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[PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.]

BY W. A. LEE AND HUGH WILSON.

ABBEVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA, FRIDAY MORNING, JANUARY 27, 1860.

VOLUME VII.—NO. 39.

THE INDEPENDENT PRESS.

BY LEE & WILSON.

ABBEVILLE S. C.

Two Dollars in Advance, or Two Dollars and Fifty Cents at the Expiration of the Year.

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We have been requested to publish the following portion of the late Gen. M. D. Lamar's celebrated poem entitled

ON THE DEATH OF MY DAUGHTER. IN REPLY TO LINES RECEIVED FROM THE REV. EDWARD FONTAINE, AUSTIN, TEXAS.

The eighth verse was quoted by his friend, Gen. Hugh McLeod, on Monday last, and has been kindly laid upon our table by that gentleman.—*Gulf Coast News.*

All honor to thy minstrel skill,
Dear friend of happier days;
Thy notes are sweet, but sweeter still
The love that prompts thy lays.
From sorrows deep, and cherished long,
Thou fain wouldst free my heart—
Thou wouldst, by thine enchanting song,
New hopes and joys impart.

Nor would I, if I could, revive
From my distraction will;
I love the grief that keeps alive
The memory of my child;
And if again by hope betrayed,
My soul should court reprieve,
Slow poorly would the guilt be paid,
By all that earth bestows.

The morning star that fades from sight,
Still beams upon the mind;
So doth her beauty leave the light
Of memory behind.
Though lost to earth—too early gone—
By others seen no more,
She is to me still shining on,
And brighter than before.

The sacred love, the holy weep,
Awakened by the dead,
Are like the fragrance of the rose
When all its thorns are fled;
And as beside the grave we stand,
The mournful thoughts that rise,
Are whispers from the Spirit-Land—
Sweet voices from the skies.

The only boon, O God, I crave,
Is soon thy face to see;
I long to pass the dull, cold grave,
And wing my way to thee—
To thee, O God, and all my friends
In thine eternal sphere,
Where I may make some poor amends,
For all my errors here.

MESSAGE OF GOV. LETCHER OF VIRGINIA.

The first message of Gov. Letcher was read to the two houses of the Virginia Legislature, on Saturday last. It is entirely devoted to Federal politics. He makes the following suggestions:

The only mode, therefore, of remedying the evil, that occurs to me, under the Constitution, is provided in the fifth article thereof. Summon a Convention of all the States, that a full and free conference may be held between the representatives of the people, elected for this purpose, and thus ascertain whether the questions in controversy cannot be settled upon some basis mutually satisfactory to both sections. If such a convention shall assemble, and after free and full consultation and comparison of opinions, they shall find that the differences between the slaveholding and non-slaveholding States are irreconcilable, let them consider the question of a peaceable separation and the adjustment of all questions relating to the disposition of the common property between the two sections. If they can be reconciled, let them adjust the terms and give them such sanctions as will render them effective.

I suggest, therefore, that you adopt resolutions in favor of the call of such a Convention, and appeal to the Legislatures of the several States to unite in the application proposed to be made to Congress, in pursuance of the provisions of the articles aforesaid. If the non-slaveholding States shall fail to refuse to unite in the application, such failure or refusal will furnish conclusive evidence of a determination on their part to keep up the agitation, and to continue their aggressions upon us. If the Convention shall meet, and the question cannot be satisfactorily adjusted, it will furnish evidence equally conclusive of their determination. In either event, the people of the South will clearly understand what they respect in the future.

It will doubtless be objected to this suggestion that it looks to disunion. Grant it if you please. Is not the danger of disunion imminent now, and is not the public mind, North and South, deeply agitated by the apprehensions that the days of the Union are numbered? Disunion speeches are the order of the day in deliberative bodies,

State and National, and the press teems with the same sort of matter, editorial communicated and selected. Southern Legislatures are employed in considering the best modes of protecting the honor and rights of their States, and are making provision for arming disciplining the militia with sole reference to their protection and defence, either in or out of the Union. Every man sees and feels that dangers are impending over us, and that disunion is not only a possible, but a highly probable event, and at no distant day. When these things are so, surely the country can look upon disunion from the standpoint which I occupy. If men cannot calmly look upon it, at this distance, they ought to cease the utterance of disunion sentiments, and permit the public mind to settle down, preparatory to submission on the part of the South.

I also suggest that a commission, to consist of two of our most intelligent, discreet and experienced statesmen, shall be appointed, whose duty it shall be to visit the Legislatures of those States which have passed laws to the execution of the fugitive slave act, and insist, in the name of Virginia, upon their unconditional repeal. In support of the suggestion of the appointment of a commission, a precedent is to be found in the history of our own State, in the appointment of the distinguished Benjamin Watkins Leigh, who was commissioned to visit the Legislature of South Carolina, at the time of the controversy between that State and the Federal Government. The existence of the Union was then greatly imperilled, and the action of Virginia exerted a most happy influence in bringing about a settlement that averted the danger and restored peace to the country. That crisis in public affairs was almost as serious and alarming as at present.

That controversy has now reached a point which demands a speedy settlement, if the Union is to be saved from dissolution. If the aggressions to which we have been subjected for so many years, are to be repeated if mutual distrust and suspicion are to continue, and if the sectional Republican candidate to the Presidency in 1860, is to be superadded, it is useless to attempt to conceal the fact, that in the present temper of the Southern people, it cannot be, and will not be submitted to. The "irrepressible conflict" doctrine, announced and advocated by the ablest and most distinguished leader of the Republican party, is an open declaration of war against the institution of African slavery wherever it exists, and I would be disloyal to Virginia and the South, if I did not declare that the election of such a man, entertaining sentiments and advocating such doctrines, ought to be resisted by the slaveholding States. The idea of permitting such a man to have control and direction of the Army and Navy of the United States, and the appointment of high judicial and executive officers, postmasters included, cannot be entertained by the South for a moment.

I am now and have ever been a friend to the Union of the States. I appreciate its value, ardently desire its preservation, and would not rashly hazard its existence. I have presented these views in the earnest hope that the Northern mind may be brought to reflection, and that the conservatism of that section may be aroused and stimulated to immediate action. It will require prompt and decided action on their part, if mutual confidence shall be revived and distrust and suspicion shall be banished from amongst us. A wise, prudent and considerate course may save the Union, in this hour of its peril. To this end, I am prepared to do all that honor, duty and patriotism enjoins upon me.

Whether the Union shall survive or perish, it is nevertheless, your duty to place the State in such a condition that she will be prepared at all times, and upon the shortest notice, to protect her honor, defend her rights, and maintain her institutions against all assaults of her enemies. With this view I recommend a careful revision of the militia law; and in this connection I suggest that munitions of war be procured and provision made for the organization of an efficient military staff. It would do well, also to specify in the law, the number of aids to which the Governor is entitled, and designate their rank. I cordially approve the bill herewith sent, for the organization of a brigade of minute men, prepared by a gentleman remarkable for his intelligence, military knowledge and experience. And, I recommend the Virginia Military Institute to your favorable consideration, and urge that liberal appropriations be made for enlarging the building and extending the sphere of its usefulness.

By your legislation encourage a spirit of independence amongst the people, foster direct trade, manufactures and the mechanic arts by all legitimate modes. Our internal improvements should be pushed forward to completion as rapidly as the means of the State will warrant, as aids to direct trade and State independence.

The laws of the State shall be faithful

executed, her rights defended, her institutions maintained, and her honor scrupulously guarded and protected. My only object is to discourage my duty as to secure the confidence and win the respect and approbation of my fellow-citizens of Virginia. I will be found ready, therefore, to co-operate in all measures calculated to develop her unbounded resources and promote the happiness and the prosperity of her people.

Respectfully,
JOHN LETCHER.

THE MODEL RAILROAD CONDUCTOR.

The position of a railroad conductor is one of great responsibility, and can only be well filled by a man possessing a combination of peculiar qualifications. He must necessarily be a gentleman, for his daily duties require the constant exercise of every quality which makes the gentleman. He must possess a temper of admirable and unyielding equality. His conversational powers must be immense, and his fund of information upon every variety of topic must be inexhaustible. Under all circumstances—at all times and in all places, he must be prepared to answer all sorts of questions—all sorts of people, politely and satisfactorily.

The duties of his avocation bring him into every variety of collision with all sorts of characters. The inflexible rules which define his duties must be enforced with manly independence and the most perfect courtesy. He must possess the determination of Napoleon, with the suavity of Chesterfield. He has constantly in charge the lives of many hundreds of people, and at the same time, must devote his talents to the interest of employers, who will hold him to the strictest accountability.

When on duty his judgment and his temper are almost constantly tried.—Here he comes across a brave fool who will stand on the platform—there a consequential gentleman who self-hily insists upon occupying two seats, to the manifest discomfort of a half-dozen standers. This gentleman, whom he has just aroused from bacchanal sleep, has left his home and his mother behind him, and in his muddled condition is utterly ignorant where he has come from, or whither he is going. Mark how politely the conductor hands him from the car at the first stopping place, and assures him he will find most excellent accommodations round the next corner. Next comes a customer who travels on his impudence, a commodity which does not pass current with railroad conductors, and he is assured that unless he produces his ticket or his money he will reach his journey's end at the next stopping place. The conductor receives his abuse with a smile, and while his angry customer is promising to report him at head quarters he hands him on the platform, there to wait for the next train and play the same game for another ten mile ride. There are women as well as men who attempt to travel on "shape and talent" without money. Doubtless necessity induces many to attempt to travel without money, but the largest number who refuse payment do so out of pure "cussfulness."

All these classes of persons the conductor must dispose of without unnecessary annoyance to others. He must enforce strict obedience to every regulation of the road, and still in a great degree upon him depends its popularity. He must do disagreeable things as politely as he would ask a lady to dance, and for a large share of the annoyances and disagreeabilities of travel, right or wrong, he will be held responsible.

Men who cannot put up with every phase of human weakness, never make good railroad conductors. Those who succeed in this become models in their profession. They are the necessities of the railroad system, created by it. The public owes them much, and their employers more. They are high minded and honorable men and the constant annoyance and dangers of their business renders them brave, resolute, decided, cautious of risk, and just and courteous to all.

The profession is one of danger, responsibility and hardship, but it has its pleasures, and perhaps the greatest of these is found in the high esteem which the intelligent public give to the model railroad conductor.

Pittsburg (Penn.) Post.

JUDON JOSEPH G. BALDWIN.—We are not surprised to see the name of Joseph G. Baldwin, author of the "Flash Times," as a Judge of the Supreme Court of California, prominently mentioned in connection with the recent U. S. Senatorship from that State. He is fully competent for that or any other position at bar in the State, or the United States. He has risen rapidly, steadily and brilliantly in the literary, legal and political world, and we trust he may keep on rising. Mr. Baldwin is one of the able and purest of the pulchre of America. He is a native of Virginia—of course. He is a nephew of the late Judge Baldwin, of Staunton, and his father still resides in Lynchburg.—*Richmond Dispatch.*

PROFESSOR LEONARD.—There has been introduced into the Senate of Ohio a bill to punish all citizens convicted of raising military expeditions for the purpose of creating servitude or other State.

THE END OF GREAT MEN.

Happening to cast my eyes upon a printed page of miniature portraits, I perceived that the four personages who occupied the four most conspicuous places, were Alexander, Hannibal, Caesar, and Bonaparte. I had seen the same unnumbered times before, but never did the same sensation arise in my bosom, as my mind hastily glanced over their several histories.

Alexander, after having climbed the dizzy heights of his ambition, and with his temples bound with chaplets dipped in the blood of countless nations, looked down upon a conquered world and wept that there was not another world for him to conquer, set a city on fire, and died in a scene of debauch.

Hannibal, after having, to the astonishment and consternation of Rome, passed the Alps—after having put to flight the armies of this "mistress of the world," and stripped "three bushels" of golden rings from the fingers of her slaughtered knights and made her very foundations quake—fled from his country, being hated by those who once exultingly united his name to that of their God, and called him Hanni Baal—and died at last by poison administered by his own hands, unlamented and unwept, in a foreign land.

Caesar, after having conquered eight hundred cities and dyed his garments in the blood of one million of his foes; after having pursued to death the only rival he had on earth, was miserably assassinated by those he considered as his nearest friends and in that very place, the attainment of which had been his greatest ambition.

Bonaparte, whose mandate kings and popes obeyed, after having filled the earth with the terror of his name—after having deluged Europe with tears and blood, and clothed the world in sackcloth—closed his eyes in lonely banishment, almost literally exiled from the world; yet where he could sometimes see his country's banner waving over the deep, but which would not, or could not bring him aid.

Thus those four men, who, from the peculiar situation of their portraits, seemed to stand as the representatives of all whom the world calls great—those four, who each in turn made the earth tremble to its very centre by their simple tread, severally died—one by intoxication, or, as some suppose by poison mingled in his wine one a suicide one murdered by his friends—and one a lonely exile! "How are the mighty fallen!"

THE YOUNG WIDOW ON A SLEIGH RIDE.

It was winter, clear and cold, and the snow was lively packed, when Dr. Meadows was one of a sleighing party, which he describes, so far as he and the young widow Lambkin were concerned, in the words following.

The lively young Widow Lambkin sat in the same sleigh, under the same buffalo robe with me.

"Oh! oh! don't!" she exclaimed, as we came to the first bridge, at the same time catching me by the arm, and turning her veiled face toward me, while her little eyes twinkled through the moonlight.

"Don't what?" I asked. "I am not doing anything."

"Well, but I thought you were going to take toll," replied Mrs. Lambkin.

"Toll," I rejoined, "what's that?"

"Well, I declare, cried the Widow, her clear laugh ringing out above the music of the bells, "you pretend you don't know what toll is!"

"Indeed, I don't, then, I said laughing; pray explain if you please."

"You never heard, then," said the widow most provokingly, "you never heard that when we are on a sleigh ride the gentlemen always, that is, sometimes, when they cross a bridge, claim a kiss, and call it toll. But I never pay it."

I said that I had never heard of it before, but when we came to the next bridge I claimed the toll, and the widow's struggles to hold the veil over her face were not enough to tear it. At last the veil was removed, her round, rosy face was turned directly toward mine, and in the clear light of a frosty moon, the toll was taken for the first time in his life, by Dr. Meadows. Soon we came to a long bridge, with several arches; the widow said it was no use to resist a man who would have his own way, so she paid the toll without a murmur.

"But you won't take toll for every arch, will you Doctor?" the widow said so archly. I did not fail to exact all my dues, and that was the beginning. Never mind the rest. The Lambkin had the Meadows all to herself in the spring.

TO CLEAN KNIVES.—The most simple and best way, is to rub the brick dust on them with half of a raw potato. There appears to be some virtue in the juice of the potato which aids in cleaning them.

"I presume you won't charge anything for just remembering me," said a one legged sailor to a wooden-log manufacturer.

PLEASURES OF SKATING.

We find in the New York Times an editorial enthusiastically favorable to this "elegant and manly amusement." From its *con amore* article we clip the following, of interest to those concerned:

And first as to the skate. This should never be grooved or 'guttered' except for little boys and women, if women will skate. The edge of the groove cuts deeply into the ice, and so impedes rapid progress, and is almost fatal to graceful movement. For the same reason the edge of the iron should not be straight, but more or less curved, that the point of resistance and friction may be as small as possible, and that backward movement may be as safe and as easy as forward. A boy in his first season may well have grooved, straight-ironed skates; but if he gets on tolerably well, he ought to be upon smooth irons in his second, and on rockers in his third season. The rocker pattern is, however, sometimes overdone, and within a year or two skates have made their appearance without the right angle at the heel, by pressing which into the ice the skater can suddenly arrest his motion.

These do very well for the most accomplished and boldest skaters, when all is plain sailing and there is no danger ahead; but in case of an impending collision, a break in the ice, a sudden loss of balance, or any of the many perils against which the skater needs instant protection, they cannot be relied upon. Nor do they, as our observation extends, afford advantages either for rapidity or freedom of motion, even backward, to compensate for such great deficiencies in point of security; and we are inclined to doubt whether they are in any respect better than a wellworn rocker (having an arc for instance of from twenty inches to two feet radius) with a right-angled heel.

The iron should be as narrow as it can be, and keep the feet well from the ice; for the lighter the foot is raised the greater the strain upon the ankle.

The simpler your strapping is, the better in every way. Two straps—a long one to go round the foot twice and buckle, with a return over the toe, and a short heel-strap—are quite sufficient. But do not use skates with laced shoes for straps; your feet will shift and roll in them. Let your own shoes, which had better be boots, and be as snugly fitting as perfect comfort will allow, and as light also. If you need protection against mud or snow on your way to the ice, wear overshoes, not double-soled boots. The skaters feet need to be winged, not weighted.

The skating dress should be warm, but as compact as possible. Thick woolen underclothes, a trick waistcoat and trousers, with a heavy, short-skirted coat or sack, and a soft hat or cap, form the best skating costume. But overcoats of whatever nature, should never be retained upon the ice, though they should be worn on going to it and, above all, immediately when the skates are taken off; and it is better, both for health and comfort to walk home, or at least the first mile toward it, than to ride. Indeed, the severe cold to which the skater is frequently exposed requires more consideration than it generally receives; and no petty bravado or assumption of manliness should prevent him from protecting himself well against it. Above all, if he skate in a cold, cutting wind, and be obliged to go with and against it, he should, in the latter case never skate, right in the teeth of the blast, but beat, making his tacks as possible. A neglect of this precaution may cost him an inflammation of the lungs; a malady quite common in countries where skating is an ordinary mode of winter locomotion. Let the skater also, before he starts off upon a long rapid stretch, move slowly over his skating ground, and see if he have holes, or what is almost as bad, soft places, through which his irons may cut when he is in full career, and throw him dangerously. And now reminding him that if the ice cracks under him, it will bear him in a horizontal position when it will not if he stands, and that the lack of extra strap in his pocket may cost him his day's enjoyment, we commend him to his noble sport, wishing him, when he next goes a skating, black ice, sharp-skates, and a still day.

A COURT DRESS.—At the last President's levee in Washington, considerable amusement was created during the evening by the rather strange conduct and uniform worn by a gentleman present, who made himself unusually conspicuous. It was ascertained that he was a stranger from the West, and had been persuaded to adopt the attire he wore by some wags, who informed him that he must wear a court dress or military uniform on his appearance at the reception of the President.

Four hundred years have elapsed since the invention of printing, yet books are not in circulation all over the globe; while the use of tobacco became universal within fifty years of its discovery.

WAL UPON LONG DRESSES.

An "Autocrat" and an Empress—Dr. Holmes of Boston, and Eugenie on the other side of the Atlantic—have together opened the campaign. We join them by throwing in our humble bomb-shell in the shape of the following *Scientific Problem*—

Round women the pure
Floats an air, we are sure,
That is sacred from profanation;
But those eddies of dirt
Swept up under her skirt—
How get they their purification?

In short, what is it that makes women down with the dust? But leaving this problem to be solved, let us quote what says the Autocrat of the Breakfast-Table on the subject:—

'But confound the make believe women we have turned loose in our streets; where do they come from? Why, there isn't a beast or bird that would drag its tail through the dirt in the way these creatures do their dresses. Because a queen or a duchess wears long robes on great occasions, a maid-of-all-work, or a factory girl, thinks she must make herself a nuisance by trailing through the street, picking up dirt and carrying it about with her—bah! that's what I call getting vulgarly into your bones and marrow. Making believe to what you are not, is the essence of vulgarity. Show over dirt is the one attribute of vulgar people. If any man can walk behind one of these women, and see what she takes up as she goes, and not feel squeamish, he has got a tough stomach. I wouldn't let one of them into my room without serving them as David did Saul at the cave in the wilderness—cut off his skirts. Don't tell me that a true lady ever sacrifices the duty of keeping all around her sweet and clean, to the wish of making a vulgar show. I won't believe it of a lady. There are some things which no fashion has any right to touch, and cleanliness is one of these things. If a woman wishes to show that her husband or her father has got money, which she wants and means to spend, but doesn't know how, let her buy a yard or two of silk and pin it to her dress when she goes out to walk, but let her unpin it before she goes into the house; there may be some poor woman that will think it worth dissecting.'

And thus says a paragraph in the Tribune, as to the blow struck at the fashion by the Empress:—

'We did not give all the news of the banishment of ermine by the Empress Eugenie. It is now our joyful duty to add that, at the request of her majesty, which at court amounts to a command, for promiscuous ordinary toilettes, *mousseline de laine* has been adopted. All dresses will be of this material, but not long and trailing. They are to be short, so as to show the lower part of the leg a little.'

Grace Greenwood, however, thinks the war likely to be desperate. She said in her Lecture at Boston:—

'I have had my heroic moments, when I even dreamed myself equal to the part of Joan of Arc, and Grace Darling; but never, in my utmost exultation, have I felt capable of leading in this desperate effort to row against the wind and tide, perhaps the mountainous billows of ridicule. I might be tortured by the pin-pricks of newspaper wit, and smile amid my pain; I might be cut by high fashion, and survive; but I must confess 'Young America' on the street corners would appal me!'

We must add, to this, that we hear of two variations of the fashion below the knee—first, a slightly constructed *rail car* to be a wheel-bearer of a lady's skirt as she walks the street, and second, an introduction of the Spanish custom of *silver anklets* for those who choose to walk out in short petticoats. *Home Journal.*

A LAWYER'S ORATION.

I remember once, when I was a young man, living up in New Hampshire they dedicated a new bridge, and invited a young lawyer to deliver an oration. The lawyer had never yet, after a fortnight's practice, had the honor of being retained, and the opportunity of establishing a reputation was admirable. The day came, and with it to the bridge came the multitude and the orator. He had made no written preparation, that being, he had been told, un-lawyer-like—a lawyer being supposed to be capable of speaking without note or notice, any number of hours, on any subject, in a style of thrilling eloquence. So our orator trusted to the occasion. He stood out upon the platform and, amid the profound attention of his audience, commenced:

'Fellow-citizens: Five-and-forty years ago, this bridge, built by your enterprise, was part and parcel of the howling wilderness! He passed a moment. 'Yes, fellow-citizens, only five-and-forty years ago, this bridge, where we now stand, was part and parcel of the howling wilderness! Again he paused [Cries of 'Go on! go on!'] Here was the 'hub.' I feel it hardly necessary to repeat, that this bridge, fellow-citizens, only five-and-forty years ago, was part of the howling wilderness; and I will conclude by saying that I wish it was part and parcel of its own!'

Lord Brougham has at last begun to distrust his memory. He read his speech at Bradford. It was, however, a very long one, filling six columns of the Times, close print.

Life appears to be too short to be spent in nursing antipathies or registering wrongs.

The last accounts from Peru give some indications of ill-feeling on their part towards us. We should, of course, hate to have the Peruvians bite us, though we have no objection to a little Peruvian bark.

Almost every sheet of newspaper used by the press in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Alabama, is of Southern manufacture. Three-fourths of all that is used in New Orleans is made at the North. In Tennessee, it is divided between North and South. The Southern Methodist Book Concern gets most of their from North of Mason & Dixon's Line. Most of the newspapers of that are manufactured South.

ADVICE TO TRAVELLERS.—The best advice I can give you is to put on luggage and stick to yourself.

CELEBRATED AUTHORS.

Dr. Johnson preferred conversation to books, and owned that he had hardly read a single book through, declaring that the perpetual task of reading, was as bad as slavery in the mine, or labor at the oar.

Byron was an exceedingly rapid writer and composer. He produced the whole of the "Drama of Ahydos" in a single night; and it is said without even mending his pen. The pen is now preserved in the British Museum.

Pope never could compose well without first declaiming for some time at the top of his voice, and thus rousing his nervous system to the fullest activity. He says, "the things I have written quickest, have always pleased me best."

A friend once said to Moore, the poet, that his verses must slip off his tongue as if by magic. "Why, sir," replied Moore, "that line cost me hours, days and weeks of attrition before it would come."

It cost Lord Lyttleton twenty years, to write the "Life and History of Henry II."—Gibbon was twelve years in completing his "Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire;" and Adam Smith occupied ten years in producing his "Wealth of Nations."

Calvin studied in his bed. Every morning at five or six o'clock, he had book, manuscript and paper brought to him there and he worked on for hours together. If he had occasion to go out, on his return he undressed and went to bed again, there to resume his studies.

Bacon could only compose in a small study; he fancied that a contorted room helped him to condense his thoughts, and always invested the ceremony of writing with solemnity. He knelt down before composing his great works, and prayed for light from Heaven.

Balzac, the finest writer in French prose who gives vast majesty and harmony to his periods, has been known to bestow a week upon a single page of composition, and was never satisfied with the first production of his thoughts.

Martin Luther's literary labors were enormous, during an interval of less than thirty years, he published seven hundred and fifty volumes; some were pamphlets, but the most were large and elaborate treatises. He was very fond of his dog which was ever by his side.

'The Comforts of Human Life,' by R. Heron, were written in a prison under the most distressing circumstances. 'The Miseries of Human Life,' by Berosford, were, on the contrary, composed in a drawing room, where the author was surrounded by every luxury.

Steele wrote excellently on temperance when he was sober. Sallust, who declaimed so eloquently against the licentiousness of the age, was himself a habitual debauchee. Johnson's essay on politeness is admirable, but he himself was a perfect boor. Young's gloomy verses give one the blues, but he was a brisk, lively man.

We find the depressed and melancholy Cowper, who passed so many days of religious despondency and doubt, devoting the hours of night to the production of the mirth-provoking story of John Gilpin!

All the friends of Sterne knew him to be a most selfish man, yet, as a writer, he excelled in pathos and charity. At one time beating his wife, at another wasting his sympathies over a dand donkey. So Seneca wrote in praises of poverty, on a table of solid gold, with millions let out at usury.

It is a remarkable fact that the mass of poetry which gave Burns his principal fame burst from him in a very short space of time, not exceeding fifteen months. It was a sudden, impetuous flow, which seemed soon to exhaust itself.

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