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J. ALBERT BLACK, Editor and Publisher.

WHOLE NO.—412

Poetry.

The Churning Song.

Apron on and dash in hand,
O'er the old churn here I stand—
Catching!
How the thick cream spurts and flies,
Now on shoes, and now in eyes!
Catching! catching!

Al, how soon 't is sped!
But the butter lingers yet—
Catching!
Aching back and weary arm,
Quite too charming of its charm—
Catching! catching!

See the golden specks appear!
And the churn rings sharp and clear—
Catching!
Arms, that have to flag begun,
Work on you will soon be done—
Catching! catching!

Rich flakes cling to lid and dash;
Hear the thin milk's watery splash!
Catching!
Sweetest music to the ear,
For it says the butter is here!
Catching! catching!

Selected Tale.

TAKING IT FOR GRANTED.

With marks of a rough, stormy life all over him, a man of about fifty years, gray and sunburnt, sat in my office. I found him there when I went in one morning not long ago.

"Here is some one waiting for you Edw-ll," said Mr. Bigelow.

I looked around, and the man rose and held out his hand.

"Averill—my name is Averill," said he, looking at me out of a pair of shrewd gray eyes. "I am an old friend of your mother; but I have not met her for a matter of five-and-twenty years. So I thought I'd call and ask after her and her family."

"I am glad to see you," said I. "Are you a relative of my mother?"

"No," replied Mr. Averill. "We were the same name, but not connected—no I was very distantly. I used to know her and her folks, though, as well as I did my own sisters, and better, too. Let's see—where is your Aunt Augusta now?"

"She is living with her children in Portland," said I.

"Pretty well, is she, do you know?" asked Mr. Averill.

"Very well, when we heard last—Aunt Augusta has good children and a pleasant home, and seems quite happy."

"Um—um—That is nice," said Mr. Averill, fumbling at a rough nugget of gold that hung as a charm from his watch-chain.

I hadn't much to do that day, so I talked off and on with my visitor till it was time to go home, and then took him along with me. I left him in the sitting-room and went to find mother. She was mixing biscuits for supper, looking through her glasses, and singing a snatch of some old, half-forgotten love-ditty of her youth.

"Mother!" said I, breaking in on her song. "Come in the other room. An old friend of yours wants to see you."

"Mother looked up over her glasses.

"An old friend? 'Tisn't any of the Maine folks is it?" she asked.

"Because, if it was so much as a dog that had trotted across a corner of the State of Maine, on his four legs mother would have run, with her arms out and a smile of welcome, without stopping to even wash the dough off her hand. As it was, with only an indefinite thought of seeing 'an old friend,' she went, with a dust of flour on her nose, and without her company cap.

As soon as she stepped inside the sitting-room door, she stood and looked at her guest, and he stood and looked at her.

"It is Sam, as true as you are born!" she said, at last.

They both laughed, and then they both wiped their eyes, though they didn't seem like that sort of people, especially Mr. Averill.

I never knew mother to forget her home-keeping before, but this time she let the biscuit burn till they were black as my shoe; and when she mixed some more she put in sugar instead of salt, and left out the saleratus altogether. But her cheeks grew pink, and her cap strings flew, and she nor her guest seemed to know the difference.

"O's, honey!" cried my mother, hopping up from the tea table as soon as she was seated. "You haven't lost your sweet tooth, have you, Sam?"

"How you do remember!" cried Sam, admiringly.

"I should think I ought to," answered my mother, with a girlish laugh. "The

way you used to pick up walnuts to carry to the cross-roads store and trade for molasses and make candy of! Speaking of the cross-roads store, I wonder if you know an old stove-keeper's daughter, she that was Sarah Curly, has lost her husband?"

"No, has she? Strange I never heard of it," replied Mr. Averill, appearing astonished as though he had been hearing from his old neighbors every week.

"Yes," said my mother. "She married one of old Si Seaver's boys, the oldest one Jonathan, and he died sudden—all at once; well, it must be something like half-a-dozen years ago,—and left his wife and so many children—five children or else six, I don't know which."

"You don't say!" ejaculated Mr. Averill passing his honey plate for the third time. No, evidently he had not lost his sweet tooth.

After supper mother washed up the dishes and talked, and Mr. Averill smoked his pipe and listened. It was the first time I ever allowed anybody to smoke in my house, but I had nothing to say now. I even filled his pipe and lighted it for him. And then he told the story of his life, which had been full of strange and interesting adventures. He was evidently a man who did not read much and could not have written well, but he could talk; not always grammatically perhaps, but always with force and fascination.

It seemed that years and years ago his father and his mother's father lived in a town in the valley of the Kennebec. My mother's father was a large farmer, and Mr. Averill's father was a very small farmer with a very large family. So his youngest son, Sam, came to work for his grandfather. My mother and my aunt Augusta were young girls—they were twins, and I suppose by the way they look now that they must have been pretty then. My mother was early engaged and married to my father; but there was Augusta, and there was Sam, and where one was you might usually find the other near at hand. Sam never said anything, he was not of a demonstrative kind, but he knew how he felt, and he supposed Augusta knew too.

So the years budded and blossomed and brought forth fruit until at last Sam went down to Connecticut to take charge of a saw-mill for an uncle of his. He wrote to Aunt Augusta and Aunt Augusta wrote to him; and then he came to Maine on business, always going to my grandfather's before he went home, and carrying himself toward Augusta like an accepted lover.

After a few years he found himself possessed of twelve thousand dollars, and immediately went to work to spend it. He went abroad to England and Rome and Egypt and Paris and Germany and Sweden and Russia and everywhere. When he came home at last it was with only fifty dollars in his pocket. So next he went out among the copper mines of Lake Superior, and in time found himself again possessed of twelve thousand dollars.

"Now I will come home and marry Augusta, and settle down," said he to himself. But he didn't say it to anybody else. It never occurred to him that was necessary.

Meantime my aunt Augusta had not stood like a rose in a pot, waiting for the gardener to come and pick it. She cast out her roots and threw up her branches and blossomed as though to fulfill the laws of being and beauty for their own sakes.

In that simple neighborhood work was supposed to be the chief end of everybody. So Aunt Augusta learned vest-making, and then she went to Coos, where her brother Nathan lived and set up for herself.

Coos was a little crumb of a town in those days; but it held up its head and had its stores and its mills, and its shops, and its great white meeting-house on a hill, with galleries on three sides and square pews, and a high box pulpit.

The first Sunday after Aunt Augusta went there, she climbed the hill, of course, and went in the front with Uncle Nathan and his wife. She was fashionably dressed in a black crape gown, a scarlet shawl and a white silk bonnet with pink roses inside. Her cheeks were as pink as her roses, and her eyes were as black as her gown.

There was no need that Mr. Keeler should point her out to the young men but he took the pains to do it. Mr. Keeler, the minister, was a little lank

man, as plain and gray as a dorg, and so afraid of the poms and vanities that he wouldn't wear buttons on his coat. No sooner had his eyes fallen on Aunt Augusta, settling herself in the front pew like a variegated tulip, than he dropped the subject he had started upon for his sermon, and began to preach for his sermon, and began to preach against conformity to the world. He preached with all his might, emphasizing and illustrating his words by pointing with his blunt finger at the scarlet shawl and pink roses. So if anybody had neglected to look at them before, they looked then.

Among those who were obedient to the ministerial forerunner was Abernethy, village blacksmith.

Abernethy's heart was agood deal like his iron—not easily melted—but when once it had been hammered into shape, there it was, fixed and steadfast. And to-day Aunt Augusta's eyes went through it like red hot arrows as he peered around at her from behind one of the pillars in the gallery.

The next day he came to get a vest made. The day after he came to bring the buttons for it; and the day after he thought, as he was going by her house, call and see if she had everything she needed, and how soon the vest would be done. It was not two days more before he was there again to bring a letter.

"I happened to see it at the post-office when I went after my paper, and so I brought it along. I could as well as not," said he.

The letter was from Sam Averill, telling about the luck he had in mining, the weather, and the fact that after he well. Nothing more: nothing about the home he was building in his fancy, and the figure that was always central in his thoughts.

"I hope," said my uncle Nathan, you are not foolish enough to set your mind on such a rolling stone as Sam Averill. He has no continuity to him."

"If you are going to hunt for a man that has no faults in this world, we'll have a long road of it," returned Aunt Augusta, bearing down the heavy press-iron upon her seam as though she were trying to crush the life out of something.

In less than a week Almer Stanton called again. He thought perhaps Miss Augusta didn't know the swamp-pinks were out, or so he brought her a handful, that he got on the way over from Coossett.

"If you were a sister of mine, you should always sit in a rocking chair and wear swamp-pinks!" said he.

Abernethy's was a most excellent man, quoth uncle Nathan, when he had gone his way, "an equine and a head man in town. He's all what, no chaff. He'll make a first rate of a husband, and the girl who gets him will get a prize."

Aunt Augusta made some fierce clippings with her great tailor's shears, but she said nothing, and presently went up stairs to answer Sam Averill's letter.

The next day Abernethy Stanton called to see uncle Nathan on business, and she sent her letter to the office by him. So the months drifted along one after another like pictures in a magic-lantern. Abernethy Stanton came often on one excuse or another or on none. He brought flowers and berries strung on grass, and sweet flag-root and birds' eggs. He was never intrusive with his love, but he made Augusta conscious of it every step she walked and with every breath she breathed. It was below her, above her, and all around her. He often brought her letters from Sam, and here from him to the office.

"All things are fair in love," said he to himself. So now and then he forgot to mail, or deliver one, dropping it in the fire instead. At last, as his love grew hotter and more impatient, he kept them back altogether, and still never allowed Aunt Augusta to lose sight of thought of himself.

liquors do not cost the country two or three hundred millions in the consequences of the use of liquors, it is clear that the question will not be settled by calling the temperance movement Puritanic, or by vehement rhetoric about regulating eating and drinking by law. Mr. J. N. Stearns, in his remarks before the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives upon the petition for the appointment of a national commission of enquiry concerning the liquor traffic, said that the country is only upon the threshold of the question. During the last twenty-one States have been legislating upon it, and more Governors of States have called attention to the subject than ever before—Mississippi and Indiana have passed very restrictive license laws, and Indiana has closed nine hundred grog-shops under a law pronounced constitutional by the Supreme Court. In Ohio the women, who, as wives, daughters, mothers, and sisters, are the immediate sufferers from the brutality of drunkenness, have begun to go in bands to the drinking-shops to pray and remonstrate; and in Boston the State police have "elected out" the wine-cellars of the Tremont House and Young's Hotel, two of the most noted hotels in the city.

Just at this time, also, comes General Harney's testimony that the chief difficulty in our relations with the Indians is whiskey, and that the remedy is for the nearest officer to hang every whiskey dealer. Most opportunely, also, Mr. Meyer Stern, one of the New York Commissioners of Charities and Correction, has lately made a report upon the legal treatment of habitual drunkards, showing that during the last three years sixteen times as many women as men had been committed for drunkenness; and that while of five hundred men one was re-arrested a hundred times for the same offence, nine thousand female drunkards twenty-nine were re-arrested a hundred times.

Mr. Stern very truly says that the present law fosters rather than prevents drunkenness.

The point which must now be settled is the actual effect of prohibitory laws. That they are evaded, and that drinking continues in spite of them, is not denied. But that is not the question. The law continues despite the laws, and the laws against them encourage secrecy and deceit in thieving. The question is whether, upon the whole, prohibitory laws have a good effect in diminishing drinking and promoting order. Is the price more cheaply preserved in prohibitory communications? Are the jails and poor-houses emptier than elsewhere? Is the average of welfare higher? Such are the questions that should be answered.

Yet it is now impossible to reply satisfactorily, because of the want of authentic statistics. The New York testimony shows that, after twenty years' experience, prohibition in Massachusetts is a failure in the cities and large towns. General Butler says that he thinks liquor is not sold in the majority of towns in Massachusetts.

Mr. A. M. Powell, in his remarks to the Judiciary Committee, says that in a prohibitory county in Maine, of twenty or twenty-five thousand inhabitants, he found an empty jail, without a prisoner for a year; and the last inmate a woman imprisoned for selling liquor illegally. Governor Peckham told him that in his county of Oxford, in Maine, with a population of thirty or thirty-five thousand, he could show him an empty jail, which had been empty two-thirds of the time during six years. In Vineland, a prohibitory town in New Jersey, as Mr. Landis stated before a committee of the Legislature, there is a population of ten thousand five hundred, and last year the police expenses were twenty-five dollars; and in 1872 the poor-rate, among a miscellaneous population, were three hundred and fifty dollars.

There are probably three millions of voters in the United States who favor some kind of prohibitory law. They are resolute and earnest. In the present want of accurate and trustworthy information they can not be answered. Their facts are as cogent as the counter-facts; their assertions are conclusive as opposing assertions. Nothing can be more reasonable than their request for a national commission of inquiry, that we may all have an official and authentic body of statistics to which to appeal. We trust that the Judiciary Committee will report favorably and soon, for there his or her dignity under an express

is no subject more vital to the happiness of this country, and none upon which accurate information, not rhetoric and obfuscation, is more immediately desirable.—Harper's Weekly.

Government.

AN ESSAY BY W. D. F. WARD, AMHERST ACADEMY.

Government must have originated in the Garden of Eden where God invested Adam with the right to have "dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth."

Man in his primeval state did not require to be governed, but when he fell into the world and with it came disorder and imposition, and hence the necessity of a government,—a power to regulate and control, to maintain peace, and give every man his right.

A people in a state of anarchy are in the most pitiable of all conditions. By the absence of government man is allowed to develop all that is cruel, and dishonorable, all natural disposition to do wrong, and to impose upon his weaker fellow.

The earliest form of government of which we have any account was the Hebrew government, which was patriarchal. Jacob's posterity in the land of Egypt exercised the paternal authority in every family. As the people increased they selected from the heads of families prominent persons to act as a leader. Scribes were appointed from among the people for genealogical purposes, and thus became important, and shared in subordinate authority. The Mosaic Government continued the same authority, until by Jethro's advice he appointed rulers over tens, fifties, hundreds, and thousands. Judges, heads, genealogists, elders, princes of tribes were dispersed abroad over the country. Those in the same neighborhood, formed a body to legislate. Those of a tribe living together formed its legislative assembly, and when convened from all the tribes they formed the legislative assembly of the nation.

In the days when "might was right," muscular strength and the skillful use of the battle-axe were the chief qualities that gave one man power over another; but as ages rolled by, civilization advanced, the educated and well trained mind began to have more influence than the bandishing of menaces or the bending of bows. And thus it is at the present that all offices that are not hereditary are bestowed on those who are the most educated and therefore the more thoroughly prepared to discharge their duties.

The prevailing forms of government are: Absolute Monarchy, Limited Monarchy and Democracy. As the countries ruled by despotic power predominate it will be proper to speak of that particular form first. Of the multifarious class of despots which exist among barbarous nations, it is here needless to say anything; for the question of forms of government only becomes interesting when applied to a wholly or partially civilized people.

Russia is a specimen of absolute rule; the Emperor is autocrat of all the Russians, the state is indivisible, the ruler cannot be at the same time ruler of any other country (since 1815 however he has been king of Poland), and must be of the Greek religion. In 1797 the succession was settled in the male line by the rules of primogeniture, and in failure of males in the female line. By the ukas of March 20th, 1820, it was decided that only the children of a marriage acknowledged by the Emperor are capable of succeeding to the throne. The highest councils are: 1st, the imperial council under the presidency of the Emperor, created January 1st, 1810, with four departments—that of legislation, that of war, that of civil and ecclesiastical affairs, and that of finance. 2nd, the senate for home affairs. 3rd, the holy synod. 4th, the ministry of state. The ministers have a seat and voice in the imperial council and the senate, &c. Let this suffice for despotic government.

Limited Monarchy of which the government of England is the best example, we will next consider.

The government of the United Kingdom is constitutional, in which the civil rights of all classes are acknowledged and guaranteed. The constitution is a monarchy in which the sovereign accepts his or her dignity under an express

agreement to abide by certain prescribed forms of government according to the laws of the realm and to maintain inviolate the protestant religion, with all the rights and privileges of the church.—The sovereign is the head or directing power in the executive of government, the fountain of all honors, and the watchful guardian of the interests of the state; he or she is held incapable of doing wrong; and if an unlawful act is done the minister instrumental in that act is alone punishable by the Parliament. The legislative part of the government is divided into two branches—namely: the House of Lords and the House of Commons, both of which consist of individuals belonging to the United Kingdom only, the colonial dependencies of the empire having no share in the general management. The persons who compose the House of Lords form a separate class or rank which is called collectively the Peers; whose members enjoy certain exclusive privileges and honors. The House of Commons consists of upwards of 600 members, chosen by counties, universities, cities, boroughs and towns. The two houses with the sovereign compose the three estates of the realm or legislative body.

The two houses, with the Sovereign have the power to pass laws, impose taxes, borrow money, make enquiries into the management of the public revenues or the transactions of the great officers of government, and even to bring the latter to trial if necessary.

No act of the deliberative bodies becomes valid as a law, without the assent of the Sovereign. The British constitution thus slightly sketched, may be generally described as an anomaly in political science, being both, professedly and in reality, a mixture of all three kinds of government, monarchical, aristocratical, and democratical.

Lastly, we will speak of democracy, of which the United States is the best representative. The general government of the United States is like that of the States individually, a representative democracy, in which the people intrust the administration of the affairs to executive and legislative officers of their own choice. At the head of the Executive is a President, who, with the Vice-President, is elected every four years and must be a native born citizen of the States. The legislative body consists of two Houses—the Senate and House of Representatives.

I have now briefly referred to the three prevailing forms of government, and will proceed even more briefly to enumerate the results of each.

As I have taken Russian rule as a specimen of despotism, it will be right to look to it for results.

Russia is chiefly distinguished as a military power by military rapine during the last century has acquired territories containing upwards of twenty-three millions of subjects. It is here needless to say anything; it is more than that of Great Britain's possessions in India, which contains over one hundred and eighty millions of inhabitants. Altogether Russia has not made that advancement that it would have had if it had a constitutional government.

There are several countries ruled by a despotic government, but with even more disparity than Russia.

Limited Monarchy is, I think, and has been the most stable and successful of any form of government, for while despotic rule trammels the freedom of the subjects, and democracy allows all to run almost at will, especially at those points the most distant from the seat of government, limited monarchy preserves true order and with it unimpeded liberty to do all that is right and honorable. Taking Great Britain as a representative of the system, we find that she has made the most rapid strides in extending her possessions, nor does she take any second place in civilization or literature.

That form of government called Democracy, though quite prosperous in the United States, has proved to be insufficient to guide or control the hordes of Mexicans over which it is exerted. Further, I find that wherever this form of government is the ruling power, difficulties in relation to the subjects, innumerable, arise. Finally, limited monarchy is the most efficient of all forms of government.

The Government of Canada may be said to be a pattern of the British Government. The Executive Government

consists of a representative of Her Majesty the Queen, styled His Excellency the Governor-General of Canada, Lord Dufferin is the present Gov.-Gen. aided by a Cabinet or Executive Council, comprising twelve heads of departments, who, by virtue of their office, have the title Honorable. They are: 1, President of Committees of the Executive Council; 2, Attorney-General for Upper Canada; 3, Attorney-General for Lower Canada; 4, Minister of Finance; 5, Commissioner of Crown Lands; 6, Secretary of the Province; 7, Commissioner of Public Works; 8, Postmaster-General; 9, Receiver-General of the Public Revenue; 10, Minister of Agriculture; 11, Solicitor-General East; 12, Solicitor-General West. The members of the Cabinet are appointed by the Governor, and hold office (unless removed) so long as they can retain the confidence and support of the Legislature, in which they must hold seats.

The Parliament or Legislature consists of three branches: 1, the Queen (represented by the Governor); 2, the Legislative Council; and 3, the House of Assembly. The consent of each branch is necessary before a bill can become law.

Under the Government of Canada the Dominion is filled with peace and plenty. Her borders enclose an area equal to that of the United States. Her homes are scattered from the Atlantic to the Pacific. May they continue to shine with virtue and grow in wealth. And thus while the sons of Canada are blessed with so good a government, may they be inspired with love and admiration for their flourishing Dominion, and may "Annexation" never become a household word in any home within her spacious boundaries.

Changes of a Century.

The nineteenth century has witnessed many great discoveries.

In 1809, Fulton took out the first patent for the invention of the steamboat.

The first steamboats which made regular trips across the Atlantic ocean were the Sirius and the Great Western, in 1830.

The first public application to practical use of gas for illumination was made in 1802.

In 1813, the streets of London were for the first time lighted with gas.

In 1813, there was built in Waltham, Mass., a mill, believed to have been the first in the world which combined all the requirements of making finished cloth from the raw cotton.

In 1790, there was only twenty-five post offices in the whole country, and up to 1837 the rates of postage were twenty-five cents for a letter sent over four hundred miles.

In 1807, wooden clocks commenced to be made by machinery. This ushered in the era of cheap clocks.

About the year 1833, the first railroad of any considerable length in the United States was constructed.

In 1840, the first experiments in photography was made by Daguerre.

About 1840, the first express business was established.

The anthracite coal business may be said to have begun in 1820.

In 1836, the first patent for the invention of matches was granted.

In 1845, the first telegram was sent. Steel pens were introduced for use in 1803.

The first successful trial of a reaper took place in 1833.

In 1846, Elias Howe obtained a patent for his first sewing machine.

The first successful method of making vulcanized India rubber was patented in 1839.

The following is a bona fide Valentine written last Saturday by an ancient admirer of eighty to a highly respected lady of ninety-three. The parties reside in this city:—

MOST HONORED LADY:—Your intellectual attainments, strength of will to pursue, brilliant wit, and charming conversational powers, render you the pride of your sex, and the delight and admiration of ours. May you live to the age of Methuselah to adorn and improve coming generations!—*Transcript, Feb. 21*

Chorus of ladies (to comely curlew who is ascending the ladder to hang decorations):—"O, Mr. Sweetest, do take care! Don't go up! So dangerous! Do come down! O! P. Rector (sarcastically).—Easily, Sweetest, don't you think you'd better let a married man do that?"—*Punch*