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THE DYING CHILD.

FROM THE GERMAN OF ANDERSEN.

Mother, I'm tired, and I would fain be sleeping;
Let me repose upon thy bosom seek;
But promise me that thou wilt leave off weeping,
Because thy tears fall hot upon my cheek.
Here it is cold: the tempest raves madly;
But in my dreams all is so wondrous bright;
I see the angel children smiling gladly,
When from my weary eyes I shut out light.

Mother, one stands beside me now! and listen!
Dost thou not hear the music's sweet accord!
See how his white wings beautifully glisten!
Surely those wings were given him by our Lord!
Green, gold and red are floating all around me!
They are the flowers the angel scattereth.
Shall I have also wings whilst life has bound me!
Or, mother, art they given alone in death!
Why dost thou clasp me as if I were going!
Why dost thou press thy cheek thus unto mine!
Thy cheek is hot, and yet thy tears are flowing:
I will, dear mother, will be always thine!
Do not sigh—it marries my rejoicing;
And, if thou weep, then I must weep with thee!
Oh, I am tired—my weary eyes are closing!
Look, mother look! the angel kneels to me!

The Better Land.

He, who is infinite in love, as well as wisdom, has revealed to us the fact of a future life, and the fearfully important relation in which the present stands to it. The actual nature and condition of that life, he has hidden from us—no chart of the ocean of eternity is given us—no celestial guide-book or geography defines, localizes, and prepares us for the wonders of the spiritual world. Hence, imagination has a wide field for its speculations which, so long as they do not positively contradict the revelations of the Scriptures, cannot be disproved.

We naturally enough transfer to our idea of Heaven, whatever we love and reverence on earth. Thither the Catholic carries in his fancy the imposing rites and time honored solemnities of his worship. There the Methodist sees his love-feasts and camp-meeting, in the groves and by the still waters and green pastures of the blessed abodes. The Quaker, in the stillness of his self-communing remembers that there was "silence in Heaven." The Churchman, listening to solemn chants of vocal music, or the deep tones of the organ, thinks of the song of the Elders, and the golden harps of the New Jerusalem.

The Heaven of the Northern nations of Europe was a gross and sensual reflection of the earthly life of a barbarous and brutal people.

The Indians of North America had a vague notion of a Sun Land—a beautiful Paradise far on the West—mountains and forests filled with deer and buffalo—lakes and streams swimming with fishes—the happy hunting-ground of souls.

In a late letter from a devoted missionary among the Western Indians, (Paul Blohm, a converted Jew,) we have noticed a beautiful illustration of this belief. Near the Omahaw mission-house, on a high bluff, was a solitary Indian grove. "One evening," says the missionary, "having come home with some cattle which I had been seeking, I heard some one walking, and looking in the direction from whence it proceeded. I found it to be from the grave near our house. In a moment after, the mourner got up from a kneeling posture, and turning to the setting sun, he stretched forth his arms in prayer and supplication, with an intensity and earnestness as though he would detain the splendid luminary from running his course. With his body leaning forward, and his arms stretched towards the sun, he presented a most striking figure of sorrow and petition. It was so solemnly awful: He seemed to me to be one of the ancients, come forth to teach me how to pray."

A venerable and worthy New England clergyman, on his death-bed, just before the close of his life, declared, that he was only conscious of an awfully solemn and intense curiosity to know the great secrets of death and Eternity.

The excellent Dr. Nelson, of Missouri, was one who, while on earth, seemed to live another and higher life, in the contemplation of Infinite Purity and Happiness. A friend of ours once related an incident concerning him, which made a deep impression upon our minds. They had been travelling through a summer's forest, in the prairie, and had laid down to rest beneath a solitary tree. The doctor lay, for a long time, silently looking upward through the openings of the boughs, into the still heavens, when he repeated the following lines in a low tone, as if communing with himself in view of the wonders he described:—

"Oh the joys that are there, mortal eyes hath not seen!
Oh! the songs they sing there, with harmonies between!
Oh, the thrice blessed song of the Lamb and of Moses!
Oh, brightness on brightness! the pearl gate unclosed!
Oh, white wings of angels! Oh, the fields white with roses!
Oh, white tents of Peace, where the rapt soul reposes!
Oh, the waters so still, and the pastures so green!
Oh, the bright suns, and the stars so seen!"

The brief hints afforded us by the sacred writings concerning the Better Land, are inspiring and beautiful. Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither hath it entered into the heart of man to conceive of the good in store for the right-

eous. Heaven is described as a quiet habitation; a rest remaining for the people of God. Tears shall be wiped away from all eyes; there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain. To how many death beds have these words spoken peace! How many failing hearts have gathered strength from them to pass through the dark valley of shadows.

Yet we should not forget that "the kingdom of Heaven is within;" that it is the state of the affections of the soul; the answer of a good conscience; the sense of harmony with God; a condition of Time as well as of Eternity. What is really momentous and all important with us in the present, by which the future is shaped and colored. A mere change of locality cannot alter the actual and intrinsic qualities of the soul.—Guilt and Remorse would make the golden streets of Paradise intolerable as the burning marl of the infernal abodes, while purity and Innocence would transform Hell itself into Heaven.—*Withir.*

The Doom of Our World.

What this change is to be, we do not even conjecture; but we see in the heavens themselves some traces of destructive elements, and some indications of their power. The fragments of broken planets—the descent of meteoric stones upon our globe—the wheeling comets welding their loose materials at the solar surface—the volcanic eruptions on our own satellite—the appearance of new stars, and the disappearance of others—are all foreshadows of that impending convulsion which the system of the world is doomed.—Thus placed on a planet which is to be burnt up, and under heavens which are to pass away; thus treading, as it were, on the cemeteries, and dwelling on the mausoleums of former worlds, let us learn the lesson of humility and wisdom, if we have not already been taught in the school of revelation.

"YE STARS, THAT ARE THE POETRY OF HEAVEN!"

I cannot say that it is chiefly the contemplation of their infinitude, and of the immeasurable space they occupy, that enraptures me in the stars. Still less do I regard the absolutely with reference to the life after this. But the mere thought that they are so far beyond and above every thing terrestrial—the feeling that before them every earthly so thing utterly vanishes to nothing—that the single individual is infinitely insignificant in comparison with these worlds strewn over all space, that his destinies, his enjoyments, and sacrifices, to which he attaches such a minute importance, how all these fade like nothing before such immense objects—then that the constellations bind together all the races of man, and all the eras of the earth,—that they have beheld all that has passed since the beginning of time, and will see all that passes until its end. In thoughts like these I can always lose myself with a silent delight in the view of the starry firmament.—*Humboldt's Letters to a Female Friend.*

Governing Principles of Religion.

Those who cry down moral honesty, cry down that which is a great part of religion—my duty towards God, and my duty towards man. What care I to see a man run after a sermon, if he cozen and cheat as soon as he comes home? On the other side, morality must not be without religion; for if so, it may change as I see to convenience. Religion must govern it. He that has not religion to govern his morality, is not a dram better from when it proceeded. I found it to be from the grave near our house. In a moment after, the mourner got up from a kneeling posture, and turning to the setting sun, he stretched forth his arms in prayer and supplication, with an intensity and earnestness as though he would detain the splendid luminary from running his course. With his body leaning forward, and his arms stretched towards the sun, he presented a most striking figure of sorrow and petition. It was so solemnly awful: He seemed to me to be one of the ancients, come forth to teach me how to pray."

The Best is Left

"I am fallen," cried Jeremy Taylor, "into the hands of publicans and sequestrators, and they have taken all from me. What now? Let me look about me! They have left me sun and moon, fire and water, a loving wife, and many friends to pity me, and some to relieve me; and I can still discourse; and, unless I list, they have not taken away my merry countenance, and my cheerful spirits, and a good conscience; they have still left me the providence of God, and all the promises of the gospel, and my religion too. And still I sleep and digest, and eat and drink; I read and meditate; I can walk in my neighbor's pleasant fields and see the varieties of natural beauties, that is, in virtue, wisdom, the whole creation, and in God himself."

Life's Pendulum.

At every swing of the pendulum a spirit goes into eternity. The measure of our life is a hair-breath; it is a tale that is told; its rapidity is like the swift shuttle or the transient rainbow, or the dazzling meteor; it is a bubble; it is a breath.—At every swing of the pendulum a spirit goes into eternity. Between the rising and the setting sun 42,000 souls are summoned before their Creator. True, as well as beautiful, are those lines of Mr. Hemans—

"Leaves have their time to fall,
And flowers to wither at the North wind's breath,
And stars to set; but all—
Thou hast all reasons for thine own. O Death!

THE PATRIOT.

LATE FROM MEXICO.

Dates from Vera Cruz to the 2d, give an account of a severe engagement between Col. Biscoe's command and the guerrillas. The latter were dispersed, but Lieutenant Henderson and twelve of our men were killed.

Gen. Scott's Withdrawal.

The dates from the city of Mexico are to the 20th of February. Letters written that day say that an armistice for two months would be signed by Gen. Butler the following day.

We copy from the American Star of the 19th ult., the following article in regard to General Scott's withdrawal from the command of the army in Mexico in obedience to the orders of the Government, regretting extremely that the whole farewell address of the Commander-in-Chief has not reached us.

MAJ. GEN. SCOTT.—By reference to general orders it will be seen that Gen. Scott has turned over the command of the army to Maj. Gen. Butler. We promised to inform our readers of this when officially advised on the subject, and we now do so though with regret. Although we were told in Puebla that the general had requested to be relieved when active operations ceased, we were not prepared to receive the news that such had been the case. We do not think that either the Government or Gen. Scott's inclination should take him from the army until a peace is made. He has accomplished so much and against such odds, that we regret to see him part with his companions in arms, and we have no hesitation in saying that such are the sentiments of the American army. It matters not how accomplished and gallant his successor may be, under the circumstances his place cannot be filled, and if we know Gen. Butler, we believe that he will echo that sentiment, for he is not so much weighed down by ambition as to applaud the recall, although the act places him in command of the proudest army in the world.

Winfield Scott, this morning, takes leave officially of the army, of that gallant band with which he has carried his and their names upon the highest point of fame's column. Many an eye will fill with tears this morning when they read his last order.

Even in his short order he pays the following deserving compliment to his successor—a brother officer, who was his companion in arms in 1812, as he was here until today.

"In taking official leave of the troops he has so long had the honor personally to command in an arduous campaign—a small part of whose glory has been, from his position, reflected on the senior officer, Major Gen. Scott is happy to be relieved by a general of established merit and distinction in the service of his country."

The Arco Iris of the last inst., has rumors that Santa Anna had changed his mind about leaving the country, and that he was about to try his fortunes again amidst the internal convulsions which threaten to distract the nation. He is represented as being in the neighborhood of Tehuacan, at the head of eighty followers. His design is said to be to unite his fortune with the Vice Governor of San Luis and Gen. Alvarez, and then march upon Queretaro, overthrow the Government of Pena y Pena, and establish a Dictatorship. But before executing this grand design, he proposed striking a blow at the Americans, in order to receive credit with his countrymen. The Arco Iris puts as little faith in this project as we do; but that Santa Anna is still lurking about Tehuacan there would appear to be no doubt.

NATIONAL DEBTS.

National Debt of England and other European Countries, with the proportion of such debt to each individual:

Country	Debt per head
England	600,000,000 32 0 0
France	194,400,000 5 19 7
Russia	35,560,000 0 11 9
Austria	79,100,000 2 7 6
Prussia	29,700,000 2 7 7
Netherlands	148,500,000 23 5 6
Spain	70,000,000 5 0 8
Sicily	17,000,000 2 11 2
Bavaria	11,311,000 2 16 0
Sardinia	4,581,000 1 1 2
Turkey	3,667,000 0 6 8
Portugal	5,649,000 1 2 6
Denmark	3,729,000 1 18 4
Rome	17,142,000 7 9 0
Poland	5,740,000 1 3 3
Saxony	3,300,000 2 9 1
Hanover	2,284,000 3 9 2
Baden	1,670,000 1 9 2
Wirttemberg	2,505,000 1 12 7
Tuscany	1,384,000 1 4 11
Hesse (Darmstadt)	1,184,000 1 5 11
Hesse (Electoral)	220,000 0 6 1
Norway	252,000 0 3 1
East India Company's territories	47,600,000 0 9 0

PLANK ROADS.

We seen by the Racine (Wisconsin) Advocate of the 19th January, that the great increase in the production of Racine, Walworth and Rock counties, with the increase of the commerce of Lake Michigan, have put the citizens of those counties to increasing their facilities for transporting their products to market. They have adopted Plank Roads as the most suitable structure for their purpose. Col. Philo White, made a report on the subject as Chairman of a Committee, at an adjourned meeting held at Racine on the 14th January. His report was accepted, and five hundred copies in pamphlet form ordered to be printed. A proper degree of improvements by the far off Wisconsinans, and we should not be surprised were soon in the advance of North Carolina in those things calculated to develop the wealth and greatness of a country, although we have the advantage of her in age and experience.

Salisbury, Watchman.

Riots.—The New York House of Assembly has passed the bill making cities, towns and villages liable for all damage occasioned by riots within their limits respectively.

A man being asked how old he was, replied, "I am in health," and being asked how rich he was, said, "I am not in debt."

BANK CAPITAL OF THE U. STATES.

The following list (which we take from *Horner's Bankers' Magazine*, published at No. 17 Wall street), comprises the Banking Capital in all cities which possess above one million of such capital located in the same.

Cities	No. of Banks	Capital
1. New York	25	\$24,003,000
2. Boston	26	18,863,000
3. New Orleans	6	17,663,000
4. Philadelphia	14	9,222,000
6. Charleston, S. C.	7	9,163,000
6. Providence	23	8,040,000
7. Baltimore	11	6,973,000
8. Nashville, Tenn.	3	6,180,000
9. Hartford, Conn.	5	3,732,000
10. Louisville, Ky.	3	2,990,000
11. Pittsburgh, Pa.	4	2,755,000
12. Augusta, Geo.	6	2,625,000
13. Albany, N. Y.	7	2,492,000
14. Richmond, Va.	3	2,115,000
15. Savannah	4	1,990,000
16. Salem	7	1,750,000
17. New Haven	4	1,678,000
18. Cincinnati	7	1,600,000
19. Lexington, Ky.	2	1,517,000
20. Mobile	1	1,500,000
21. Troy, N. Y.	5	1,475,000
22. Newark, N. J.	3	1,408,000
23. New Bedford	4	1,300,000
24. Uicca	4	1,260,000
25. Petersburg, Va.	3	1,170,000
26. Rochester, N. Y.	5	1,160,000
27. Washington, D. C.	3	1,029,000
28. Wilmington, N. C.	3	1,000,000
Total in 25 cities	194	\$130,547,000
Total in other parts U. S.	574	73,000,000
Total in U. States	768	\$209,531,000

REMARKS.

The capital of Banks in Charleston, S. C. and in Nashville, Tenn., includes the amount allotted to branch banks in other towns, and not fixed.

It will be observed that Hartford, Conn., ranks high in the list; indeed Hartford may be considered one of the wealthiest cities in the United States in proportion to its population.

The amounts of banking capital above stated are by no means indicative of the relative wealth or of business done at the several places named. There are several cities and towns not mentioned where there is a large export and import trade and much wealth. Among these, we may especially mention Buffalo, Cleveland, St. Louis, Charleston, Mass., Brooklyn, Norfolk, Nantucket and New London. The amount of bank capital at Mobile is very small, while its exports are equal to ten millions annually.

The twenty-eight cities named above, it will be observed, have about two-thirds of the Banking Capital of the Union; and it may be added, that they have also continually in their vaults a still larger portion of the specie in the country.—While the country banks enjoy the largest share of the circulation, in proportion to their capital, the city banks, it is well known, have much the greatest proportion of deposits, which are equally a source of profit and advantage with the circulation.—*N. Y. Express.*

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CONFERENCES.

The Conferences for the past year have closed their sessions, and the following table exhibits the number of members in each, as compared with returns of 1846, showing the increase or decrease in each year:

Numbers Last Year.	Increase.	Decrease.	
Baltimore	68,725	69,398	543
Philadelphia	50,123	49,306	918
Providence	13,357	13,106	251
New Jersey	30,007	30,957	110
New York	13,355	13,370	35
New England	46,907	48,349	1242
N. Hampshire	10,384	10,236	158
Troy	25,327	27,310	992
Vermont	7,943	8,648	805
Black River	15,019	16,574	657
Pittsburgh	42,368	42,952	326
Ononda	25,775	26,191	405
Maine	29,281	21,433	1152
Erie	20,143	20,437	294
Rock River	18,013	18,210	694
North Ohio	26,012	27,161	1118
Genesee	26,682	27,305	623
Ohio	62,198	65,994	3786
Iowa	8,440	7,717	723
North Indiana	26,002	27,336	1074
Michigan	16,544	16,705	224
Illinois	24,159	26,210	1048
Indiana	30,745	32,530	1785
Liberia	890	790	70

It will be seen that there has been, on the whole, a decrease of more than twelve thousand—a most mortifying fact, especially when it is remembered that 1846 in the returns presented a decrease of about the same number. The Conferences marked with an asterisk are those in which a decrease was reported in 1846.—*[Northern Advocate.]*

STEAMBOAT TRAVELLING.

From the very able report of the St. Louis Committee to the Chicago Convention officers, we make the following table, showing the length of that part of the principal western rivers navigable by steamboats:

Mississippi, from the Gulf, to St. Anthony's Falls	2200 miles.
Missouri, from its mouth to the foot of the Rapids	2000 do
Red River, to head of navigation	1100 do
Ohio to Pittsburgh	1000 do
Arkansas, to mouth of the Neesho and Verdigris	630 do
Tennessee, to Chattanooga	450 do
Wabash, to Lafayette	300 do
Illinois, to Ottawa	250 do
Cumberland, to Nashville	200 do
Osage	200 do
Total	8365 do

MR. ADAMS'S EARLY LESSONS.—John Quincy Adams in early life, received lessons in morals and religious duties from his parents, which were never effaced from his mind. His excellent mother, in 1778, wrote to him these words:—Great learning and superior abilities, should you ever possess them, will be of little value and of small estimation, unless virtue, honor, integrity, and truth, are cherished by you. Adhere to the rules

and principles early instilled in your mind, and remember that you are responsible to your God.—Dear as you are to me, I would much rather prefer that you would find a grave in the ocean which you have crossed, than to see you an immoral, graceless child." In the last conversation, Mr. Adams expressed his astonishment at the insensibility of men holding public station to the great truths of Christianity, and the indifference with which they viewed the worship of the high God and the institution of religion.

EPPE'S MURDERER.

Eppe's supposed murderer of Muir, was carried through Wilmington last week, in charge of Major Vaughan, of Va.

The following account of his arrest is copied from the *Galveston News* of the 2d inst.

EPPE'S SUPPOSED MURDERER OF MUIR.—This individual is probably known by reputation to some of our readers, for having been charged with the murder of Muir, about four miles from Petersburg, Va., two years ago. Eppe was a resident there, with a family and large property. Muir held his note for a sum of money which Eppe could have easily paid. According to the report, he invited Muir to go with him on a hunting excursion, and, as he believed took this opportunity to kill Muir, for no other known reason than to avoid the payment of the note. The body was buried in the woods, and the murder was unknown for a considerable time. Eppe was not then being suspected, nor the absence of Muir accounted for. Subsequently the body was found, but Eppe had made his escape. He caused it to be announced that he himself was dead, in consequence of which he was not pursued immediately. Meantime, he was travelling under the assumed name of Judge Shelby. Under this name he came to Texas, about a year ago, and stopped at Austin for about six months. While there, his identity with Eppe appears to have been detected, and information to this effect was sent to Virginia. Upon proper evidence, the Governor of that State made a requisition for him upon the Governor of Texas, which was given in charge to suitable persons, who have for some time back been on the search. Eppe having some intimation of his danger, left Austin last October, and it was not till very lately that his whereabouts was discovered, near the Falls of the Brazos. The person commissioned for that purpose, was promptly furnished with authority by Governor Wood, and succeeded, a few days ago, in securing Eppe alias Judge Shelby. He was brought to Austin last Friday, and was lodged in jail, secured in irons. He was to leave Austin by the stage on the next day for Houston, and was expected in this city by the next boat, on his way to stand his trial under the laws of Virginia.—Gov. Wood is entitled to credit for the prompt assistance he has rendered in apprehending this refugee from justice. Eppe has his family, plantation, and nearly one hundred negroes, still in the vicinity of Petersburg. The above information has been given us by a gentleman just from Austin.

A REMARKABLE ADMISSION.

In the course of one of Mr. McKay's five minutes' speeches, recently, he thus distinctly admitted that the Democracy had brought on the war, and that the Whigs could not be expected to vote for taxes which the Locofocos lacked the nerve to lay:

Mr. McKay said he regretted exceedingly that his friends on this side of the House had not brought themselves up to vote for the proposition (contained in his substitute) for a tax on tea and coffee. If they had not nerve enough to vote for it they had no right to expect the other side of the House would. We (said he) are the persons who have brought on this war, and we are properly responsible for all its consequences. [Cries of laughter.] and we ought to provide the means for carrying it on. What do you suppose the whole amount of this enormous tax will be, of which gentlemen are so afraid? I have a number of tabs before me, which I will publish, that the country may see what this monstrous tax upon tea and coffee amounts to. It amounts to a charge of only thirteen cents upon each individual in the United States.

LIBERIA.—The Journal of Commerce has an article on Liberia, in which it remarks that the existence of an independent republic of free blacks on the continent, comprising a population of 80,000 souls, including natives who have been incorporated into the colony, is one of the most remarkable phenomena of modern times. This estimate was given by Gov. Roberts on the third of January last, and is no doubt essentially correct.

"In this growing colony," says the Journal, "which now extends 200 miles along the coast, the English language is that which will ultimately prevail, and is already spoken to a great extent."

HOW SPIDERS MAKE BRIDGES.

Some of the most distinguished naturalists in the world believe that spiders have the art of crossing streams of water on bridges of their own making. Mr. Spencer relates the following curious fact: "Having placed a large full-grown spider on a cane upright in the midst of a stream of water, he saw it descend the cane several times, and remount when it had arrived at the surface of the water. Suddenly he lost sight of it, wholly; but a few minutes afterward, to his great astonishment he perceived it quietly pursuing its own way on the other side of the stream. Having spun two threads along the cane, it had cut one of them, which, carried by the wind, had become attached to some object on the bank; and so served the spider as a bridge across the water."

WHO'S TO BLAME.

A band of depredaters which had hitherto defied the police of Paris, has recently been discovered and apprehended. Listen to the opening examination of their leader, Thibier, and say where the wrong lies:— "How old are you?" "As far as I can judge, about 45." "What is your profession?" "That of a thief." "What was your father?" "A thief likewise, and died upon the scaffold." "And your mother?" "A thief also, and died in the prison of Grenoble." "And, when you were thus left alone, why sought you not another trade?" "Because I was driven from door to door; because no institution is open, either to those who sin or whose fathers have sinned before them!"

SELLING A FREE BOY.

A man named John Parker, (real name supposed to be Kirkman,) from Guilford county, was arrested on Saturday, for selling a free negro boy to Mr. Richard Grant, of this town. He was yesterday afternoon before a Court of Magistrates, and fully committed for trial at the next Superior Court. The boy is named Ned, about 15 years old, and came with Parker to this place.—*[Wilmington Commercial.]*

BOSWELL AND DR. JOHNSON.

Boswell and Dr. Johnson were conversing on the conduct of a planter who so fogged his slave that he died. The Doctor thundered savagely. "Well, but," said Boswell, deprecatingly, "I have always held the man with a black face to be a connecting link between a man and brute." "Sir," said Dr. Johnson, rolling his huge eyes from side to side, "and I have always held the man with a black heart to be a connecting link between a brute and the devil."

RAILROADS.

The railroads completed in the United States, and in use extend to 5,780 miles, at a first cost of \$122,525,628. All this has been effected in 16 years. About \$15,000,000 per annum are now expended in railroad construction.