Port Tobacco Times

AND CHARLES COUNTY ADVERTISER.

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Original Poetry.

For the Port Tobacco Times.

Twilight Musings.

How dear to me the hour,
When evening shadows creep
O'er every home and bower,
And all is hushed in sleep.

How sweet to me when gazing
Back in the distant west,
To see the sun receding
Fast in his home of rest.

Oh, how does thought awaken
Thus at the close of day!
When all things, else forsaken,
Yield to its magic sway.

With what a tender sadness
We call back days of yore;
Past days of joy and gladness—
Days that we'll see no more.

The happy hours of childhood,
Their fragrance lingers yet,
Sweet wand'rings in the wildwood,
Ah! how can I forget.

The days of gloom and sorrow
Still in my mem'ry dwell;
And then the brighter morrow
My mind doth cherish well.

Thus, when the dews are falling
And shadows gath'ring fast,
Fond mem'ry I'm recalling,
Sad mem'ries of the past.

PAUL.

Charles County, Jan 16th, 1862.

Selected Miscellany.

Singularities of Different Nations in their Repasts.

The following observations are chiefly collected from a very curious book, entitled, *L' Esprit des Usages et des Costumes.*

The Maldivian islanders eat alone. They retire into the most secret parts of their houses, and they draw down the cloths that serve as blinds to their windows, that they may eat unobserved. This custom probably arises (remarks the philosophic author) from the savage, in the early periods of society, concealing himself to eat; he fears that another, with as sharp an appetite, but more strong than himself, should come and ravish his meal from him. Besides, the ideas of witchcraft are widely spread among barbarians; and they are not a little fearful that some incantation may be thrown amongst their victuals.

In noticing the solitary meal of the Maldivian islander, another reason may be alledged for this misanthropical repast. They never will eat with any one who is inferior to them in birth, in riches, or dignity; and, as it is a difficult matter to settle this equality, they are condemned to lead an unsociable life.

On the contrary, the islanders of the Phillipines are remarkably sociable. Whenever one of them finds himself without a companion to partake of his meal, he runs till he meets with one; and we are assured, that however keen his appetite may be, he ventures not to satisfy it without a guest.

The tables of the rich Chinese shine with a beautiful varnish, and are covered with silk carpets, very elegantly worked. They do not make use of plates, knives, or forks; every guest has two little ivory or ebony sticks, which he handles very adroitly.

The Otaheiteans, who are lovers of society, and very gentle in their manners, feed separate from each other. At the hour of repast, the members of each family divide; two brothers, two sisters, and even husband and wife, have each their respective basket. They place themselves at the distance of two or three yards from each other, they turn their backs, and take their meal in profound silence.

The custom of drinking at different hours from those assigned for eating, is to be met with amongst many savage nations. It was originally begun from necessity, and soon became a habit. "A people transplanted," observes our ingenious philosopher, "preserve in another climate modes of living which relate to those whence they originally came. It is thus the Indians of Brazil scrupulously abstain from eating when they drink, and from drinking when they eat."

When neither decency nor politeness are known, the man who invites his friends to repast is greatly embarrassed to testify his esteem for his guests, and to present them with some amusement; for the savage guest imposes on him this obligation. Amongst the greater part of the American Indians the host is continually on the watch to solicit them to eat; but touches nothing himself. In New France, he wearies himself with singing, to divert the company while they eat.

When civilization advances, we wish to show our confidence to our friends, we treat them as relations; and it is said that, in China, the master of the house, to give a mark of his politeness, absents himself while his guests regale themselves at his table in undisturbed revelry.

The demonstrations of friendship, in a rude state, have a savage and gross character, which it is not a little curious to observe. The Tartars pull a man by the ear to press him to drink; and they continue tormenting him till he opens his mouth; and then clap their hands and dance before him.

No customs seem more ridiculous than those practised by a Kamtschadale, when he wishes to made another his friend. He first invites him to eat. The host and his guest strip themselves in a cabin, which is heated to an uncommon degree. While the guest devours the food with which they serve him, the other continually stirs the fire.—The stranger must bear the excess of the heat as well as of the repast. He vomits ten times before he will yield; but, at length, obliged to acknowledge himself overcome, he begins to compound matters. He purchases a moment's respite by a present of clothes or dogs; for his host threatens to heat the cabin and to oblige him to eat till he dies, The stranger has the right of retaliation allowed to him: he treats in the same manner, and exacts the same presents.

Should his host not accept the invitation of his guest, whom he has so handsomely regaled, he would come and inhabit his cabin till he had obtained from him the presents he had in so singular a manner given to him.

For this extravagant custom a curious reason has been alledged. It is meant to put the person to a trial whose friendship is sought. The Kamtschatdale, who is at the expense of the fires and repast, is desirous to know whether the stranger has the strength to support pain with him, and if he is generous enough to share with him some part of his property. While the guest is employed on his meal, he continues heating the cabin to an insupportable degree; and, for a last proof of the stranger's constancy and attachment, he exacts more clothes and more dogs. The host passes through the same ceremonies in the cabin of the stranger; and he shows in his turn, with what degree of fortitude he can defend his friend. It is thus the most singular customs would appear simple if it were possible for the philosopher to contemplate them on the spot.

As a distinguishing mark of their esteem, the negroes of Ardra drink out of one cup at the same time. The king of Loango eats in one house, and drinks in another. A Kamtschatdale kneels before his guest; he cuts an enormous slice from a sea calf; he crams it entire into the mouth of his friend, furiously crying out—"*Tana!*—There!"—and cutting away what hangs about his lips, snatches and swallows it with avidity.

A barbarous magnificence attended the feast of the ancient monarchs of France.—We are informed that, after their coronation or consecration, when they sat at table, the nobility served them on horseback.

RICH WITHOUT MONEY.—Many a man is rich without money. Thousands of men with nothing in the pocket and thousands without even a pocket are rich. A man born with a good sound constitution, a good stomach, a good heart and good limbs, and a pretty good head piece, is rich. Good bones are better than gold, tough muscles, than silver, and nerves that flash fire and carry energy to every function, are better than houses and land.

It is better than a landed estate to have the right kind of father and mother. Good breeds exist among men as really as they do among herd and horses. Education may do much to check evil tendencies, or to develop good ones; but it is a great thing to inherit the right proportion of faculties to start with.

That man is rich who has a good disposition—who is naturally kind, patient, cheerful, hopeful, and who has a flavor of wit and fun in his composition. The hardest thing to get along with in this life is a man's own self. A cross, selfish fellow, desponding and complaining fellow—a timid care-burdened man—these have all been deformed on the inside. Their feet may not limp, but their thoughts do.

FACTS IN BRIEF.—Out of every thousand men, twenty of them die annually.

The number of inhabitants of a city or county is renewed every thirty years.

The number of old men who die in cold weather as to the number of those who die in warm, is seven to four.

The proportion between deaths of women and those of men is one hundred to one hundred and eight.

One-half of those who are born die before they attain the age of seven.

Among 1,325 who die, it appears by the registers that there is only one person of 100 years of age.

More old men are found in elevated situations than in valleys and plains.

☞ A practical farmer, whose livelihood depends on his calling, should make it the pinacle of worldly ambition to excel in it. If he neglects his farm for almost everything else, he is generally a miser both in interest and credit. Solomon, the wisest observer of men, tell us of his disgust at the sight of a slovenly farmer: "I went by the field of the slothful—and lo, it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles covered the face thereof, and the stone wall was broken down."

☞ Women should set good examples, for the men are always following after them.

☞ Man and wife, like verb and nominative, should always agree.

Agricultural.

From the Rural Register.

FARM WORK FOR FEBRUARY.

Although it is very rarely the case in this latitude that field operations can be carried on to any extent during the month of February, except as occasionally happens during the two weeks of open weather that sometimes enables the ploughs to be actively employed in light open soils, it is nevertheless a season of active preparation for spring work. All that can possibly be done in this way to expedite matters should certainly be accomplished without loss of time. Every good farmer well knows the advantage of having nothing but straight forward work to do when the spring fairly opens, and the ground is in good condition for ploughing. To stop at such a time to repair defective implements is to leave the teams idle when they should be steadily engaged, and if bad weather should subsequently intervene, may cause delays in getting the seed into the ground, for which no amount of extra exertion afterwards can compensate. In the barn yard, during the month of February, there is, moreover, much to do. The compost heaps which are to fertilize the soil for future crops, should now claim especial attention,—manure is to be hauled out—the cattle, during this and the succeeding month will require special care. An abundance of firewood ready prepared for the use of the household should be provided, so that none of the hands shall be taken off when their services are imperatively required in the field. In brief, the true secrect of successful husbandry, in addition to thorough tillage and liberal manuring, is to catch the proper season for the work to be performed and to be prepared to take advantage of it the moment it arrives. Of the work which properly should be done in this month, we now proceed to speak.

MANURE.

Every species of vegetable fibre, all sorts of animal matter, the suds, dishwater, pot liquor, ashes, offal, &c., of the homestead—all these materials when composted with the contents of the barn yard, constitute a fertilizer adapted to any soil, because containing all the elements that enter into and promote the vigorous growth of plants. In collecting and saving what may be termed "domestic manures," the contradistinction to "commercial fertilizers"—the Guanos, Phosphates, &c.—American farmers and planters have usually exhibited great negligence. What they do in this respect is with some few exceptions, done carelessly and slovenly. The liquid contents of the barn yard are but too often suffered to run to waste. The manure itself is exposed to constant deterioration from the action of the weather, and it is but too frequently left in heaps to ferment and to throw off its volatile elements, until finally it becomes fire-fanged and comparatively worthless. Now, by a judicious system of composting and by a careful regulation of the process of fermentation, checking it in due season by turning over the heap and mixing it afresh, and especially by protecting it from the influences of the weather and by preventing the liquid manure from passing off, all the constituents that are most useful in the production of grass and grain, may be saved; and as a lesser quantity of manure rich in ammonia and the phosphates is required to keep up the fertility of the soil than is demanded when the best properties of the manure have been leached out by rains and melting snows and by exposure to the weather, the economy of securing it in a proper manner is self-evident.

SOWING CLOVER SEED.

If the weather should happen to be favorable, clover-seed may be sown on wheat fields during this month. Many experienced farmers regard it as a good plan to sow the seed on the snow and permit it to sink gradually into the soil as the snow melts. Should there be no such favorable opportunity the seeding should be deferred until after the frost is entirely out of the ground, and the soil is left light and comparatively dry and mellow. Then bush or harrow it in and follow with a roller. A light harrowing is generally preferred, but in such cases a subsequent rolling is absolutely necessary. Where a roller is not to be had in time for immediate use, bushing the seed in is most advisable.

WINTER PLOUGHING.

The ploughing of stiff clays may be done at any time during this month, provided the ground be sufficiently open and is not too wet.

TOBACCO BEDS.

Let these be prepared in the best manner for the reception of the seed. The earlier the beds are made and the seed sown, the weather permitting, the better the opportunity will be for renewing the beds in case the stand of plants should fail, as it sometimes happens to do.

OUT-BUILDINGS.

Repair such of these as need it forthwith and improve their appearance by a good coat of white or colored wash. Neutral tints are always to be preferred in coloring outbuildings, which should never be made so prominent in color as the dwelling house.

FENCING STUFF.

See that sufficient fencing stuff be gotten out of the woods and prepared for use before the time for spring operations presses too heavily to admit of such work being done without delaying other labors which are still more important.

ORCHARDS.

Fruit trees for new orchards may be set out during this and the succeeding month. Choose none but the very best fruit, and prefer trees that are of two years growth from the bud, to older ones.

OAT LAND.

Have the land which is intended to be seeded diwn in oats, ploughed as early as the weather will permit.

STORE HOGS.

Feed these regularly three times a day, furnishing them at each meal with sufficient food to keep them in a good healthy condition, but not enough to fatten them. Keep a supply of charcoal, rotten wood, and ashes in their pens as aids to digestion. Let their sleeping apartments be kept warm with dry straw or leaves, and the feeding pen well filled with all kind of rough, fibrous matter, to work up into manure, changing the materials frequently.

MILCH COWS.

Milch cows require special attention during the succeeding month. Begin now to double the supply of roots, cut fine if they are to be had, and vary the coarse fodder with the best quality of hay.

IN CALF COWS AND HEIFERS.

Let these be fed three times daily with good hay, and when the cows are within three weeks of calving time, improve the quality of their food by adding to the cut hay a good sprinkling of corn meal or ship stuff. Moisten the whole with water and mix well before feeding; see that the heifers are also well fed and kept in good growing condition.

SALTING STOCK.

Never omit to salt all stock twice or three times a week, and provide free access to pure water.

YELLOW BUTTER IN WINTER.—Seeing an inquiry in the *Rural* in regard to making yellow butter in the winter, I will give *our* method which experience has taught us to be the best we have tried, and at the same time very simple. Our butter cannot be distinguished from fall butter. Of couse the first requisite is that the cows have good, wholesome food, water and care. When the milk is brought in, we have ready a kettle with hot water, when we set it on, *full*. When it is nearly hot, not scalding, we pour it in with another cold one, which will make it all warm enough, then divide the milk into pans, leaving them about two-thirds full.—Our pantry, or milk-room, we keep warm enough for cream to rise all day. When we churn, scald the churn, then turn in the cream, churn ten or fifteen minutes, and the work is done. We put nothing in the cream, only treat the butter after it is done as in summer. We churn twice each week.

THE FEMALE STATE PRISONERS.

THEIR REMOVAL TO THEIR NEW PRISON QUARTERS—A DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDING, AND THE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR THE PRISONERS.

Special Correspondence of the Philadelphia Press.

Washington, Jan. 19.—On Saturday afternoon, at 5 o'clock, the female State prisoners confined in the Sixteenth street prison, a description of which I give you in a former letter, were, by order of Provost Marshal Porter, removed to the Old Capitol prison, where quarters have been provided for them. Before entering the carriage that was to convey them to their new quarters, the prisoners took an appropriate farewell of all their guards—Mrs. Greenhow saying to one of the soldiers, "Good-bye, sir; I trust that in the future you may have a nobler employment than that of guarding defenceless women." Mrs. Greenhow and Baxley then advanced to Lieutenant Sheldon, who had charge of the prison quarters and thanked him for the uniform courtesy and kindness he had shown them during their confinement; while little Rose Greenhow, who, at the request of her mother, will be imprisoned with her, threw her arms about the Lieutenant's neck and embraced him.

When Rose Greenhow entered the prison at Old Capitol Hill, she naively remarked to Lieutenant Wood, "You have got one of the hardest little rebels here that you ever saw. But," said she, "if you get along with me as well as Lieutenant Sheldon, you will have no trouble" Mrs. Greenhow then, turning to her daughter, said to her, "Rose, you must be careful what you say here." Rose, however, did not seem to think that the caution was at all necessary, and that she would fare well in her new quarters.—The prisoners are quartered on the second floor, in the northeast end of the jail. Each room is furnished with a round table, two chairs and a bed—comfortable, though not extravagant in style. The prisoners are incarcerated in separate rooms, and to Mrs. Greenhow was given the choice of her accommodations—the daughter being provided for in the same room with her mother. Each of the apartments contains a grate-fire. In fact, their accommodations are of the most comfortable character, and, although not so rich in the adornment as those of the Sixteenth street prison, still they will have no cause of complaint.

This morning when the rain was descending in torrents, and the sidewalks and streets were of the most impassable condition, we again visited the Sixteenth street jail, the late quarters of the prisoners referred to.—As we approached the prison we were again challenged by the guard, who this time was sheltering himself from the rain in the doorway of the building. We had seen faces at the windows of the upper stories when we entered here a few days before, but now they were gone. But one person, we knew, now confined in the prison, was Miss Ellie Poole, whose stay, by-the-by, at this place is of short duration, she having been released on her parole, and will leave this city tomorrow for Fortress Monroe, from which point she will proceed South. The form of the lieutenant, however, soon appeared at the window, and for the second time we entered the room. The picture of Gertrude Greenhow, the deceased daughter of Mrs. Greenhow, first attracted our attention.—There was the same smile there—the same strange fancy of the eye of which we have written before—so young and yet so fair—and for the moment we were entranced. Turning for the moment, and the beautiful portrait of Mrs. Moors, and the fine noble picture of her husband, a son-in-law of Mrs. Greenhow, now in our army, diverted our sight; then the Lieutenant welcomed us, and we took a seat with him before a bright fire glowing on the hearth.

Now that the prisoners had departed, we were invited up into the rooms formerly occupied by them. The room in which Mrs. Greenhow was lately incarcerated is situated in the second-story back room. The same apartment was formerly occupied, at intervals, by the Phillips family—Mrs. Phillips, her daughter Lena and Fannie, Miss Levy, Mrs. Baxter, Mrs. Lowe, Mrs. H. Posey and her daughters. Mrs. Baxter was confined in the third-story front room. Besides this, Mrs. Greenhow was allowed the use of the library, the property of her husband, who was a lawyer. The library is chiefly stored with law books, interspersed with books in the French and Spanish languages. Most of the time of Mrs. G. was spent in this room, which was neatly furnished, and containing, besides, a sewing machine, upon which the lady named did a great amount of sewing during her confinement.

After night set in, she employed her time in reading as well as writing, and many of the fugitive verses written by her are still preserved. She frequently remained in this room until midnight, before retiring to her apartment for the night. On the desk of the sewing machine, this morning, we found standing two bottles of fluid, which were frequently used by her in her correspondence to her friends outside of the prison, so as to disguise it to the eyes of the guard The plan pursued was to interline her letters by one of the fluids, which, on the application of a second, only known to those who were in the secret, was rendered perfectly intelligible. Thus it was that contraband information could be conveyed by her to those who aided and abetted her in her treason.

The walls of the room of Mrs. Baxter, the panels of the door, and the walls of the entry adjoining her apartment, are covered with scribbling in lead pencil, of quite a medley nature, prose as well as poetry—some of them quoted from other authors, and a number of them original. The most of these writings are parodies on our national songs, while not a few of them are flings against the officers of the Government. One of them, written on the entry wall, to the left of the doorway, reads thus:

"I had a vision last night. Methought I saw Abe Lincoln, William H. Seward, Simon Cameron, Andrew Porter, and others, praying to Almighty God, as Dives had done, for the mercy they denied to harmless women. And the Almighty God answers: 'Have I not said as ye mete it unto others, so shall it be measured unto you again? Depart from my sight, ye cursed, and take up your abode in the hell prepared for Abraham Lincoln and his Government, and all who assist him in his abominable persecution.'"

Fronting the doorway on the right we read again the following inscription: "We must sustain the Constitution of the United States; we must break down Southern institutions that we may put the proceeds of all the negroes in our pockets. We must impress Southern women and children and other such like chivalrous and magnificent acts. *vide Seward.*"

These are but a specimen of the inscriptions to be read at every turn within and outside Mrs. Baxter's apartment. Hardly any portion of the room is to be discovered that does not contain some such memoranda, even to the window-sills.

On Saturday morning she sent to Lieut. Sheldon, by one of the guard, the following rhyme, jotted down upon a small piece of paper:

TO LIEUT. SHELDON.

I pray you, good Lieut. Sheldon,
Since I trouble you so very seldom,
To send me cat, or trap, or *fice*,
To catch these horrid little mice.

These troublesome little Government creatures
Have tried to mar my Southern features;
They began the war against my clothes,
And last night really bit my nose!

The fact that the rooms of these buildings have contained a few mice probably gave rise to the communication, written in a spirit of pleasantry rather than otherwise.—Other specimens of the poetry of the person named might be given, but this will suffice

We are informed by Lieut. Sheldon that of all the prisoners confined here, Mrs. Greenhow was the most lady-like in her manners and in her conversation. She is possessed of the finest education of any lady who has ever visited Washington; and although rather severe at times in her denunciations of the North, yet she has shown herself possessed of a woman's heart in her sad moments, as witness the parting from her guard on Saturday. She had a great horror of being conveyed to Fortress Monroe, as was first feared by her, and her change is the most acceptable one that she could have.

The prison will be closed to-morrow, and the building will be rented to other parties. As we have said before, Miss Poole leaves for Fortress Monroe to-morrow.

☞ The smoke of burning leather will effectually drive away rosebugs.

Sketch of General G. H. Thomas.

Acting Major General George H. Thomas is an officer of the United States Army and a native of Virginia, from which State he was appointed to the army. He is between forty and forty-five years of age. He entered West Point as a cadet in 1836, and was appointed a Second Lieutenant in the Third Artillery in July, 1840. He was brevetted a First Lieutenant for gallantry and good conduct in the war against the Florida Indians, his commission bearing date November 6, 1841. He was made a full First Lieutenant in April, 1844, and was brevetted a Captain for gallant and meritorious conduct in the several conflicts at Monterey, in Mexico, taking that rank from September 23, 1846. He was also brevetted Major for gallant and meritorious conduct in the battle of Buena Vista, which brevet was dated February 23, 1847, the rank being awarded in May, 1848. In 1850 he was appointed the instructor of artillery and cavalry at the Military Academy at West Point. In December, 1853, he was made a full Captain of artillery, and on the 12th of May, 1855, was appointed Major of the Second Cavalry. On the resignation of his senior officer at the commencement of the rebellion, General Thomas was promoted to the Lieutenant Colonelcy of his regiment, and on the 3d of May, 1861, was made a Colonel of the Second Cavalry. As Colonel he had charge of the United States regular forces under General Patterson, in the Department of the Shenandoah, and led the passage of the troops across the Potomac. He was next appointed an acting Brigadier General in the same Department, in which capacity he served under General Banks. On the 17th of August, 1861, he was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General of Volunteers, and when Kentucky and Tennessee were made into a separate department, he was ordered to report to the commander at the headquarters. He has had charge of various forces concentrating in that State, and it has been often reported that he gained both the confidence and love of those under his command. In the late brigading of the army in that Department he was appointed to the command of the Fourth Division, with his headquarters at Columbia, and from that place he has advanced upon the Rebel Zollicoffer with great success.

General Alvin Schoepf.

Brigadier General Schoepf is a foreigner by birth, but was appointed by the President a Brigadier General from the State of Maryland. It is reported of General Schoepf that when he came to this country he was a poor man as far as his pocket was concerned, but possessed a talent that was bound to make itself known in time. He at first not finding anything better to do, asked for and obtained a situation as hotel porter in one of the leading New York hotels. After a time he went to Washington, where he continued to act in a like capacity until his unvarying politeness and industry brought him under the notice of Mr. Holt, then Commissioner of Patents. Pleased with his appearance, and wishing to do good to what he considered a worthy man, Mr. Holt gave him a situation in the Patent Office. At first his position was very humble, his time being partially occupied between the duties of a messenger and a cleaner and arranger of the models, &c., until Mr. Holt tried him at more important duties, and he always found that whatever was given him to do Alvin Schoepf always did it well.

A position was then obtained for him to exercise his abilities, which were gradually becoming known to others besides himself. Mr. Holt watched him well, took great interest in his protege, and missed no opportunity for his advancement. When Commissioner Holt was transferred to the War Department he took Schoepf with him, and as a survey was needed in Virginia he was entrusted with it. This brought him under the eye of the then Commander-in-Chief, General Scott, and as his military education and acquirements became known to him the veteran General did not overlook them, but continued to employ him on important business in connection with the War Department When the troubles in the country and the recreant retirement of many of the officers of the United States army made it necessary to employ foreign officers of military talent, Alvin Schoepf was appointed a Brigadier General of volunteers, and ordered to report to the commander of the department in which the State of his benefactor was located. He has made himself known at Wild Cat, and again at Somerset.

General Zollicoffer.

Gen. Felix K. Zollicoffer, killed at the battle near Somerset, was born in Mowry county, Tenn., on May 19th, 1812. He received an academical education, served sometime in a pring office, and in 1829 became editor of a newspaper in Paris, Tenn. He was afterwards, in 1834, editor of the Columbia (Tenn.) *Observer;* 1835, State printer, and 1842, editor of the Nashville *Banner*, then the official paper of the Whig party in that State. 1843-9, he was Comptroller of the State Treasury; 1849, he was chosen to the State Senate; 1850, he built the suspension bridge at Nashville, and after another period of editorship of the Nashville *Banner* he was, in 1853, elected to Congress, where he served three terms. He was a fine debater, when roused, as his discussions with Alex. H. Stephens proved in 1854 in Congress. When the war broke out he warmly espoused the Confederate cause, and was made a General, and for some time held Cumberland Gap with a small force, was appointed Brigadier General, advanced into Kentucky, and was defeated at Camp Wild Cat.