

THE CHILDLESS MOTHER.

BY MARY CLEMENS AMES.

I lay my tasks down by one,
It is in the silence of twilight's grace;
Out of its shadow, soft and dim,
Steady like a star my baby's face.

Mocking come are the world's poor joys,
How poor to me all its pomp and pride
In my lap lie the baby's idle toys,
In this very room the baby died.

I will shut these broken toys away
Under the lid where they mutely bide;
I will smile in the face of the noisy day,
Just as if baby had never died.

I will take up my work once more,
As if I had never laid it down;
Who would dream that I ever loved
Motherhood's fine and holy crown?

Who will deem my life ever bitter
Fruit the sweetest of the race and pain?
The fitting smile that the baby wore
Outraged the light of the loftiest brain.

I'll meet him in the world's rude din,
Who hath outlived my mother's kiss,
Who hath forsaken her love and sin,
I will be spared her pang in this.

Man's way is hard and sore beset;
Many must fall, but few can win.
Thanks, dear Shepherd! my lamb is safe,
Safe from sorrow and safe from sin.

Nevertheless, the way is long,
And tears leap up in the light of the sun,
I'll give my world for a cradle song,
And a kiss from baby—only one.

CONGRESSIONAL.

Yesterday's Proceedings.

WEDNESDAY, December 17.

Senate.—Mr. Boggs reported from committee on Indian affairs a private bill, and took occasion to criticize severely the administration of the Indian bureau, and announced the Indian legislation a farce from beginning to end.

Mr. Cragin, from committee on naval affairs, reported House bill to increase the number of enlisted men in the navy to 10,000.

Mr. Davis introduced bill to reimburse the state of West Virginia for losses of school-houses, bridges, &c., during the war, caused by the military operations. Referred.

Mr. Sumner offered a resolution, which was adopted, instructing the committee on finance to inquire into the expediency of reducing the national expenditures; of abolishing the office of commissioner of internal revenue, and officers under it; for the collection of all internal taxes by stamps, unstamped articles to be liable to seizure and confiscation by United States courts, the law to be enforced under the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury.

On motion of Mr. Wright, the committee on pensions were instructed to inquire to the expediency of amending the pension laws so as to allow the same pension for lost arm above the elbow as loss of leg above the knee.

Mr. Edmunds moved that the

HOUSE BILL TO REPEAL THE BANKRUPT LAWS

be taken up.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill was taken up and read the second time.

Mr. Edmunds then moved that it be referred to the committee on the judiciary.

He alluded to the earnest desire pervading all sections of the country in reference to the bankruptcy act. He was satisfied of the impolicy of an absolute repeal of the bill, but thought that the committee would be able to prepare a bill which would relieve the present law of its obnoxious features, and would at the same time protect the interests of both creditors and debtors.

Mr. Conkling favored allowing the bill to remain on the table if it was deemed best to pass it before the holiday recess.

That this act out to be repealed or essentially modified, he could not doubt. This was the sentiment of every community with which he was familiar.

Mr. Thurman also wished this matter acted on before the recess, and preferred that the bill should not be referred, but should be left on the table.

Mr. Frelinghuysen moved that the bill be referred to the joint committee on the Senate, and to report to-day. He indicated his opposition to absolute repeal. We had three bankruptcy laws in the history of the country, and every one of them had been passed in seasons of financial disaster. Now, in a season of financial disaster, it is proposed that we shall have no bankruptcy law.

The morning hour here expired and the subject went over.

Mr. Fenton, who was entitled to the floor, proceeded to read a lengthy essay on the general subject of the finances. He argued strongly in favor of immediate contraction of the currency and the reduction of the government expenditures.

House.—Mr. Stephens (Ga.) said that if he had been present yesterday he would have voted for the repeal of the bankruptcy act and against the repeal of the salary bill.

On motion of Mr. Wilson (Ind.), the judiciary committee, which was directed to prepare a bill to amend the bankruptcy act, was authorized to send to the committee on the Judiciary, and to report to-day. He indicated his opposition to absolute repeal. We had three bankruptcy laws in the history of the country, and every one of them had been passed in seasons of financial disaster. Now, in a season of financial disaster, it is proposed that we shall have no bankruptcy law.

The morning hour here expired and the subject went over.

Mr. Fenton, who was entitled to the floor, proceeded to read a lengthy essay on the general subject of the finances. He argued strongly in favor of immediate contraction of the currency and the reduction of the government expenditures.

House.—Mr. Stephens (Ga.) said that if he had been present yesterday he would have voted for the repeal of the bankruptcy act and against the repeal of the salary bill.

On motion of Mr. Wilson (Ind.), the judiciary committee, which was directed to prepare a bill to amend the bankruptcy act, was authorized to send to the committee on the Judiciary, and to report to-day. He indicated his opposition to absolute repeal. We had three bankruptcy laws in the history of the country, and every one of them had been passed in seasons of financial disaster. Now, in a season of financial disaster, it is proposed that we shall have no bankruptcy law.

The morning hour here expired and the subject went over.

Mr. Fenton, who was entitled to the floor, proceeded to read a lengthy essay on the general subject of the finances. He argued strongly in favor of immediate contraction of the currency and the reduction of the government expenditures.

House.—Mr. Stephens (Ga.) said that if he had been present yesterday he would have voted for the repeal of the bankruptcy act and against the repeal of the salary bill.

On motion of Mr. Wilson (Ind.), the judiciary committee, which was directed to prepare a bill to amend the bankruptcy act, was authorized to send to the committee on the Judiciary, and to report to-day. He indicated his opposition to absolute repeal. We had three bankruptcy laws in the history of the country, and every one of them had been passed in seasons of financial disaster. Now, in a season of financial disaster, it is proposed that we shall have no bankruptcy law.

The morning hour here expired and the subject went over.

Mr. Fenton, who was entitled to the floor, proceeded to read a lengthy essay on the general subject of the finances. He argued strongly in favor of immediate contraction of the currency and the reduction of the government expenditures.

House.—Mr. Stephens (Ga.) said that if he had been present yesterday he would have voted for the repeal of the bankruptcy act and against the repeal of the salary bill.

On motion of Mr. Wilson (Ind.), the judiciary committee, which was directed to prepare a bill to amend the bankruptcy act, was authorized to send to the committee on the Judiciary, and to report to-day. He indicated his opposition to absolute repeal. We had three bankruptcy laws in the history of the country, and every one of them had been passed in seasons of financial disaster. Now, in a season of financial disaster, it is proposed that we shall have no bankruptcy law.

The morning hour here expired and the subject went over.

Mr. Fenton, who was entitled to the floor, proceeded to read a lengthy essay on the general subject of the finances. He argued strongly in favor of immediate contraction of the currency and the reduction of the government expenditures.

House.—Mr. Stephens (Ga.) said that if he had been present yesterday he would have voted for the repeal of the bankruptcy act and against the repeal of the salary bill.

On motion of Mr. Wilson (Ind.), the judiciary committee, which was directed to prepare a bill to amend the bankruptcy act, was authorized to send to the committee on the Judiciary, and to report to-day. He indicated his opposition to absolute repeal. We had three bankruptcy laws in the history of the country, and every one of them had been passed in seasons of financial disaster. Now, in a season of financial disaster, it is proposed that we shall have no bankruptcy law.

The morning hour here expired and the subject went over.

Mr. Fenton, who was entitled to the floor, proceeded to read a lengthy essay on the general subject of the finances. He argued strongly in favor of immediate contraction of the currency and the reduction of the government expenditures.

House.—Mr. Stephens (Ga.) said that if he had been present yesterday he would have voted for the repeal of the bankruptcy act and against the repeal of the salary bill.

On motion of Mr. Wilson (Ind.), the judiciary committee, which was directed to prepare a bill to amend the bankruptcy act, was authorized to send to the committee on the Judiciary, and to report to-day. He indicated his opposition to absolute repeal. We had three bankruptcy laws in the history of the country, and every one of them had been passed in seasons of financial disaster. Now, in a season of financial disaster, it is proposed that we shall have no bankruptcy law.

The morning hour here expired and the subject went over.

Mr. Fenton, who was entitled to the floor, proceeded to read a lengthy essay on the general subject of the finances. He argued strongly in favor of immediate contraction of the currency and the reduction of the government expenditures.

House.—Mr. Stephens (Ga.) said that if he had been present yesterday he would have voted for the repeal of the bankruptcy act and against the repeal of the salary bill.

On motion of Mr. Wilson (Ind.), the judiciary committee, which was directed to prepare a bill to amend the bankruptcy act, was authorized to send to the committee on the Judiciary, and to report to-day. He indicated his opposition to absolute repeal. We had three bankruptcy laws in the history of the country, and every one of them had been passed in seasons of financial disaster. Now, in a season of financial disaster, it is proposed that we shall have no bankruptcy law.

The morning hour here expired and the subject went over.

Mr. Fenton, who was entitled to the floor, proceeded to read a lengthy essay on the general subject of the finances. He argued strongly in favor of immediate contraction of the currency and the reduction of the government expenditures.

House.—Mr. Stephens (Ga.) said that if he had been present yesterday he would have voted for the repeal of the bankruptcy act and against the repeal of the salary bill.

On motion of Mr. Wilson (Ind.), the judiciary committee, which was directed to prepare a bill to amend the bankruptcy act, was authorized to send to the committee on the Judiciary, and to report to-day. He indicated his opposition to absolute repeal. We had three bankruptcy laws in the history of the country, and every one of them had been passed in seasons of financial disaster. Now, in a season of financial disaster, it is proposed that we shall have no bankruptcy law.

The morning hour here expired and the subject went over.

Mr. Fenton, who was entitled to the floor, proceeded to read a lengthy essay on the general subject of the finances. He argued strongly in favor of immediate contraction of the currency and the reduction of the government expenditures.

House.—Mr. Stephens (Ga.) said that if he had been present yesterday he would have voted for the repeal of the bankruptcy act and against the repeal of the salary bill.

On motion of Mr. Wilson (Ind.), the judiciary committee, which was directed to prepare a bill to amend the bankruptcy act, was authorized to send to the committee on the Judiciary, and to report to-day. He indicated his opposition to absolute repeal. We had three bankruptcy laws in the history of the country, and every one of them had been passed in seasons of financial disaster. Now, in a season of financial disaster, it is proposed that we shall have no bankruptcy law.

The morning hour here expired and the subject went over.

Mr. Fenton, who was entitled to the floor, proceeded to read a lengthy essay on the general subject of the finances. He argued strongly in favor of immediate contraction of the currency and the reduction of the government expenditures.

House.—Mr. Stephens (Ga.) said that if he had been present yesterday he would have voted for the repeal of the bankruptcy act and against the repeal of the salary bill.

On motion of Mr. Wilson (Ind.), the judiciary committee, which was directed to prepare a bill to amend the bankruptcy act, was authorized to send to the committee on the Judiciary, and to report to-day. He indicated his opposition to absolute repeal. We had three bankruptcy laws in the history of the country, and every one of them had been passed in seasons of financial disaster. Now, in a season of financial disaster, it is proposed that we shall have no bankruptcy law.

The morning hour here expired and the subject went over.

Mr. Fenton, who was entitled to the floor, proceeded to read a lengthy essay on the general subject of the finances. He argued strongly in favor of immediate contraction of the currency and the reduction of the government expenditures.

House.—Mr. Stephens (Ga.) said that if he had been present yesterday he would have voted for the repeal of the bankruptcy act and against the repeal of the salary bill.

On motion of Mr. Wilson (Ind.), the judiciary committee, which was directed to prepare a bill to amend the bankruptcy act, was authorized to send to the committee on the Judiciary, and to report to-day. He indicated his opposition to absolute repeal. We had three bankruptcy laws in the history of the country, and every one of them had been passed in seasons of financial disaster. Now, in a season of financial disaster, it is proposed that we shall have no bankruptcy law.

The morning hour here expired and the subject went over.

Mr. Fenton, who was entitled to the floor, proceeded to read a lengthy essay on the general subject of the finances. He argued strongly in favor of immediate contraction of the currency and the reduction of the government expenditures.

House.—Mr. Stephens (Ga.) said that if he had been present yesterday he would have voted for the repeal of the bankruptcy act and against the repeal of the salary bill.

On motion of Mr. Wilson (Ind.), the judiciary committee, which was directed to prepare a bill to amend the bankruptcy act, was authorized to send to the committee on the Judiciary, and to report to-day. He indicated his opposition to absolute repeal. We had three bankruptcy laws in the history of the country, and every one of them had been passed in seasons of financial disaster. Now, in a season of financial disaster, it is proposed that we shall have no bankruptcy law.

The morning hour here expired and the subject went over.

Mr. Fenton, who was entitled to the floor, proceeded to read a lengthy essay on the general subject of the finances. He argued strongly in favor of immediate contraction of the currency and the reduction of the government expenditures.

House.—Mr. Stephens (Ga.) said that if he had been present yesterday he would have voted for the repeal of the bankruptcy act and against the repeal of the salary bill.

On motion of Mr. Wilson (Ind.), the judiciary committee, which was directed to prepare a bill to amend the bankruptcy act, was authorized to send to the committee on the Judiciary, and to report to-day. He indicated his opposition to absolute repeal. We had three bankruptcy laws in the history of the country, and every one of them had been passed in seasons of financial disaster. Now, in a season of financial disaster, it is proposed that we shall have no bankruptcy law.

The morning hour here expired and the subject went over.

Mr. Fenton, who was entitled to the floor, proceeded to read a lengthy essay on the general subject of the finances. He argued strongly in favor of immediate contraction of the currency and the reduction of the government expenditures.

House.—Mr. Stephens (Ga.) said that if he had been present yesterday he would have voted for the repeal of the bankruptcy act and against the repeal of the salary bill.

On motion of Mr. Wilson (Ind.), the judiciary committee, which was directed to prepare a bill to amend the bankruptcy act, was authorized to send to the committee on the Judiciary, and to report to-day. He indicated his opposition to absolute repeal. We had three bankruptcy laws in the history of the country, and every one of them had been passed in seasons of financial disaster. Now, in a season of financial disaster, it is proposed that we shall have no bankruptcy law.

The morning hour here expired and the subject went over.

Mr. Fenton, who was entitled to the floor, proceeded to read a lengthy essay on the general subject of the finances. He argued strongly in favor of immediate contraction of the currency and the reduction of the government expenditures.

House.—Mr. Stephens (Ga.) said that if he had been present yesterday he would have voted for the repeal of the bankruptcy act and against the repeal of the salary bill.

On motion of Mr. Wilson (Ind.), the judiciary committee, which was directed to prepare a bill to amend the bankruptcy act, was authorized to send to the committee on the Judiciary, and to report to-day. He indicated his opposition to absolute repeal. We had three bankruptcy laws in the history of the country, and every one of them had been passed in seasons of financial disaster. Now, in a season of financial disaster, it is proposed that we shall have no bankruptcy law.

The morning hour here expired and the subject went over.

Mr. Fenton, who was entitled to the floor, proceeded to read a lengthy essay on the general subject of the finances. He argued strongly in favor of immediate contraction of the currency and the reduction of the government expenditures.

House.—Mr. Stephens (Ga.) said that if he had been present yesterday he would have voted for the repeal of the bankruptcy act and against the repeal of the salary bill.

On motion of Mr. Wilson (Ind.), the judiciary committee, which was directed to prepare a bill to amend the bankruptcy act, was authorized to send to the committee on the Judiciary, and to report to-day. He indicated his opposition to absolute repeal. We had three bankruptcy laws in the history of the country, and every one of them had been passed in seasons of financial disaster. Now, in a season of financial disaster, it is proposed that we shall have no bankruptcy law.

The morning hour here expired and the subject went over.

Mr. Fenton, who was entitled to the floor, proceeded to read a lengthy essay on the general subject of the finances. He argued strongly in favor of immediate contraction of the currency and the reduction of the government expenditures.

House.—Mr. Stephens (Ga.) said that if he had been present yesterday he would have voted for the repeal of the bankruptcy act and against the repeal of the salary bill.

On motion of Mr. Wilson (Ind.), the judiciary committee, which was directed to prepare a bill to amend the bankruptcy act, was authorized to send to the committee on the Judiciary, and to report to-day. He indicated his opposition to absolute repeal. We had three bankruptcy laws in the history of the country, and every one of them had been passed in seasons of financial disaster. Now, in a season of financial disaster, it is proposed that we shall have no bankruptcy law.

The morning hour here expired and the subject went over.

Mr. Fenton, who was entitled to the floor, proceeded to read a lengthy essay on the general subject of the finances. He argued strongly in favor of immediate contraction of the currency and the reduction of the government expenditures.

House.—Mr. Stephens (Ga.) said that if he had been present yesterday he would have voted for the repeal of the bankruptcy act and against the repeal of the salary bill.

On motion of Mr. Wilson (Ind.), the judiciary committee, which was directed to prepare a bill to amend the bankruptcy act, was authorized to send to the committee on the Judiciary, and to report to-day. He indicated his opposition to absolute repeal. We had three bankruptcy laws in the history of the country, and every one of them had been passed in seasons of financial disaster. Now, in a season of financial disaster, it is proposed that we shall have no bankruptcy law.

THE SALARY REDUCTION BILL.

Mr. Hurlbut's substitute, reducing congressional salaries to \$6,000, with \$8,000 to the president officer, and allowing traveling expenses, for Mr. Hale's bill in the Senate, at a late hour to-night was passed.

AGASSIZ AS AN EDUCATOR.

Professor Agassiz there was nothing of the dogmatism of science. Constantly learning and acquiring, his attainments were a source of joy to him, principally as the means of elevating educational taste and stimulating higher culture throughout the world. He had hoped—and it has been the dream of his life—to place his adopted country on the topmost pinnacle of scientific knowledge in one or two departments of research, and it was his indefatigable, never-ceasing labor to accomplish that result, which lessened the duration of his life as counted by years. But the existence of such a man, whose noblest energies have been devoted to the advancement of the race, can be estimated only by the crowded minutes and hours given to his self-imposed tasks.

The many qualities of Agassiz, his tenderness and courage, simplicity and enthusiasm, won for him an easy entrance to most hearts. Even a Massachusetts legislator was not proof against his persuasive appeals for the cause to which he had consecrated, as it were, his best physical and mental attributes. He was not altogether the wonderful mastery he possessed of the intricacies of natural science that enabled him year after year to mould as he desired unopposed legislative bodies to his wishes. The secret of Agassiz's success, under some unfavorable conditions, lay in the magnetic power, the subtle force, and the almost gleeful exuberance of a strong, energetic and well-balanced nature, expressing itself in an attractive and unassuming humility of speech and bearing. He never addressed an audience but he seemed to bubble over with the delight of communicating what he had obtained through dint of the hardest and most self-sacrificing effort.—*Boston Transcript*.

WOMEN IN ENGLISH POSTOFFICES.

Mr. Mansell, late English postmaster-general, thus records his convictions on the great question of "Women's Rights."

"It is with pleasure that I have given my approval to the measures that have been proposed for increasing the employment of women in the postoffice; the first great step in that direction having been taken by my predecessor, Lord Harrington, in relation to the telegraphs. How much remains to be done toward removing those artificial barriers, which have hitherto shut out women from lucrative employment, may be gathered from the fact, that on a late occasion, when it was announced by advertisement that there were twelve vacancies for junior counterwomen, at wages from fourteen to seventeen shillings a week, more than twelve hundred candidates presented themselves; the very thoroughfare as I am informed, in the neighborhood of the office of the civil service commissioners in Cannon Row, having been for a time blocked up."

It is gratifying to find that the employment of women is steadily on the increase in this department, and that the system is found to work well.

COMMERCIAL.

RICHMOND PRICE CURRENT.

CORN AND FLOUR EXCHANGE.

Richmond, December 18, 1873.

OFFERS.

Wheat—White, 1 1/2 bushels, Red, 478 bushels.

Corn—White, 616 bushels, Yellow, 102 bushels.

Mixed, 50 bushels, Yellow, 102 bushels.

Meal—40 bushels.

SALES.

Wheat—White, 1,050 bushels @ \$1.75 to \$1.80.

For prime to common Red, 478 bushels @ \$1.67 to \$1.72 very good to common.

Corn—White, 616 bushels very good new, 65c.

57c new private terms. Mixed, 50 bushels.

Meal—40 bushels.

Oats—50 bushels very good 50c.

Meal—White country, 40 bushels good 72c.

LIVE STOCK.

Richmond, December 17, 1873.

Mr. L. Gimmal, weighmaster at the Live Stock Scales, makes the following report of transactions for the week ending December 17:

Late October, 123 head, sold from \$3.00 to \$5.00 per hundred lbs. gross. Sheep, sold from \$1.00 to \$1.50 per 100 lbs. gross. Hogs, sold from \$3.75 to \$7.25 net. Veals, per head from \$5.00 to \$10.00.

REMARKS.—The market is well supplied, and it will be observed that the prices have declined but little as compared with those of last week. In cattle there is an increase in the offerings and sales, and the condition nearer an average, judging from the contracted margin in amounts paid per head.

TOBACCO.

BLACK.

Lugs, common, to good, 5 00 @ 6 50

Lugs, medium to good, 6 00 @ 7 00

Lugs, common to medium, 5 00 @ 6 00

Leaf, good, 9 00 @ 10 00

Leaf, fine wrappers and stemmers, 12 00 @ 14 00

BROWN.

Lugs, common, chiefly smokers, 7 00 @ 8 50

Lugs, medium to good smokers and fillers, 9 00 @ 15 00

Lugs, extra medium to the best, 18 00 @ 25 00

Leaf, medium to good fillers, 14 00 @ 15 00

Leaf, extra to good fillers, 14 00 @ 15 00

Leaf, wrappers (mahogany), common to fine, 12 00 @ 15 00

Leaf, wrappers, com. to medium, 12 00 @ 15 00

Leaf, wrappers, fine to extra, 30 00 @ 40 00

Leaf, wrappers, fine to extra, 30 00 @ 40 00

LUMBER.

REVISED BY GIBSON & BROCK

Sixth Street and the Canal.

Lumber of all kinds very dull.

VA. PRIME—4 boards, 14 @ \$11

Split, 14 @ 16

6-4, 6-4, 8-1, 15 @ 16

Birds and scantlings—

clear heart, 25

Knotty, 16 @ 18

Joists, and framing

Joists—avg length, 10 @ 18

Saps, 4, 4-4, 4-4 and scantling, 18 @ 20

Long, 18 @ 20

Poplar—4, 4-4, 4-4 and scantling, 15 @ 16

Wt Oak—Plank and scantling, 12 @ 16

Select to clear, 20 @ 22 1/2

Hickory—If solid, clear, 25

good, about, 25

Walnut—4-4, 6-4, 8-1, 10, 6 50

8 50, according to quality, 25 @ 35

Hoop Pile—Dull; white oak, green, 25 @ 35

Hickory, desirable, 8 50 @ 9

Flour barrel staves, seasoned (3 heading), 5 @ 8

Whiskey bbl staves, 20 @ 25

green, 20 @ 25

Market well supplied, prices weaker.

Seasoned poles entirely unsaleable.

Price of hoop poles and staves nominal.

Laths—Swed, 2 00 @ 2 25

Split, 1 25 @ 1 50

Shingles—Very few coming in; prices firm.

Cypress No. 1—6 inch heart, 10 00 @ 12 00

No. 2 do, 7 50 @ 8 50

No. 2—Saps, 6 00 @ 6 50