

FOUR SCORE YEARS.

THE AGE ACHIEVED BY "THE POET OF FREEDOM."

John Greenleaf Whittier and His Eightieth Birthday—A Singer Whose Melody Was Always on the Side of Human Progress—His Life at "Oak Knoll."

All the world of letters and the lovers of liberty join in congratulations to John Greenleaf Whittier, who reached his 80th birthday on Saturday, Dec. 17, 1887. For many years the aged poet's birthday has been an anniversary in many American schools, a day given up to musical and literary exercises, especially selections from and comments on his writings.



JOHN G. WHITTIER.

Whittier was born Dec. 17, 1807, in Haverhill, Mass. His family has been Quaker almost ever since that society was founded, and he still adheres to the faith and is called the "Quaker Poet."

When the war began in 1861 Clement C. Clay withdrew from the United States senate, and accompanied by his wife, returned to their home in the south. They were active in the affairs of the southern Confederacy, and were intimately identified with the leaders in the "lost cause."

Mrs. Clay's story of her experience during the war sounds like a tale of old Northern soldiers lived for three years in her beautiful country home in Alabama. When they left they sacked the premises, tore the wires out of her piano, smashed silverware and broke a brace that had been collected in all parts of the world and tore the house down.

On the 19th of May, 1867, occurred the noted Marais de Cygnes massacres of "Free States Men" in Kansas, which gave occasion to Whittier's touching wall, beginning: A bluish as of roses where roses never grew.

struggle. After that his mind seemed to react to the old enthusiasm for nature's beauties, and for the next ten years his most elaborate poems appeared, such as "Snow Bound," "Tent on the Beach," "Among the Hills," "Ballads of New England," and many others.

Incidents in the Life of a Famous Woman Brought to Light by Her Marriage. The marriage a few days ago of Mrs. Clement C. Clay, of Alabama, to Hon. David Clanton, recalls to mind many interesting incidents of the life of one of the most remarkable women the south has ever produced, celebrated both in Europe and America as a most brilliant queen of society of the "old regime."

Mrs. Clay was a reigning belle of Washington before the war, the wife of the most noted man Alabama ever sent to the senate. She was brilliantly educated, a woman of remarkable natural attainments, very beautiful and much traveled. It is during the administration of President Buchanan the acknowledged leader of Washington society and the most courted woman in America.

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Mrs. Clay is the most brilliant conversationalist, and by all odds one of the most remarkable women of the times. She is upward of 60 years of age, and yet she is as spry and gay socially as a belle of 16. She is an apt story teller, writes a beautiful letter and enjoys life and its pleasures as much as any one.

Mr. Read's beautiful pen picture is a true one. Mrs. Clay's story of her experience during the war sounds like a tale of old Northern soldiers lived for three years in her beautiful country home in Alabama.

Physique of Workmen. From an examination of 100,000 persons, Professor Erismann, of St. Petersburg, finds that those engaged in textile manufactures, especially spinners, are inferior to other workmen in stature, chest measurement, bodily weight and muscular strength.—Arkansas Traveler.

A FIELD BATTERY.

ONE OF WAR'S MOST AWE INSPIRING SPECTACLES.

Light Artillery in Action—A Crisis in Battle—A Terrible Boom! Boom! of Cannon—Charge of the Enemy—Horror of War.

A battery is needed here at this particular point. The enemy sees the opportunity and throws a dense mass of men against it. The crisis is approaching. An aide gallops off to give the order to the nearest artillery. It is over there on the adjacent knoll. The aide has reached it; he points with his hand where it is needed. Before he can turn his horse around, guns and horses were all moving.

See! The captain gives a sign. What a change! As if instantly turned to marble every horse and carriage stops dead short. Then for five seconds wait inextinguishable confusion! Horses, men, guns and caissons together in a horrible jumble—then all is clear again.

See! The captain gives a sign. What a change! As if instantly turned to marble every horse and carriage stops dead short. Then for five seconds wait inextinguishable confusion! Horses, men, guns and caissons together in a horrible jumble—then all is clear again. There back in the hollow, sheltered are the caissons—a little below the hill stands the line of limbers, and here on the crest are the guns. What a metamorphosis! The staidlike cannoneers are now full of life and excitement! Now a cloud of white smoke and red flame suddenly shoots out of the black muzzles, a terrible boom rings out, then another and another.

What is that? Thank God! The joyful yell in your rear is from a re-encounter arrived just in time. The enemy sees it, he gives way, there goes a volley after volley into him, rush after him; do not leave any one alive. The guns are safe, but what a scene! There are piles of dead and wounded together. Pools of blood on the ground, and everything marked with blood. Flies are already settling on the dead. What terrible groans and moans, and prayers for water. Broken muskets, torn clothes revealing white skin stained with red blood, canteens, haversacks, guidons, cooking tins, canister cartridges, broken wheels, dead horses and men, all together.

Look at that mass! Horses with entrails scattered about; human legs and arms without bodies; bodies with jagged splinters and bones protruding through the flesh. That man's face is already swollen and this one's is turned black. Oh! the despair, the hatred or courage depicted on their countenances! And the strange positions they take—eyes protruding from sockets and tongues from mouths. Oh! it is terrible. One can but shudder and sicken, turn faint and giddy.

Are Stones Alive? We generally think of minerals as dead lumps of inactive matter. But they may be said to be alive, creatures of vital pulsations, and separated into individuals as distinct as the pines in a forest or the tigers in the jungle. The dispositions of crystals are as diverse as those of animals. They throbb with unseen currents of energy. They grow in size as long as they have opportunity. They can be killed, too, though not as easily as an oak or a dog. A strong electric shock discharged through a crystal will decompose it very rapidly if it is of soft structure, causing the particles to gradually disintegrate in the reverse order from its growth, until the poor thing lies in dead, shapeless ruin.

The President's Wife. A lady who has recently seen Mrs. Cleveland says: "Mrs. Cleveland is looking handsomer than ever. She seems to have grown stronger, physically, all the time, and her arms look as if their muscles were most admirably developed, though so well covered with flesh as to preserve perfect symmetry, and they look very white, too, even when seen in contrast with a white woolen dress, so often trying to flesh tints. She is full of pleasant chat, and her familiarity with current literature amazes all who know how many other demands she has on her time."—New York World.

A GREENBACK DOLLAR.

THE STORY OF ITS BIRTH IN THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

The Various Stages Through Which it Passes in the Bureau of Engraving and Printing—Checks Against Fraud—Care of the Plates.

"I will take you first," said the guide, "to the engraving division, for that is the foundation and the starting point of all the work that is performed in this building."

The engraving division is a large room on the main floor in the northwest part of the building. Along the south part of the room runs a railing, and back of this are doors opening into the vaults in which are stored all the dies, rolls, plates, bed pieces and other material used in the manufacture of the plates from which the notes and bonds are printed.

REPRODUCTION OF PLATES. "Take a dollar bill," he said, "and I will explain to you what I mean. You see in the left hand corner there is a portrait of Martha Washington. Now, that work is given to a portrait engraver. He takes first a piece of steel and engraves the picture upon that. Each line is gradually cut up and deepened by the engraver until the perfect picture is formed.

What It Means. To the man or woman who has never been ill, the word "health" is meaningless. But to the one who has suffered and despaired, health appears as a priceless boon. To the thousands of unfortunate women who are suffering from some of the many forms of weakness or irregularities peculiar to their sex, Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription holds forth the promise of a speedy restoration of this "priceless boon."

From the engraving division the guide went to the press room, which is in the top of the building. Here work 400 or over, men and women, all busily engaged. Women were wetting paper and laying it on the presses, which were quickly turned by skillful printers, and as soon as the impression was made the plate was taken, placed upon a gas stove, inked, wiped, polished and replaced upon the press to receive another sheet of paper and to make another impression.

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