

# Poetry.

## BIRCH BARK.

Yes, yachting is pleasant, when breezes are fair  
And the trim craft bowls gaily along.  
With a few, chosen shipmates, the cruising to  
share,  
And reel off a yarn or a song;  
But when the wind fails us and idly we float,  
Beclimbed on our way up the Sound,  
We chafe at such bobbing about in a boat  
And long for a tramp on the ground.

There is pleasure in rowing when waters are  
still,  
With a phell boat so taper and slim;  
But the catching a "crab" may result in a  
"spill,"

And your tunic is in for a swim.  
"Or the water is 'lumpy' and 'wobbles'"  
your "spoons"  
Just when you stretch out for a "spurt,"  
Perhaps it is jolly to cut up such loons  
While the spray soaks the back of your shirt.

With the bright-eyed young Della for half of  
the oar

(The aghast tucked carefully in),  
Some seekers of pleasure are found on the road,  
In the dust, for a "two-forty spin."  
Yet from all such beguilement I beg to be free,  
Also "Polo," fox-hunting and "sich";  
They may each in their turn serve to cure the  
ennui

That troubles the painfully rich.

But the sensible plodder whose ducats are  
few,

When for brief recreation he strays,  
Will strike for the wildwood, whose charms ever  
new.

Are free from conventional ways.

There the shady nooks nestle and limpid lakes  
gleam;

There the trout leap, and startled deer run;  
So for jolly good cheer give me forest and  
stream,

With a friend, and the rod and the gun.

## Miscellaneous.

Circuses in Texas are taxed \$800 for each  
performance.

Mr. John Morrow, of the village of  
Dundalk, is the possessor of a goosling with  
four legs.

Billy White, Georgia's strong negro, kills  
a steer by throwing it over his head, and lifts  
a two-hundred pound man by the belt with  
his teeth.

Sportsmen may like to know that deer are  
so numerous at the head of Alligator river, in  
North Carolina, that they destroy the crops.

An eagle shot in Texas the other day was  
found to have twelve balls in him. The  
Commercial Advertiser says: he must have  
been a killed eagle.

A sturgeon was caught near Port Talbot  
last week weighing 162 lbs., and measuring  
6ft 6in in length, and 8ft 10in in circumfer-  
ence.

At the Home Farm of Strathendry, Fif-  
shire, a turkey cock has actually sat upon  
and successfully performed the duties of in-  
cubation, and brought forth and reared a  
brood of chickens.

A cow belonging to Mr. J. E. Oliver, at  
Ethel, in the township of Grey, while drink-  
ing water out of a tub with about six inches  
of water in it, caught her horns in the tub,  
and was smothered.

Mr. Sheriff Adams, butcher of Shakes-  
peare, paid a wager of \$10 that he could  
dress fit for market an ox and a sheep in  
half an hour. He won the bet with one  
minute and thirty-two seconds to spare.

The Winnipeg Standard, 23rd ult., says:  
A number of fur hunters are camped in the  
plains, near the city. They came in pretty  
well stocked, but prices continue low, and  
this year the winterers find themselves un-  
able to reach the big profits usually enjoyed  
by them as the reward of their six months'  
sojourn in the wilderness. Comparatively  
few furs were brought in. Penumica was  
scarce, as the hunters can now get  
it at a price for it in the interior as

## PAUL MORPHY.

Those who remember the short but bril-  
liant and meteoric like career of Paul Mor-  
phy, the phenomenal chess player, will have  
been surprised at his complete disappear-  
ance from the public view, and have wonder-  
ed what had become of him. Even as a  
chess-player he long ago ceased to attract  
public notice; in fact, he seemed to collapse  
all at once as a player on his return from  
Europe, and except that occasional conjec-  
tures have been entertained as to his where-  
abouts and fate, he has drifted entirely be-  
yond the thought of the public. A seem-  
ingly well authenticated statement, published a  
few days ago, will satisfy any curiosity that  
has been entertained regarding the once  
great chess player. Paul Morphy is still a  
resident of New Orleans, his native place;  
and in his latter days he is likely to make  
himself as famous by personal eccentricities  
as he made himself by chess-playing when  
quite a youth. It is said that his trip to  
Europe, the great fuss which was made  
about him, affected his mind and filled him  
with the fancy that all the fair sex were dot-  
tingly in love with him. Since his return to  
New Orleans this hallucination has complet-  
ely absorbed his faculties, and he has paid  
court to every pretty face he has seen on the  
street, in the theatre or other place of public  
resort. He has afforded great public amuse-  
ment, but has made himself such a nuisance  
and spectacle that his friends have seriously  
talked about placing him in the asylum for  
the insane. The most curious circumstance  
connected with his history since his return  
home is that he took a positive dislike to  
chess, and would neither play it, write about  
it, nor speak about it.

## SADDLES AND BRIDLES.

There is one very marked difference in  
racing in this country to what it is abroad,  
and one which is so quickly remarked by  
strangers—that is, the very shabby way in  
which owners of race horses in this country  
harness them. Abroad the appearance of  
the horse is one of the main features of the  
show, and he is always brought out to race  
equipped in the very handsomest style; but  
here, if a man was to judge the animal by  
his good clothes he might be very much mis-  
taken. It may be carrying out republican  
ideas, but it is not so attractive in the eyes  
of the spectators. Yesterday at Monmouth  
Park, a person would have hardly believed  
that the horses carried such dilapidated sad-  
dles and bridles if they did not see it for  
themselves. Fancy a horse for which his  
owner asked \$15,000 last summer being rig-  
ged with a bridle that broke when his rider  
had to take a pull upon it. There was  
another racer with an old cavalry saddle  
cloth under his saddle, and he was probably  
lucky to get that. All the saddles look ready  
for the hospital, and it does not seem odd  
that men risking their money that they do  
on their horses do not bring them before the  
public in a little more presentable condition.  
The least the grooms could do, anyway,  
would be to clean up the irons and get rid  
of the rust that appears to be eating them  
up.—N.Y. Herald, 11th.

## SPORTING UNCERTAINTIES.

Brother Gardner had planned to celebrate  
the glorious Fourth by hunting snipe on the  
shores of the St. Clair, but when he reached  
the race course the excitement drew him in  
among the spectators. It was noticed as he  
came down in the evening that his shotgun  
was missing, and he was asked to explain its  
absence.

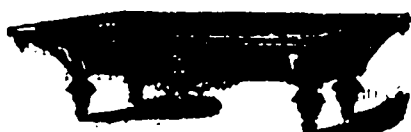
"I don't feel much like 'splaining any-  
thing," he sadly answered; but being pressed  
he went on:

"Well, after I got to dar and seed every-  
body puttin' up dier money on de horses I  
reckoned I'd better scoop some greenhorn  
out five or ten dollars. I went over and  
look at de flyers. Bimeby I seed one dat  
pleased me and I made up to de driver and  
axed him if he meant to win de race. He  
said he hid. He said he'd go right by all de  
odder horses as de lightning goes by a man  
wid a wheelbarrow and he'd come down de  
stretch home wid sparks o' fire flying from  
de wheels."

"And you bet on dat horse?"

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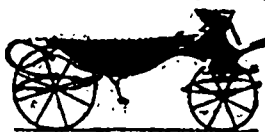
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