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POETRY.

A WIFE IS THE MAIN THING.

Oh! I'm a poor unlucky wight,
As there was ever born,
There's nothing in my house that's right,
'Tis lonely and forlorn,
I've cash enough to pay it well,
To keep my house in order;
But I never can get a decent meal,
Though plentiful my larder;
'Tis overdone or underdone,
Perhaps not done at all,
No man had ever such a home,
In all this weary world.

My coat is at the elbows out,
I never can get it mended;
My shirts are scorched in ironing,
My vest to ribbons run;
My stockings down into the ground,
I never can get a garter;
There's nothing in the house should be done
And if it's done at all, it's
It never had been done,
Than done on my ill day.

Go, get a wife—the old man said;
Not at all complaining;
Of woe I never be afraid,
A prudent wife is a thing;
She'll keep your house, she'll mend your clothes,
And chat and sing the while, air;
And all that's done will be well done,
And do without complaining;
If ever you had a pleasant home,
A wife is the main thing.

Jack quietly took the sage advice
And wooed a farmer's daughter,
And never did he regret his choice,
When home, a bride he brought her;
His clothes are always clean and neat,
His house is like a palace;
His cooking, that a king might eat,
And do it with a relish.

And now he is a happy man,
He never goes complaining;
But with a joyful smile declares
A wife is the main thing.

Never despair, when the dark cloud is low'ring—
The sun will shine, never cease to shine;
Beneath the thick and gloomy mortal's repine,
The journey of life has its lights and its shadows,
And heaven is in the midst of the morning;
Though rough be the road, yet with reason to
Guide us,
And courage to conquer, we'll never despair.

Never despair when with trouble compassed,
Make labor and patience a sword and a shield,
And wear bright laurels with courage unbending,
Than ever we gained on the blood stained field;
As gay as the lark in the dawn of the morning,
When young heart springs upward to do and to dare,
The bright star of promise their future adorning,
Will light them along, and they'll never despair.

The oak in the tempest grows strong by resistance,
The arm at the sword's point grows strong by use;
Go forward, rejoicing through sunshine and shower;
For life is a struggle to try and to prove us,
And true hearts grow strong by labor and care,
While hope, like a torch, still whips us above us,
Look upward and onward, and never despair!

Sabbath Reading.

While talking with my neighbor I heard a
sweet, plaintive voice singing that beautiful
hymn—

"Jesus, lover of my soul."
The child was up stairs; I knew it was a
child's voice from the softness of his
tuned voice and then said—
"That child has a sweet voice."
"Yes, he has," said my friend. "He is
always singing."

Always singing! Sweet, happy child!
Bird of angel wing! Who would ever
think that this child of happiness within
his soul! A soul that will and do to
a soul lighted with the smile of Jesus, and
anchored on the surest hope; a soul that
with more than a child's strength shall part
the dark waves as it goes down the surging
tide of death.

Always singing! I passed that way again.
Summer was here in her form, strewing
the earth with flowers and the sky with
stars. The same sweet voice was trilling on
the air:

"Oh, had I the wings of a dove!"
This time the little singer was in the yard.
I gazed upon the spiritual softness of her
features—her sweet eyes like "birds flying to the
light," the fine expressive lips, the dark
silk curls; I felt that she would soon have
her wish answered, and "find a refuge in Hea-
ven."

Always singing! Autumn came; the wild
swan was turning towards the South, the
leaves were dropping from the trees, and
spears of frost gleamed among the grass.
A strip of rags fluttered from the shutter of
the house where my little singer lived. Her
voice was clothed in death; and trembling
hands had brooded those trustful tresses around
her brow. By the great white throne, by
the river of eternal gladness, she was striking
her golden harp, singing in the gushing
fulness of imperishable glory.—*Stauffer.*

PROFANE SWEARING.

Rev. E. H. Chapin, the celebrated Uni-
versalist preacher, thus alludes to profane
swearing in one of his discourses on the Lord's
Prayer: "If we are to pray sincerely,
it must be in the name of God, and not in the
name of the devil. It will never be a light word
that will never drop out in jest, or in a fit of
passion, or in a fit of anger. I would
speak strongly against the sin of profaneness.
Are there any before me who are accustomed to
use God's name as an expletive and to
bend it as a swear word? If so, I would
ask of you to be more careful. It is not
all kinds of conversation, and throw it about
in every place? Perhaps in their hearts they
consider this habit as an accomplishment! I
think it mainly and brave to swear! Let
me say, then, that profaneness is a brutal
vice. He who indulges in it is no gentleman.
I care not what his stamp may be in society.
I care not what clothes he wears, or what
culture he boasts. Despite all his refinement
the light and habitual taking of God's name
betrays a coarse nature and a brutal will.
May, be tacitly admit that it is ungentleman-
ly. He restrains his oaths in the presence
of ladies, and he who fears to rush into the
chancery of heaven and swear by the Ma-
jesty thereof, is doing so hypocritically in the
drawing-room and the parlor. But, again,
Profaneness is an unmanly and silly vice. It
certainly is not a grace in conversation, and
it adds no strength to it. There is no organic
symmetry in the narrative that is garnished
with oaths and the blasphemy that bores
the ear and does not make any more sense
than a string of beads. It is a vulgarism, and
ought to be made a story, and to be given
to wit; it has tattered and worn, and
vehement enough to furnish the sinews for
a debate and to drive home conviction, with-
out degrading the holy epithets of Jehovah.
Nay, the use of these expletives argues a
limited range of ideas, and a consciousness
of being on the wrong side. And if we can
find no other phrases through which to vent
our shocking passion, we had better repress
that passion. And, again, Profaneness is a
mean vice. According to general estimations,

tion, he who repays kindness with courtesy,
he who abuses his friend and benefactor,
is deemed pitiful and wretched. And yet,
oh, profane man! whose name is it that
you handle so lightly? It is that of your best
Benefactor! You, whose blood would follow
to hear the venerable names of your earthly
parents buried under in scoffs and jests, abuse
Heaven's compassion and without thought,
the name of your heavenly Father! Finally,
Profaneness is an awful vice. Once more
I ask, whose name is it that you so lightly use?
The name of God!—have you ever pondered
its meaning? Have you ever thought what
it is that you mingle thus with your passion
and your wit? It is the name of Him
whom the angels worship, and whom the
heavens of heavens can not contain!"

THE WORKS OF CREATION.

When I contemplate those ample and
magnificent structures reared over the eth-
er, the plains—when I look upon them as so
many repositories of light, or fruitful abodes
of life—when I remember that there may be
other orbs, vastly more remote than those
which appear to our unaided sight; or, whose
fulgences, though travelling ever
since the creation, has not yet arrived upon
our coasts; when I stretch my thoughts to
the innumerable orders of being which inhabit
all these spacious systems; from the loftiest
seraph to the lowest reptile; from armies of
angels which surround the Almighty's throne,
to the puny nations which tinge with purple
the surface of the plain, or mantle the stand-
ing pool with green—how various appear
superior links of this immeasurable chain!
How vast the gradations of this universal
scale of existence! Yet all these, though
ever so vast and various, are works of the
Creator's hands and are full of his presence.

He reared in his palm those stupendous
globes which are pendulous in the vault of
Heaven. He kindled those astonishing
bright fires which fill the firmament with a
flood of glory. By Him they are suspended
in fluid ether, and cannot be shaken. By
Him they dispense a perpetual tide of beams,
and are never exhausted. He formed with
inexpressible nicety that delicately fine col-
lection of tubes, which variously expand
subtle springs, which organize and actuate
the frame of the minutest insect. Let us
worship Him.

THE DISPOSAL OF OUR CON- VICTS.

A Kingston Grand Jury has, in a pre-
sented, recommended that the
convict labor in the Penitentiary, from
common mechanical operations, and as an ap-
plication of it to iron manufactures. This
brings up a very difficult question which now
verges the parent state and some others, namely
that of sustaining and employing criminal.
Great Britain, with all her foreign pos-
sessions, has not been able to find a spot
where convict labor would be accepted with
a prospect of the permanent stay of the
criminals in the country. She is now trying
both reformatory institutions and the ticket-
of-leave system in England itself. But there
are many and great obstacles to the practical
adoption of the scheme. How much better
the idea of eradicating or isolating the germs
of crime, by removing temptation, educating
youth, suppressing vagrancy, classifying
prisoners, having juvenile reformatory!

But what should be done with those who
commit great crimes? We have no penal
colony, and the country would not receive
facilities for accommodating, if the convicts
were employed upon public works, that such a
plan cannot be thought of. There is a
place not very unreasonable, discontent
at the application of Penitentiary labor to
every day business; because it thus competes
with the work of others. We have no penal
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It will have to be a case of Government,
in deciding upon the question, to avoid giving
the character of degradation to any occupation
which may be found for the convicts. Let
it once be thought that a work is suited
to these people, and it cannot flourish.
Say, for instance, mining—it is severe,
dangerous, dirty, and may readily be
disreputable. If, as some propose, the
Kingston prisoners are employed at Bedford
on the Rideau Canal, or at Manoro, it
should be with some special conditions, which
could be removed when other laborers were
required for the same purpose. Probably, if
this point were duly regarded, the raising of
ore might be conducted with more certainty
of preventing the escape of prisoners than any
other out-door work. Or, were they car-
ried along the Rideau to Kingston, there to
meet coal brought from Ohio, and be smelted,
and more or less manufactured in or near the
Penitentiary, the same security might be
obtained. In that case, however, the product
of convict labor would compete with free
labor at Manoro and Long Point, and
be complained of as unfair. But, again,
plan the authorities may, we think it should
be established as a settled principle, that, as
far as possible, convict labor should be ap-
plied to convict maintenance, and that a profit
from it should be expected whatever be its
application. We are not of the number of
those who, in this region of dear fuel and
costly labor, expect to do much in raising
the cheaper metals—iron, being good bal-
last, it costs so little to be brought from Brit-
ain, that, except in circumstances singularly
favorable, it cannot be produced here with
profit.

It has been proposed to employ both British
and Canadian convicts upon works con-
nected with a western route to the Pacific.
Probably the British Government could ap-
ply some of the New South Wales plans for
detaining convicts, and thus obviate the
danger of their getting away in our wilds,
and bringing upon us the scourge of an es-
caped convict population.

subject is very comprehensive and
difficult. Yet, as it disturbs no man's mind,
it should be taken up with a view to complete
investigation. Perhaps a good newspaper
ventilation, to be succeeded by a Parliamen-
tary debate and committee, would advance it
far on towards a solution.—*Colman.*

Punch notices a wise newly advertised
sake sherry. It will probably be recom-
mended to invalids who have no points to their
stomach.

What river in England is what some girls
do!—*Toss, (Lancs.)*

A SWIMMING MATCH.

That even so mean a business as that of
"Peeping Tom" may turn out happily, the
following from the *Pittsburg Dispatch*,
proves:

At Murdockville, some young ladies had
selected a shady nook, and were enjoying a
river bath, when two young fellows, strolling
in the woods, heard an unusual plashing in
the water, and, "following their ears," were
amazed, and—shall we say it?—delighted,
on turning a sharp bend in the river, to be-
hold the water nymphs floating in the rippling
current, fairer than maidens and more enchar-
ming than sprites. Conceiving themselves, one
of the racers, weighed thirty dollars on the
swimming powers of a sea-haired divinity
against a small dark-skinned beauty—the two
being the leaders of the party, and the most
expert swimmers.—The wager was accepted.

The two had picked out for a long swim, a
strong swimmer and a swimmer together, when
the "dark-skinned" swam like a turtle! A
turtle! And, terribly frightened, sank under the
water.

It was a struggle between gallantry and
duty with the young man; but the one who
had accepted the challenge leaped from his
hiding place into the stream, and striking
out boldly, succeeded in saving the unex-
pected and drowning girl and dragged her to
shore. Of course the remainder of the party
had fled, but soon returned, took charge of
the nearly insensible form and restored her to
consciousness. In consideration of the ser-
vice performed, the young fellows were re-
warded with a sum of money, and the young
ladies, however, claimed the thirty dol-
lars, on the score that their nymph had
fairly won the match. If it is not dusted up,
the young men propose that the young ladies
shall try it again.

INSTINCT AND TALENT.—All the wonder-
ful instincts of animals, which, in my humble
opinion, are proved beyond a doubt, and the
belief in which has not decreased with the in-
crease of science and investigation—all these
instincts are given them only for the combina-
tion or preservation of their species. If they
had not their instincts, they would be the
sweep of the earth in an instant. The best
that understands architecture so well, as
as a pebble-stone out of his own particu-
lar business of making money; and with
all his talents, he only exists that boys may
eat his brains and poets sing about him—"at
his place of delectation."

A peasant girl, ten years old, was reported
to death with a little smoke, their plumes
turned into candles, and every clergyman's
wife makes head work of the honey; and
there is an end of the glory and wisdom of
the bees! Where, man has talents that have
no sort of reference to his existence, and
without which his species might remain upon
the earth in the same safety as they have
now. The bee works at that particular angle
which saves most time and labor, and the
boasted instinct he is constructing is only for
his egg; but Somerset House, and Blenheim,
and the Louvre have nothing to do with breed-
ing of bees. Epictetus, the Stoic, Belshazzar,
and Venus de Medicis, have nothing to do
with living and eating. We might have dis-
covered pigmies without the Royal Society,
and gathered acorns without reasoning about
curves of the ninth order. The immense
superfluity of talent given to man, which has
nothing to do with his existence, has no
reference to the preservation of his species.
existence, is one very distinguishing circum-
stance in this comparison. There is no
other animal but man, to whom mind appears
to be given for any other purpose than the pre-
servation of the body.—*Smith.*

A DISSOLUTION.

The journal which has been entrusted
with the special advocacy of Mr. Scitot's
claims to the Premiership, contends that Sir
Edmund Head will be warranted in granting
to that gentleman a dissolution of the Legis-
lature, although that measure was withheld
from the Brown-Donner Government. The
same reason assigned for conceding to one
Cabinet what was withheld to another, is that
the House of Commons was in opposition
on and after the first of January. Had this
been the case, the opposition in the House
last, there would have been little difficulty in
reconciling compliance with his advisers, request,
with the action of an amended franchise.
But Sir Edmund Head had no anxiety upon
the subject. He merely wanted a covering
for his partisan hostility, and the plea he
put forward—and which is now repeated in
Mr. Scitot's behalf—was the pest His Excel-
lency could devote. It is too flimsy, how-
ever, to deceive the country. And it will
not be accepted as an excuse for playing into
the hands of corruption, which is the policy
of Mr. Scitot's leadership. We do not
doubt the Governor General's readiness to
acquiesce in the arrangement. The past is a
guarantee for the future in this respect. But
partisanship is not always blind or deaf; and
His Excellency, depend upon it, has learned
the lesson of the past. He will not be
which will not be based on his memory for
some time to come. To evince afresh the
partiality attributed to him, in the manner
anticipated by the Scitotist journalist, will be
to revive and intensify popular excitement
against His Excellency's whole conduct
towards the Opposition. The covering
against him is strong as it ever was. Let
us have another manifestation of his disposition
to cherish party preferences, and, our word
for it, there will be such a display of public
feeling as either His Excellency nor Mr.
Scitot could dream of. There was forbear-
ance in some quarters, in August, under a
belief that Sir Edmund Head's baronetship
was the result of a rather large gift of choice
to dissolve Parliament at Mr. Scitot's
request, will be to launch that idea effectually.
It will be to declare a deliberate resolve to
identify the Executive with a party rendered
odious by its frauds and treachery. We are
not prepared at present to believe that His
Excellency will choose that ground, in full
view of its inevitable consequences.—*Globe.*

GARDEN WORK FOR WOMEN.
I am often pained in looking around among
the pioneer families of my acquaintance, those
who, by their habits of hard industry and
strict economy, have acquired wealth and
goodly possessions, having all the means of
good comfort and even luxurious living, to
see the mother who has been forward in
gaining all these good things, in possession
of ruined health, suffering from a complica-
tion of diseases, completely miserable.
Believing as I do that repetition and
exemption from exposure have done for
many persons more than their former
hardships, I would earnestly recommend to
them to practice out door work, very moder-
ately at first, perhaps, and by continuing
they may gain health and vigour and cheer-
fulness.

farmers in feeding cattle, etc., on other
articles, in order to save their hay.—*Kent-
ucky Farmer.*

PUNISHMENT OF A WOOD THIEF.
In the depths of a hard winter's night in
Northern New York, a gentleman heard a
big noise at a wood-pile, and, calling forth
a few slaves from the pile, he found a thief
in the act of cutting a log. The thief was
mercifully, and he begged for mercy, saying
that his family was freezing. "Come back, you
rascal, with that sled!" said the owner of the
wood. "Step that, you rascal, and put on a
sled sled!" said the owner of the wood; and
after a while the thief, with a sled, a sled,
added: Now pull, you scamp!" The culprit
could scarcely start the sled; but by the
application of a switch and an oath or two
from the rough but good natured owner, the
load was got under way, and for half a mile,
the thief, with a sled, a sled, added: Now pull,
you scamp!" The culprit could scarcely start
the sled; but by the application of a switch and
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