment	3
Nephritis	3
Excessive venery	2
Mesmerism	2
Accidental homicide	1
Surgical operation	2
Opposition in marriage	3
Reading vile Books	2
Confinement in jail	1
Use of opium	1
Use of Thomsonian medicines	1
Political excitement	2
Hereditary (for the year 1856)	17
Legal difficulty	1
Total	1080

From the table of occupations of the different patients we find 308 farmers, 46 laborers, 20 carpenters, 7 clerks, 13 shoemakers, 10 physicians, 2 clergymen, 2 printers and 1 editor. The remainder are divided between the different trades and professions.

The occupation of women that have been received in the eight years of the existence of the institution, are:

House work	461
School girls	28
Tailoresses	13
Teachers	14
Mantua-makers	5
Milliners	5
No occupation	10
Paper makes	1
Total	537

The civil conditions of the patients are divided thus. Narried, 577; single 414; Widowers, 25; widows, 47; divorced 7. Total, 1,080.

Pulmonary consumption has been a greater cause of mortality among the patients during the past year than any other disease

Out of the 1080 patients that have been admitted to the hospital, 93 were under 20 years of age; and 6 over 70 years. The ages most productive of insanity appear to be between 25 and 30, and the next most productive period between 20 and 25 years.

We copy the table of nativities to show the heterogeneous elements in our population.

State of Indiana	294
State of Ohio	155
State of Kentucky	294
State of Virginia	78
State of Pennsylvania	84
State of North Carolina	54
State of New York	54
State of South Carolina	10
State of Maryland	12
State of Tennessee	12
State of Vermont	7
State of Massachusetts	7
State of New Jersey	10
State of Conneticut	4
State of Georgia	5
State of Michigan	1
State of Louisiana	1
State of New Hampshire	4
State of Illinois	1
State of Maine	3
State of Missisippi	1
State of Missouri	2
State of Delaware	3
District of Columbia	1
Germany	63
Ireland	43
England	10
Scotland	12
Switzerland	3
Prussia	2
Russia	1
Canada	3
Belgium	1
Wales	2
France	1
Sweden	1
Holland	1
Total	1080

The professions of religion among the patients range as follows:

Methodist	227
Presbyterian	77
Baptist	90
Campbellite	69
Quakers	46
Catholic	69
Lutheran	27
Episcopalian	15
Reformer	11
United Brethren	18
Universalist	7
New Light	3
Atheists	6
Covenanters	1
Mormons	2
Seceders	2
German Reformed	3
New Jerusalem	1
Mennonite	2
African Methodists	1
Dunkers	1
Making no profession or not ascertained	401
Omish (?)	1
Total	1080

The report, generally, is interesting, aside from defects in composition, gramatical blunders and orthographical errors. Every document of this kind should take a wide range in exploration of the field which properly belongs to its sphere. Every question that affects the sanitary condition, mental and physical, of the human race, comes properly before the officers of insane hospitals for discussion and elucidation

Abstract of the Auditor's Report.

[From the Indiana Journal.]

The report of the State Auditor embraces the receipts and expenditures of the year, for the various matters controlled or under the sanction of the State.—It is, therefore, the most important one of the many annual reports laid before the people, and on that account, we abstract from it the receipts and expenditures of the principal matters.

RECEIPTS.

Receipts from the revenue of 1855	$544,673 29
Receipts on account of delinquent taxes	66,993 21
Total	$611,426 51
Receipts from swamp lands	74,660 89
" " University Fund	10,572 47
Receipts on account of Township Libraries	90,262 90
Receipts on account of State debt Sinking Fund	53,560 97
Receipts on account of Com. School Fund	387,371 14
Receipts on account of Wabash and Erie Canal	236,692 25

EXPENDITURES.

Ordinary expenditures—the principal of these are:

Supreme and Circuit Judges	$18,983 87
Executive Officers	5,150 75
Public Printing	12,729 91
State House	1,418 66
Governor's House	784 42
State Library	947 94
State Prison	6 512 84
Prosecuting Attorneys	3,777 68
Other Ependitures	
Swamp Lands	117,318 62
Blind Asylum	25,463 39
Insane Hospital	42,240 04
Deaf and Dumb Asylum	31,345 28
University Fund	9,217 66
Township Library Fund	91,494 61
Interest on Public Debt	323,915 27
Common Schools	333,777 34
For the new State Prison	47,344 19
Wabash and Erie Canal Expenses	200,524 87

These receipts and expenditures show the leading objects for which they are made.

The State has no interest in the Wabash and Erie Canal, but requires reports from it. It will be seen that the net interest to the bondholders is but little over $38,000, and show a great diminution, to be attributed to the competition of railroads, which take from the State during the winter months so great a portion of the product of the State.

The swamp lands are no charges on the Treasury proper, the expenditures being made from the proceeds of their own sales. The heavy expenditures are on account of payment of interest on the public debt, the common schools and township libraries and Benevolent Institutions.

To provide for the gradual extinction of the debt, the State Debt Sinking Fund has been created, and the amount annually received is about fifty-three thousand dollars an amount that will not extinguish the debt before the expiration of one hundred years. The Auditor in a communication to the General Assembly a few days since, estimates that a mill tax would liquidate it in about ten years. We presume that the more speedy payment of it will be referred to the people.

For the expenditures on account of school purposes, the indications are that the people regard them as repaid by the increased school facilities, and the free tuition placed in the reach of every neighborhood. For the Benevolent Institutions, the necessary funds will be cheerfully voted by the people, asking only that comfort, not luxury of more show, shall govern the expenditure made by them.

The Hog Cholera or Plague.

[From the Indiana Journal.]

The National Agricultural Society, at its recent meeting in Washington City, has offered a premium to induce investigation into the nature and remedies for this devastating disease, now rapidly diminishing the number of hogs in this and other States.

We are not informed of its precise history, but believe that it made its appearance near Aurora, in this State, in June last. It was supposed to have been produced by feeding slops at distilleries, but subsequent experience and investigation showed that slops were a better food than dry corn. The disease is highly infectious, and like human cholera, appears to be atmospheric. Its symptons are various, acting, sometimes, and most generally, as cholera, at others, as inflammatory, effecting the lungs or stomach, or intestines, or all of these, and then, again, the secretions, producing outward swelling and inflammation of the skin, resulting in the formation of sores, and hence, the name of plague.

We have recently conversed with farmers from Jennings and Marion counties, and find that the symptous of this disease in these counties are, mostly the following:

Hogs, both young and old, eat well, apparently in usual excellent health, and after eating go to the water, drink about as much as usual, but immediately after drinking strike their teeth together, then make efforts to vomit, then jump up, lifting all their feet from the ground, or forwards as a rabbit, accompanied by efforts to vomit. Immediately loose discharges of a thin and highly yellow color takes place, and sometimes in a few minutes, the animal falls down and dies. At other times the first symptom is seen in the hog standing still, with its ears down, and nose resting on the ground, followed by efforts to vomit, and the symptons just noticed.

The inner or mucous coat of the stomach is generally found much diseased, and destroyed by high inflammation.—The probability is that the whole intestinal canal is affected in the same manner, and the secretory system violently diseased. We learn that some in this city have been made sick, by eating pork, supposed to have been laboring under the disease when slaughtered. The cold weather does not seem to check the disease.

A writer from Aurora, in the Cincinnati Gazette, estimates that upwards of 60,000 hogs have been destroyed by it within a circuit of one hundred miles of that city. Such a fatal disease, especially when hogs are so very scarce, may well demand the efforts of the National Agricultural Society, and all other agricultural associations, to have its true character, and efficient remedies ascertained.

A miller on Friday informed us that he had fed sulphur, which seemed to have checked the disease, after losing many fatted, and other valuable hogs. From other places we see that this preventative has been efficient, and we therefore commend its use to our farmers.

Some write for fame, some write for rage;
We write two lines to fill this page!