[FOR THE CRITIC.]

EASTER ANGEL.

Pale and weary and worn,
With ashes in her hair,
And no welcome for the morn
Of Easter, blue and fair.
A mourner knelt on the altar pavement, weeping,
In an ancient church whose walls were keeping
Guard over the sleepers there.

O'er her life a shadow hung
As dark as the veil she wore,
And the spirited, silvery tongue
No word of promise bore
For her soul, with the blight of promise stricken,
As she prayed that God, in his love would quicken
Her dying faith once more.

Turning toward the east,
Where the altar silent lay,
With no ministering priest
To hail the Paschal Day,
I saw the Angel of Easter bending,
A mystic light to her features lending
Many a hallowed ray.

Pure Easter lilies sprang
To birth in the old church then,
And an unseen choir sang
How the dead shall live again.
While the angel passed to the mourner kneeling,
The breath of incense around her stealing
The incense of hope for men.

Her speech was like music rare
As she said, in accents sweet,
"I come from the mansions fair.
The stricken earth to greet,
With a promise that all the dead and dying
Shall come in the end the foe defying,
To victory complete."

"The stars may fade from the sky,
The flowers disappear,
The leaves of the summer lie
Withered and brown and sere
But by and by in the Easter morning,
New flowers shall bloom for the world's adorning,
And the Easter stars shine clear."

I thought of the world I knew,
With its filmy, death-like eyes,
And I said, "Can it be true
That nothing really dies?
That the seed we have sown with pain and weeping
Shall come at last to a golden reaping,
That shall fill us with surprise?"

I thought how the lusty spring
Conquers the winter's blight,
While the field and forest ring
With carols of wild delight;
How the scented buds, from the dark soil springing,
Their mantle of hope o'er the earth are flinging
How wrong succumbs to right.

I thought of the nations old,
Each with its Easter-tide,
Of the Easter songs that rolled
Through the ancient temple wide.
And I knew that the world,
With its weight of sorrow,
Had ne'er lost faith in a perfect morrow,
Of a life that must abide.

The light that dawned at last,
In the heart of the mourner there:
Her Lenten-tide was past,
And her face was calm and fair.
As she rose from her knees with glad thanks giving,
And passed to her place among the living,
Their Easter joy to share.

We hear in the morning hour,
Many an Easter day;
The chimes in some fair tower
The easter anthem play;
Gladly they peal to hearts' dark prison
Their message of hope, "The Lord is risen"
Death has no power to slay!"

When darkness lies on the earth
And the stars dim in the sky,
And life has so little worth
That we only ask to die,
Then comes the Easter Angel flying,
O'er the grave where hope is lying,
And bids her mount on high.

E.

[FOR THE CRITIC.]

EVENTS AND COMMENTS.

Thus far, the Hospital Investigation before the Legislative Committee seems to be a farce. Nothing new and startling has been revealed in the examination of the witnesses. In fact, if it had not been for the flashes of wit displayed by some of the witnesses for the prosecution and the counsel for the defence, it would have been a dull trial over the departed remains of the alleged victims of malpractice. The old adage, that "when Doctors disagree who shall decide," seems to have been verified in this case. It appears that Dr. Slayter objected to giving his testimony in the beginning of the enquiry in the Clemens case. He very truthfully remarked, that in the absence of a post mortem examination, the conflicting evidence of the Doctors in regard to Clemens' malady would amount to nothing, as one Doctor's testimony would be as good as another's; and even in this point, Dr. Slayter placed himself *hors de combat* by the testimony of Drs. Lathorn and Rigby, who testified that Clemens' death resulted from Typhoid Fever, and not Meningitis, as claimed by Dr. Slayter. It appears also, that Dr. Slayter omitted to send with Clemens (who, previous to his being sent to the Hospital, was Slayter's patient) a statement in writing, giving his (Slayter's) treatment and diagnosis of the case. If he had done this, his testimony would have been materially strengthened, and he would not have made himself liable to criticism by his brother physicians, among whom he has been an honored member. His insinuation that the Hospital staff, as at present constituted, was not competent to hold a post mortem examination, was a slanderous charge that should be resented by every member of the profession who has any regard for professional etiquette. Fortunately for some Doctors, the grave may cover up their blunders and mistakes, but unfortunately for Dr. Slayter, his blunders as a witness in this case cannot be so easily hidden. If the counsel for the prosecution cannot do better in their next cases under consideration, it is not likely that the ballot at the next election will be changed so much as some people imagine. Their withdrawal from the "Clemens case" displayed their sagacity, as any person of common reasoning faculties could forsee that they had no chance to substantiate the charge of "malpractice," especially when Dr. Slayter, their principal witness, said himself, that in the absence of a post mortem examination of the man Clemens, no positive proof could be adduced against the Hospital staff, in the case under consideration.

VETERAN.

THE COMPOSITION OF THE SUN—IS IT FIRE OR GAS.

The body of the sun itself is a most marvellous thing. Its distance from us is about 95,000,000 miles. Knowing that, it is very easy to determine its diameter, which is very nearly one-hundred and tenth part of its distance; and when we come to carry that out in figures we find it means 860,000 miles. That is to say that it is 110 times the diameter of the earth. There is a curious coincidence here; the sun is 110 times the size of the earth, and its distance from us is 110 times its own diameter. Perhaps the most remarkable demonstrations of the sun's great size may be shown in this way:

Suppose it were hollowed out and we were put inside the shining surface that gives us light, and which would be to us like our sky, the surface itself would be so far away that the moon could circulate with perfect freedom inside of it, only little more than half way out to the surface, for the distance of the sun's surface would be 430,000 miles from us, while the distance of the moon is only 240,000 miles; so that there would be almost room for another moon as far beyond our own, inside of the sun. It would take a million and a quarter of the earth to make such a magnitude as that of the sun. So much for its size; but when we come to estimate its weight, we find that it is not so great relatively, yet it is very considerable, for it is about 339,000 times as heavy as the earth. That is an enormous mass, immensely more than all the planetary system put together, exceeding it more than 900 times. Its attraction on the earth controls it, although the earth is moving more than fifty times as rapidly as a cannon ball, for it is a pretty rapid cannon ball that makes a mile in four seconds, and the earth makes nearly twenty miles a second.

In going that distance the sun's attraction bends it out of its course enough to keep it in its orbit. That requires a pull on the earth which is difficult to conceive of. Suppose gravitation to be conceived of as produced by the natural pulling of telegraph wires, we should have to put up the wire nine to the square inch, each as large as ordinary telegraph wires. There would not be room enough for a mouse to move about between them, the bands connecting the earth and sun would have to be so near together. We are apt to think of the force of gravitation as the action of a far-off body and as slight and minute. The universe would have to be almost solid if it were to be held together by material bands instead of attraction of gravitation. The attraction of the sun upon bodies on its own surface is twenty-seven or twenty-eight times what it is on the surface of the earth. A body weighing one pound here would there weigh more than twenty-seven pounds. An ordinary man would weigh about a ton on the surface of the sun, and could not walk about. We would not any of us be able to move. Yet notwithstanding the enormous force of gravity or the density of the sun, the amount of matter to the cubic foot is very much less than on the earth. It is only about one-fourth part as dense. From that we draw a most important inference. It can neither be solid nor liquid to any considerable extent, but must be wholly a ball of gas or vapor. There is a great deal of iron in the sun; and it also contains other materials as dense and heavy as the matter of which the substance of the earth is made. If they were in a liquid or solid state we see that with such a tremendous force of gravity the density of the sun would necessarily be greater than that of the earth. The only possible explanation of its low specific gravity is that it is mostly a ball of illuminated gas. The sun is too brilliant to be carefully viewed with the naked eye. If persons look at it through smoked or colored glass, its disk will appear perfectly round, with a, smooth border, and with a uniformly red color over it, except when the glass is thoroughly smoked the central position may seem to have a more intense red than the outer part of the disk. But when viewed through good telescopes, dark spots are frequently seen on the surface of the sun. And at all times when seen with such instruments, its general surface, outside of these spots, has a spotted appearance, somewhat variagated, with numerous whittish spots and redder portions round about them. The sun appears perfectly round when seen, not only with smoked glass, but also with telescopes. It, however, is not a perfect sphere. Though this could not detected by observation with telescopes, it has been demonstrated by mathematical calculation that the sun is an oblate spheriod, being slightly flattened at the poles. This discovery was made by comparing together the velocity with which the sun turns upon its axis, (once in a little over 25 days), its great bulk and its great