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A SPANISH BALLAD.
 DURING THE CONQUEST OF GRANADA.
 Warriors brave and lovers dear
 Listen to the words I sing,
 Prudence whispering in your ear,
 Breathe in echoes from the string.

Silently vile traitors move,
 Vengeance seeks a warrior brave,
 Harken to this lay of love,
 Glory falls beneath the glaive.

Stranger! List this humble note
 Treason spreads its meshes near,
 Speedily may warnings float
 Zephyrs waft them to my ear.

Predictions About 1880.
 In a pamphlet recently published by the author, Professor Gimmer asserts: "From 1880 to 1887 will be one universal carnival of death." Asia will be depopulated, Europe nearly so. America will lose fifteen million people. Besides plagues, we are to have storms and tidal waves, mountains are to "toss their heads through the choicest valleys," navigators will be lost by thousands owing to the "capricious deflexures of the magnetic needle," and islands will appear and disappear in mid-ocean. All the beasts, birds and fishes will be diseased; famine and human strife will destroy most of the few human beings left alive by plague; and finally, "two years of fire"—from 1885 to 1887—will rage with fury in every part of the globe. In 1887, the "Star of Bethlehem" will "reappear in Cassiopeia's Chair," the immediate results being universal war and protigious floods and shipwrecks. North America is again to be involved in civil war unless a "Napoleon arises to quell it; but during these terrible days the Pacific States will be a veritable Paradise of Peace compared to the hellish strife that will be waging throughout the world." The few people that may manage to survive till 1887 will have reason to be thankful.

Ex-Gov. Wm. Allen, of Ohio, is dead.

Charleston had fifteen deaths from heat last Saturday was a week.

New York imported \$1,043,326 worth of wool within the past six months.

There were twenty-four prostrations from heat in St. Louis on the 11th.

Weston, the walker, has walked with in the past twelve years 53,000 miles.

Cox, the negro murderer, of Mrs. Hull, in New York, is now playing insane.

A number of Southern and Western towns have established a quarantine against Memphis.

Judge Ray died of yellow fever, in Memphis, on the 13th, and was buried almost immediately.

Edison needs platinum to operate his electric light and offers \$20,000 for the discovery of a mine of that metal.

A wealthy old lady died in Mississippi week before last and willed her estate, a large one to Jefferson Davis.

A young lady in Washington wants \$20,000 from Senator Gordon's son, of Georgia, for breach of promise and betrayal.

The National Board of Health has issued an order urging upon all cities, towns and sanitary organizations to secure the best possible sanitary condition of the places and people under their charge.

The papers are beginning to bring out the names of aspirants for the Governorship. Thus far about a dozen have been mentioned, and the list is not full by half. A first rate way to slaughter men is to bring them before the public so far ahead of time and get their friends to fighting over them.—*Oreensboro Patriot.*

The body of the dead Prince Napoleon, which was embalmed and brought back from Africa, was buried at Chislehurst, England, where the Empress, his mother, resides, on the 12th inst. The funeral was a grand affair. Besides the royal family and leading nobility of England who were present as mourners there were representatives from nearly all the governments of Europe.

The Bank of England covers five acres of ground, and employs nine hundred clerks. There are no windows on the street. Light is admitted through open courts; no mob could take the bank, therefore, without cannon to batter down the immense walls. The clock in the centre of the bank has fifty dials attached to it. Large cisterns are sunk in the court, and engines, in perfect order, are always in readiness in case of fire. This bank was incorporated in 1694. Capital—\$90,000,000.

We have before us four silver coins, a dollar, two half dollars and a dime, all of which have holes pierced through them. It is not, perhaps, generally known that for any person to subtract a portion of the silver or gold from a coin of the United States so as to make it of less weight or value than it ought to be pursuant to law is a statuabie offense, which is punishable by imprisonment for not more than two years, and by a fine of not more than \$2,000. It is a mean thing to mutilate the coins of the country, even apart from the purpose of effecting a little gain thereby, as it destroys the beauty of their artistic appearance.—*Baltimore Sun.*

Sinecures, Shams and Idlers.
 During the last two Congresses the Republican majority in the Senate was an obstacle to every reform and to every bill of retrenchment proposed by the House of Representatives. All reductions in public expenditures had to be extorted from a reluctant party, and were obtained only by the force of public opinion, added to the determination of the popular branch to cut off the most conspicuous abuses, or to let the appropriations fail and thus make up the issue for the country. This alternative forced the Senate to concessions that otherwise would not have been made.

While this antagonism existed, no systematic plan of economy based on a searching investigation into every part of the public service was at all practicable. Consequently much remains to be done in this direction, and the responsibility of failure rests with the Democrats; now in a majority in both Houses. The spirit manifested in the Forty-fourth Congress, when they first got a foot-hold, has very much cooled since that time, and the cry of "Reform and Retrenchment!" no longer resounds with the volume that it had four years ago. Possession of power seems to diminish the zeal of leaders who shouted themselves hoarse in 1874, when demanding a check on Republican corruption and extravagance.

Toward the close of the late session, Mr. Beck proposed the appointment of a joint committee to examine and report what changes ought to be made in the mode of guarding and collecting the revenue from customs or internal taxation, and in the management of the various departments and bureaus of the Government with a view to efficiency and economy in the service; also, whether changes from permanent to annual appropriations would be advantageous to the treasury.

Unfortunately, this resolution was not passed for want of time, while a dozen others of far less importance and intended mostly for junketing excursions were rushed through without much opposition. The public interest usually is obliged to march in the rear of personal pleasure and convenience, no matter which party happens to hold control of legislation.

It is believed that from twenty to twenty-five per cent. of the aggregate cost of the civil service might be cut off without impairing its efficiency. Certainly this is true to the fullest extent of all the departments at Washington, which are weighed down with idlers, sinecures and shams. In the customs branch one-fifth of the offices do not pay expenses. Collectors, appraisers, inspectors, and the like, are kept up for political reasons alone.

Four independent organizations operate along the coast; namely, the Coast Survey, the Lighthouse Board, the Revenue Marine, and the Life-Saving Service. They would be far more sufficient under one head, and might be managed with half the present expense. But they want to be separate and distinct from each other in order to perpetuate the bureaucratic system and to multiply offices with big salaries.

What is true of the Custom Houses is also true in another form of the internal revenue service. During the last two years some two hundred and fifty new distilleries have been licensed or opened. Many of them are too small to pay the salaries of the storekeepers and gaugers employed to watch them. When they stop running for four or five months, the officials are paid to watch a few barrels of whiskey, which, in many instances, if sold, would not pay the day wages of a single watchman. It would be easy to bring together the stocks of these small producers, and thus afford greater security to them, while the cost to the Treasury would be largely diminished.

The practice of permanent appropriations, which in their nature are indefinite, ought to be at once abolished, with the single exception of the interest on the public debt, about which there can be no discretion exercised. Under this system the Secretary of the Treasury regulates the customs service without any supervision of Congress, and millions are expended in other departments, wholly unknown to the public, and indeed to Congress itself. Take a few

illustrations to show the working of the system:

Between 1870 and 1878, the annual appropriations for the War Department aggregate \$309,000,000, and the permanent appropriations, not seen or heard of except by the initiated, summed up \$56,000,000. The annual appropriations for the customs service in the same period amounted to \$62,000,000, while the permanent appropriations reached \$104,000,000. In these eight years the miscellaneous annual appropriations voted were \$265,000,000, and the permanent appropriations \$56,000,000. Here is a total of two hundred and sixteen millions, in round numbers, under three heads of the public service, for permanent appropriations in eight years, not a dollar of which passed review or criticism in Congress!

This laxity, when fairly considered, is astounding. Millions have been squandered and stolen through the opportunities which are thus afforded by a discretion that is mostly exercised by subordinates. It is easy to understand, from this general statement, that many millions might be saved every year with a strict administration of the public service, while other millions could be added to that large possible economy by a reduction of the army to the wants of the country. This is part of the work laid out for the majority at the next regular session in December.—*N. Y. Sun.*

The Great Railroad Scheme.

We have never known our State exchanges to have so much to say about some improvements. A new energy has been brought to bear, and new interest has been excited in behalf of internal improvements. This promises well. When an enlightened press unite in behalf of any movement, specially of one that promises beneficent results, a great impetus must be given and important ends attained.

It is only within a year that our people began to awake from a long sleep in regard to building new lines of travel and opening up new highways of commerce. Since then many writers and speakers have been hammering away and with encouraging results.

The people of Wilmington and this section of North Carolina are really much concerned in the completion of the great railroad scheme that begins up among the Blue Ridge Mountains, and running through the Yadkin Valley ends at Wilmington or Bald Head. The people of the mountains desire and demand an outlet to the sea. The Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley Railroad, with its extension to Mt. Airy and the regions beyond, will give them the needed outlet! It will, when finished, prove a great blessing and convenience to them, and be a source of profit and commercial advantage to Wilmington and Fayetteville. The completion of that road is unquestionably of great importance, and particularly to this commercial entrepot. The road, as we have before had occasion to say, more than once, will run through a rich and beautiful country. The teeming productions of the mountain country will be emptied into our lap. A new incentive will be given to the people of that great section, and production will be stimulated in a wonderful degree. The line from Wilmington or Smithville, to the Western terminus will be over three hundred miles. The road will pass through sections rich in soil, in minerals, in forests, and in productions of various kinds. The people of the East and the West will be drawn closer together and learn more of each other. There will be constant communication. Peace and goodwill will prevail; each section will be tributary to the other's prosperity, and a better and brighter time will be in store for all.

Such appears to be the outlook. We can but hope that the road will be speedily built, and that the hopes of may be fully realized. The people of Wilmington—its business men specially, should be forward in encouraging it in every possible way this grand and attractive scheme. It is for them to say in what practical way their approval of the new and important route shall be expressed. The main point is that there shall be hearty approval, and that this approval shall be immediate and practical.—*Wilmington Star.*

Dry buckwheat draws grease out of any woolen stuff.

A Stand for State Rights.

Boston heard some sound words on the 4th of July touching the great question as to which Mr. Garfield has so rashly committed the Republican party to a position fatally inconsistent alike with the best memories and the best hopes of the American people. A young Boston speaker already well known through his serious and independent studies in our history, Mr. Henry Cabot Lodge, spoke some certain truths to the listening ear of Boston such as Boston has not listened to for many a day past. Nothing could be more accurate or more fearless than Mr. Lodge's presentation of the true origin and meaning and importance of the much misrepresented doctrine of State Rights, nothing more outspoken and useful than his denunciation of the mischief done by the war to the popular appreciation of the part played by the doctrine of State Rights in the development of our liberties. Congress has asked for words like these which we now quote from some Northern legislator speaking as one having authority:

"Foreign critics have sometimes found fault with our excessive reverence for the Constitution. We do well to venerate that which has made us a nation. But let us beware of mere lip-service and take care that in practice we submit to and observe it. We are too ready to infinge both the letter and the spirit of the Constitution in the excitement of party contests. Nothing can be more fatal, for within its sacred limits lies the well being of our political system.

"Within those limits, too, lies the defeated principle in the great conflict between nationality and separatism. In the last decisive struggle the rights of States were sorely wounded. It could not have been otherwise when their most zealous advocates used them as the sword and shield of slavery and dashed them against the strong rock of national existence. The injury then suffered by the rights of States is the gravest result of the war, simply from its effects upon our minds and habits of thought. We have been insensibly led to regard a violation of State rights with indifference, if not with approval. The principle of States' rights is as vital and essential as the national principle itself. If the former, carried to extremes, means anarchy, the latter, carried to like extremes, means centralization and despotism. So long as we have the strong barrier of the States we are safe from usurpation and plebeisities. Here in the North States' rights have naturally become words of evil significance and are even used to revile political opponents. This is not only bad in itself, but it involves an amount of historical hypocrisy which is intolerably. The most meagre outline of our history suffices to show unmistakably that the separatist principle has existed everywhere and has at some time burst forth everywhere into dangerous activity. If this teaches nothing else, it should at least enforce the wholesome doctrines of consistency and charity.

"That separatism should have existed everywhere was not only natural but inevitable. The government of each State was old, familiar and beloved when the Union was formed. The State represented the past. With its existence were entwined all the memories and traditions which carried men back to the toils and sufferings of their hardy ancestors who had made homes in the wilderness that their children might be free and receive a continent for their inheritance. The hearts of men were bound up in their States. The Federal Government at first appealed only to their reason or their interest. To their States they turned as the objects of their first allegiance. This sentiment knew neither North nor South, East nor West. Nothing is more false than to associate the doctrine of States' rights with any particular part of the country, or exclusively with those States which last invoked its aid. Nothing is plainer than that the States and the party in power have always been strongly national, while the minority, call it by what party name you will, has as steadily gravitated toward States' rights. There has never been a moment of peculiar stress and bitterness when the truth of this has not been brought home with sharp distinctness."

Never be angry with a man who threatens to blow your brains out. He flatters you.

After the Revival.

There is a Bible in England bound in solid gold. Its pages are the finest parchment, its margins are illuminated with rare and curious workmanship. It is a costly relic, the property of the British Sovereign, kept under lock and key, and guarded with untiring care. Yet, after all, it is only a dead thing, penned by the hand of some old monk, painted by the finger of some cloister nun. There it lies entombed in its grave of glass; in itself it has no life, neither can it give life to others. It is not for a moment to be compared with the humblest Christian who lives or lodges in some lowly cottage, and who is not a dead but a living Bible. Pearls of the East, diamonds of the sea, are on the boards of that Bible; what are these to the ornaments of a meek and quiet spirit? What is that dead parchment to a deathless soul and a heart instinct with life? What that ink fading and rusting beneath the eye of time to the blood in which the spirit dips his finger and writes living truth upon a living soul? Anybody could write a Bible. With a feather plucked from a sea-bird's wing I could write the Bible on a paper page. With iron forged in the fire I could trace the Bible on the rugged rock. But ah! to write living truth upon a living heart, that is the work of the Holy Spirit. It is only the spirit that can write on spirit. It is only the God who created that can convert the soul.—*N. Y. Observer.*

A Saint in a Cave.

Vernet, the grandfather of the late famous French painter of the same name, relates that he was once employed to paint a landscape with a cave and Saint Jerome in it. He accordingly painted a landscape with St. Jerome at the entrance of the cave. When he delivered the picture, the purchaser, who understood nothing of perspective, said: "The landscape and the cave are well made; but the saint is not in the cave." "I understand you, sir," replied Vernet. "I will alter it." He therefore took the painting, and made the shade darker, so that the saint seemed to sit further in. The purchaser took the painting; but it again appeared to him that the figure was not in the cave. Vernet then obliterated the figure, and gave it to the purchaser, who now at last seemed perfectly satisfied. Whenever he showed the picture to strangers he said: "Here you have a picture by Vernet, with St. Jerome in the cave." "But we cannot see the saint," the visitors would reply. "Excuse me, gentlemen," the possessor would answer; "he is there; for I have seen him standing at the entrance, and afterward further back, and am therefore quite sure that he is in it!"—*Chambers Journal.*

It is a matter of relief to know that but few elections will take place this year. Kentucky elects a Governor and Legislature on August the 4th. California, on the 3rd of September, elects all officers from the Governor down, including a Legislature. This body will elect the successor of Senator Booth. Maine follows on the 9th of September, electing a Governor and Legislature. The Ohio contest will culminate on the 14th of October, when will be elected a Governor and Legislature—the latter to choose a Senator to fill Mr. Thurman's seat. Then comes the November elections, when Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Virginia, New Jersey, New York and Wisconsin elect a variety of officers in that month.

RAPID RAILROAD WORK.—ST. LOUIS, June 28.—The preparations for changing the gauge of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern railway, which have been in progress for the past two months, culminated last night, and at daybreak this morning over three thousand men commenced the work of shifting the rails, and long before night the entire line, extending from St. Louis to Texarkana, nearly seven hundred miles, had been changed from five feet to the standard gauge of four feet eight and a half inches.

Uncle Jumbo was caught with a stolen chicken hid in his hat, and when asked how it came there he replied, "Fore de Lord, boss, dat fowl must 'a crawled up my breeches leg."