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VOLUME 2--NO. 11.

ABBEVILLE C. H., SOUTH CAROLINA, SATURDAY MORNING, JULY 22, 1854.

WHOLE NUMBER 63.

POETRY.

The Withered Wreath.

BY H. J. SARGENT.

I found it by the way side,
Like ruby lips, half seen,
A weeping elm beneath;
A wreck on Love's capricious tide,
A faded, scentless wreath.

There seemed a depth of meaning
In that faded wreath concealed;
There was treasure for the gleaning,
And a story unrevealed.

There were tiny buds half opened,
Like ruby lips, half seen,
Beneath the tantalizing veil
Of some coy village queen.

And there were gorgeous flowers full blown
Of every shade and hue,
Have these frail emblems drooped alone?
Has young Hope withered too?

The more I viewed that withered wreath,
I was curious of the more
To question of the dying flowers
Its sad historic lore.

Whose was the white and dainty hand,
Arranged with so much art,
This *Lily* responding
To the *Priest* within her heart?

Were joy and faith bound up in thee
Or mingled doubts and fears?
Say! wast thou woven out of smiles,
Or wast embalmed in tears?

One dying flower reposed,
"Thus be the riddle read:
The buds are dreams half realized,
The flowers are bright hopes dead."

I left it by the way side,
That weeping elm beneath,
A wreck on Love's capricious tide;
A faded, scentless wreath.

COMMUNICATIONS.

[FOR THE INDEPENDENT PRESS.]

A Bird's-Eye View of Texas.

The following letter, written by an Abbeville man now in Texas, to a friend in this District, will be found interesting to our readers:

Rusk Co., Texas, June 5, 1854.

In Texas as elsewhere, we have some good and some poor land; some places healthy and some not. It is not exactly a second Eden as has by some been represented. No silver trees, or fitter trees either.

The three different and most common soils are white sandy, black sandy and red land.—The white sandy land is very productive, generally level enough for cultivation and some entirely level; timbered with black-jack, hickory, post oak and pine; though where the pine grows is rather a different soil—whiter, with less sand. Where the black-jack grows there are post-oak runners in abundance. These are very disagreeable to work with. It is a common saying that this or that is enough to make a preacher swear. If he does not swear at working in post-oak runners, there is no danger in driving oxen or anything of the kind; in short, he would be a very good man, or he would think very bad things if he did not say them. The black sandy land is timbered with red-oak, hickory, post-oak, white-oak, walnut and occasionally a black-jack. It has the appearance of a second bottom, and produces finely. The red-land is timbered in the same way. It has a very singular appearance, being so red. The cotton-raised on this land, if it falls out is stained badly, though it does not affect the sale, (notwithstanding the merchants in New Orleans can tell the difference); it carries the stain with it as far as we can hear of it.

These are the soils of Eastern Texas. On all the creeks there is fine bottom land, which bears the resemblance of all bottom land. In the West, they have prairie and timber lands; the latter being generally sandy, the former black and stiff, or a black sandy soil—some of which is very rich.

I do not know what to tell you about the amount of cotton or corn raised per acre, except the amount stated by people here, which correspond very well with the tales told there—such as 1,000, 1,500, 2,000 and 2,500 pounds of cotton per acre, and of corn, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35 bushels per acre. Oats, potatoes, melons, pumpkins, &c. in abundance. As I have said nothing about what you will readily conclude that we do not raise here. It has been tried by some few, and some seem to think it will do well; others say it is too uncertain.—It has been raised this year by several in the neighborhood, and yielded ten or twelve bushels per acre. It grows best on the red land. I am sure there is a flattering prospect for it in this part of the famous land of Texas. Cotton, corn and said bit far for abundant harvest. Melons, peas and sweet potatoes, or fall, which we raise on a good crop. So far as Irish potatoes are concerned we can beat Ireland. When I think of your poor old frost-bitten, Irish-sweated, vegetable country, I cannot but sigh, and involuntarily join with all Texas (who, by the way, are very liberal people in some things) and invite all indiscriminately to come to Texas. The invitation is to all who are not afraid of the heat, and who are not pomp and ostentatious. All who are not afraid of the heat, and who are not pomp and ostentatious. All who are not afraid of the heat, and who are not pomp and ostentatious.

Call upon me to-morrow, and I will give you a reply. I am, Sir, your obedient servant, H. J. Sargent.

and all vegetable and animal products of our truly productive and congenial soil, at an exceedingly low price.

The great objection to moving to Texas, namely, the want of schools, is being removed. Colleges and schools are now springing up in every town, village, and neighborhood. There is now no necessity for our youth to grow up in ignorance. Far from it. Education has unfolded her glittering banner, and spreads her golden wings from north to south, from east to west, over near the entire land. So strong are the desires of parents that their offspring should enjoy her blessings, that notwithstanding the prices of tuition are much higher here than in older States, and the great necessity there is for a great many of their children to aid them in the accumulation of worldly wealth, our schools and academies are well represented, and our teachers looked to as men engaged in the most noble profession—as men who love so well the improvement of the rising generation as to devote their time and talents to that purpose; not from mercenary, but purely philanthropic motives.

The prices of land here vary, not so much in proportion to the quality of the land, as to the "ripeness" of the owner. Texas boasts all places for moving you ever saw. In the fall and winter, they are seen going to and from all quarters. Some, if they can, will sell; if they cannot, they will swap; if they can neither sell or swap, they will move out of their old houses and build new ones. Moving has become habitual, and move they will. The highest price for land in the woods is \$3 per acre, but more commonly \$1 50 and \$2, and sometimes \$1 per acre. Improved lands vary more. There have been some sold at \$10 per acre, in this county, nothing extra at that; six, seven, eight, and nine, is occasionally paid for improved lands, but more commonly three, four, and five. Find a man thoroughly ripe, he will sell at \$2 or \$2 50. What we term improved lands, have from 150, 100, and even down to 20 acres cleared, Texas cabins, cribs, stables, and so forth.

I must tell you something of the game of our forests. We have here deer, turkeys, and in winter ducks till you can't rest. We had fine sport killing ducks in the winter, and since deer and turkey. We have killed about twenty deer—I mean our crowd here. It may be you would like to know how many I have killed. Well, I will tell you of one day's adventure, from which you may judge, as I assure you similar success has followed me on every occasion. I need not give you the start, such as busting about for ammunition, and so forth. Suffice it to say, while walking leisurely along, I espied at some hundred or hundred and fifty yards, two fine bucks. Think I, how fortunate, the finer one is nearer to me! I will creep round that point there, and be in fair view at forty yards. About this time, I felt a strange kind of feeling come over me.—I didn't feel cold, but I began to shake, red doubled and twisted stamp-down ague fashion. I kept on to gain my point. You ought to have seen me—my ague was so hard that I made a double shuffle every step, and my heart lammed away like a sledge hammer. Finally, however, I gained my point. I prepared to shoot; but the great Moses! my arms had the ague worse than my legs, and my eyes worse than my arms! I could see nothing but deer in every direction! I blazed away; off ran the deer! I thought I saw fifty, though in reality there were but two. I afterwards learned that I had been seized with a "buck ague." I find it a very hard ague to cure, for just as sure as I see a deer, I begin the shuffle.

Farewell for the present. D. R. B.

MISCELLANY.

The two Merchants; or, a good Investment.

"Can you loan me two thousand dollars to establish myself in a small retail business?" inquired a young man not yet out of his teens, of a middle aged gentleman, who was peering over a pile of ledgers in the counting room of one of the largest wholesale establishments in our city. The person thus addressed turned towards the speaker, and regarding him a moment with a look of surprise, inquired: "What security can you give me, Mr. Strosser?" "Nothing, but my note," replied the young man promptly.

"Which, I believe, would be below par in market," replied the merchant, smiling.

"Without noticing these interruptions, Mr. Barton said:

"Young Strosser is desirous of establishing himself in a small retail business in Washington street, and called this morning to secure a loan of two thousand dollars for that purpose."

"Indeed," said Mr. Hawley, evidently surprised at this announcement; "but you do not think of loaning that sum, do you?"

"I do not know," replied Mr. Barton. "Mr. Strosser is a young man of business talent and strict integrity, and will be likely to succeed in whatever he undertakes."

"Perhaps so," said Mr. Hawley. "but I am heartily tired of helping these young aspirants of commercial honors."

"Have you ever suffered from such a course?" inquired Mr. Barton, at the same time casting a roguish glance at Mr. H.

"No," replied the latter, "for I never felt inclined to make an investment of that kind."

"Then here is a fine opportunity to do so. It may prove better than stock in the bank. As for myself, I have concluded that if you will advance him one thousand dollars, I will contribute an equal sum."

"Not a single farthing would I advance for such a foolish purpose; and if you make an advance of that kind I shall consider you very foolish."

Mr. Barton observed a silence of several moments and then arose to depart.

"If you do not feel disposed to share with me in this enterprise, I shall advance the whole sum myself."

So saying he left the store.

Ten years have passed away since the occurrence of the conversation recorded in the preceding chapter, and Mr. Barton, pale and agitated, is standing at the same desk, as when first introduced to the reader's attention. As page after page of his ponderous ledger was examined, his despair became deeper and deeper until at length he exclaimed:

"I am ruined, utterly ruined!"

"How so," inquired Hiram Strosser, who entered the counting-room in season to hear Mr. Barton's remark.

"The last European steamer brought news of the failure of the house of Peltier, Jackson & Co., London, who are indebted to me in the sum of \$25,000. News of the failure has become general, and my creditors, panic stricken, are pressing my paper to be cashed. The banks refuse me credit, and I have not the means to meet my liabilities. If I could pass the crisis, perhaps I could rally again, but it is impossible; my creditors are importunate, and I cannot much longer keep above the tide," replied Mr. Barton.

"What is the extent of your liabilities?" inquired Mr. Strosser.

"Seventy-five thousand dollars," replied Mr. Barton.

"Would that sum be sufficient to relieve you?"

"It would."

"Then, sir, you shall have it," said Strosser, as he stepped up to the desk and drew a check for seventy five thousand dollars. "Here, take this, and when you need more, do not hesitate to call on me. Remember that it was from you I received money to establish myself in business."

"But the debt was cancelled several years ago," replied Mr. Barton, as a ray of hope shot across his troubled mind.

"True," replied Strosser, "but the debt of gratitude I owe you has never been cancelled, and now that the scale has turned, I deem it my duty to come to the rescue."

At this singular turn in the tide of fortune, Mr. Barton fairly wept for joy.

His name was taken up as fast as it was sent in, and in less than a month he had passed the crisis, and stood perfectly safe and secure; his credit increased, and business improved, while several other firms sank under the blow and could not rally, among whom was Mr. Hawley, the merchant introduced to the reader in the preceding chapter.

"How did you manage to keep above the tide?" inquired Mr. Hawley of Mr. Barton, one morning several months after the events last recorded, as he met the latter upon the street on his way to his place of business.

"Very easily indeed, I can assure you," replied Mr. Barton.

"Well, do tell me how," continued Mr. Hawley. "I lay claim to a great deal of shrewdness; but the strongest exercise of my wit did not save me; and yet you, who were by far the greatest sufferer, and whose liabilities were twice as heavy as my own, have stood the shock, and have come off even better by the shock."

"The truth is," replied Mr. Barton, "I cashed my paper as soon as it was sent in."

"I suppose so," said Mr. Hawley, regarding Mr. B. with a look of surprise, but how did you obtain funds?"

"I could not obtain a dollar credit—the banks refused to take my paper, and my friends even deserted me."

"A little investment that I made some ten years ago," replied Mr. Barton, smiling, "has proved exceedingly profitable."

"Investment!" echoed Mr. Hawley; "what investment?"

"Why, do you not remember how I established young Strosser in business some ten or twelve years ago?"

"Oh, yes, yes," replied Mr. Hawley, as a ray of suspicion lighted up his countenance; "but what of that?"

"He is now one of the heaviest dealers in the city, and when this business came on, he came forward and very generously advanced me twenty-five thousand dollars. You know I told you on the spot that I called to offer you an equal share in the stock that I might prove better than an investment in the bank."

The Blue Ridge Rail Road.

We place before our readers the able report of the President of the Blue Ridge Rail Road Company, read at the meeting of stockholders at Clayton, Georgia, on the 27th ult. The business of the meeting was confined to the election of Directors, and the location of the road at Clayton; and we leave to the Board of Directors passed a resolution leaving to the citizens of Clayton the selection of one of three lines that have been run adjacent to that place. The nearest line to Clayton, which is the longest by four thousand six hundred feet, passes through lands adjacent to the corporate limits, and being, we understand, entirely satisfactory to the citizens of the town, will probably be the one adopted.

The President alluded to Franklin immediately after the adjournment of the Board of Directors—Kewee Courier.

The following is Mr. GOURDIN'S Report: To the stockholders of the Blue Ridge Rail Road Company:

The Directors of the Blue Ridge Rail Road Company have respectfully to report, that since the meeting held in this place, their labors have chiefly been devoted to the organization of the several Companies that were essential in conjunction with this, to complete the great chain of Rail Roads to connect, through this portion of the country, the waters of the great West with those of the Atlantic. At the session of the Legislature of South Carolina immediately following the organization of this Company, a memorial was presented, asking a charter and the aid of the State for a Rail Road from Anderson C. H. to connect with the Blue Ridge Rail Road at its southern terminus, and the charter was promptly granted and aid furnished by an agreement on the part of the State to endorse the bonds of the Company to the extent of \$1,250,000 on certain conditions.

The City Corporation of the City of Charleston was also memorialized, and on reference of the subject to the people, a subscription on the part of the corporation was made of \$500,000 to the Blue Ridge Rail Road Company in South Carolina, and \$400,000 to the Blue Ridge Rail Road Company, or in other words it was agreed that the City of Charleston should assume the stock which had been subscribed by a few of its citizens to secure the charter.—Soon after this period, say in the month of July last, a contract was made with Messrs. Bangs & Co., of the State of New York, for the construction and equipment of the entire line of Rail Road from Anderson C. H. to the State line of Tennessee; the Hon. W. H. Thomas (under authority to him as President) acting for the Tennessee River Rail Road Company, agreeing to unite his Company with the company in South Carolina and to place the construction of the road under the contract made with Messrs. Bangs & Co.

The contractors have agreed to receive in payment for the construction and equipment of the several roads one half in cash and the other in the bonds and stock of the several companies united in equal amounts of one-fourth each. It was further agreed that the work should be commenced on the first day of November last, but this time was, by agreement, extended to the first of January 1854.

The Legislature of South Carolina was again memorialized for further aid at its last session in November, with a view of obtaining a subscription on the part of the State in addition to its endorsement of the Company's bonds as before granted. The bill introduced for this purpose passed the Senate, but failed in the House.

The hopes and expectations of the Board of Directors, however, were, and are by no means dampened by this disappointment, as there were causes which contributed to this result which they are assured will not exist again; and must not be inferred that the vote in the popular branch of the Legislature is conclusive that the people of South Carolina are opposed to legislative aid to this great enterprise.

The more substantial form than the endorsement of the Company's bonds. There were several projects opposed to us last session, which it is believed will not oppose us again. Many thought that we should enter more thoroughly on our work, and make more progress before asking for further legislative aid, and others that our surveys and estimates were too general and not sufficiently minute and detailed to justify satisfactorily the cost of the road.

As the entire line in South Carolina, as now under contract, except the Tunnel at the Stamp House Mountain, and as this will also be under contract in a few days, this objection will soon be removed; and, in relation to the latter, the entire line being finally located between Anderson and Franklin, except a small portion adjacent to Clayton kept in advance with a view to consult the interest and the wishes of its inhabitants, and as the remainder of the route through North Carolina and Tennessee to Knoxville, the Knoxville and Charleston Rail Road having been brought into aid in aid to the other companies, and under the contract with Messrs. Bangs & Co., will be finished also in the next few weeks; and moreover, as the surveys and estimates through South Carolina and Georgia, (which the most difficult portions of the work are located) have had the confirmation of W. H. Latrobe, the distinguished Engineer of the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road, this objection will also be especially removed.

The Directors, therefore, feel confident that the entire line, the leading to Knoxville, a State subscription being removed, the Legislature of South Carolina will no longer withhold its aid, and decided aid to an enterprise so important to every interest in the land, and so heretofore favored and protected by the State.

In the final location of the Road through South Carolina, it will be about 200 miles, through Georgia to 175 miles through North Carolina to 77 miles, and the estimates are brought within those founded on the earlier surveys.

The first 24 miles from Knoxville, have been the subject of actual surveys to be completed in a few days, and the more difficult part of this road has not yet been completed.

At the Blue Ridge Rail Road, only one of the three lines that have been run, is destined to unite the waters of the Ohio and Mississippi with the Atlantic seaboard; it will not be out of the question to state that charters have been obtained in Kentucky and Tennessee to complete the connection between Knoxville and Lexington, Paris, from which the points mentioned already in course of construction to Knoxville.

The organization of the companies, and the several lines known as the Blue Ridge Road.

The organization of the companies, and the several lines known as the Blue Ridge Road, a matter of necessity, which nothing but the most shortsighted ignorance can now defeat. "Bringing, as they will, not only the interior of South Carolina and her seaboard, but a large portion of these great centres of commerce are to any other city on the Atlantic and passing through a mineral region of untold wealth and extent, the business of this road cannot fail to be otherwise than large beyond any calculation of limit, as the other great trunk lines that have sealed the mountains here already prove.

With these prospects, therefore, to the Road itself, and looking to the vast and incalculable benefit which it must confer on all the States through which it will pass, not only in our day, but much more so in the future, it is an enterprise not only of choice, but of necessity, demanded by the wants, the genius, the enterprise and the spirit of our people, and due as well to posterity as to our own honor.

Let every man, therefore, contribute to its support by his unceasing efforts—by aid to the extent of his means, and by his sympathy.—And those to whom you have entrusted the management of this great and magnificent enterprise will, before many years, be enabled to congratulate you on its triumphant achievement, as they do now on its auspicious commencement.

HENRY GOURDIN, Pres't Blue Ridge R. R. Company.

The New Orleans Fillibusters.

Yesterday afternoon, Gen. Jno. A. Quitman, Mr. J. S. Thrasher, and Dr. A. L. Saunders appeared before G. W. Gurley, U. S. Commissioner, and entered into recognizances pursuant to the order of Judge Campbell, of the U. S. Circuit Court. The condition of the bonds was to observe the laws of the United States in general, and especially an act in addition to the act for the punishment of certain crimes against the United States, and to repeal the acts therein named, approved April 20th, 1818, commonly called the Neutrality law, for the term of nine months from the first of July, inst.

The penalty of the bond is \$5,000, with two sureties at \$1,500 each.

The sureties on the bond of Gen. Quitman were Robt. Estlin and Gen. Miles; on the bond of Mr. Thrasher, Emile Lesere, and S. R. Walker Esqrs., and the bond of Dr. Saunders, F. S. Slater, and Dr. A. L. Saunders.

The parties made and signed protests against the right to exact these bonds from them, and alleging that they signed "under duress." Mr. Thrasher and Gen. Quitman made separate protests, and Dr. Saunders concurred with that of Gen. Quitman. We give them below. The Commissioner declined receiving them officially, and they were accordingly verified by the signature of witnesses:

PROTEST OF MR. JOHN S. THRASHER. I, John S. Thrasher, citizen of New Orleans, now in duress under a mittimus issued by the Hon. Jno. A. Campbell, Judge of the Circuit Court of the United States for the Eastern District of Louisiana, for the purpose of compelling me against my free will and consent to enter into a recognizance to observe the laws of the United States in general, and especially "an act in addition to the act for the punishment of certain crimes against the United States, and to repeal the acts therein named, approved 20th April, 1818," being now about to enter the recognizance demanded by His Honor the Judge of the Circuit Court, do hereby most solemnly protest: That I commit this act against my own free will, under the pressure of imprisonment under the order of said Judge, which order I hold to have been issued through an arbitrary, illegal, and unconstitutional stretch of judicial power, in open violation of the rights of the citizen and stipulations of the constitution of the United States of America; and I again protest against this act, which I am forced to do in order to obtain my freedom, and to procure myself all my full and complete rights to proceed against the parties concerned, together or severally, in this my illegal deprivation of personal liberty, in such time, place, or manner as may be granted me by law, and requisite for me to obtain justice.

Presented in New Orleans, on the 3rd day of July, 1854, and read before J. W. Gurley, Clerk of the Court, in the presence of the undersigned witnesses:

J. S. THRASHER. Read in presence of Chas. T. Estlin, L. J. Segur.

PROTEST OF GEN. QUITMAN. In the names of the witnesses whose names are hereunto signed, the following declaration and protest was made before John W. Gurley, Clerk, previously to signing the bond required by Judge Campbell:

I regard the order of Judge Campbell, one of the Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States, requiring me to give bonds and securities, and to enter into the space of nine months, to observe the laws of the United States in general, and especially the so called neutrality act of 1818, as an unconstitutional, illegal and arbitrary exercise of power. I refused a voluntary obedience to it, because I viewed it my sacred rights as an American citizen. I am now, by the order of the same Judge, a close prisoner in the hands of the Marshal, I yield to this illegal demand only because I have no appeal from a power which, practically, is absolute and irresistible. Under duress of imprisonment, and with a solemn protest against the assumption of power claimed by the aforesaid Judge in this case, I am compelled to sign this bond of recognizance.

J. A. QUITMAN. The within was read before the Commissioner by Jno. A. Quitman, and before the signing of the bond in the presence of the undersigned witnesses: John S. Holl, Jr., W. W. Wallin, and W. W. Wallin.

Read before Walker.

On the morning of the 22nd inst. a quarrel took place between a negro and a white man. The negro was killed, and the white man was severely wounded. The negro was buried, and the white man is recovering.

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THREE MEN KILLED BY LIGHTNING.—We find in the Augusta Constitutionalist the following account of deaths by lightning:

"On Sunday, July 20, about 2 o'clock, P. M., at the residence of Mr. J. W. Swan, in Newton county, Georgia, Dr. J. W. Hitch, William Wilson and Isaac Christian, Jr., were instantly killed by a stroke of lightning.

Dr. Hitch and Mr. Wilson were single men, but Mr. Christian leaves an affectionate wife and three children to mourn his loss.

Doctor Hitch was formerly of South Carolina, the other two were Georgians.

It seems that the electricity first struck a small shade tree that stood near the piazza where they were sitting, and then passed under the house and through the floor, shivering it in a very slight manner, and then the ceiling and lastly the chimney was slightly injured.

No other person was hurt. A son of Mr. Swan's was sitting near, but escaped unhurt."

FRANCE.—A conspiracy to assassinate the Emperor during his visit to the baths of the Pyrenees had been discovered in the Departments of Larn and Garonne, and 150 arrests were made. The Prefect was dismissed and M. Ledetour, the friend of Lafayette, was appointed his successor.

The *Monitor* publishes the Minister of the Interior's report on the state of the nation. It is very favorable.

It is again said that M. Persigny will soon resign, and be succeeded by M. Baroche. The reports of the crop from the south are favorable.

FOREIGNERS IN THE U. S.—The following table has been received at the present time, as exhibiting the number and nativity of each class of foreigners in the United States, in the year 1850:

England,	278,076	Holland,	9,884
Ireland,	981,719	Turkey,	106
Scotland,	70,660	Austria,	964
Wales,	20,660	Switzerland,	13,868
Germany,	573,225	Norway,	13,878
France,	64,069	Denmark,	1,898
Portugal,	1,274	Italy,	8,645
Belgium,	1,218	Spain,	3,112

EFFICACY OF COLD WATER.—On Wednesday, the 13th ult., the house of W. H. Moody, of Standish, Maine, was struck by lightning, which demolished the chimney, burnt a large hole in the ceiling of the sitting room, smashed the stove and broke the door. It struck a daughter of Mr. Moody's, six years old, on the back of the neck, the side and leg to the foot, leaving a mark half an inch wide the whole distance. Cold water was at once copiously applied to the apparently dead girl, who in twenty minutes from the time she was struck, revived and is expected to recover.

We understand that the native poultry down East, are organizing "Know-Nothing" Societies, designed to exclude all future importations of