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"FOR GOD, FOR COUNTRY, AND FOR TRUTH."

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NO. 6.

## WHEN I AM DEAD.

I do not want a gaping crowd,  
To come with lamentations loud  
When life has fled;  
Nor would I have my words or ways  
Rehearsed, perhaps "mid tardy praise,  
When I am dead.

I do not want strange, curious eyes  
To scan my face when still it lies  
In silence dead;  
Nor do I want them if they would,  
To tell my deeds were ill or good,  
When I am dead.

I only want the "very few"  
Who stood through good and evil, too,  
True friendship's test;  
Just they who sought to find the good,  
And then, as only true friends could,  
Forgive the rest.

They who, with sympathetic heart,  
Sought hope and comfort to impart,  
When there was life;  
Not keeping all the tears and sighs  
Till weary, worn-out nature dies,  
And ends the strife.

I'd have them come, the "friendly few,"  
And drop perhaps a tear or two,  
By kindness led;  
Not many tears I'd have them shed,  
Nor do I want much sung or said,  
When I am dead.

To have them each come in alone,  
And call me in the old, sweet tone,  
Would suit me best;  
And then, without a sob or moan,  
Go softly out and leave alone  
The dead to rest.

Just as I've lived, obscure unknown,  
A life unmarked, almost and lone,  
So let me die;  
Just one who lived, and loved, and died,  
A mound of earth and naught beside,  
There let me lie.

## He Did His Own Marrying.

John G. Thomason, 72 years of age, of Summerville, South Carolina, is probably the first and only man who has officiated at his own marriage service. Mr. Thomason recognizes that he has done something remarkable and worthy of notice.

He was not phased in the slightest. He said he wanted a wife and he immediately began to try to get one. He found several girls whom he thought he could love and finally he centered all his affections upon one, Miss Emily Alice Lamb, who resided about seven miles from Summerville. She agreed to marry him and arrangements for the marriage were immediately begun.

Mr. Thomason said the magistrates and ministers had frequently expressed their sympathies for him and their willingness to officiate when he got a girl who would be willing to marry him, but when he finally produced her they all flunked and would not perform the ceremony. Mr. Thomason was not again to be outdone, so he decided to officiate at his own marriage. He secured a number of witnesses for the appointed time, which was on the afternoon of April 23. Miss Lamb was present and when the time came, he said he called her and told her to stand on his left. He then read the service, and at the proper place took her hand. He made his own response, and at the conclusion he told the gathering that he and Miss Lamb were now Mr. and Mrs. Thomason, and they were congratulated.

Mr. Thomason said that he had been marrying people for twenty-five years and he saw no reason why he should not marry himself. He said that he had discarded his former wife who deserted him last summer, and he lives happily with his present wife, who, by the way, is the third woman to whom he has been married. Mrs. Thomason is 32 years of age.

## Typhoid Closes a School.

RICHMOND, Va., Oct. 17.—Gen. Scott Shipp, Superintendent of the Virginia Military Institute at Lexington, today dismissed the entire corps of cadets for thirty days on account of the epidemic of typhoid fever there. The corps numbers 250 young men. Dr. Paulus Irving, of the State Board of Health, was at Lexington on Saturday examining the water used at the Institute and the sanitary conditions. After considering the conditions and the fact that half a dozen or more cadets had the disease, which seemed to be spreading, it seemed prudent to close the place temporarily.

The editor of an exchange drove away dull care a half hour the other day in the production of the following pathetic tale: A humble boy with a piping pail gaily singing down the dale where the cow with the brindle tail grazed in clover pasture did regale. A bee did gaily sail over the soft lady vale to where the boy with the piping pail was milking the cow with the brindle tail. The bee lit down by the left ear, her heels flew through atmosphere, and through the leaves of the chestnut tree the boy soared to

lie, aged 5, hounded into the one day, exclaiming, as he hung on the hall rack: "This is my home! This is my home!" A lady said: "The house next door is like this, Willie; suppose you went there and hung your hat up in the hall, that would be your home as much as this, wouldn't it?" "No ma'am," answered the little fellow. "Why not?" asked the lady. "Cause my mother doesn't live there," was the triumphant reply.

The gold mine operators in the Transvaal are doing some paying in advance for the racket down there. Their stocks have already depreciated \$250,000,000.

## BILL ARP'S LETTER.

A friend living in Arkansas writes me about the recent fall of a meteor near his home, and he compliments me by asking some questions that I cannot answer. The origin of meteors and their flight and fall is yet the unsolved problem of the ages.

He says that on the 16th of last month, at 8 o'clock in the morning, when there was a clear sky and not a cloud to be seen, there was a rumbling sound of thunder so weird and unnatural that it was alarming. It was like the rolling of heavy trucks over an uneven platform, only immensely louder. It was heard in all the neighboring towns, and they all telegraph each other to know if a mill had not blown up or a magazine exploded. Suddenly there was an explosion in the air and a dark cloud formed and meteoric fragments fell at different places in this vicinity. A small piece that weighed one and a half pounds fell in a field near by and was brought to town while it was yet hot. It was powder-blackened on the outside, but inside was a grayish color, and its particles shone like gold dust. Under the microscope they resembled quicksilver.

It was a full minute from the beginning of the rumbling thunder till the explosion came, and the course of the sound was from east to west. The event was so unexpected and so like the mythology of Jupiter tonans throwing a bomb from Mt. Olympus that the white people were spellbound, and the negroes declared it a warning and went to prayer.

Philosophers and astronomers have been studying these phenomena for 2,500 years, and have not yet agreed upon a solution. The archives of the Chinese empire record the fall of sixteen great aerolites from 300 to 600 years before Christ. The Greeks and Romans record a number, and Aristotle and Diogenes commented upon them. So did Livy, Plutarch and Pliny. They have been seen so large that the estimated weight of the fragments after the explosion was 30,000 pounds, and the light was so bright as to pale the sun by day and obscure the moon by night. There is now in the Yale college cabinet a fragment that weighs 1,635 pounds. This came from near the Red river in Arkansas. Many of the western states have furnished specimens for the museums of colleges, and all of them are composed of the same mineral ingredients—principally iron—and include copper, tin, sulphur, carbon and other metals known to our own earth. Not a single new substance has ever been discovered, and for this reason the theory obtained that they were thrown up from our own volcanoes with such force as to wander for a time in the outer atmosphere of the earth, and to revolve with the earth. But this theory has long since been abandoned, for they seem to have an orbit of their own from west to east. Then came a theory that they came from the moon, and were of volcanic origin, and were thrown out with such terrific force as to get beyond the moon's influence and within that of our earth. But this was discredited because these fragments have been falling, no doubt, for thousands of years on the land and on the sea, and on all countries, and would have by this time materially diminished the size and weight of the moon. La Place and Humboldt favored this moon theory for a time. But our modern astronomers, such as Professors Arago and Almidest and Bowditch declare that meteors are simply clouds or nebulae of meteoric plannets that have a motion and orbit of their own, and that orbit sometimes comes within range of the earth's and produces a commotion—a disturbance that causes the fall of some of their own nebulae. Some of the children got too far away from their mother, I reckon.

Sometimes meteors are simply luminous and have no body to explode or strike the earth. These have periodic vibrations of thirty-four years. They come in showers as thick as snowflakes, and fall as gently to within a few feet of the earth and are extinguished. They fell in 1799, 1833 and 1867, and each fall was on the 13th of November. But there have been minor displays at irregular intervals—generally about the 10th of August. I am old enough to remember well the "falling of the stars" in 1833. My father held me in his arms as he stood in the portico, for I was scared. Our old negro, aunt Minty, was praying and shouting so it scared all of us children. George Lester lived on the opposite side of the street, and his mother held him in her arms. Sometimes in these later days I would get my old-time friends, Dr. Jim Alexander or his brother Tom, or George Adair, and we could boast of the wonderful era in which we had lived, and the advent of steamboats and railroads and cotton gins, and sewing machines, and telegraphs, and we never neglected to say, "and we saw the stars fall in 1833." Dewey never saw a night like that—but I reckon the Spaniards at Manila thought they did on the 1st of May.

But this is enough about the meteors. At least, it is about all that I know. Joe Mulhatten, or Munchausen, made up a big fake a few years ago while I was in Texas and telegraphed the fall of a meteor near Brownwood that was as big as a meeting house and had buried itself thirty feet in the earth. I

was at Brownwood a few days after and the postmaster was as mad as a hornet with Joe, for telegrams came to him from all over the United States and England wanting to know about it and wanting to buy it at any cost. Joe had to leave there and hide out for a month or two. The postmaster answered a few and then swore off. There is one good thing about meteors. They never hurt anybody. The books say it is remarkable and perhaps providential that in all the earth there is no record of one having fallen on anybody or destroyed a habitation. Terrestrial lightning gets us sometimes, but celestial fires are not dangerous.

And now the next inquiry is from a young farmer who wants to know if it is good farming to follow grain with grain. He does not say what kind of grain, but I will tell him that fifteen years ago The Courier-Journal of Kentucky, offered a prize of \$1,000 for the best essay on practical agriculture. Over 200 were contributed and the essay that got the prize detailed the writer's plan of farming in Kentucky. It was brief, very brief. He had laid off his corn rows seven feet apart, drilled his corn eighteen inches apart, cultivated the ground thoroughly and harrowed it; sowed wheat early and harrowed it in. When the corn was ready to gather he drove the wagon in every sixth row and loaded from three rows each side. After the corn were all gathered he went over the cornstocks crossways with a heavy roller and rolled it all down flat on the wheat. The stocks and the blades covered it like a blanket. When the first good snow fell he sowed clover on the snow. When it rained or thawed the clover seed fell into the ground and took root, and so he had corn and wheat and clover following in rotation and made a fine crop of each.

But in this region our farmers have learned the value of peas as a fertilizer and stock food, and the harvest of hay this year will no doubt double all previous records. One of my friends has a small farm near town and last year harvested a fair crop of wheat from a twenty-acre field. After the wheat was off he sowed ten acres of the ground in cow peas. Last fall he sowed it all down in wheat and this spring you could tell just where the line of peas came to. There was no difference in the quality of the land. It was all level and all alike and yet he harvested this year ten bushels per acre on one-half and eighteen on the other. Now, what caused this great difference? It was the shade of the pea vines, the shade that produces nitrogen, and nitrogen is the best of all plant food. The denser the shade the more nitrogen goes down into the soil. A canebrake, a briar patch, a clover covering, an old house in a field—remove it and plant the ground that was under it and see how luxuriant vegetation grows. Plant a grape vine near your house and the roots will all run under the house to feed—to feed on nitrogen. My wife has a wisteria vine at the end of the veranda, and three years' time its roots had traveled underneath the floor and sent up sprouts twenty feet away, and for a time we did not know where they came from. A good farmer will shade everything he can. He will field with wheat straw. There is no virtue in wheat straw, but it makes shade, and that makes nitrogen. There is no virtue in a stone or in rocks, but they make shade, and notice how plants will grow near to rock wall. My long lamented friend, Dr. Berchman, told me that "rocks were God's blessing to the land," and he purchased ten acres of very stony land for his vineyard and his flower garden.

It rejoices me to see how our middle Georgia farmers are looming up on wheat culture. Forty bushels to the acre. Ten years ago it would have been declared impossible. This reminds me of my old English neighbor, John Allan, who asserted that his father was never content in old England with less than sixty bushels of wheat to the acre, and sometimes he made seventy. "Sow wheat in dust and rye in mortar," was his motto. Good old John Allan. I shot his cow in my cornfield, for it was her third offense, and the old man was grieved. He never got mad, but only said: "I know me coow worried ye, but—but—major, I wouldnt have shot your coow. I love you too well for that."

How true it is that "kind words take away wrath." BILL ARP.

## Not Her Favorite Preacher.

A person who occasionally preaches in South London arrived to take the place of the vicar, who had been called away on account of some family bereavement, and found an old and rather asthmatic lady struggling up the steps which led to the front door. He courteously gave her his arm to assist her, and when they reached the top the dame asked him if he knew who was going to preach.

"Mr. So-and-So," replied the parson, giving his own name.

"Oh, dear me," exclaimed the old lady, "help me down again, if you please! I'd rather listen to the groaning and creaking of a sawmill than sit under him," and she prepared to descend.

The parson gently assisted her down stairs, and sighfully remarked, as he bade her good-by, "I wouldn't go in either if I weren't the preacher."

## OVATION FOR MR. BRYAN.

Nebraska's Tour of Kentucky Was a Great Personal and Democratic Triumph.

LEXINGTON, Ky., October 18.—The speeches of William Jennings Bryan in the Blue Grass region of Kentucky yesterday afternoon created great enthusiasm. The Democratic leader seemed to be at his best and he made some telling points in favor of Goebel and the regular Democratic ticket. He was given an ovation at nearly every town, and despite a great storm and heavy downpour of rain all the afternoon great crowds waited at the depots to get a glimpse at the Nebraskan.

The reception, which was of the most enthusiastic character, continued everywhere the party stopped during the day. Mr. Bryan was introduced as the man who "came with a message of warning and advice to the Democracy of the State and nation." He said:

"I would not deserve your confidence if I stayed in Nebraska and allowed bolting Democrats to play on my name. If bolting Democrats want to vote for Republicans, or for a Democrat put up in opposition to the regular nominee of the party, let them do it, but let them come out boldly and state their real object and not claim that they are doing it to save me."

"I know something of bolters. There were some in 1896. (Laughter.) Only the bolters of 1896 said they bolted because of a principle, and a bolt against a principle is higher than a vote against a person. I regard a principle as infinitely more important than a person. What did the bolter do in 1896? He helped to elect the president, and everything that Republican president has done that bolter who helped to elect him is responsible for."

"Your governor signs the credentials of the electors who represent the people of this State in the electoral college, and sometimes the election is close. It was close in 1896, if I am not mistaken (laughter). I have my suspicions that it was closer on the count than it was on the vote. (Laughter and applause.) I have heard it said that General Hardin was defeated in 1895 because a great many men who had a right to vote did not put their votes into the ballot box, and I have a suspicion that we lost Kentucky in 1896 because a great many votes were put into the ballot box that had no individuals entitled to vote behind them. (Applause.)"

"I know that the contest in which we were engaged was a great contest, a contest where victory was so important to the aggregation of wealth that they contributed to a campaign fund the most magnificent ever used in any campaign in the United States. Victory was so important to them that they raised a fund which I think I may say was larger than all the campaign funds used by the Republican party from the day that Fremont ran down to the day when Hanna took charge of the organization."

"Men who feel that victory is so important to them financially will bring to bear all the influence they can to control the action of the people, and I am afraid that in a very close place they might be able to manufacture votes if necessary. (Applause.) When such pressure is brought to bear upon those who stand in authority I would rather have a Democratic governor to certify to elections than a Republican governor."

"It has been suggested to me that this bolting convention endorsed me for the presidency. I appreciate the good will and confidence thus expressed, but, my friends, I would be unworthy the confidence expressed by those bolting Democrats if I did not place the principle involved above a personal compliment. (Applause.)"

"I have a right to believe that the Democrats in this State will vote in 1900 for any Democrat whom they please, that they will want a Democrat who is true to the principles in which they believe and one who can advance the cause to which they are wedded. I am interested in the triumph of these principles. I have talked for them before they were written in the Chicago platform. In this very building in June or July 1895, a year before there was a Chicago platform, I stood upon this floor and defended the free and unlimited coinage of gold and silver at the limit of 16 to 1. I stand today where I stood then."

"If there are reasons in this State that make it necessary for you to elect a Republican governor and a Republican senator, then give these reasons and don't put it on the ground that you are trying to save the cause of free silver. I know these men who have been fighting for free silver. I have come in contact with them. I know their character and zeal, and I know what they have done for Democracy, and I would rather trust the judgment of such men as Stone and Jones and Wetmore and Johnson as to what is best for Democracy than the judgment of the railroads. The railroads have been in politics before. We have them in Nebraska, and I know in 1896 nearly every railroad in this nation was hauling men to Canton, O., to uphold the nation's financial policy. (Applause.)"

"I am not willing to believe that they are specially interested in the 'high' of the Chicago platform, which is in favor of arbitration of disputes between labor and capital, government by injunction, leave you with the su

while every citizen has a right to vote as he pleases, while every citizen owes it to himself, his country and his God to vote according to his conscience, yet every intelligent citizen is responsible for the consequences of his act. If every candidate on the bolting ticket was my brother I would not advise any one to vote the ticket and thus aid in the election of a Republican governor. (Applause.)"

## A Coming Meteoric Spectacle.

Baltimore Sun.

On the 14th or 15th of November next a magnificent display of meteors is to be expected by persons who watch the sky at night—especially late at night, toward sunrise. Meteors are small solid bodies shooting through space at a velocity averaging 25 miles a second. The fragments of wrecked comets, they travel in orbits more or less regular. Owing to the perturbing influences of other heavenly bodies, they no longer all travel together, but are scattered along the whole length of their orbits, being thicker at some places than at others. As their orbits approach very nearly that of the earth, they can be seen at all times of the year, but particularly in November, when we encounter an unusually large group. Such as pass through our atmosphere are heated by the friction of the particles of air to a white heat and become visible. Their velocity is checked and they sometimes fall to the earth, either in masses known as meteoric stones, or more frequently as a fine powder produced by the anvil-like resistance of the air. As a single observer can see, upon an average, five meteors an hour any night of the year, it has been calculated that if the whole earth were covered with observers the number visible daily would be from fifteen to twenty millions. Adding those too faint to be seen with the unaided eye, it is estimated that 100,000,000 meteors traverse our atmosphere daily. The number on November 14 or 15—if the astronomer's prediction is verified—will far exceed the average of 15,000,000 to 20,000,000, approaching, perhaps, billions.

Reprieved By Bryan.

NEW YORK, Oct. 17.—William J. Bryan, in a sharp note to a local politician who has been working for his success ever since he was nominated in 1896, indicates that Bryan counts on the support of Tammany Hall in the next convention.

It indicates also that he does not want to offend Richard Croker by approving or even seeming to approve David B. Hill in the former Senator's fights against the Tammany leader.

At the recent meeting of the Democratic State Committee in the Hoffman House, when Croker so thoroughly vanquished Hill, the Bryanite politician who received the letter referred to, was present with a proxy and voted with Hill against Croker on every proposition except the resolution endorsing Mr. Bryan. Mr. Hill did not vote.

With sadness the Bryanite supporter of Hill told today of the receipt of what he called a hard "throw down" from the silver leader. Mr. Bryan did not mince words in reproving his Eastern friend for overzeal, which he declared tended to harm him with the regular New York organization. Bryan, it is said, declared he wanted nothing whatever to do with Hill.

Exercise.

Next to bodily cleanliness exercise may, I think, be reckoned as the greatest aid to beauty. In fact, exercise is almost necessary to cleanliness, for it is a great incentive to perspiration, which is Nature's way of throwing out the impurities of the body to the surface of the skin, which are then removed by the use of soap and water. Open air exercise should be taken every day, but according to strength. One should return home after walking or riding or cycling with a sense of being pleasantly fatigued, but without any feeling of exhaustion. Exercise should be taken regularly, and if possible dumb bells should be used night and morning; the corset should not be worn while exercising with dumb bells. Skipping is an excellent exercise for the figure; it is one of which our grandmothers were fond, and I have known certain old ladies who preserved quite youthful figures by their habit of skipping. It is usual with children to throw the rope forward when skipping, but it is far better to throw it backward, for it expands the chest much better.

No Improvement in Condition.

Price McCormick & Co., the New York cotton men, have issued another general letter saying that "The rumor having been widely circulated that the South was holding back from the market its cotton, which would have to be sold at a concession in price, we telegraphed to the bankers and business men of the South representing a section of the cotton belt."

California to Texas, October 18, 1899. Being if cotton from the South submit for graphic representation.

These telegrams are being sent to the

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

A Forecast of Its Most Important Recommendations.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 19.—With the return of President McKinley and his Cabinet to-day will commence the preparation of what promises to be an unusually important message to Congress. The message, it is believed, will contain the following recommendations:

Philippines—Sovereignty to be established by all the force that may be needed and to be maintained permanently. Civil government to follow the military at the earliest possible moment, and wide latitude to be allowed the natives in local self-government. The recommendations for the specific form of civil government to be established in the islands to be based on the conclusions of the Philippine commissions.

Cuba—Military occupation to be continued until some substantial progress has been made, through the medium of suffrage, toward the establishment of an independent form of government.

Puerto Rico—Civil government to immediately replace the present military government.

Hawaii—Immediate legislation to put in effect a territorial form of government.

Financial—The maintenance of the present gold standard. Currency and banking recommendation to be based upon the conclusions of the Republican caucus committee of the House and Republican members of the Finance Committee of the Senate.

Foreign Affairs—The outcome of The Hague conference to be pointed to with satisfaction, and a statement made that the treaty agreed to at this conference will be submitted at once to the Senate. Gratification will be expressed at the final settlement of the Venezuelan boundary controversy.

The statement is to be made that negotiations are in progress for a final solution of the Samoan question, and that a treaty providing for a new plan of government will probably be submitted soon.

A new executive department, with a Cabinet officer at its head, to have charge of all matters relating to interstate, colonial and foreign commerce, which are now divided among the several different departments, will be strongly urged.

Trusts—Regulation of trusts and great commercial combinations so as to prevent the stifling of competition and the levying of tribute upon consumers by the inordinate advances in prices, but without hampering the development of American manufacturing and commerce.

Inter-Ocean Canal—Emphasis to be given to the importance of early action by congress for the construction of an inter-oceanic canal.

Shipping—The passage of a ship subsidy bill to be urged.

Army—Recommendations for the prompt reorganization of the army to be delayed until after the close of the war in the Philippines.

No reference will probably be made to the nominations of Rear-Admiral Sampson and Schley and other officers participating in the Santiago campaign, which failed of action at the last session of Congress, but later in the session something will probably be done by the Administration toward rewarding these officers.

There is a rumor to the effect that the Seaboard Air Line contemplates extending a line to Greensboro, within the next year, says the Richmond Dispatch. The rumor is not confirmed by the chief officials of the road in this city.



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to every elderly woman when an important functional change takes place. This is called "The Change of Life." The entire system undergoes a change. Dreadful diseases such as cancer and consumption are often contracted at this time.

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