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By D. D. HOCOTT.

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### POET'S CORNER.

#### LOVE'S PLEA IN SPRING.

O! with what delicate art, how quaintly taught,  
By the three sisters, Fancy, Love and Thought,  
Hast thou so happily round thy cottage wrought,  
In many a many twine,  
Showing the finger's nice and fair design,  
Leaf, flower and vine.

They wander off at will, and in the air  
Hang out their delicate streamers, rich as rare,  
That win the birds to loiter, free of care,  
Who, as their songs arise,  
Pour forth their giddy raptures in surprise,  
Singing with throat and eyes.

Singing of love and of the beautiful,  
Till Love himself, with summer comes, to call  
His favorite friends, and in the amorous full,  
In the soft babbling of the drowsy rill,  
Dreams of the gardens of the orient fill  
Their hearts, that sing on still.

And thou O sweet presence of those Noons,  
Happy that he for thee the autumn comes,  
Thy house delight, thy lavish bowers prepare;  
Thou bidst them to the breast,  
The flower, the bird, the odor, such a guest,  
How welcome, how cared!

Ah! wherefore am I held by thee this hour,  
When that thou mak'st of all happy bird and flower,  
And give'st them freedom of thy breast as bower,  
Less worthy of thy care,  
Denied the gracious privilege to be  
The bliss bestowed on air?

Why, with thy art and subtle sweet design,  
Hast thou my senses subject to thy power,  
Lovingly round them, like the summer vine,  
Buds, buds and blossoms bleed,  
If cruel but to me, should I be true,  
Within thy breast?

### MISCELLANEOUS.

#### DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENCE.

ENGLAND PROTESTS AND REMONSTRATES—PRESIDENT DAVIS' REPLY.

The *Mobile Tribune* has "been favored by a vigilant and energetic collaborator with a copy of a correspondence which has just taken place between the British authorities and Richmond, on the subject of the rams. No little trouble, we are assured, was encountered in procuring these documents, though why there should be any desire to keep them from the public eye we cannot divine. We are obliged to our correspondent for procuring these documents for us, and believe our readers will peruse them with no little satisfaction." We subjoin them:

H. B. M.'s LEGATION,  
WASHINGTON, D. C., April 1, 1864.

Mr. Jefferson Davis, &c., &c., Richmond, Va.:  
SIR—I have been instructed by Earl Russell, Her Britannic Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to convey to you the following extract of a dispatch which has been forwarded to me by his Lordship. I have chosen the method which appeared to me to be the only available one, under the present unhappy circumstances in which the country is involved, and I trust that the absence of all recognized diplomatic or consular residents or other agents of Her Majesty near Richmond will be recognized as sufficient reason for its not being sent through the usual channels. I need scarcely say that the bearer of this dispatch, whom you have consented to allow to visit Richmond, has been authorized by the Government of the United States to pass into your lines, on the flag of truce boat, for the purpose of delivering it, and will desire your permission to return to Washington by the same mode of conveyance.

I have the honor to be  
With high respect,  
Your obedient, humble servant,  
LYONS.

["COPY."]

"You will also convey to Mr. Davis at Richmond, through such channel as shall be available, and as you may, in your discretion deem proper, the formal protest and remonstrance of Her Majesty's Government, against the efforts

of the authorities of the so-called Confederate States, to build war vessels within Her Majesty's dominions, to be employed against the Government of the United States. Perhaps your Lordship might best accomplish this object by obtaining permission from the authorities of both belligerents to send a special messenger to Richmond, with the necessary dispatch, in which you will transmit this paragraph, or the substance of it, together with all that follows, to the close of this communication.

"Her Majesty's Government in taking this course desire Mr. Davis to rest assured that it is adopted entirely in that spirit of neutrality which has been declared the policy of this country, with regard to the two belligerents so lamentably desolating America, and which will continue to be pursued, with a careful and an earnest desire to make it conducive to the most rigid impartiality and justice.

"After consulting with the law officers of the Crown, Her Majesty's Government have come to the decision that agents of the authorities of the so-called Confederate States have been engaged in building vessels which would be at least partially equipped for war purposes on leaving the ports of this country; that these war vessels would undoubtedly be used against the United States, a country with which this Government is at peace; that this would be in violation of the neutrality of the realm; and that the Government of the United States would have just ground for serious complaint against Her Majesty's Government, should they permit such an infraction of the amicable relations now subsisting between the two countries.

"Her Majesty's Government confidently rely on the frankness, courtesy, and discernment which Mr. Davis has displayed in the difficult circumstances, in which he has been placed during the past three years for a recognition of the correctness of the position which Her Majesty's Government have taken upon this subject. No matter what might be the difficulty of proving in a Court of law that the parties procuring the building of these vessels are agents of the so-called Confederate States, it is universally understood throughout the world that they are so, and Her Majesty's Government are satisfied that Mr. Davis would not deny that they are so. Constructed as rams, as these vessels are, they would certainly be in a condition on leaving port to inflict the most serious damage on vessels belonging to the United States, as was shown by the destruction of the *Cumberland*, United States sloop-of-war, by the ram *Merrimac*, merely by the latter being run into the *Cumberland*.

"Such vessels are to all intents and purposes equipped as war vessels of a certain power, although they be without a gun or any ammunition on board; nor can the frequent use of the word 'equip' in the sense of 'to furnish with everything necessary for a voyage,' be held for a moment to limit its signification to the furnishing of a war vessel with everything which it might be possible to put upon her, or the immediately putting of which on her might be contemplated. Such a construction cannot be entertained for an instant. It is clear that a hundred and twenty gunship might be equipped for war purposes with any fraction of her armament on board, although she might not be so powerful or so efficient as she would, be if she had the whole of it. A ram would be also equipped for war purposes, although the absence of her ordnance and ammunition might render her less effective than she would be with them. This, it is presumed, by Her Majesty's Government, will be conceded by Mr. Davis, without further argument or illustration in support of it.

"This much being established to the perfect conviction of Her Majesty's Government and the law officer of the Crown, and admitted, as they are convinced it must be, by Mr. Davis and by every other person of sound and impartial judgment, there is not the slightest room to doubt that it is proposed to use the vessels in question against the United States, a country with which this nation is at peace and on terms of amity, and that the permitting of them to leave the ports of Her Majesty's dominions would be violation of the neutrality laws of the kingdom, and such an injury towards the United States as would justify the Government of that country in seriously complaining of it as unfriendly and offensive in the highest degree, even to the imminent peril of rupturing the peaceful relations now existing between the two countries.

"Under these circumstances, Her Majesty's Government protests and remonstrates against any further efforts being made on the part of the so-called Confederate States or the authorities or agents thereof, to build or cause to be purchased, any such vessels as those styled

rams, or any other vessels to be used for war purposes against the United States or against any country with which the United Kingdom is at peace and on terms of amity; and Her Majesty's Government further protest and remonstrate against all such acts in violation of the neutrality laws of the realm.

"I have the honor to be, your Lordship's obedient servant,  
RUSSELL."

### THE REPLY.

RICHMOND, VA., April 6th, 1864.

To the Right Honorable Lord Lyons, C. B. &c., &c., H. B. M. Minister to the Government of the United States:

MY LORD.—I have been instructed by the President to acknowledge the receipt of a dispatch from your Lordship, enclosing a copy of a portion of a dispatch from Earl Russell, H. B. M. Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, purporting to be a "formal protest and remonstrance of Her Majesty's Government, against the efforts of the authorities of the so-called Confederate States, to build war vessels within Her Majesty's dominions, to be employed against the Government of the United States."

The President desires me to say to your Lordship, that while he is not unwilling to waive, in existing circumstances, the transmission of such a document through other than the usual and proper channels, it would be inconsistent with the dignity of the position he fills, as Chief Magistrate of a nation comprising a population of more than twelve millions, occupying a territory many times larger than the United Kingdom, and possessing resources unsurpassed by those of any country on the face of the globe, to allow the attempt of Earl Russell to ignore the actual existence of the Confederate States, and to contumeliously style them "so-called," to pass without a formal protest and remonstrance. The President, therefore, does protest and remonstrate against this studied insult; and he instructs me to say that in future any document in which it may be repeated will be returned unanswered and unnoticed.

With respect to the subject of the extract from Earl Russell's dispatch, the President desires me to state, that the plea of neutrality which is used to sustain the sinister course of Her Majesty's present Government against the Government of the Confederate States, is so clearly contradicted by their actions that it is regarded by the world, not even excepting the United States, as a mere cover for actual hostility, and the President cannot but feel that this is a just view of it. Were, indeed, Her Majesty's Government sincere in a desire and determination to maintain neutrality, the President could not but feel that they would neither be just nor gallant to allow the subjugation of a nation like the Confederate States, by such a barbarous, despotic race as are now attempting it.

He cannot but feel, with the history and tradition of the Anglo-Saxon race before him, that under a Government faithfully representing the people of Great Britain, the whole weight and power of that nation would be unhesitatingly thrown into the scale in favor of the principles of free government, on which these States were originally formed, and for which alone the Confederate States are now struggling. He cannot but feel that with such a Government and with the plea of neutrality urged upon the people as it now is, no such pitiful spectacle could be witnessed, as is now manifested by Her Majesty's present Government in the persistent persecution of the Confederate States at the beck and bidding of officers of the United States, while a prime minister mocks and insults the intelligence of a House of Commons and of the world, by excusing the permission to allow British subjects to go to the United States to fight against us, by the paltry subterfuge, that it was the great demand for labor and the high rate of wages that were taking them thither.

He cannot but feel that a neutrality most cunningly, audaciously fawning and insolently sought and urged, begged and demanded by one belligerent and repudiated by the other, must be seen by all impartial men to be a mere pretext for aiding the cause of one at the expense of the other, while pretending to be impartial, to be, in short, but a cover for secret, malignant, treacherous hostility. As for the specious arguments on the subject of the rams, advanced by Earl Russell, the President desires me to state that he is content to leave the world and history to pronounce judgment upon this attempt to heap injury upon insult, by declaring that Her Majesty's Government and law officers are satisfied of the questions involved, while those questions are still before the highest legal tribunal of the Kingdom, composed of members of the Government and the highest

law officers of the crown, for their decision. The President himself will not condescend to notice them.

I have the honor to be your Lordship's obedient, humble servant.

BURTON N. HARRISON,  
Private Secretary.

MEXICO.—The superficial area of Mexico in round numbers is 800,000 square miles. Its population is 8,000,000. Compared with France, it has four times as much territory, and less than one-fourth the number of inhabitants. Its extreme length N. W. and S. E. is over 2,000 miles, and its breadth, in latitude 26 is more than 1,000 miles. The Mexican Confederacy, under the Constitution of 1857, embraces twenty-three States, one district and one territory.

The larger portion of Mexico is very sparsely populated. The Northern frontier States—Tamaulipas, Nueva Leon, Coahuila, Chihuahua, Sonora, and Lower California, together with the interior States of Sinaloa and Durango—embrace an area of 400,000 square miles, which is more than half of the entire territory of the country. And yet, the aggregate population of this vast region is less than 1,000,000.

REMARKABLE.—No one doubts, says the *Richmond Whig*, that we live under the best, the most impartial, the most incorruptible Government in the world; were it otherwise there would be no matter of surprise in the fact that we are going to mention. And it strikes us as one of the most remarkable accidents in the world that not a rich man in this city has been put into the army. We say put advisedly. Rich men of Richmond, young and middle aged, have entered the military service voluntarily, of whom some have died gloriously and others still remain to fight their country's battles; but none of those opulent citizens whose patriotism induced them to purchase substitutes have, since the repeal of the substitute law, been put in. They have all been found absolutely indispensable in situations known to the army as "soft places." It is very remarkable.

AN INTERESTING EXHIBIT.—We hope that some member of Congress will, early in the next session, call for a census of the number of officers, clerks and attaches in the employment of the Confederate Government in Richmond, and at the various posts throughout the country. The information will form a valuable historic record. It will show the extent of the wasteful expenditure as well as conscript evasion, resulting from the multiplicity of offices and subdivision of duties in the various departments and bureaux. The returns should exhibit the age, sex, nativity, pay and perquisites of the various employes, and when received should be appropriately classified, and published in pamphlet form, for the information of the present and edification of future generations.—Let us have the record by all means.

Richmond Whig.

LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC GENERALS.—Some eminent commanders have not been scholars. But the three greatest generals the world has ever produced—Alexander, Caesar, Napoleon—were all men of letters. The first an annotator on Homer, the second a classical author; the third a philosopher, if he had not been an emperor. "Do you think," said Napoleon, "if I had not been General-in-chief, and the instrument of fate to a mighty nation, that I would have accepted plume and dependence? No! I would have thrown myself into the study of exact science; my path would have been that of Galileo and Newton; and, since I have always succeeded in my great enterprises, I should have highly distinguished myself also in my scientific labors. I should have left the memory of many beautiful discoveries."

A NEW TORPEDO.—The indefatigable inventor, Mr. James C. Patton, has obtained a right for a new torpedo arrangement, which, we understand, has been tested, and found to work successfully. The peculiarity claimed for this torpedo by the inventor is that it will "nose" its way along a current until it finds something in the shape of a Yankee vessel, when it will arrange itself conveniently, and then explode. Mr. Patton christens it the "Hunting Torpedo." He will soon enjoy an opportunity of testing its practical utility upon hostile waters—we understand.

Richmond Enquirer.

ANOTHER YANKEE CRAFT SUNK BY A TORPEDO.—A despatch was received at the War Office yesterday, stating that a Yankee cruiser was blown up on Saturday by a torpedo in St. John's river, Florida, in the vicinity of the destruction of the *Maple Leaf*, by a similar agency. The particulars have not been reported.

Richmond Enquirer.