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POETRY.

Bachelor's Opinion of Modern Girls.

"Ever ranging, constantly changing,
Sometimes teasing, sometimes pleasing,
Sometimes hoaxing, sometimes coaxing,
No expressing how much dressing,
Little knowing, little sewing,
Little walking, greatly talking,
Mischief making, promise breaking,
Novel reading, dainty feeding,
Idle dreaming, sudden screaming,
Lap-dog doating, Byron quoting,
Piano-playing, gems displaying,
Body bracing, tightly lacing,
Over-sleeping, often weeping,
Beauty-loving, white-kid-gloving,
Thin-shoe wearing, health despairing,
Daily fretting, sickness getting,
Ever sighing, almost dying,
What blessed wives to cheer men's lives!"

MISCELLANY.

[FOR THE INDEPENDENT PRESS.]

From Charleston.

CHARLESTON, Dec. 11, 1854.

Messrs. Editors:—Your readers may not be uninterested in an item of Charleston news, dropped occasionally, by way of variety. Hence I propose to be an irregular correspondent.

We left the depot at Cokesbury, man, woman, and child, on the 3d instant, and were borne along on the wings of steam, until we reached our destination for that day. But who can give anything of interest to the ordinary scenes of Railroad travel? It was puff, puff, whiz, stop, bang! stop, jerk and run, keeping good time, and not failing to meet the expectations of eager passengers. Our company consisted of the same variety usually seen on board a car, no better, no worse, so far as I could ascertain. Our friend MEDLOCK sustained his reputation as a gentlemanly conductor, and I must say, that the travel on this road is more pleasant and agreeable than that on any other road of which I have any knowledge.

On Monday, I went to the new College Chapel, at Columbia, and like many others found the reception quite too cool for comfort; with a biting nor'-wester, and an unfinished building, it was hardly to be supposed that we would much enjoy the "feast of reason and the flow of the soul." The fact is, Messrs. Editors, the Government should keep a supply of *throats* for the young gentlemen, commonly, to be used on special occasions, or refuse to build gigantic halls, in which an unfortunate listener can catch but an occasional word. The speeches, I dare say, were quite *a la mode*—they may have been very sensible, and eloquent too, but the majority of those present were none the wiser. It was a perfect pantomime to the *enders*. I could see lips moving, arms elevated, graceful bowing, and knees bending, grave Judges and Senators smiling and nodding, but poor out-sider as I was, the edification was all finished before it reached my lonely position. All around me were plenty of blue noses—handkerchiefs in requisition—young gentlemen dancing attendance on fine young ladies—a hum—murmur—confusion, and—and—I took up my hat and walked out.

There, there is the whistle of the four o'clock train, and I must leave the crowded city of Columbia for the still more crowded streets of Charleston. The night train—it promises some novelty at least. In we get—a crowd—a perfect jam. High backs to the seats to accommodate sleepers—*sleepers* with a vengeance! Every man claims his place, some ladies are left standing for a moment, no man seems willing to renounce *his* comfort for a lady on the night train—stand up all night! it is too much to be thought of. Won't the good souls just wait until to-morrow morning? It would be vastly more pleasant—yes, decidedly. We were of opinion after a little reasoning, that ladies and babies have no business on the night train.

If you are who you are, Messrs. Editors, you will come to the same conclusion, under the strong influence of sleepiness. Indeed, I must really a good breath, and confess that "to tell the truth" I over kept my seat and a lady standing by. It was too much for poor human nature to stand—stand up all night, [illegible] We gentle souls forgive [illegible] and hence take the [illegible] from Columbia to Charleston.

Now we [illegible] have obtained [illegible] on space—dar[illegible] out, and a [illegible] in the pres[illegible] soon nodding, [illegible] selves to sleep—vain effort—a very occasional snore gives indications that some have found forgetfulness in the arms of the sleepy god. There before us is a long line of lighted windows—it proves to be Kingsville, and supper is waiting on the table—a rush is made, and you are surprised both at the largeness of the company, and the dispatch with which the viands disappear. Supper over, every man's lips seem to be unsealed, and he is trying to force his neighbor into conversation. Where all are willing it is not difficult to talk. But soon one and another yield himself up to a kind of stupor (sleep it cannot be called,) and we are silent as the grave. We make long pauses, drive slowly, and so pass the night until about 1 o'clock in the morning, when you find yourself in this time honored city, where for the present I must leave you and your readers. Yours &c. ICON.

POLITICAL.

Proceedings of the Legislature.

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 6.

SENATE.—Mr. Mazyck, presented the memorial of the Charleston Chamber of Commerce, praying the repeal of the Usury Laws.

Mr. Moses submitted a resolution, instructing that the Committee on Education inquire into the expediency of distributing the Free School fund according to the wants of the several districts and parishes in this State, which was agreed to and ordered to the House for concurrence.

HOUSE OF REP'S.—A joint ballot was held for a State Reporter. Mr. Richardson was elected. S. A. Boykin was elected Surveyor General on the second ballot.

Mr. Hearst, from the Medical Committee, made a favorable report on the petition of the Trustees of the Roper Hospital, asking an appropriation. The Committee recommended an annual appropriation of $4,000.

Bills to authorize the State to aid in the construction of the Blue Ridge Railroad, and to authorize the formation of the Savannah River Railroad Company, were favorably reported on by Mr. Middleton, from the Committee of Ways and Means.

THURSDAY, Dec. 7.

SENATE.—Mr. Marshall, from the Committee on the Military, submitted reports—on the petition of the Commissioners of the Orphan House in Charleston, praying that certain beneficiaries be admitted into the Citadel in Charleston; on a petition praying the exemption of ministers of the gospel from patrol duty, by a bill for that purpose; and on the memorial of the Carolina Blues, Richland Guards, Richland Rifle Company, and Governor's Guards, praying to be formed into an Independent Battalion, also by a bill granting the prayer of the memorialists; which bills were read a first time and ordered for a second reading to-morrow.

Mr. Moses, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted a report on the memorial of the President of the Convention to suppress the sale of intoxicating liquors by itinerant traders, by a bill for that purpose, which was read a first time.

HOUSE OF REP'S.—Mr. Middleton, from the Committee of Ways and Means, made an unfavorable report on a bill to establish a Branch of the Bank of the State at Sumterville.

Mr. Thompson, from the Committee on Claims, reported on sundry claims and accounts.

Mr. Mitchell, from the Committee on the Judiciary, made a report on a bill to amend the Constitution of the State, so as to give the election of Governor and Lieutenant-Governor to the people, and recommended that the bill do *not* pass.

Mr. Hearst, pursuant to notice, introduced a bill to allow Thos. C. Devlin to hawk and peddle in Abbeville District, without the payment of the usual tax; read the first time.

The special order for to-day at 2, p. m., being a bill to provide for Banks of Discount and Deposit, &c., was then taken up by the House, as Committee of the Whole, Mr. McCrady in the chair.

Mr. Thomson, after a few remarks, moved an indefinite postponement of the bill.

After some little discussion, Mr. Thomson withdrew his motion and substituted the following:

"That the Committee rise and report *against* the bill." This motion was carried, and the Committee rose. This motion does not kill the bill, as it will be discussed when taken up by the House.

Mr. Queen, introduced a bill to amend the License Law.

Mr. James Patterson was elected Secretary of State on the third ballot.

[illegible] Dec. 8.

SENATE.—A bill [illegible] Charleston, having taken up, and are yeas 33, nays 8, so that the bill having passed through all its constitutional forms, is now the law of the State.

The Senate took up from the general orders of the day, a bill to punish assaults committed with concealed weapons. A motion was made to strike out the word "concealed," which was disagreed to after some debate thereon; the bill was read the second time and ordered to the House of Representatives.

The Senate considered and agreed to a resolution providing an appropriation of two hundred dollars for the transient poor of Beaufort.

HOUSE OF REP'S.—Mr. Noble presented a petition of the village of Ninety Six.

Mr. Sullivan, from the Committee on Education, made an unfavorable report on the petition asking an appropriation for Erskine College.

Mr. W. G. DeSaussure, from the Committee on the Judiciary, reported on the bill to arrange the State into judicial districts, and to provide for the election of a new law judge. The bill was reccommended to pass.

Mr. Cunningham offered a resolution favoring the acquisition of Cuba.

SATURDAY, Dec. 9.

SENATE.—This being the day set apart for religious services, very little was done in either House. In the Senate, the hour of 12 o'oclock having arrived, at which hour both branches of the General Assembly had agreed to suspend business, in order to attend the religious exercises in the Hall of the House of Representatives, the Senate proceeded to the Hall, where a most impressive sermon was delivered by the Rev. Dr. Thornwell.

The Senate having returned to its chamber, Mr. Townsend moved that the thanks of the Senate be returned to the Rev. Dr. Thornwell for his very eloquent and appropriate discourse, and that a Committee be appointed to solicit a copy thereof for publication.

MONDAY, Dec. 11.

SENATE.—Marshall, from the Committee on the Military, reported by a bill, on the memorial of the Commissioners of the Orphan House of Charleston, praying that certain beneficiaries be admitted into the Citadel Academy, which was read a first time.

Mr. Allen, from the committee to wait on the Governor elect and inform him of his election, reported that having performed that duty, the Governor would be ready for his inauguration on Wednesday next, at one o'clock.

HOUSE OF REP'S.—Mr. McGowen, from the Military Committee, reported unfavorably on a bill to exempt Ministers of the Gospel and other persons from patrol duty.

Mr. McGowen, from the same Committee, made further reports on a bill to exempt certain persons from ordinary militia duty, and recommended its passage; also on certain bills and memorials to exempt Ministers of the Gospel from patrol duty.

The report deprecated the idea that all ministers of the Gospel should be exempt from patrol duty, and recommended all regular licensed ministers, not owning mor than fifteen slaves, be exempted.

The special order was called for, (the bill introduced by Mr. Tucker, for the improvement, &c., of the Common School System,) and taken up by the House, in Committee of the Whole, Mr. McGowen in the chair.

Mr. Middleton, advocated ably the adoption of the amendments offered by him, when the bill was last discussed.

Mr. Middleton also stated his objections to several sections contained in the original bill, as it now stood.

Mr. McKnight replied, and with an unusual degree of earnestness, advocated the bill, and in conclusion, begged the Committee to pass this or some other bill by which the masses of our State might be educated.

Mr. Wilson, from York, followed Mr. McKnight, and in some eloquent remarks, advocated the passage of the bill. He showed the extreme necessity of the passage of the bill, and submitted estimates of the many adults and children now in the State, who could neither write or read, estimates, too, which was, or should be, galling to every South-Carolinian.

Mr. Sullivan obtained the floor, and in his usual pleasing style and ability, objected to the bill under consideration.

Mr. Thompson also objected to the bill, and advocated the present system. The present system had been called a failure; it was no failure, and two-thirds of those who now heard his voice, received the first rudiments of their education in the very schools pronounced to be a failure. The present system was decidedly the best one that could be adopted. The education given in these "free schools" was a common one, but it was of that kind which made this, South Carolina now is. Mr. Thompson was interrupted [illegible] much applauded.

Mr. Tucker replied, and [illegible] with great candor and spirit, all the arguments urged against the bill; (the reply of Mr. Tucker will be published.)

Mr. [illegible] to conclude, moved that the [illegible] report the bill [illegible] the amendment of Mr. Tucker were afterwards voted down, and on motion of Mr. Simons, the Committee rose and reported to the House that the bill do not pass.

TUESDAY, Dec. 12.

SENATE.—Pursuant to notice, the following bills were introduced by Mr. Gist: A bill to amend the Constitution of this State, so as to disqualify for seats in the General Assembly, all persons holding the office of President and Director of any banking institution; by Mr. Townsend, a bill to repeal the proviso to the first section of an Act relating to the survey of the coast of South-Carolina, under the authority of the United States; by Mr. Ingram, a bill to limit the jurisdiction of Magistrates in certain cases, which recived a joint reading and referred.

Mr. Mazyck submitted a resolution providing for a jointcommittee in both Houses, to revise the criminal law of this State and to report at the next session of the Legislature; and a resolution, proposing to remove the obligations of secrecy from the private report of the indebtedness of the President and Directors of the Bank of the State, both of which were ordered for consideration to-morrow.

A bill to alter the Constitution of the State so as to provide for the election of members to the General Assembly of the State, was next among the General Orders. This bill was introduced by Mr. Allen from Barnwell, and provides for but one day of election throughout the State. The bill designated that the election be held on the 2d Monday of October, as specified therein.—On motion of Mr Barnes, the word "Tusday," was substituted therefor; the bill read through a second time, and on the question of agreeing thereto, it being a constitutional question, the yeas and nays were taken and are yeas 35, nays 4,—and ordered to the House of Representatives.

HOUSE OF REP'S—The Senate returned to the House a bill for the further carrying on of the Lunatic Asylum; also a bill to authorize the United States to punchase certain lands of the State for the erection of Light Houses and Beacon Lights.

The report of the Committee of the whole, on the bill to reorganize and for the improvement of the Common School System, being adverse, Mr. Tucker moved that the report be laid on the table, and called for the ayes and noes.—The vote was taken—ayes 53 noes 44. The motion to lie on the table was sustained.

On motion of Mr. Tucker, the bill was taken up for a second reading.

Some discussion arose on the motion of Mr. Middleton to strike out the first section of the bill.

Mr. J. Y. Simons, jr., of Charleston, said that he had a few, and but a few remarks to make upon the bill, and would do so now; he was in favor of the present system of Free Schools, and he saw no provision in the bill introduced by the gentleman from Spartanburg calculated to improve the present system; he objected to the first section which provides for the election of a Board of Directors by the General Assembly, and would record his vote against it.

Mr. J. B. Campbell differed from the views entertained by his colleague, and in his usual happy style, contended that there was much good in the bill, but there were some sections of the bill he would vote against. As for the *first* section, neither he nor his constituents had any thing to do with it.

Mr. Mullins replied briefly: there were but one or two sections in the bill he cared for, and would vote for the striking out all other sections.

Mr. Simons replied, and in a few well timed remarks, ably sustained his position towards the bill.

The first section was stricken out, and further debate cut off by a motion made by Mr. Hemmond, to lay the bill on the table; the vote was taken by ayes and noes, on motion of Mr. Tucker. The motion to lie on the table was lost, and the reading of the bill continued by sections.

The debate on the bill was long and somewhat stormy, on each section, and as the bills and the amendments are long, it is impossible in the ordinary space allowed in daily journals, for such proceedings, to present even a synopsis of either the bill or the amendments.

Mr. Spain called for the Special Order, viz: sundry bills providing for the election of Electors. The order was taken up, and Mr. Spain moved that the order be discharged until the first Tuesday after the fourth Monday in November next.

The Common School Bill was again taken up. On the motion to strike out the 16th section of the bill, which provides for an election of a superintendant at an annual salary of $2000, Mr. Memminger arose, and electrified the House by one of his usual able *impromptus*, in which he advocated the passage of that clause in the bill.

Mr. Hope and Mr. Tucker replied briefly, when Mr. Middleton withdrew his motion.

Mr. Memminger [illegible] in behalf [illegible] Mr. Chesnut, [illegible] or, reported that they had discharged the duty assigned them, and found that the accounts were all regularly vouched for.

Mr. Middleton, from the Committee of Ways and Means, reported on sundry bills, memorials, &c., and begged leave to institute a copy of the bill reported by said Committee, to authorize the State to extend aid to the Blue Ridge Railroad, which was destroyed by the recent conflagration in this city. Leave being granted, the copy was introduced.

Mr. McGowan, from the Committee on the Military, submitted a very interesting report on that portion of Message No. 1, of His Excellency, as refered to the Military System of the State.

Majority and minority reports were made by the Committee on the Judiciary, on the bill to establish an additional Court of Appeals—the minority in the person of Mr. Mitchell, and the majority in Mr. Thornwell.

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 13.

SENATE.—A bill to improve the system of Free Schools in this State, sent from the House of Representatives, was read a first time and ordered for a second reading to-morrow.

Mr. Buchanan, from the Committee on Finance and Banks, submitted a report on a bill to authorize aid to the Savannah and Charleston Railroad Company; also on a bill to authorize the city Council of Charleston to levy a tax on the real estate of banks in that city, recommending that they do pass.

The Senate now, at 1 o'clock, by invitation from the House of Representatives, attended the Hall of the House, to witness the inauguration of Gen. Jas. H. Adams, the Governor elect. Being attended by ex-Governor Manning and the Joint Committee of both Houses and ascending to the Speaker's desk, delivered his inaugural address, took the oath of office, as administered by the Speaker, and proceeded to the Senate Chamber, accompanied by the President and members of the Senate, the Speaker and members of the House of Representatives, and by ex-Governor Manning, when the President of the Senate delivered to the Governor elect his commission of office. Proceeding to the balcony of the Capitol, accompanied by both bodies of the General Assembly, he was there proclaimed Governor in and over the State of South Carolina, for two years, by Charles Neuffer, Esq., Sheriff of Richland District.

Next on the calendar of business, was a bill to prohibit traffic in intoxicating liquors by itinerant traders. This bill had also been reported from the Committee on the Judiciary, which recommended its passage. It was debated for a considerable time, by Messrs. Dudley, Moses, Marshall, McAlily, Allen, Boozer, Witherspoon, Brockman, Johnson, and Chestnut, who were all in favor of the prohibition; but it was difficult, under the various amendments which were offered, to adjust it so as to suit the views of members generally. This being the case, the further discussion was, on motion of Mr. Johnson, postponed, and the bill will be again taken up to-morrow.

HOUSE OF REP'S.—The bill to amend the charter of the Town of Edgefield and other purposes was taken up for a second reading. In the reading of the first section of the bill, Mr. Moragne moved to amend so much of the section as referred to the sum of $50,000 being subscribed by the Town Council of that village to a railroad, and inserting thirty thousand dollars instead of fifty thousand dollars. Mr. Tillman moved to amend the amendment by inserting twenty thousand dollars instead of thirty thousand dollars.

A sharp and spicy debate arose on the amendments proposed, in which Messrs. Moragne, Middleton, Campbell, Tillman, and others participated. The reading of the bill was resumed. A long and rather uninteresting debate arose on several sections of the bill, which was not concluded, when the hour at which the House had previously ordered a recess had arrived.

Mr. Spain offered a resolution requiring the committee on Ways and Means to enquire into the expediency of increasing the *per diem* of the members of the General Assembly; immediate consideration was called for, and the resolution agreed to.

Mr. Toomer, pursuant to notice, introduced a bill to disqualify all officers of banks from holding seats in the General Assembly; read the first time.

Mr. Cunningham, from the Committee on Privileges and Elections, made a favorable report on the Senate Bill, to alter and amend the Constitution in regard to the election of members of the General Assembly.

Mr. Middleton, from the Committee of Ways and Means, reported on the petition to increase the salaries of the Judges of Law and Equity, and recommended that the salary of any Judge who shall hereafter be elected, be [illegible] for [illegible]

THURSDAY, Dec. 14.

SENATE.—Mr. Witherspoon presented the petition of sundry citizens of York District, praying an alteration of the Constitution, so as to provide for but one day for holding the general elections throughout the State.

Mr. Chestnut, from the Committee on Federal Relations, submitted a report on a bill to provide for the election of the electors for President and Vice President of the United States, which on his motion was postponed to the first Wednesday after the fourth Monday in November next, and that it be made the special order for that day, at 1 o'clock, p. m.

Mr. Witherspoon presented the petition of the Commissioners of Public Buildings for Williamsburg District, praying an additional appropriation for building a Court House.

Mr. Bull presented an answer to a resolution of enquiry, in reference to a full estimate of cost of the new Capitol, which was read.

The Senate now took upon the General Orders of the day, and proceeded to give a second reading to a bill to amend an act more effectually to prevent free negroes and other persons of color from entering into this State, and for other purposes. This bill was opposed by Mr. Mazyck and advocated by Mr. Chestnut, Chairman of the Committe on Federal Relations, to whom it had been referred. After some time spent in debate, on the question of agreeing to the bill, the yeas and nays were called for, and the bill agreed to, and ordered to the House of Representatives by yeas 24, nays 14.

HOUSE OF REP'S.—The Senate returned to the House a bill to exempt Ministers of the Gospel from ordinary patrol duty; read the first time.

Pursuant to notice, Mr. Crosson introduced a bill to amend the charter of the Newberry and Chester Railroad Company.

Mr. Rice, from the Committee on Roads, Bridges and Ferries, made reports on bills to alter and amend the License Law of this State; to exempt certain persons from road duty; to allow T. C. Devlin to hawk and peddle in Abbeville District, &c.

Col. H. P. Hayne, of Charleston, a distinguished and venerable veteran of the war of 1812, whose presence was noticed in the House, was, by a resolution, admitted to all the privileges of the floor.

The report of the Committee of the Judiciary, on the bill to increase, in certain particulars, the jurisdiction of Magistrates, being *against* the passage of the bill, it was on motion of Mr. Tucker, laid on the table, and the bill was taken up for a second reading.

A spicy debate ensued, which was cut off suddenly, by the call of the special order of the day, by Mr. B. F. Perry, which was the bill to authorize the State to aid in the construction of the Blue Ridge Railroad, and ably defended by Messrs. B. F. Perry, Treadholm and Memminger.

FRIDAY, Dec. [illegible]

SENATE—On motion of Mr. Marshall, Resolved, That the commissioners of the new State Capitol be authorized by this General Assembly to purchase from Charles Werner, the representation of the Palmetto Tree in the cast iron and ornaments, now in front of the State House, provided the purchase does not exceed the sum of Five Thousand Dollars: Resolved, The said commissioners are hereby directed to have inscribed on the pedestal of the tree, the names of the dead of the Palmetto Regiment, who fell in the service of the United States, whilst engaged in the war with Mexico, and that the said tree be placed in front of the State House.

The special order of the day for 2 o'clock was a bill to amend the law in relation to the election of members of the General Assembly. This bill provides for but one day of election for members of the General Assembly, and is stringent in its provisions, as regards the duties of managers of elections, and imposes fines for neglect of duty, &c. It was introduced by Mr. Allen from Barnwell and advocated by him at some length, and with much warmth. On the question of agreeing thereto and ordering to the House of Representatives, the Senate disagreed and the bill consequently lost.

A bill to authorize the State to aid in the construction of the Charleston and Savannah River Railroad, on its second reading, was [illegible] to and ordered to the House of Representatives.

HOUSE OF REP'S.—Mr. McGowan, from the Military Committee, reported on the bill from the Senate, exempting certain officers of the Guard from military duty, and recommended that the bill [illegible] which [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible]

Mr. [illegible] Committee, [illegible] Chesnut, [illegible] Ways and Means, [illegible] House, [illegible] Charleston, [illegible]