

POETRY.

THE OLD FARM HOUSE.

The easy chair, all patched with care,
Is placed by the old hearthstone;
With winking grace, in the old fireplace,
The evergreens are strewn,
And pictures hang on the whitened wall,
And the old clock ticks in the cottage hall.
More lovely still, on the window sill,
The dew-eyed flowers rest,
While 'mid the leaves on the moss-grown eaves
The martin builds her nest.
And all day long the Summer breeze
Is whispering love to the bending trees.
Over the door, all covered o'er,
With a sack of dark green haize,
Lays a musket old, whose worth is told
In the events of other days,
And the powder flask and the hunter's horn
Have hung beside it for many a morn.
For years have fled with a noiseless tread,
Like fairy dreams away,
And in their flight, all shorn of his might,
A father, old and gray,
As the soft wind plays with his snow-white hair
And the old man sleeps in his easy chair.
Inside the door, on the sandal floor,
Light, airy footsteps glide,
And a maiden fair, with flaxen hair,
Kneels by the old man's side—
An old oak wrecked by the angry storm,
While the ivy clings to its trembling form.

A Man of Mighty Enterprises.

He hadn't any baggage, and after
one look at him the brush boy walked
away and sat down. The average
brush boy of the average hotel knows
when he can brush a quarter out of a
guest just as well as if he were a law-
yer. The stranger wrote his name on the
register with great deliberation. It was
a long name. It read: "Herbert Henry
Washington, Chicago, Illinois." The clerk
regarded him for a moment with a keen
glance, and then asked:

"How long will you remain here?"

"About a week," was the reply.

"Shall I credit you with ten dollars
paid in advance?"

"Who are you talking to?" demanded
the stranger, as he stepped
back a little.

"Strangers generally pay in advance,"
replied the clerk.

"Well, sir, I'll be hanged, sir, if I
was ever insulted before! Ask me for
money in advance! Why, sir, do you
know that I could buy this hotel, and
still have millions left!"

"I have my orders."

"Am I to be treated like a dead
beat?" continued the stranger. "When
a man comes to Detroit to lead two
hundred thousand dollars on a mort-
gage do your people look upon him as
a skulk or a thief?"

"My orders are positive," quietly
replied the clerk.

"I want to see the owner of this
hotel, and I want to take him to the
Board of Trade, the Mayor's office,
and the water works, and I want him
to find out what kind of a man I am."

"The proprietor isn't in."

"You don't know me—you don't
realize who I am!" exclaimed the
stranger, tapping the office counter at
every pause. "I didn't care to be
known, but since you have insulted
me, I want to inform you that I am the
Rothschild of the West!"

The clerk started off with a letter
to his girl, but had only got as far as
"Beloved Sarah," when the stranger
yelled out:

"Who advanced money to Chicago
to complete her water works? Who
owns twenty-eight steamboats and six
tugs? Who owns six elevators and
one hundred miles of railroad?"

"I don't know," was the reply.

"And yet when I come into this
house I am insulted as if I were a
leaver!" continued the stranger. "Sir,
come to the bank with me, sir, and see
if my check for \$50,000 will be dis-
honored!"

"I'll go!" said the clerk, putting on
his hat.

"You will, eh?"

"Yes, sir!"

"You needn't go. I wouldn't stop
here if you'd give me a thousand dol-
lars a day. I'll go to some other
house, and when spring opens I'll buy
a site next to you and build a hotel of
my own and run your house out of
sight!"

"Call an officer!" said the clerk to
one of the boys.

"That's the crowning insult!" ex-
claimed the man. "But I'll bide my
time. I'll go over to the other tavern
and send over a \$50,000 check for you
to look at, and no matter how sorry

you feel, sir, I'll not accept an apology,
sir—blast me if I do!"
He went out, and at noon he was
seen eating crackers and cheese in the
post-office.—[Detroit Free Press.]

Lessen the Cost of Production.

A subject for the constant study of
the farmer is how to lessen the cost of
production of his crops so as to make
them more profitable. One of the
ways to lessen the cost of production
is to increase the yield per acre. If
only thirty bushels of corn are pro-
duced per acre, at a cost we will say
of twenty dollars, it can readily be
seen that such farming don't pay.
But if, by plowing deeper and prepar-
ing the ground better, and planting
more carefully and cultivating more
thoroughly, one hundred bushels can
be produced to the acre, the extra care
given bears but a slight proportion of
expense to the very largely increased
yield; and while the latter system is
made very profitable the farmer does
not pay expenses in the former case.
So, to make farming profitable, it must
be well done—the largest yield must
be obtained that the land will produce
to lessen the cost of production.

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