

SONG OF THE SOIL.

BY J. H. R. BAYLEY.

I start the bulb of the beautiful flower  
And feed the bloom of the wild wood bower,  
I rear the blade of the tender herb,  
And the trunk of the stalwart oak I curb;  
I force the sap of the mountain pine,  
And curb the tendrils of the vine;  
I robe the forest and clothe the plain  
With the richest of fruits and the richest of grain.

The cheek of the peasant I clothe with health;  
And yield the sturdy yeoman wealth;  
I give the spirit of commerce wings,  
And prop the tottering throne of kings—  
The gorgeous palace and the humble cot  
Owe every atom to me they've got;  
And the prince at his banquet and hind at his board  
Alike must depend on the fare I afford.

Man may boast of his creaturely might,  
His talents in peace, and powers in fight,  
And lord it over the beast and bird,  
By the charm of his touch and the spell of his word;

But I am the soul and mighty source  
Whence flows the tide of his boasted force  
Whatever his right and whoever he be,  
His pomp and dominion must come from me!

I am the giver of all that's good,  
And have been since the world has stood;  
Where's there wealth on ocean, or beauty on land  
But spring from the warmth of my fostering hand?  
Or where's the object fair and free,  
That claims a being, but's trad'd to me?  
Cherish, then cherish—sons of toil!  
The wonderful might of the fruitful soil!

And whence says the christian, dost thou obtain,  
This power so mighty, of which thou art vain?  
Thou boastest of that which is furnished to thee,  
By him who is lord of both land and of sea,  
For know that treasures which come from the sod,  
Are only thine own as the gift of thy God.

*The Evil Tendencies of Corporal Punishment, as a Means of Moral Discipline in Families and Schools, Examined and Discussed.* By Lyman Cobb. Mark H. Newman, & Co., N. Y.

The little chubby-faced gentlemen who figure on tomb-stones in a pair of wings—and nothing else, have always been the envy of schoolboys, seeing they could neither sit down nor stand up for a flogging.

Mr. Cobb, it seems, would now make cherubs of the whole human race; or, at least scatter abroad the principles of a new and unflogged civilization. May he succeed in dethroning "the Cat" from the worse than Egyptian worship we accord to it! And yet, after all, cruelty is cruelty, whether it lacerates the feeling of the shoulders or of the heart; and a tyrannical teacher can as seriously outrage the spirit of a noble child by holding him up to the scorn of his companions, as by afflicting him with the lash. "You may flog my son, sir," wrote an old-fashioned parent, "whenever he misses his lesson; for I hold you an excellent judge of how much Latin and Greek a boy of his years can carry about with him; you may flog him too for breaking your clearly expressed rules of school discipline; but I insist upon your omitting all preachment and exhortation to a boy of mine. His parents only, from knowing his disposition, are the proper persons to touch his springs of character; nor do I see how your province of teaching Arithmetic empowers you to quote The Book of Numbers at him; nor what connexion his playing out of school hours, at marbles, has with the use of the globes, within doors."

The schoolmaster who was formerly an impinger is now a developer; he has been abroad since the days when people wrote thus to him. That is, he has stepped out of his school house, and now hitches himself on as closely to the discipline of families as did the priest in centuries gone by. The boy now studies his lesson at home, and only recites it to his teacher; so that the teacher has a fair plea for mixing himself with his surroundings as intimately as if he were a police officer who watched a suspected party within the jail limits. Boys themselves, it is credibly reported, are wilting up beneath these visitations of the evil eye; and it is now the reproach of modern urchinhood that at least half the boys in a school will "tell of each other;" or, in other words, become spies upon their companions at the instance of the master, who would thus subsidize them to aid in maintaining the discipline which he himself ought to enforce. What parent would not rather have a child flogged within an inch of his life than have him put to such base uses?

No, Mr. Cobb: in a truly spiritual view of this matter, flogging, *per se*, as Captain Tyler would tell you, is nothing to flogging as a mark of degradation, and the public opinion of each separate school-room, decides among the boys of that school what is the strongest mark of degradation. As many fine spirits have had the edge taken from them by having a fool's-cap allotted as their cue; many punishments—as many high-minded boys have had their sense of honour extinguished, by

being beguiled into treachery to their companions by some jesuitical or juggling teacher, as the use of the "cat" has ever "hardened." Yet we fully admit that, once indoctrinated a boy with the idea that a blow from the hands of his preceptor is an equal indignity to a blow given him by another boy, and there should be an end of all flogging. We admit this, while still holding it preposterous to recognise "reason," as Mr. Cobb seems to do, as the great governing principle of children. They are beings of instinct, impulse, imagination and passion. Their self-regulation is not from internal judgment, but from external pains and pleasures, and their discipline should be penalties and rewards. In a word: if we should form habits, as well as inculcate principles, more important than proving to the child what is best for him, far more important is it to "train him up in the way he should go."

From the Southport American.

THE GREAT LAKES.

The chain of "Fresh Water Mediterranean" that go so largely towards dividing the territory of "Uncle Sam" from the domain of "Mrs. Vic," are a geographical wonder. Extending from east to west over nearly fifteen and a half degrees of longitude, they seem, regarding them upon the map, to rest like a crown of waters upon the head of the Union, their centre of gravity the Island of Mackinac, balancing upon the meridian which separates Indiana and Ohio, equidivides Kentucky and Tennessee, and passes between Georgia and Alabama, and East and West Florida into the Gulf of Mexico. The difference in the latitude of the northern and southern extreme points of the Lakes is not far from eight and a half degrees. The estimated area of country draining into them is 400,000 square miles—the extent covered by the waters of the whole 93,000 square miles, divided as follows:—Ontario, 6,300; Erie, 9,600; St. Clair, 360; Huron, 20,400; Michigan, including the Bay, 24,400; Superior, 32,000. The waters of the "Father of Lakes" (Superior) are 628 feet above the level of the sea; which elevation is attained by equal gradations, each lake rising above the previous one, from Ontario to Superior. The surface of the waters of Ontario is 235 feet above the tide water of the St. Lawrence—Erie rises 333 feet above Ontario—St. Clair 6 feet above Erie—Huron and Michigan are 13 feet higher than St. Clair, and Superior rises 44 feet above those.

The St. Clair is by far the shallowest of any of the lakes—the average depth being about 20 feet—Erie average in depth about 84 feet—Ontario 500—Superior 900—Huron and Michigan 1000, as nearly as can be arrived at. The deepest soundings are found in Lake Huron. Off Signinaw Bay, we are told, leads have sunk 1,000 feet, or 1,200 feet below the level of the Atlantic Ocean, without reaching bottom.

Great difference is observable in the transparency and purity of the waters of the several lakes. Those of Ontario, Erie, and the Southern part of Michigan have no peculiar excellence—while those of the northern part of Lake Michigan and of Lake Huron, surpass in clearness and flavour any waters of which we have drunk, though a still greater purity and a higher relish is said, by those who have visited that lake, to distinguish the waters of Superior.

So completely transparent are the waters of Huron, that the rays of the sun are said to pass through them as through the cloudless atmosphere, without meeting with solid matters in suspension to elicit their heat. Thus Dr. Drake accounts for the fact, which he himself ascertained by experiment, that the water on the surface and two hundred feet below the same spot, had precisely the same temperament, 56 degrees.

Through the Welland Canal the navigation of the lakes is uninterrupted for the distance of 844 miles from east to west—the distance north and south is, of course, various, ranging from 347 mile as the extreme distance. The country to which these waters are the great highway of transport, has often been the theme of high wrought eulogium, for the variety and richness of its soil, and the extent of its resources. As well as the justness of these praises, as the extent to which this fertility is being subjected to in the hand of culture and the rapidity with which these resources are being developed, under the life-bringing touch of the enterprize which peculiarly characterises its inhabitants, is gathered from a bare glance at the fact that the commerce of the four lakes, including all capital afloat, during the year 1843, was estimated by the Topographical Bureau at \$65,000,000.

The total amount expended by the general government on these lakes for the improvement necessary to protect and convenience commerce, is stated by Mr. Whiteley of Ohio, at \$2,100,000.

When the projected ship canal around the Falls of Ste. Marie, shall be completed, the

wide expanse of Lake Superior will be added to the present extent of the lake navigation—allowing the adventurous commercialist to crowd 175 miles still further North and several hundreds farther West. The length of the route proposed to be cut by this canal is said to be but three-fourths of a mile, and the whole expense of the improvement is estimated, if we rightly remember, at about \$280,000. By this comparatively small outlay, less than the cost of three months congressional black-guard, access is at once attained to the whole country tributary to Lake Superior—a tract so rich in timber and mineral wealth that it has not unaptly been termed the "Denmark of America."

GREAT BEAR FIGHT.

An encounter with four bears took place a few days ago, in the vicinity of Farn-height on the Madawaska River, in which a friend of ours and two of his men, were the parties engaged.

A trap had been set by one of the men named Jacob Harrison, who being out in search of a yoke of oxen, on the evening in question, saw a young bear fast in the trap and three others close at hand, in a very angry mood, a fact which rendered it necessary for him to make tracks immediately.—On arriving at the farm, he gave the alarm and seizing an old dragoon's sabre, he was followed to the scene of action by Mr. James H. Burke armed with a gun, and the other with an axe.

They proceeded direct to the trap, supplied with a rope, intending to take the young bear alive. It being a short time after dark, objects could not be distinctly seen; but on approaching close to the scene of action, a cracking among the leaves and dry branches with sundry other indications warned them of the proximity of the old animals. When within a few steps of the spot a dark mass was seen on the ground—a growl was heard—and the confined beast made a furious leap on Jacob, who was in advance, catching him by the legs, the infuriated animal inflicted a severe wound on his knee, upon which he drew his sword and defended himself with great coolness. Upon receiving several wounds from the sabre the cub commenced to growl and cry in a frightful and peculiar manner, when the old she bear attracted to the spot, rushed on the adventurous Harrison and attacked him with all the ferocity attendant on the circumstances. Jacob turned upon the new foe, and wielded his rusty weapon with such energy and success, that in a short time he deprived her of one of her fore paws by a lucky stroke, and completely disabled her eventually by a desperate cut across the neck, which divided the tendons and severed the spinal vertebrae.

Having completed his conquest, (in achieving which he found the sword a much better weapon than an axe, the animal being unable to strike it from his hand; every attempt to do so being followed by a wound) he had ample time to despatch the imprisoned cub at leisure.

During the time the stirring and dangerous scene we have related was enacting, war was going on in equally bloody and vigorous style at a short distance. Mr. Burke having discharged his gun at the other old bear, only slightly wounding him; the enraged bruin sprung at him with a ferocious howl. The animal was met by a blow from the butt-end of the fowling piece, the first stroke, the stock flew in pieces, and the next, the heavy barrel was hurled a distance of twenty feet among the underwood, by a side blow from the dexterous paw of the bear. Mr. Burke then retreated a few feet and placed his back against a large hemlock, followed the while closely by the bear, but being acquainted with the nature of the animal and his mode of attack, he drew a large hunting knife from his belt and placing his arms by his side coolly awaited the combat.

The maddened brute approached, growling and gnashing his teeth, and with a savage spring encircled the body of the hunter and the tree in his iron gripe. The next moment the flashing of the *couteau de chasse*, tore through his abdomen and his smoking rolled upon the ground. At this exciting crisis of the struggle, the other man accompanied by his dog, came up in time to witness the triumphant close of the conflict.

Two old bears and a cub were the fruits of the dangerous adventure—all extremely fat—the largest of which it is computed would weigh 250 lbs. We have seldom ever heard of a more dangerous encounter with bears, and we are happy to say that Burke received no injury; and Jacob Harrison although torn severely and having three ribs broken, is doing well under the care of an Indian doctor of the Algonquin tribe.

The above is one of the many perils incidental to the hardy and adventurous life of backwoodsmen— dangers manifold, by land and water, beset, the devious and difficult

path of the pioneers of civilization, yet we daily see them braving and overcoming every obstacle, in order to realise the anticipations of an enterprising spirit, and leave their names to future ages the landmarks of pristine improvement.—[Bytown Advocate.]

AMERICAN TEA.

We learn by a communication in the *Union*, that the Secretary of State has recently received a package of tea, grown in Brazil, from our consul at St. Catharines. The leaf is somewhat larger and darker than the Chinese tea; its flavor is strong and aromatic, and resembles the best specimens from China. When prepared, it strongly assimilates to the mixture of black and green tea, much—indeed, almost exclusively—drunk in England; after China, the greatest tea drinking country in the world. The tea plant was first introduced into Brazil by King John, of Portugal. The writer of the communication states that the successful cultivation of this plant, in the United States, may be looked upon as a matter of certainty; as a climate exists in the States of North and South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas, extending one degree south of the Rio Grande, precisely similar to the tea growing districts of China.

The tea-drinking old lady of the *Union*, referring to the beverage produced by this plant, gives an opinion thereon, in the following distinct and precise terms:—"We have tasted the Brazilian tea; and though we are no great amateurs of the black tea, yet there is so much infusion of the taste of the green tea in it, as to render it extremely palatable."—[Buffalo Express.]

READING IN CHILDREN.—Reading without intelligence injures the brain and stomach mechanically; reading with intelligence injures both in the less direct manner in nervous excitement; but, either way, much reading and robust health are incompatible. Only let a child eager for knowledge be read to, instead of allowing him to read himself, and the whole of the mechanical mischief is avoided; and again let him be freely conversed with in a desultory manner, in the midst of active engagements in and out of doors; and then, while an equal amount of information is conveyed, and in a form more readily assimilated by the mind, nearly all the mischiefs of excitement, as springing from study, are also avoided. In a word, let books in the hands, except as playthings, be as much as possible held back during the early period of Education.—[Home Education.]

ANTIQUITY OF THE ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.—The old adage that there is nothing new under the sun, receives some countenance from the following reference to the Electric Telegraph—the most wonderful of our modern inventions, the idea of such a medium of communication having been suggested "a long time ago."

Strada, in one of his *Prohibitions*, (Lib. ii. prol. 6) gives an account of a chimerical correspondence between two friends by help of a certain loadstone, which had such value in it that if it touched two several needles, when one of the needles so touched began to move, the other at never so great a distance, moved at the same time and in the same manner. He tells us that the two friends being each of them possessed of one of these needles, made a kind of dial plate, inscribing it with the four and twenty letters, in the same manner as hours of the day are marked upon the ordinary dial plate. They then fixed one of these needles on each of the plates in such a manner that it could move round without impediment, so as to touch any of the four and twenty letters. Upon their separating from one another into distant countries, they agreed to withdraw themselves punctually into their closets at a certain hour of the day, and to converse with one another by means of their invention. Accordingly, when they were some hundred miles asunder, each of them shut himself up in his closet at a time appointed, and immediately cast his eye upon his dial plate. If he had a mind to write any thing to his friend, he directed his needle to every letter that formed the words which he had occasion for, making a little pause at the end of every word or sentence to avoid confusion. The friend in the meanwhile saw his own sympathetic needle moving of itself to every letter which that of his correspondent pointed at. By this means they talked together across a whole continent, and conveyed their thoughts to one another in an instant, over cities or mountains, seas or deserts.

STATISTICS OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.—The *Law* (English) Magazine states—"On the 1st October, 1836, death punishment was abolished for—1st. attempt to murder, attended with no results dangerous to life; 2nd. burglary; 3rd. robbery; 4th. arson; and in the year 1841, for rape. In every one of these crimes there has been an increase since the removal of punishment. Taking the three years which preceded the change, and the years since 1842, '43, and '44, after the change, the increase on the 1st has been 83 per cent; on the second 115 per cent; on rapes 100 per cent.

There are now in operation in the United States about 5,000 miles of railroad, which has cost \$160,000,000.