

Daily Eagle

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Wichita & Colorado. Depart - Mt. Hope Accommodation... Arrive - Mt. Hope Accommodation...

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St. Louis & San Francisco. Depart - Going West, Passenger... Arrive - Going West, Passenger...

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THE ROUSTABOUTS' FAREWELL. Quaint Snatches of Song from Cotton-Boat and Levee.

The last bale of cotton having been rolled on board with many a "heave ho!" from the derrick crew, the happiest hour in the immanent, "devil-may-care" existence of the Mississippi River roustabout is at hand.

"Farewell, brothers, if you're gwine fo' to go, We'll weep fo' to see you face once mo'," walls out a dusky maiden on the shore, and

"On do lebec by de river side," roll the united voices. "I've lef my gal in New Orleans, Fo' she is young, jes' in ha' teens," and

"On do lebec by de river side," swells the refrain. "Ducks plays cyards an' chickens, drinks wine, An' de monkey grow on de grape vine. Co'n stah puddling and tapoca pie, Oh! de gray cat pick out de brack cat's eye!"

Jes' read it froo; you'll fin' it true, Fo' dat's what de Good Book say."

Another Biblical expounder is quick at hand to continue the song: "Dah wah a man, he came wah Lot; Dat's jis' what de Good Book say. An' he hab a wife an' daughters got, Dat's jis' what de Good Book say. He wife she balk an' make a halt, An' de Lord he turn him into salt; Oh! dat's what de Good Book say!"

But the swaying, time-beating crowd on shore is now fast receding from view, and the boat's many-voiced crew unites with heart-stirring earnestness in

"I so gwine foom de cotton fields, I so gwine foom de cane, I so gwine foom de oil log hut dat stan's down in de lane; De boat am in de river, dat am come to take me off, An' I so gwine o' fine de ex-o-dus an' strike out fo' de No!"

And afar over the moon-lit waters faint notes of weird melodies came floating like a distant echo of this pathetic strain.

Forgetful To Entertain Strangers. A Christian gentleman wishing to hear a certain clergyman (now departed, full of faith, full of good words, full of years, and of honors), went into the gable of his church, where were many vacant pews.

He took one of them, but had hardly sat down when his eyes were greeted with the placard: "Strangers are requested not to take this slip."

In the same house an elderly woman walked nearly the length of the aisle—there were plenty of vacant sittings—turned, and was walking back, no one offering her a seat.

The clergyman left his pulpit, came down, gave her his arm, and led her to a slip. How many like things and of like import might be mentioned. But the more readily mentioned, as that house is now free—(Christ in the sun).

THE FUNERAL. I was walking in Savannah, past a church decayed and dim, When there slowly through the window came a plaintive funeral hymn; And a sympathy awakened, and a wonder quickly grown, Till I found myself environed in a little negro pew.

Out at front a colored couple sat in sorrow, nearly wild; On the altar was a coffin, in the coffin was a child. I could picture him when living—curly hair, protruding lip— And had seen perhaps a thousand in my hurried southern trip.

But no baby ever rested in the soothing arms of death That had fanned more flames of sorrow with his little fluttering breath; And no funeral ever glistened with more sympathy profound Than was in the chain of tear drops that encircled those mourners round.

Rose a sad old colored preacher at the little wooden desk— With a manner grandly awkward, with a countenance grotesque; With simplicity and shrewdness on his Ethiopian face; With the ignorance and wisdom of a crushed, undying race.

And he said: "Now don't we weepin' for dis pretty bit of clay— For de little boy who lived here, he done gone an' run away! He was doin' very finely, an' he 'preciate your love;" But his sure 'nuff Father want him in de large house up above.

"Now He didn't give you dat baby, by a hundred thousan' mile! He just think you need some sunshine, an' He lend it for a while! An' He lef you keep an' love it till your heart is was bigger growin'; An' dese silver tears, you're sheddin's jes' de interest on de loan.

"Here yer oder pretty chilren!—don't be makin' it appear Dat your love got sort o' 'nopolized by dis little fellow here; Don't pile up too much your sorrow on dis little mortal as he lies, So's to kind o' set 'em wonderin' if dey're no account demselves!"

"Just you think, you poor dear moun'-ahs, creop'n' long o' sorrow's way, What a blessed little picnic dis yere baby's got to-day! Your good faders and good moders crowd de little fellow round In de angelic garden of de Big Plantation Ground.

"An' dey ask him: 'Was your feet sore?' an' take off his little shoes, An' dey wash him, an' dey kiss him, an' dey say: 'Now what's de news?' An' de Lawd done out his tongue loose; den de little fellow say: 'All out folks down in de valley tries to keep de hebbenny way.'"

"An' his eyes dey brightly sparkle at de pretty things he view; Den a tear come, and he whisper: 'But I want my paryents, too!' But de Angel Chief Musician teach dat boy a little song; Says: 'If only dey be faithful dey will soon be comin' long.'"

"An' he'll get an education dat will probably be worth Seberal times as much as any you could buy for him on earth; He'll be in de Lawd's big school house, without no contempt or fear; While dey are to end to de land tinge mig' a have happened to him here.

"So, my poor, dejected mo' nabs, let your hearts wid Jesus rest, An' don't go to criticisin' dat ar One w'at knows de bet! He have sent us many comforts—He have right to take away— To de Lawd e praise an' glory now and ever. Let us pray. —[Will Carleton in Harper's Weekly.

It Would Keep the Court Busy. A comical case was recently brought before the Protate Court in this district. A petition was referred to the court to put a woman under a conservator, on the ground that she proposed marrying a worthless fellow, who was in pursuit of a little money she had saved. It does not appear that she was of unsound mind except in this particular direction.

Unluckily the suit was withdrawn, and we shall never know whether a court of probate can be put to any such useful purpose as the petitioners claimed. If it is to place every one under a conservator who designs marrying foolishly it will certainly be a very busy tribunal.—[Litchfield (Conn.) Enquirer.

The Gift of Great Utterance. Some years ago there lived in Greene county a much esteemed citizen, who, if he were living to-day, would have no use for a telephone. Without any apparent effort he could make himself distinctly heard a distance of five miles. It was a common thing for neighbors living two or three miles to hear the orders to his hands in the morning. His whispers were heard further than loud speaking of ordinary men.—[Greensborough (Ga.) Herald.



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