The North Carolina Whig.

"Be true to God, to your Country, and to your Duty."

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TERMS:

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Poetry.

Lost Treasures.

BY JESSIE CAREY SPENCER.

What is the wealth of priceless worth
Most idly thrown away,
Most deeply sealed from sons of earth,
And lost to sight of day?
Is it the pearl that slumbers deep,
Beneath the stormy wave?
Or the coral's wreath that decks the steep
Which frowns o'er ocean's cave!

Is it the wasted fruits and flowers
Of lone unpeopled isles?
Or the teeming lands of unknown bowers,
Where nature never smiles?
Ah, no! such treasures are not lost,
But for a time concealed;
And in their own good season, each
And all shall be revealed.

The diver from its ocean home
The precious pearl may gain—
The miner, from its murky tomb
The glittering ore obtain;
Some wandering voyager may taste
The fruit of lonely isles—
Some future woodman till the waste
Until it blooms and smiles.

There are lost treasures richer far
Than all this varied store,
Which like the light of a fallen star
Can gladden earth no more;
They are the treasures of the mind—
The majesty—the power—
Within the human heart enshrined,
Like perfume in a flower.

If these be idly cast away,
On worthless things and vain,
No effort of an after day,
Can win them back again.
Soon lofty dreams—some thoughts sublime—
Some attributes, that give
Assurance of a source divine,
In every spirit live.

These are the buried pearls and gems
No toil can e'er restore—
These are the treasures lost to man
And earth forever more.

Miscellaneous.

THE AVARICIOUS MERCHANT.

There was once a merchant named Filargiro, one of the most avaricious characters in the world—for, though he had realized a handsome property, all his thoughts were bent upon amassing more and more, his avarice still increasing with his increase of wealth. It happened that on returning one day from a sale of some of his goods, with a purse of four hundred gold crowns, while engaged in transacting other business, he was unlucky enough to lose the whole sum; nor was he aware of his loss until he reached home. Arriving there, he opened an immense chest, containing many thousand crowns, and on preparing to add the four hundred to the number, he was struck dumb with astonishment to find that they were gone. He uttered an exclamation of horror, every time he put his hands into his pockets, still convinced at last that his loss was but too true, he ran off in great consternation along the path he had come, inquiring of the very dogs he met on his way, whether they had seen or seized upon his treasure. He was quite confounded when he reached the place where he had first received the money without obtaining the least tidings of it.

Almost overwhelmed with despair, he suddenly bethought him, as a last resource, to apply to the magistrate, entreating that a public crier might be instantly sent forth, and offering the sum of forty crowns for the recovery of his treasure. With great courtesy he acceded to the request, expressing himself at the same time concerned to witness the excessive affliction under which the unfortunate Filargiro seemed to labor. The reward was accordingly proclaimed, and the gold soon afterwards made its appearance in the hands of an old lady, who found it on her way home from church. Fearful lest her conscience should be loaded with such a weight of gold, though extremely poor, she would have been very greatly perplexed how to act, had she not luckily heard the crier announcing the reward of forty crowns, which she hoped she might receive with a safe conscience.

Observing her destitute appearance, the Judge very humanely inquired whether she had any means of procuring her subsistence, and whether she had not one to assist her. "I have nothing," she replied, "but what I gain by the work of my hands, with the help of one daughter; we weave and spin, Signor, to earn as much as we want, living in the fear of the Lord the best way we are able. My daughter, to be sure, I should wish to see married before I die; but I have nothing to give her for a portion." The Judge, on hearing the poor woman's account of herself, highly praised her integrity, in thus restoring what she might so easily have reserved for herself, and for a marriage portion for her daughter; observing that it was an action of which he feared that few others, under the same temptation, would have been capable. He then summoned the merchant, informing him that his lost treasure was found, and requested him at the same time to put into the woman's hands the stated reward.

The raptures of the miser were truly amusing when he beheld and seized upon the gold; but on hearing the demand for the stipulated sum, his countenance again fell, and he began to think how he could possibly withhold the promised reward. Having numbered the pieces once or twice exactly over, though he found them perfectly correct, he turned towards the old woman, saying,—"There are four and thirty ducats short of the sum which I put into this bag." The old lady appeared extremely confused at this accusation, and exclaimed in a distressed tone to the magistrate, "Oh, sir, can that be possible!—is it likely I should have stolen thirty-four ducats, when I had it in my power to possess myself of the whole? No, believe me, I swear, as I value my hope of heaven, that I have restored the exact sum which I found on my return from church; not a single farthing have I taken out."

But the miserly old wretch, continuing to affirm most solemnly that the ducats were in the same bag with the crowns, and that she must consider them as sufficient remuneration, the affair seemed to perplex the worthy Judge not a little. Yet, when he reflected that the old miser had only mentioned the four hundred crowns in the first instance, he began to suspect his design of imposing upon the poor woman, in order to save the paltry sum offered as a reward. He felt the utmost indignation at the discovery of this deceit, believing no punishment to be too severe for this despicable breach of faith. But checking his rising passion for a moment, he reflected that the most effectual punishment he could bestow upon the miser's attempt to impose upon the magistracy, would be to make him fall into the very snare he had laid for another. With this view he thus addressed the merchant:

"And why did you not mention the full amount of your loss before proclaiming the reward?"

"I overlooked it; I quite forgot it," was the reply.

"But it seems somewhat strange that you, who appear so particular about trifles, should not have recollected the circumstance of the ducats. And as far as I can understand, you wish to recover what is not your own. I mean to say that this bag of gold could never have belonged to you at all since the sum you first mentioned is not to be found in it." The Judge then turned toward the old woman, observing, "Since it is clear that the money is none of his, and you have the good luck to find it, pray keep it; the whole is your own, should no owner appear who can prove his right to the property; therefore, give it as a wedding gift to your daughter. If it should happen that you meet another purse, containing the ducats as well as the crowns, belonging to this gentleman, I beg you will return it to him without demanding any reward."

The wretched merchant, finding that the Judge had truly penetrated his motives, and that there was not a chance of succeeding in his nefarious design, declared that he was now quite willing to pay the reward he had promised, if she restored the remaining money, which was indisputably his own. But it was now too late; the Judge, turning toward him with an angry air, threatened to punish him for such a disgraceful attempt to defraud another of so large a sum, since from his own account it could not possibly be his:

"Get out of my presence, and beware how you exasperate me further! If this good woman should be fortunate enough to meet with the purse, with the exact amount you mention, she has promised to restore it to you untouched. This, I think, is enough."

Without venturing to answer a single word, the unhappy Filargiro was compelled to leave the place, unaccompanied by his new-recovered treasure, and filled with vexation at having refused to fulfil the conditions he had made. The poor old woman, on the other hand, went away overjoyed with her unexpected good fortune; and it need hardly be said that no claimant for the lost property ever appeared. Her daughter, after having long indulged in a vain attachment, had at length the pleasure of being united to the object of her choice, at the expense of the avaricious old merchant.

AN ORTHODOX DOG.

Attending meeting last Sabbath evening for the first time at Dr. Chandler's church, in this town, I was much amused to see a one-eared dog stalk up the aisle near the commencement of the services, and quietly stretch himself out on the pulpit platform. After taking a survey of the congregation, as if probably to see who were absent, he dropped his head and fell into a sound sleep, perhaps thinking that was city style. I afterward learned that this dog was strictly sectarian in his views, having after mature deliberation settled down upon the mode of worship as adopted by the Congregationalist order and chosen the Meadow church as his regular place of meeting. His master is of the Baptist denomination, and attends church in this village. But the dog pins his faith on no one's sleeve. He accompanies his master on the Sabbath to the road that leads to his own chosen place of worship, and there turns without saying one word to persuade him that his own way is right and all others are wrong. At the intermission he calls on a neighbor, gets his dinner, and attends divine worship again in the afternoon. At the close of the services, he quietly wends his way homeward, meditating upon the topic of the day, no doubt, and perhaps revolving in his own mind how much of the true christian spirit would be shown by professors, if they would but do as he does,—worship where he chooses and let others do the same without molestation.—*G. Gazette.*

Common Schools.

To *His Excellency, David S. Reid*—

SIR: In my first letter to your Excellency, I gave a sketch of the former condition of Education in North Carolina. What is it now? This is a question difficult to answer, and for the reason that, although Education has been a matter of Government concern there has been no effort made to obtain a diffuse information on this subject. It was difficult to obtain accurate knowledge in regard to the general progress of intelligence; and from ignorance of our position and prospects, we were almost ready to despair of a cause which was accomplishing much good in our midst.

What is the condition of the cause of Education in North Carolina at this day?

I am not prepared to answer the question as fully and satisfactorily as I hope to be in a few months; but it is a matter to which I have, for years, given some attention, and in regard to which I can speak with some degree of confidence.

About the time of the establishment of our system of Common Schools, there began a general movement among our people in favor of Colleges and Academies. Institutions of this kind, that were already in existence, but in a rather languishing condition, very soon manifested signs of increasing prosperity. Old attempts to found Academies were revived with more success, and new enterprizes of this sort were set on foot in all parts of the country. Each year the Seminaries already in existence would be more crowded with pupils than during the year before, and each year a greater number of new institutions would be inaugurated than during the one preceding. Thus we have advanced; and now, comparing our present position with that of a few years past, it is almost incredible what progress we have made. Your Excellency has twice canvassed the State, with open eyes—what have you beheld?

We formerly had *one* male College, to wit:—our excellent University; now we have Wake Forest College, in Wake county; Davidson College, in Mecklenburg county; Normal College, in Randolph county; Catawba College, in Catawba county, with the prospect of the [illegible] of a Masonic College, in Granville county. We hear all these [illegible] into vigorous existence; and our good old University, instead of being crippled with this competition, is shining with a more resplendent light than ever before, and numbers twice as many students as it did in its palmiest days before the establishment of our system of Common Schools, and when it had not a single rival.

There is a yearly increase of numbers at all of these institutions; and, what is more, the older Colleges are making [illegible] acceptable to the masses, while each new one endeavors to lay its foundations deep in the popular heart. They all recognize the doctrine that the good will of the common people is necessary to their prosperity; and while their position is the result of an increasing interest felt by the masses in the cause of Education, they, in return, re-act upon the Common Schools and Academies of the country.

And how is it with the Academies—male Academies—in North Carolina? Who knows the number of these? Who can tell how many new ones are born into existence every season? There cannot be less than eighty Classical Schools (male) in this State—they will average one to the county, and in many counties there are more than one—in some as many as three Schools of this sort. Some are of a private character, but at nearly all a good classical education can be obtained. Since my term of office a number of new institutions of this sort have been inaugurated, and some successful Academies are situated in regions considered by many as remote and ignorant. Between these Academies and the Colleges, there is an intermediate class of Schools that may be termed High Schools, furnishing an education nearly as good as that obtained at the Colleges; and of this class several have recently come into successful existence, and others are on the way.

The progress in female education of the higher kind has been still more remarkable; and instead of the one High School at Salem, we have it and *eight other Colleges*, counting the Episcopal School at Raleigh as one. There are the two Colleges at Murfreesboro', in Hertford county—one in a flourishing condition, the other in a state of rapid progress; the College in Oxford, Granville county, the Episcopal School in Raleigh, the College in Anson county, the one in Rowan county, the one in Greensboro', Guilford county, and the one in Asheville, Buncombe county, while there is still another on the way in Iredell county. Great as is this increase of Colleges, it is still outdone in the growth and multiplication of Female Academies and High Schools; and still the old School at Salem, like the University, has been benefited by the competition, and is fuller than it ever was, while, in consequence of new applications for admission, its Principal has had to issue a circular, notifying the public that the institution is filled to its utmost capacity.

In all the towns, villages, and thickly settled neighborhoods, Female Academies have sprung up or are coming into existence; and a singular and most cheering feature of this progress in male and female education of the higher kind, is the fact, *that many of the Schools have been founded by the energies, or are under the control of native men and home-educated ladies and gentlemen.* In short, our progress in the multiplication of male and female Colleges and Academies, is without a parallel in the history of any State or country; and it is no exaggeration to say that, while our population has increased but little in seventeen years, the number of male pupils attending Classical Schools has been more than trebled since the year 1836, and that the number of girls receiving an education of the higher kind is at least seven times, and perhaps ten times, as great as it was at the period designated, while the ratio of increase becomes considerably greater each year. What is the cause of all this? I answer, without hesitation, our system of Common Schools.—Much is due to the influence of religious societies, but in former years religious societies made exertions in the same direction without much success. While a number of these societies have been undoubtedly stimulated by a spirit of progress which seemed simultaneously and almost suddenly to pervade all classes and societies in our State, it was independent of particular men or particular bodies, and yet it was of course not a mere inspiration, but was, under the direction of Providence, born of some previous cause.

In the first place, the mere establishment of our system of Common Schools did much to awaken a new spirit of education in all classes. It gave to it the dignity of a fundamental political institution [illegible] people where every man is a part of the government and takes an interest in it. The people all viewed it in a new light; and Churches and benevolent societies, availing themselves of this new step, and of the feeling awakened by it, began a generous competition to see which could make itself most acceptable, by assisting most to help to achieve that condition of things, that universal intelligence which was considered as inevitable, some day, from the action of the State. Nobly did they respond to the call of that government pledged to the sanctity of conscience, and a glorious reward [illegible] them, with the [illegible] political and religious freedom for ages to come!

[illegible] of Common Schools in North Carolina, a large and somewhat influential class of our people maintained their social position, by being merely able to read and write. This was an advantage not enjoyed by all; and girls so accomplished, if not boys, could hold a somewhat aristocratic rank. When our system of Common Schools was established, it was supposed that all classes would soon be up to this mark; and hence the middle ranks very generally began to move farther forward, so as still to hold their relative position.

But lastly, the Common Schools have acted in this matter by shedding light on minds that otherwise never could have been awakened, and thus starting on an upward career persons who have struggled through Academies, and then, with [illegible] of their own energies, and [illegible] practical experience, the true wants of the country, have made profits for themselves and benefited the country, by [illegible] in person, and placing it in the midst of the people. Thus a new kind of Academies has sprung up; and men, beginning to realize the importance to themselves of Common Schools, and to feel their capacities [illegible] have thrown open their doors to poverty and rusticity, and educated and boarded children on their promise to repay, and thus multiplied new teachers, many of whom, as the readiest way to redeem their pledges, have taken temporary employment in the Common Schools.

But I must conclude this interesting subject, which, by itself, is worthy [illegible]. Suffice it to say, our Common Schools have been mainly instrumental in giving [illegible] impetus to the cause of education of a higher kind in North Carolina [illegible] and [illegible] that is universal, determined and irresistible—a spirit of progress, which, in a very few years, has planted the Educational flag of North Carolina, from its [illegible] to a proud elevation [illegible] Southern sisters, and [illegible] above the [illegible] of the Union. All hail to that [illegible] all honor to the hands that have [illegible] that while we proudly [illegible] position let us never forget that the flag-staff is planted on the [illegible].

And now, Sir, in view of such results, and without considering any other, may I not say that our Common Schools have been anything else than a failure? We have seen, however, but one half of the picture, and it remains to be told what has been accomplished within the walls of the Common Schools themselves.

Upon this subject I have made much enquiry, and it would be tedious, and perhaps unnecessary, to enter upon a detail of the means by which I have obtained information.

I have instituted enquiries in regard to the number of school houses and of schools in different counties before the establishment of our system of Common Schools, and for several years have been trying to inform myself, in various ways, on this obscure subject.

My investigations bring me to this conclusion, viz: that it would be a very liberal estimate to put at [illegible] thousand the number of children who, before the adoption of our Common School system, attended part of the time during any one year, or a period of two years, the country or stationary subscription schools of the State.

Without going into minute statements, a few general facts will sustain the above view; and in fact, I need only make the calculation, and one which all will regard as liberal.

Put the number of counties at 70—(this is over the mark, at the time alluded to)—and the average number of schools at 10 to a county, and the average number of scholars at 25 to a school; this gives seventeen thousand and five hundred scholars. How many persons can count as many as ten country school houses which existed in their counties previous to the establishment of Common Schools? How many counties are there where *ten* could not be found? But that I may not be under the mark I will say that twenty thousand children, at some time during a period of two years, attended the country schools of North Carolina; and I will here intimate that I should not be surprised if I am, some day, able to prove that the number was one not greater than ten thousand, and some times under.

What is now the number that once in a period of two years attend the country or Common Schools?

It is considered a severe reflection on our historical efforts in North Carolina that the name of our first Governor was suffered to become a problem. What shall we say of the fact that the State has founded a system of Common Schools, and by its funds helped to keep the system in operation for several years, while so little vigilance has been exercised over it that the number of schools is not known but can only be guessed at! Members of the Literary Board have estimated the number as high as thirty-five hundred; my own estimate is from twenty-five hundred to three thousand. We will suppose the number to be 2500, and the average attendance 25 to the school, and all the schools open once, at least, in every two years; this gives us sixty-two thousand five hundred children at school in the State at some time during each period of two years. The attendance, however, we all know, is greater at the Common Schools than it was at the subscription schools; in fact we might very safely estimate the average at the former at 30, and 20 at the latter, while, however, there was undoubtedly a more regular attendance at the subscription schools.

We may, from the foregoing premises, conclude, and I do affirm, that in every period of two years, there are three times as many children going to country schools as formerly, but there are not and could not be three times as many receiving an education. If there were, then more than two-thirds were formerly ignorant. In former times, many boys and girls, attended one, two, or three short schools, and then their education was completed; now the same set will attend, at different times, for many sessions. Still it is an inevitable conclusion that a great many more now receive the elements of an education than formerly, and a larger majority get better educations, poor as our schools are said to be.

In a number of counties from one to three moderately good subscription schools have been destroyed, and in their stead have been established Common Schools, which are not kept open as long during the year; but a considerable portion of those benefited formerly by the best subscription schools is now sent to higher, or classical schools, and most of the remainder would raise a fund to lengthen the term of the District Schools by using the same exertion that [illegible] to be used to get up a good subscription school.

And then, to counterbalance this supposed injury caused by Free Schools, they pervade hundreds of neighborhoods, where there were formerly no schools at all, and they [illegible] an elementary education to thousands of children that would have grown up in ignorance, while the office of teachers established in 2500 places, is a ladder by which many scores of young men are enabled to rise to usefulness whose talents otherwise would have been buried.

And finally I draw this general conclusion and will maintain it, viz: *that the average of intelligence among the masses of the citizens is now about as twice as great as it was before the adoption of our system of Common Schools.* These schools have not existed a generation; those who were on [illegible] of action at the time of their [illegible] the Schools have been training have not yet assumed their places in the business affairs of life.

When this occurs, and we have passed away, a great change will come over the face of things in North Carolina; there will be more intelligence, more [illegible] life, and more public spirit, while the new generation will be practically acquainted with Common Schools, will know their wants and remedies, and be ready to supply the [illegible] to add to their usefulness and efficiency.

We are a nothing of such things, and we [illegible] the experiment was a great novelty to us, adopted among a people tenacious of old habits, where many were [illegible] and opposed to Education, and where [illegible] the [illegible] and were disposed to do too much, supposing the government had [illegible] to take all trouble off their hands.

Amidst ignorance, misconceptions and prejudice the system had to contend, and it had no room by its own inherent vitality, without a voice to utter its wants, or a [illegible] its doubts [illegible], or a head to guide its way. It was seed thrown into the water, and left to fight its way with [illegible] and [illegible], and though [illegible] and [illegible] have grown up in the [illegible] it has lived and flourished, and [illegible] a profitable harvest. [illegible] and [illegible] in [illegible] wall, at least offer [illegible] for contemplation to every true son of North Carolina, and every friend of humanity; and to all such it opens a [illegible] field for [illegible], and one where the [illegible] is [illegible] and [illegible].

But I have said enough for the present; [illegible] I shall endeavor to point out some of the causes which have prevented our system from being more useful—to suggest some remedies, and to offer my [illegible] opinions in the [illegible] to the [illegible].

With great respect,
C. H. WILEY.

[illegible], N. C., August [illegible], 1853.

[illegible]

Whig, [illegible] &c. &c.

[illegible]

FASHIONABLE RELIGION.

We take the following article from the "State of Maine" newspaper. We presume it was written by John Neal:

"Why should not religion be fashionable?—piety the distinguishing characteristic of a well-bred man? Is there anything which our Father requires of us, calculated to lower us in the estimation of others, or to unfit us for the duties, or the pleasures of life? May we not enjoy His gifts all the more, if we deserve His love? Think of this, my aged friend.

We are to despise the world. But how?—in what way? By undervaluing God's gifts? by stopping our ears, and sealing our eyes against the revelations of His love? No, indeed. Next to over-valuing the world, under-valuing it must be; and if we are to judge of him by his works and providences and teaching, will be, most offensive and affronting to him, as the "author of every good and perfect gift." Is he not readier to give us even spiritual gifts than any earthly parents are to give good gifts to their children?

What he requires of us, therefore, is neither to over-value nor to under-value the world. If we undervalue it, we dishonor him—if we overvalue it, ourselves. But he would have us value it aright. We are to let it go for all it is worth—and no more. If we do this, however much we may prize it, we shall not grieve nor offend our most merciful Father; nor be the more anxious to exchange the world and all its glories and allurements for something we [illegible] to be better. Having a just idea of the worth of all things below, but enables us to judge of their value in comparison with what he tells us cannot be valued.

That there is such a thing as a fashionable religion may as well be acknowledged first as last. Everywhere it is to be found—among the great and the fashionable, and the well-bred, and the rich and the powerful; and for the present there seems to be no help for it, unless God in his great mercy should choose to call them suddenly to judgment, and shipwreck them on a [illegible], or in some other way bring them to a sense of their helplessness and sinfulness.

But there is a vast difference between a fashionable religion and making religion fashionable. What we would have is not a conformity to the fashion of the day, even in matters of religion, but [illegible] reason that you see Roman Catholics here, and Unitarians there, Episcopalians one day and Presbyterians another, according to the fashion of the neighborhood where you live; you would be [illegible] a Mormon, if you [illegible] were at [illegible] of [illegible] the dwellers of the [illegible]—but a [illegible] and settled belief, attended by corresponding action, that no man deserves to be taken for well-bred who is not really and truly a Christian—while every man, however humble, or poor, or uneducated, if there be no guile in him, and he is really and truly a Christian, so far as we are permitted to judge, by his meekness and humility, [illegible], and kindness and love, is a well-bred man—in other words, a *gentleman*.

Let such characteristics become generally distinguished as true followers of Christ become fashionable—and why should they not?—and we shall have a new type of humanity, hovering over the heads of the multitude everywhere, like that among the priests and prophets of Israel.—*Christian [illegible] and [illegible].*

STRANGE SIGHT—SEVENTY SWARMS OF BEES AT WAR.

Ezra Dibble, a well known citizen of this town, and for many years engaged extensively in the management of bees, communicates to us the interesting particulars of a battle among his bees:

He has seventy-six swarms of bees, equally divided on the east and west sides of his house.—On Sunday, Aug. 14, about 3 o'clock, the weather being warm, and the windows open, his house was suddenly filled with bees, which forced the family to flee at once to the neighbors.

Mr. D., after getting well protected against the assailants, proceeded to take a survey, and, if possible, learn the cause which had disturbed them.

The seventy swarms appeared to be out, and those on one side of the house arrayed in battle against those on the other side, and such a battle was [illegible] never before witnessed. They filled the air [illegible] a space of more than [illegible] of ground, and [illegible]—and for "[illegible]," but for [illegible] and [illegible] no living thing could exist in [illegible]. They [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

[illegible]

—[illegible]

COL. JOHN C. FREMONT

We regret extremely to see that we have news per telegraph from St. Louis, saying that Colonel Fremont has been compelled to abandon his journey of exploration to California (overland) and to return to St. Louis, on account of the condition of his health.—*Washington Star.*

SPAIN.—Mr. Barringer had an audience of the Queen at La Granja, on Sunday evening, September 4, to present his letter of recall as American Minister at this court, and addressed her Majesty in the following terms:

SENORA:—The President of the United States having acceded to my instances that he would permit me to return to my country, I have the honor to place in your Majesty's hands the letter which gives as terminated my mission as envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary near your Majesty.

In taking leave of your Majesty, the President has charged me to give to your Majesty the most expressive assurances of the sincere desire which animates him to preserve the friendly relations between the two countries, to affirm and extend the good intelligence which [illegible] exists between both governments, and to secure to the one and the other people the continuance of the benefits which they reciprocally derive from this good intelligence.

[illegible] circumstances have made delicate the years of my residence at your Majesty's court, and have considerably increased the difficult and arduous duties of my mission. It is a cause of particular satisfaction to me to have the persuasion that, counting on the good intentions which animate both governments, I have been able to contribute something, during this critical epoch, towards the satisfactory termination of the pending negotiations, and towards the preservation of the friendship which unites both nations.

Before concluding, Senora, permit me to offer to your Majesty the homage of my respectful gratitude for the proofs of personal consideration and amiable attention which my family and myself have received from your Majesty during my residence at your court; as also very especially for the royal and generous clemency with which at my instances your Majesty has deigned on various occasions to restore to liberty those who groaned in prisons, and to give consolation to many families.

In terminating the high mission which I have had the honor to fill at your Majesty's court I make fervent vows for your Majesty's health and happiness, and for the prosperity of the Spanish nation.

The Queen replied:—

In receiving the recredential letter which puts an end to your mission in Spain, it is [illegible] satisfactory to me to accept the assurances of the desires which animate the President of the United States to preserve and strengthen the friendly relations between both nations. I take pleasure in my turn in assuring you that, being animated with the same desire, I shall omit nothing to attain a result so desirable, and so advantageous for one and the other State.

Your conduct during your honorable mission in which you have fulfilled less correspondent to the hopes which both governments [illegible] to entertain, and I have particular [illegible] in stating to you that during the whole time that you have resided near my person, whatever may have been the circumstances you have shown yourself solicitous to facilitate and augment the good intelligence between the two governments.

I am glad to hear that you are satisfied with the friendly reception and the attentions of which you and your family have been the objects at my court.

THE GRAPE DISEASE.

A correspondent of the New York Evening Post, who has recently returned from Germany, gives the following gloomy account of the progress of the grape disease:

"Let America prepare for dear wines, [illegible] all over Europe that fatal disease 'Traubenkrankheit,' is spreading. It consists of a white mildew, that spreads over the whole grape, and completely destroys it. It is as inexplicable to vineyard men as the potato disease is to farmers. Italy and Tyrol are fearfully affected by it. In Germany it is just beginning to make its appearance. Grapes on trellises are worse affected by it than those in vineyards. No cure has yet been found, and it is spreading all over grape-growing Europe. The papers are full of proposed remedies, but none give permanent relief. Political economists stand aghast at a future in which there is to be neither wine for the rich nor potatoes for the poor.

"Many papers state the European grape disease to be the same as that of the United States, but such is not the fact. Ours is a rot; theirs is a mildew. Ours shows itself by blue spots upon the berries; theirs by a white mildew all over the grape. Ours leaves a few sound berries; theirs destroys [illegible] grapes."

NOVEL.

The following novel method of proving one's identity, we copy from the Missouri Republican:

"A gentleman, a stranger in this city a few days since, presented a draft or check at the counter of one of our banking houses payable to —— and [illegible] the [illegible] order. The teller looked at him a moment, and stated in the politest manner that as he did not know him a reference would be required [illegible] the bill was cashed. [illegible]

Here was a poser. Mr. [illegible] was an entire stranger in the city; he wanted the money, [illegible] that afternoon; he assured the gentleman who stood behind the [illegible] that the whole matter was correct, and that he couldn't leave without it—in fact, the teller was affronted. The teller, however, was inexorable, and said he could not depart from the rules of the establishment, and that personal identity must be proved. At this crisis Mr. [illegible], after musing awhile for some time, suddenly exclaimed, "I can do it," and at the same time commenced [illegible] in the twinkling of an eye, [illegible] the "[illegible]" of his [illegible] displayed to [illegible] the [illegible] Columbus, No. 3. The identity was affirmed, and it is needless to say the check was cashed instantly."

DIVIDEND.—The Bank of Washington has declared a semi-annual dividend of 4 per cent.