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Original Poetry.

For the Port Tobacco Times.

TO MARY.

"And now abideth faith, hope, charity."

Sweet friend, could fervent prayers bestow
On thy fair life a crown of light,
The fairest gems should mildly glow
Within its starry circlet bright:
Celestial Faith—whose mystic ray
Dispels the clouds and storms of time—
Should glance upon thy gladsome way
The joys of Eden's happy clime.

Immortal Hope's unfading bloom
Should cheer thy heart with blissful dreams,
While transient scenes of earthly gloom
Should fade beneath its constant beams;
And Love—the sweetest of the train—
Unchang'd by envy's sullen frown,
With pleasures that can never wane
Thy dearest hopes should gently crown.

And, thus, beneath their blended rays,
Thy life should pass in pure delights—
Unceasing goodness bless thy days,
Celestial visions cheer thy nights;
E'en when the scenes of time are gone,
Its bright though fleeting dreams are o'er,
These, *these*, on seraph's pinions borne,
Should waft thee to the "Brighter Shore!"

Pomonkey, March 1, 1862. W.

Selected Miscellany.

HISTORICAL AND SCIENTIFIC FACTS ABOUT PETROLEUM, OR COAL OIL.

Petroleum is not of certain composition, but is a variable mixture of numerous liquid hydro-carbons, as benzole, naphtha, kerosolene, &c., with paraffine, napthaline and asphaltum, solid hydro-carbons. It is of a very dark green color, and in density varies from a thin fluid, lighter than water, to a thick viscous liquid, heavier than water.—The lighter qualities yield the larger proportion of burning oil.

The evidence of the most ancient occurrence of petroleum is among the ruins of Ninevah, whose existence dates back more than two thousand years before the Christian era. In the construction of this city, an asphaltic mortar was extensively employed, the asphaltum being obtained by the evaporation of petroleum.

A later mention is found in the accounts of Babylon, whose walls were cemented with asphalum, which was poured, in a melted state, between the blocks of stone, and an indestructible moatar thus secured. This asphaltum was procured from the fountains of Is, which were about one hundred and twenty miles above Babylon, on the Euphrates. Together with saline and sulphurous water, it issued from a rock and was conducted into large pits. The oily matter was then skimmed off and solidified by atmospheric evaporation. These springs, from the abundance of their products, attracted the attention of Alexander, Trajan and Julian, and even at the present time, asphalcum, procured from them, is sold in the neighboring village of Hits

From time immemorial asphaltum has been found on the shore of the Dead Sea, and this is one of the most remarkable localities for it. This sea, as is well known, is of supposed valcanic origin; and is the probable site of the ancient cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. Its surface is thirteen hundred feet below the surface of the ocean, and it has been fathomed to the depth of two thousand feet. In several places no bottom has been reached, and owing to internal convulsions, the depth changes from time to time. The water is very dense, holding in solution twenty-five per cent of solid matter, of which seven per cent is salt. The bituminous substance is up-thrown from below and toward the centre of the sea, it is found in a liquid state, like petroleum; but it is probably solidified by evaporation, as it appears upon the shores in hard compact masses. The explanation of this phenomenon is that a conection between the sea and some internal volcano exists, whence this substance is ejected.

In the vicinity of the Caspian, the Bakoo springs have yielded large quantities of oil, and are widely celebrated. Some of the Persian wells have furnished fifteen hundred barrels a day, and throughout this region this material, under the name of Naphtha, is very generally burnt for its light.

At Rangoon, in Burmah, petroleum has been obtained for many years, and at this time there are over five hundred wells, which annually afford four hundred thousand hogsheads. The oil occurs in a strata of blue clay; wells about sixty feet deep are dug, into which the petroleum oozes. This is sometimes used in its natural state, but more frequently it is first purified by distillation with steam. The raw material is also mixed with earth and used as fuel.

In Europe there are few abundant springs. On one of the Ionian Islands there is an oil fountain which has flowed for over two thousand years; and the oracular fires of ancient Greece have been attributed to similar sources. Oil springs also occur in Bavaria, in the Grand Duchy of Modena, at Neufchatel, at Clermont and Gabian in France, and near Amiano in Italy. Petroleum procured from the last-named locality is used for lighting the city of Genoa but elsewhere in Europe it is not employed, to any extent, as an illuminator.

On this side of the ocean, there is an enormous quantity of this substance. Upon the island of Trinidad, one of the West Indies, at a distance of three fourths of a mile from the sea, is a lake of asphaltum three miles in circumference. Near the banks the asphaltum is hard and cold, but as you approach the center the softness and the temperature increase, until finally it is liquid and boiling From the bubbling mass proceeds a strong, sulphurious odor, which is perceptible at a distance of ten miles. Between the banks of the lake and the shore of the island is an elevated tract of land, covered with hardened asphaltum, upon which vegetation flourishes. The explanation put forward in connection with the Dead Sea, is equally applicable in this case.

Upon others of the West Indies, petroleum has been obtained, as well as at several places in Central and South America; but it is in the northern portion of this continent that the abundant reservoirs of this substance are located; and it seems truly wonderful that their extent and richness should not have been discovered at an earlier period. For many years the Seneca Indians collected petroleum and, under the name of Seneca oil, sold it as a remedy for rheumatic complaints. At numerous places in the Middle States, it was found in salt borings, and was collected and burnt by the farmers, but it was not till August, 1859, that it was obtained in noticeable quantities. At this time oil was "struck" upon Oil Creek, Venango county, Pennsylvania by sinking an artesian well to the depth of seventy feet, and for many weeks a thousand gallons a day were pumped from it. The news of the discovery spread far and wide, and gave rise to an "oil fever." Thousands flocked to this vicinity, in the hope of making their fortune. Before the close of 1860 there had been over a thousand wells bored, many of which were productive, but a large proportion returned nothing. Some of the [illegible] have made large amounts of money; but, as in all commercial "fevers," a large number of persons have been utteraly impoverished by their speculations. The mere sinking a well by no means insures a bountiful flow of oil. The petroleum is stored in fissures formed by the upheaving of the earth's crust by volcanic action; and these fissures are perpendicular rather than horizontal in tendency, as is proved by the fact that at wells, but a few rods apart, the oil is "struck" at very different depths. The lowest parts of the fissues contain water, above which is the oil while in the highest portion there is a a quantity of gas. If therefore, the well strikes the fissue at the lowest part, the water will be forced up by the pressure of the supernatant oil and gas. Persons ignorant of the formation sink a well at random, and perhaps strike a fissure; but obtaining nothing but water, they abandon the spot as worthless, whereas after removing the water by pumping a large quantity of oil might be obtained.

In some localities in Ohio, as in the case in Burmah, the ground is saturated with the oil, and wells several feet in diameter are dug into which the oil oozes. Porous limestone, containing petroleum, is found in some sections of the West, and has been subjected to distillation with profitable results.

In regard to the origin of petroleum, scientific authorities differ; but the theory most generally favored is, that it is the product of the slow distillation, at low temperatures, of organic matter in the interior of the earth; the vapors being condensed in the previously mentioned fissures and the surrounding soil. The lake of Trinidad and the bituminous matter of the Dead Sea may also be referred to a similar source.—But for how many centuries must this operation have been going on to have effected such enormous results?

Of the many uses to which petroleum and its derivatives are applied, that of illumination is the most important; and the process of refining is exceedingly simple. The crude material is put into a large iron retort, connected with a coil of iron pipes, surrounded by cold water, called the condenser.—Heat is applied to the retort, and from the open extremity of the condenser, a light colored liquid of a strong odor soon flows. This is naphtha, and is very volatile and very explosive. Some refiners mix it with the burning oil, and numerous accidents have resulted from such mercenary indiscretion. It is usually run into a separate tank. After the napetha has passed over, the oil used for illumination distills off.—Steam is now forced into the retort and the heavy lubricating oil driven over. There now remains a black, oily, tarry matter, sometimes used to grease heavy machinery, and a black coke, employed as fuel. There are therefore five substances separated in this operation, but only the first three are of any economic importance.

The naphtha is used as a substitute for turpentine in paints, or by repeated distillations the benzole is separated from it and employed to remove spots from fabrics.—This, however, is rather a drug in the hands of the refiner.

The burning oil, as it comes from the retort, is of a yellow color, and in order to remove this, it is placed in a large lead-lined cistern, and agitated with about ten per cent of sulphuric acid. After the acid and the impurities have subsided, the oil is drawn off into another tank and agitated with four per cent soda lye. This last operation is to remove any acid remaining with the oil, and also to extract the residue of the coloring matter. In fact it is sometimes employed alone and a very good oil obtained. The oil is now agitated with water to remove the soda lye, and is then ready for consumption. The colorless oil is by no means the most economical, but on the contrary more light is obtained from the yellow article.

The heavy oil is cooled down to 30 deg. Fah. when the Paraffine crystalizes out, and is separated from the oil by pressing and by alternate agitation, in a melted state with sulphuric acid and soda lye. It is then moulded into candles. It is a curious fact that the composition of paraffine and good coal gas is exactly the same.

In Egypt a substance derived from petroleum was used in embalming bodies; and in Persia and the neighboring countries asphaltum is used to cover the roofs of the houses and to coat the boats. In France asphaltic pavements have been successful in several cities, and for the protection of stone no material is better adapted. Mixed with grease the Trinidad asphaltum is applied to the sides of vessels, to prevent the borings of the teredo, and with quick lime it affords an excellent disinfectant. Among the products of the distillation of petroleum are daphthaline and kerosolene. The former is the substance from which is obtained aniline, the base of the beautiful colors, mauve, magenta and solferino. The latter has been proposed as a substitute for chloraform and ether. Many other substances have been applied. As this is comparatively a new field many discoveries may be confidently expected in the course of a few years.

A FORTUNATE KISS.

The following pretty littly story is narrated by Fredericka Bremer, who vouches for its truthfulness:

In the University of Upsula, in Sweden, lived a young student, a noble youth, with a great love for studios, but without the means of pursuing them. He was poor, and without connexions. Still he studied, living in great poverty, but keeping a cheerful heart, and trying to look at the future, which looked so gloomy to him. His good humor and excellent qualities made him beloved by his young comrades. One day he was standing with some of them in the great square of Upsula, pratting away an hour of leisure, when the attention of the young men became arrested by a young and elegant lady, who, at the side of an elderly one, was slowly walking over the place. It was the only daughter of the Governor of Upland, living in the city, and the lady with her was the governess. She was generally known for her goodness and gentleness of character, and looked upon with admiration by all the students. As the young men stood gazing at her, as she passed on, like a graceful vision, one of them suddenly exclaimed:

"Well, it would be worth something to have a kiss from such a mouth!"

The poor student, the hero of our story, who looked on that pure, angelic face, exclaimed, as if by inspiration—

"Well, I think I could have it!"

"What!" cried his friends in a chorus, "are you crazy? Do you know her?"

"Not at all!" he answered; "but I think she would kiss me now if I asked her."

"What! in this place—before all our eyes?"

"In this place, before your eyes."

"Freely?"

"Freely."

"Well, if she will give you a kiss in that manner, I will give you a thousand dollars!" exclaimed one of the party.

"And I,"—"and *I*," exclaimed three or four others; for it so happened that several rich men were in the group, and the bets ran high on so improbable an event.

The challenge was made and received in less time than we take to tell it.

Our hero (my authority tells not whether he was handsome or plain; I have my peculiar ideas for believing that he was rather plain, but singularly good looking at the same time,) immediately walked off to the young lady and said:

"Mine frolen, my fortune is now in your hands."

She looked at him in astonishment, but arrested her steps. He proceeded to state his name and condition, his aspirations, and related, simply and truly, what had just now passed between him and his companions.

The young lady listened attentively, and, at his ceasing to speak, she said blushingly, but with great sweetness:

"If by so little a thing so much good can be effected, it would be foolish for me to refuse your request;" and, publicly in the open square, she kissed him.

Next day the student was sent for by the Governor. He wanted to see the man who dared to seek a kiss from his daughter in that way, and whom she had consented to kiss so. He received him with a scrutinizing bow, but, after an hour's conversation, was so pleased with him that he ordered him to dine at his table during his studies at Upsala.

Our yound friend pursued his studies in a manner which soon made him regarded as the most promising student in the university.

Three years were now passed since the day of the first kiss, when the young man was allowed to give a second one to the daughter of the Governor, as his intended bride.

He became, later, one of the greatest scholars in Sweden, and as much respected for his acquirements as for his character.—His works will endure while time lasts, among the works of science; and from this happy union sprang a family well known in Sweden even at the present time, and whose wealth and high positions in society are regarded as trifles in comparison with its wealth of goodness and love.

A HUMEROUS SKETCH.

ONE OF THE WEDDINGS.

A few years since one pleasant day in September, there arrived in Boston, the great metropolis of New England, a certain couple from Vermont, who came to get peacefully joined in the "Holy bonds of matrimony." So soon as the happy couple were fairly ensconced, the would be bridegroom, who was a rough, but apparently honest specimen of the "Green Mountain Boys," immediately sent for the proprietor of the hotel, who quickly answered the summons.

"Say, landlord," interposed the stranger, who pointed to his "lady-love," far in the corner of the parlor, "this is my woman. Naow we've come all the way from Varmount and want to be hitched. Send for the parson, will you? want it done right strait off."

The landlord smiled and left the room, but a short time had elapsed before a licensed minister made his appearance, and the obliging host and family were called in to witness the "scene."

"Naow, Mr. Tie-em-together," said Jonathan, "do it up brown and yer money's ready;" and forthwith the honored functionary commenced by order, that the man should join hands with the intended. Jonathan stood up to his blushing lady-love, like a sick kitten hugging a hot brick; seized her by the hand, and was as highly pleased as a monkey might be supposed to be with two tails.

"You promise, Mr. ——," said the minister, "to take this woman—"

"Yas," said Jonathan.

"To be your lawful wife?" continued the parson.

"Yaas, yaas."

"That you will love her and respect her in all things?"

"Yaas."

"That you will cling to her, and her only, [illegible] as you both shall live?"

"Yaas, indeed, nothing else!" responded Jonathan, in the most delighted and earnest manner, but here the reverend gentleman stopped short, much to the annoyance of the intended bridegroom.

"Yaas, I said," added Jonathan.

"One moment, my friend," responded the minister slowly, "for a thought occurred to me, that the law of Massachusetts cannot permit these ceremonies without the observation of a 'publication,' for a particular length of time."

"Wot'n thunder's the trouble, minister? Don't stop, put'er thru. Nothin's split, eh! Aint sick, minister, be you!"

"I say, my friend, I have come to the conclusion that you cannot be married in Massachusetts."

"Cant? Wot'n thunder's the diffikilty? I like *her* and she likes *me*, she said she did;—wot's ter hinder?"

"You have not been published, sir, I think."

"No, haint goin to be nuther! At's wot we cum *'ere* for on the sly; go on, go on, old feller."

"Railly. Wal go ahead, taint fair, you see—taint I swow, you've married *me* and haint teched her. Go on, dont cave in here. 'At aint jest the thing, naow taint."

"I will consult ——"

"No you wont—no yer dont consult nothin and nobody till this ere business is concluded; now mind I tell yer," said Jonathan with resolution, and in an instant he had turned the key in and out of the door amid the laughter of the witnesses, who were nearly choked with merriment.

"Naow say, mister as we ware," continued the Yankee, grasping his intended by the hand. "Go on straight from where you left off." And here Jonathan crowded his hand far down into his pocket and drew from it an old pocket book, probably used by his great-grandfather, as an inducement for the reverend gentleman, and continued:

"You cant come none of this half way business with this child, so put'er thru, and your money's all ready, naow no dodging. It'll be all right, by golly!"

The parson considered a moment, and concluded to risk it at the sight of the well crammed wallet of *course*. He continued:

"You promise ——"

"Yaas," replied Jonathan.

The parson smiled and went on—

"You promise, madam, to take this man to be your husband, lawfully?"

"Yaas, yaas," said the Yankee again, as the lady bowed.

"You will honor, love, obey and—"

"Them's um," said Jonathan as the lady bowed again.

"And that you will cling to him so long as you both shall live?"

"*That's* the talk!" exclaimed Jonathan, and the lady responded with "yes" again.

"Then in the presence of Him on High and the witnesses, I pronounce you man and wife."

"Hoorah!" shouted Jonathan at the top of his voice, leaping nearly to the ceiling with joy.

"And what God has joined together, let no man put asunder."

"Hoorah!" continued Jonathan, "by golly, wot's the price? How much? Spit it out, dont be afreard. You did it jist like a book, old feller! 'Ere's an X, never mind the change. Send for a bomnibus, landlord. Hail Columby, happy land!" roared the poor fellow, entirely unable to control his joy, and in ten minutes more he was on his way to the Lowell depot, with his wife, the happiest man out of jail.—*Woburn Journal.*

How Jed Missed It.

Some folks are in the habit of talking in their sleep, and Miss Betsey Wilson was one of the number. This peculiarity she accidentally revealed to Jedediah Jenkins in careless, conversational way. Jedediah has just finished the recital of a matrimonial dream, in which the young lady and himself figured as hero and heroine, he having invented the same for the sake of saying at the conclusion it was too good to be true, and by thus speaking parables, assuring the young lady of which he dare not speak plainly.

"I never dream, said Betsey, "but I sometimes talk half the night in my sleep and tell everything I know.

"You don't say so!"

"Yes," I never can have a secret from mother. If she wants to know anything she pumps me after I've gone to bed, and I answer her questions as honestly as if my life depends on it. That's the reason I wouldn't go to ride the other night. I knew she would find me out. It's awful provoking."

Some days after this Jed called at the house and entering the parlor unannounced, found Miss Betsey, probably overcome by the heat of the room, had fallen asleep on the sofa.

Now Jed, as the reader has surmised, had long felt an overwhelming partiality for the young lady, and yearned to know if it was returned; but though possessed of sufficient courage to mount the imminent deadly breach, could never muster spunk enough to inquire into the state of her heart. But he now bethought himself of her confession of somnambulic loquacity, and felt that the time to ascertain his fate had come. Approaching the sofa he whispered:

"My dearest Betsey, tell me, oh! tell me the object of your fondest affection."

The fair sleeper gave a faint sigh, and responded:

"I love—let me think (here you might have heard the beating of Jed's heart through a brick wall)—I love Heaven, my country, and baked beans; but if I have passion above all, it is for roast onions."

The indignant lover didn't wake her, but sloped at once, a sadder but not wiser man.

Ribbon Gardening.

This is a method of arranging plants so as to represent ribbons or scrolls. It is easily performed by any one, and is a pleasing addition to even the humblest yard. A curved or wavy bed is cut out in the smooth turf of the lawn, say four feet wide and ten or fifteen feet long. Certain suitable colors for the ribbon having been fixed upon, (perhaps red, white and blue,) plants are to be selected which will give these colors. No one set of plants is better for this purpose than verbenas. A row of scarlets or crimsons is set on one side of the bed and along its whole length; next a row of whites; and then a row of blues. These as they grow are to be pegged down and confined to fixed limits so as to represent stripes of color — Geraniums may be used for the same purpose, though they make a coarser ribbon, and give only the different shades of red, pink, and white. If used, it will be quite effective to set either a golden or silver-edged variety on one edge of the ribbon.—Petunias, Ageratums, Cupheas, etc., answer very well in making ribbons. Annuals may be used for the same purpose, but they do not come into bloom until late in the season. German Asters, for instance, their different colors arranged in rows, make a grand display. Portulacca, Candytuft, Phlox Drummondii, Eschscholtza, Clarkia, and others of like habit, are quite desirable. These ribbons, to be most effective, should be *looked down upon* from above, say from a window, or balcony, or high porch. The grass around them should be kept shorn quite short and smooth, and the colors kept rigidly confined within their limits.

WOMEN.—To the eternal honor of the sex, be it said, in the path of duty, no sacrifice is with them too high, or too dear.—Nothing is with them impossible but to shrink from what love, honor, innocence, religion, requires. The voice of pleasure or of power may pass by unheeded, but the voice of affliction never. The chamber of the sick, the pillow of the dying, the vigils of the dead, the altars of religion, never fail to excite the sympathies of women. Timid though she be, and so delicate that the winds of heaven may not too roughly visit her, yet she fears no danger, and dreads no consequences. Then she displays that undaunted spirit which neither courts difficulties nor evades them, that resignation which utters neither murmur nor regret, and that patience in suffering, which seems victorious even over death itself.—*Judge Story.*

☞ Swift proposed to put a tax on female beauty, and to leave every lady to rate her own charms. He said the tax would be cheerfully paid, and be very productive of revenue. Secretary Chase ought to turn this item to account.

☞ Women often lose the men they love, and who love them. By mere wantonness or coquetry, they reject, and then repent; they should be careful not to take this step too hastily, for a proud high-minded, gifted man will seldom ask a woman twice.

How they Reason about the Negro Exodus at the West.

In Ohio, the farming population is as excited as Governor Harris has been reported to be in Memphis! Two thousand a day are sending petitions to the Legislature to prevent their ingress into the State. And an Ohio farmer, in plain but solid style, thus writes to the *Crisis*, why farmers object to negro immigration:

I thought while writing to you on other business, I would tell you some of the reasons why we think the negro should be prohibited from settling in Ohio. And first we believe it is a duty we owe to the white men who are now in the ranks of the army, fighting to maintain the Constitution and Laws, to keep their places for them until they return, and not permit their places to be filled by niggers while they are fighting our battles.

Let me illustrate: Jim Reynolds, his wife and four children, were living in a house which he rented of Mr. John Eaton, when the war broke out. The President called soldiers—Mr. Eaton is a Union man and has a large farm and much property to see to, and cannot enlist. Jim is full of patriotism, and relying on Mr. Eaton that his family shall be taken care of, rushes into the ranks of the army, for what? To save the Government and the property of Mr. Eaton—Jim has none to save. But after Jim is gone, his wife cannot procure wood, clothing, or provisions; she has to leave Mr. Eaton's house and move home to her poor old parents, where by constant labor and anxiety, her health fails her—children becomes ragged and destitute. The war goes on—in the vicinity of the two contending armies society became disorganized—the slave runs away from his master, and having been made to believe that Ohio is a paradise for a nigger, of course they came here. Yes, old black Tom takes the advantage of the presence of the army in which Jim Reynolds is fighting, and runs away from his master in Kentucky and comes to Mr. John Eaton and others, as Jim used to do.

The war finally closes and Jim receives an honorable discharge and returns to his native place. He finds his wife emaciated and her constitution broken—his children ragged and beggars. He thinks, to better their condition, he will go to Mr. Eaton, and rent the house he left. Mr. Eaton tells him that he has rented the house to black [illegible] was in the army in Kentucky. This is a hard stroke on Jim; still he hopes, and asks Mr. Eaton if those rails are made yet that they talked about before he went to the war; Jim says he has nothing to do, and would like some flour for his family. Mr. Eaton tells him that Tom has offered to make them cheaper than the usual price and take corn, and he let him have the job. Jim asks if he has no corn to husk, wood to chop, or something of the kind for him to do; but Mr. Eaton tells him that the times are hard, and himself and Tom will have to do all his work. Jim returns tired and hungry to his family; the sight of his hungry children starts him out to make an effort for work; the neighbors all tell him the same story—times are hard—they had to hire niggers because the nigger would do more work for the same money than the white man could. Jim tells them that this is the reason that that slaveholders have niggers in the South because they think it is cheaper than white labor. Jim starts to see the overseer of the poor without any very exalted admiration of the results of the war, so far as it has affected free white labor in Ohio. The case here delineated will be the case of thousands in Ohio if the prohibition of niggers is not attended to.

☞ Mrs. French, the wife of an abolition clergyman, who was sent as a kind of a missionary to Beaufort to look after the darkies, on arriving there rushed towards and embraced a colored female, who was startled not a little by the peculiar style of the salute, and, in the words of the resolutions, exclaimed—"You are my sister!" (closer embrace.) You are no longer a slave; you are free—free as I am. You are my equal, and you are my sister!" &c., &c.

So says the correspondent of the *Herald.*

TEACHING THE YOUNG IDEA.—A wise father once endeavored to teach his son the nature of an inference. "Thus, for example," said he, "when we read that the deluge covered the whole earth, the inference is that the inhabitants thereof were all drowned. Now, Naaman, the Syrian, was commanded to wash seven times in the river Jordan—what inference would we draw from that?"

"That he must have been plagued dirty!" was the precocious one's answer.

☞ A kiss on the forehead denotes respect and admiration; on the cheek, friendship; on the eyelids, tender sentiment; on the lips, love. The young men of our acquaintance have not much *respect* for young ladies.

☞ Why are sheep the most dissipated, reckless and unfortunate of creatures? Because they gambol in youth, frequent the turf, think it no disgrace to be blacklegs, and are often fleeced.

☞ An old negro taken on board one of the vessels at Port Royal, the other day was overheard praying vigorously that "de Lord would bress these d——d Yankees."

☞ What a happy fate was that of Jonah in the whale, compared to many who find themselves in everybody's mouth.