

POETRY.

STORY OF A POEM.

The Chicago Herald says: Luther Laffin Mills, whom the New York Sun generally dubbed the "Cicero of Chicago," deserves the title for other reasons than his gift of classic oratory. Cicero was a poet, and a lover of poetry and poetry. So is Mr. Mills. While the lawyer was in New York last, George Morgan, of the firm of Fretwell & Morgan, bankers, presented the Chicagoans with a poem which has an interesting history. Years ago Mr. Morgan saw the verses in an obscure little country paper and clipped them. He carried them for five years in his pocket, and on suitable occasions read them to his friends, who admired them. Finally, Mr. Morgan had many requests for the verses that he had copied of them printed. Here is the poem as it appears in the copy presented to Mr. Mills. The verses are certainly beautiful, and their being published at this late date should encourage all obscure but earnest singers. No real heart song is ever lost:

SELECT STORY

THE PIONEERS.

By J. Finimore Cooper.

THE LAST OF THE MOHICANS, "THE PATHFINDER," "HOMECARD BOUND," ETC.

CONTINUED.

It would seem that Marmaduke did not think his society of sufficient value to attempt inducing him to remain where he was; for he addressed no further discourse to the man, but turned his attention to other subjects. After a short time Hiram ventured a question: "What news does the Judge bring from the Legislature? it's not likely that Congress has done much this session; or maybe the French haven't fit any more battles lately?"

"The French, since they have beheld their king, have done nothing but fight," returned the Judge. "The character of the nation seems changed. I knew many French gentlemen, during our war, and they all appeared to me to be men of great humanity and goodness of heart; but these Jacobins are as blood-thirsty as bull-dogs."

"There was one Roshanbow wild us down at Yorktown," cried the landlady; "a mighty pretty man he was, too, and their horse was the very same. It was there that the sergeant got the hurt in the leg, from the English batteries, bad luck to 'em."

"Ah! mon pauvre roi!" muttered Monsieur Le Quoi.

"The Legislature have been passing laws," continued Marmaduke, "that the country much required. Among others, there is an act prohibiting the drawing of staves, at any other than proper seasons, in certain of our streams and small lakes; and another, to prohibit the killing of deer in the teeming month. These are laws that were loudly called for, by judicious men; nor do I despair of getting an act to make the unlawful felling of timber a criminal offence."

"The hunter listened to this detail with breathless attention, and when the Judge had ended, he laughed in open derision. "You may make your laws, Judge," he cried, "but will you find to watch the mountains through the long summer days, or the lakes at night? Game is game, and he who finds my bill, that has been in the law in these mountains for forty years to my certain knowledge; and I think one old law is worth two new ones. None but a green one would wish to kill a doe with a fawn by its side, unless his mosses were getting old, or his legs getting rickety, for the fish is lean and coarse. But a rifle rings among the rocks along the lake shore, sometimes, as if fifty pieces were fired at once—it would be hard to tell where the man stood who pulled the trigger."

"Armed with the dignity of the law, Mr. Bumpo," returned the Judge, gravely, "a vigilant magistrate can prevent much of the evil that has hitherto prevailed, and which is already rendering the game scarce. I hope to live to see the day when a man's rights in his game shall be as much respected as his title to his farm."

"Your titles and your farms are new together," cried Natty; "but laws should be equal, and not more for one than another. I shot a deer, last Wednesday was a fortnight, and it floundered through the snowbanks till it got over a brush fence; I caught the neck of my rifle in the twigs in following, and was kept back, until finally the creature got off. Now I want to know who is to pay me for that deer; and a fine back it was. If there hadn't been a fence I should have gotten another shot into it, and I never draw'd upon anything that hadn't wings three times running, in my born days. No, no, Judge, it's the farmers that makes the game scarce, and not the hunter."

"Terter was not so plenty as in ter old war, Pumps," said the major, who had been an attentive listener, amid clouds of smoke; "put ter lant is not mate as for ter ter to live on, but for Christians."

"Why, major, I believe you're a friend to justice and the right, though you go so often to the grand house; but it's a hard case to a man to have his honest calling for a livelihood stopped by laws, and that too, when, if right was done, he might hunt or fish on any day in the week, or on the best fat in the Patent, if he was so minded."

"I understand you, Letter-Stocking," returned the major, fixing his black eyes, "quavering sounds that seemed to compose the character of his music."

"No! let me see—perhaps he had my name in the bill for the new turnpike, as a director?"

"He might possibly; but it is not to such an appointment that I allude."

"Such an appointment!" repeated Mr. Jones, who began to fidget with curiosity; "then it is an appointment. If it is in the militia, I won't take it."

"No, no, it is not in the militia," cried Elizabeth, showing the packet in her hand, and then drawing it back with a coquetish air; "it is an office of both honor and emolument."

"Honor and emolument!" echoed Richard, in painful suspense; show me the paper, girl. Say, is it an office where there is anything to do?"

"You have hit it, Cousin Dickon; it is the executive office of the county; at least so said my father when he gave me this packet to offer you as a Christmas-box. 'Surely if anything will please Dickon,' he said, 'it will be to fill the executive chair of the county; and I have seen the Executive chair! what nonsense!"

"And why have you slain the Mingo warriors? Was it not to keep these hunting-grounds and lakes to your father's children; and were they not given in solemn council to the West-ster?"

"Does not the blood of a warrior run in the veins of a young chief, who should speak aloud, where his voice is now too low to be heard?"

"The appeal of the hunter seemed in some measure to recall the confused fancies of the Indian, who turned his face toward the listeners and gazed intently on the Judge. He shook his head, throwing his hair back from his countenance, and expressed eyes that were glaring with an expression of wild resentment. But the man was not himself. His hand seemed to make a fruitless effort to release his tomahawk, which was confined by its handle to his belt, while his eyes gradually became vacant. Richard at that instant thrusting a mug before him, his features changed to the countenance of a young Indian in his moment of frenzy; "but he is drunk and can do no harm. This is the way with all the savages; give them liquor and they make dogs of themselves. Well, well—the day will come when right will be done; and we must have patience."

"Yes, Mr. Sheriff," said the laughing maiden, "now I think you will find something to do. I have often heard you complain of oil that there was nothing to do in this new country, while to my eyes it seemed as if everything remained to be done."

"Do!" echoed Richard, who blew his nose, raised his little form to its greatest elevation, and looked serious. "Everything changed to an oil, should occasion happen for his services, in another way."

"No," interrupted the other; "I flatter myself that no man could hang a man better than that is—ha—ha—oh! yes, Benjamin would do extremely well in an unfortunate dilemma, if he could be persuaded to attempt it. But I should despair of the thing. I never could induce him to hang, or teach him to ride on horseback. I must seek another deputy."

"Well, sir, as you have abundant leisure for all these important affairs, I beg that you will direct your eyes to high sheriff and devote some little of your time to gallantry. Where are the beauties and improvements which you were to show me?"

"Where? why, everywhere! Here I have laid out some streets; and when they are completed, and the trees fallen, they are all built up, they will not make a fine town? Well, 'duke is a liberal-hearted fellow, with all his stubbornness. Yes; I must have at least four deputies, besides a jailor."

"TO BE CONTINUED."

BEGGARS WHO ARE GENEROUS.

"Say, mister, give me some money to buy some supper with. I haven't had a bit to eat to-day. Can't you help me along?"

"It was a street beggar accosting a sorrowful looking young man on one of the principal thoroughfares of the city. The young man stopped. "There's a nicker," said he, "it's the last I have, but take it, I shall soon be where they don't need money I am tired of this life so take it and good luck to you."

"Are you so much in need as that?" asked the beggar, who had been for two weeks, but it's no use and my money's all gone. For a while the beggar hesitated, then he pulled out a dollar. "Here," said he, "take this. You're worse off than I am."

"It won't do me any good—good by," and he walked rapidly down the street.

A policeman overheard the remark and followed and overtook the stranger.

"Look here," said he, "are you the fellow that's about to commit suicide?"

"A hearty laugh interrupted further questioning. "That's all right, officer," said the fellow, "I am just trying a little game on these street beggars, and that's the third one to-night who offered me money."

RELIC OF SERPENT WORSHIP.

A high serpent mound has been discovered in the Carthage road, between Quincy, Ill., and Carthage, by the Rev. S. D. Peet. A clearly defined rattlesnake lies coiled along the ground, following the line of the bluff. Its entire length is 1,450 feet. The ridge has been plowed down, and now it is only two or three feet above the surface, but the outlines are still plainly discernible. The mounds at the coils of the serpent are ten to twelve feet high. The specific dimensions are 600 feet from the head to the coils, the coils occupy a space of 900 feet in length and are made up of four distinct mounds 100 feet apart. From the coils to the rattle of the snake is 450 feet, and they are three rattles occupying a space of 100 feet. The serpent lies north and south, a straight line across five feet from the coils, the coils are five feet from the tail. Mr. Peet explored one of the mounds, and a few feet below the surface found the remains of five persons, but he does not think that these are the remains of the serpent worshippers, which he thinks are buried deeper. He will make further explorations.

Advices from Bermuda say that great difficulty has been found in laying the cable owing to the deep water and the ragged and uneven nature of the coral reef, but the shore end will be spliced with the main cable when the work will be completed.

A Boer newspaper announces that a great African colonial company is being formed, and that Emperor William intends to subscribe liberally to the enterprise.

Friday morning two Kentuckians, named Russell and Tyrell, jumped from a railroad bridge into the water, a distance of 185 feet for a purse of \$200. Tyrell may die, Russell landed safely.

A middle aged man named O'Brien was run over by the Windsor and Annapolis train yesterday and killed. He was a farmer and resided near Windsor.

"No such thing," said Elizabeth, looking provokingly knowing.

FOR HONEY.

A successful boring for honey has been made in North Tennessee. For many years swarms of bees have noticed by boatmen at Fox Bluff, on the Cumberland River, near Franklin, Ky. The bluff is 170 feet high, and the river's channel runs directly under it. The bees have been observed about a big fissure near the center of the bluff, and the opening could not be reached from above or below without danger of being stung to death. As the bees had never been robbed it was thought a large amount of honey was stored in the cliff. Recently a well born named Starks visited the bluff and was at once impressed with the idea that he could reach the wonderful honey store-house with a drill. After some coaxing he persuaded a number of farmers to undergo the expense, and a three-inch hole was bored from the top of the bluff. At a depth of eighty-five feet the drill struck the honey. According to a dispatch "barrels and tubs by the score were filled and carried to the neighboring farms, and the oil extracted from them to Louisville for more receptacles."

CATCHING RATTLESNAKES FOR OIL.

There are places in South Georgia where men extract oil from the rattlesnake and use it to cure rheumatism. These persons will give a negro \$1 to poke out a rattlesnake to them, and then they kill it in a peculiar manner. They place a forked stick over the snake's head, then put a cord around it and strangle the snake. This is done to keep the snake from biting itself. The body of the reptile is then strung up and the oil extracted from it. It sells at \$2 per ounce, and this industry is a very profitable one. The snakes in that section are very large, averaging five feet in length, and one rattler gives up a great deal of oil. A little negro once saw two rattlers lying close together, and wanted to get the money for finding them. It was a mile to the nearest house. He was afraid the snakes would crawl off while he was gone, and so took off his coat and placed it between the two snakes. He went off, came back, and found them still eyeing the coat. He had them chained. So the snake is cultivated down there as a profitable industry.

Mrs. WISSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP.

has been used by mothers for their children while teething. If disturbed at night and broken rest by a sick child crying with pain of cutting teeth, and one or two bottles of Mrs. Wisslow's Soothing Syrup for Children Teething. It will relieve the poor little sufferer immediately. Depend upon it, mothers, there is no mistake about it. It cures Diarrhoea, regulates the Stomach and Bowels, cures Wind, Colic, softens the Gums and reduces Inflammation. It is pleasant to the taste. The prescription of one of the oldest and best female physicians and nurses in the United States, and is sold at 25 cents per bottle by all druggists throughout the world. Be sure and ask for "Mrs. Wisslow's Soothing Syrup."

A POPE FROM AMERICA.

Of the 253 popes all but 50 have been of the Italian nationality, a high honor to a noble race, and one it merited until lately saw the New York Catholic Review. Westward the course of the empire takes its way, and we suspect that now, when Italy is in its decline, the church will look in time to America and an English-speaking nation for its head. The gossip over Cardinal Gibbons as head of the church, though absurd under the circumstances, is a very good indication of a current of feeling existing in the soundest, freshest, most vigorous christian faith of to-day is to be found in America, all its defects admitted, and it is not likely that its shrewd professors, when once they take their proper position in the church, will permit the majority of the highest honors to remain in the hands of any particular race. We shall yet see on the glorious papal throne a series of Pontiffs whose Irish blood will have all the smoothness and mellowness of American cultivation and Italian training.

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