

SEA BIRD AND LAND BIRD. EDITH THOMAS. Low on the earth I had my birth In a sunny field where the days were long; There as I lay I heard the spray Of the grass in June growing deep and strong. Fast the days flew, And I followed, too, And saluted the sun with my slender song. Hear me, thou sea bird, matchless in flight, Shaping thy course over the surge white; In the making of things, Strength lend to thy wings, Nor strength, but only the lover's desire. Now am I blest With the field's content, In the grassy dale where I make my nest— Say, carol clear— Thou by the soundful sea?

N.C. EXPERIMENT STATION.

By H. B. Battle, Director. The objects for which the establishment of the Experiment Station were desired were two-fold: 1st. To protect the farmers of the State from the fraudulent fertilizers then flooding the market, to exercise the proper control of the trade by a system of inspecting all brands legally on sale in the State, and by a chemical analysis of these samples to ascertain if their qualities were up to a certain guaranteed standard.

2nd. To carry on experiments in the field (in the language of the Code) "On the nutrition and growth of plants with a view to ascertain what fertilizers are best suited to the various crops of this State, and whether other crops may not be advantageously grown on its soil."

As to whether the Station is fulfilling the requirements in respect to the first, in the proper control of the fertilizer trade, the following statement will show. 1. Prior to 1887 no less than 125 brands of fertilizers were sold in the State, and of such a character that no confidence could be placed in them or their qualities. A good fertilizer producing excellent crops the first year might prove worthless the next. The farmers had absolutely no redress. On every hand fraudulent fertilizers were sold and no farmer could by any possible way tell whether three-fourths or nine tenths was said. The people had lost all confidence in their sale and at the time of the establishment of the Experiment Station scarcely 40,000 tons were sold annually.

2. After the law went into force, 80 out of these 125 fertilizers were driven from the State, and the remainder were of a grade improved in quality and have continued to improve ever since. The following extract from the Station's Report, for 1886, will give to our farmers some idea of the improvement of the fertilizers sold.

The average per cent. of available phosphoric acid has increased from \$7.40 in 1880 to \$8.69 in 1886; the average per cent. of potash has increased from \$1.50 in 1880 to \$2.30 in 1886, while the per cent of ammonia remains remarkably near one figure for all the years except 1883, when ammoniacs were unusually scarce. Thus the valuation of the average fertilizer, using the prices of 1886 for all analyses alike, has, with a few fluctuations, steadily climbed up from \$21.04 per ton in 1880 to \$24.57 per ton in 1886, and \$23.14 in 1886. The most remarkable thing is that during this period, 1880 to 1886, the actual cash prices paid by North Carolina farmers for these fertilizers has decreased 25 per cent., while the quality or grade has improved 14 per cent. This means that North Carolina farmers could get, in 1886, for three millions of dollars what they had to pay for millions for in 1880—yes, and get an article one-seventh better than the 1880 article was.

A Well-Founded Superstition. Omaha World. Omaha Boy—"It's all nonsense about Friday being an unlucky day, isn't it, pa?" Father—"Who says so?" "This paper mentions a lot of things that happened on Friday—George Washington was born on Friday—" "He was killed by the doctors." "Napoleon was born on Friday—" "He died a prisoner at St. Helena." "Victoria was married on Friday—" "Her eldest son hasn't sense enough to come in when it rains." "Shakespeare was born on Friday—" "And is now branded as a literary thief, while his fair fame is given to a professional bootler who ought to have been in the penitentiary." "Bunker Hill was fought on Friday—" "And lost by the Americans." "America was discovered on Friday—" "The people on this part of it are dying of consumption for want of free wool."

"The Mayflower landed on Friday—" "And the American who cherishes a family Bible which came over in it is laughed at." "The Declaration of Independence was signed on Friday—" "And the people it made independent have become the helpless serfs of a pack of partisan wire-pullers, jobbers and demagogues."

The Blair Bill in the Senate. Phil. Times, Ind. Rep. Thirty-nine Senators, some of whom believe that the Federal Government should do everything from running the railroads to educating the children, and some of whom believe nothing of the kind, voted for the Blair bill yesterday, passing it through the Senate by a majority of ten. Those who did not believe the bill ought to pass voted for it for the same reason that a woman is once said to have married her importunate suitor—to get rid of him. They thought the easiest way to get rid of Blair and his cranky measure was to pass it and let the House or the President give it a final quietus. The twenty-nine Senators who voted squarely against it were more than many, however, than those who

FIFTIETH CONGRESS. FIRST SESSION.

Resolution of Inquiry into Imminent Mail Service. A Senate resolution of inquiry into the expediency of mail service in House. SENATE.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16.—On motion of Mr. Hanson, the Senate passed a resolution of inquiry into the expediency of mail service in House. The resolution offered by Mr. Plumb some weeks ago, directing an inquiry as to the causes of imminent mail service, was taken up for consideration.

Discussion upon the resolution took rather a wide latitude. In his course Mr. Plumb said some strong words in respect to matters in the departments were kept secret, and he protested against there being any secret in the mail service. He declared that he considered secret sessions of the Senate to be entirely unnecessary, except, perhaps, when there was a treaty pending which ought to be considered in secret, and he proposed that the Senate should be more open in its proceedings.

Death of a Lady whom He Wood as Maid and Wife. RICHMOND, Va., February 12.—The death of Mrs. Sarah Elmira Shelton, who died yesterday at No. 1,000 East Clay street, this city, and was interred to-day, revives recollections of Virginia's great poet and litterateur, Edgar A. Poe. This lady was the only one who could speak authoritatively of the last few months Poe spent in Richmond.

Mrs. Shelton was in the seventy-eighth year of her age at the time of her death. When Poe was preparing to enter the University of Virginia, in 1825, he first met this lady, whose maiden name was Sarah Elmira Royter. Her addresses were rejected and she married a merchant named Shelton. Poe afterward married his cousin, Miss Virginia Clemm, on May 16, 1836. She died in New York, January 30, 1847.

In July, 1849, Poe returned to Richmond, and finding his first love then a widow, he renewed his attentions, and it was rumored that an engagement existed between them. This Mrs. Shelton denied. It is stated, however, that Poe in a letter to his mother-in-law, Mrs. Clemm, informed her that his marriage in this city would take place in October, 1849. The expected bride was supposed to be Mrs. Shelton.

Poe left Richmond September 30, presumably to bring Mrs. Clemm here to witness the marriage ceremony. A few days later came the news of his illness in a Baltimore hospital, and on October 6th the sad intelligence of his death was received here. It was significant that Mrs. Shelton immediately went into mourning.

New England Farmers "Protected." Springfield Republican, Ind. Rep. We hear much talk about how New England farmers have been benefited by the protection afforded to them. They have been helped to this extent:

Table showing agricultural products and their prices. Columns include 'The agricultural product' and 'Increase per cent'. Items include Wheat, Corn, Potatoes, etc.

Thus, under the low tariff of 1846 and 1857, New England farmers enjoyed a prosperity never since equalled. It is Western competition, not foreign, that is crowding them out of their markets. And it is the veriest rot to talk about protecting them with a higher tariff on peas and beans.

CURRENT COMMENT.

"The Division ran through States and parties in a manner to show that the bill has no real support in public sentiment anywhere, and it may be regarded as dead. Mr. Blair's final speech in behalf of his pet measure could hardly have helped it, and he showed his "crankiness" in nothing more than in the charge that the opposition came from Jesuits, one of whom he declared was employed on the staff of every great newspaper for the purpose of helping to destroy the public school system of the country.—N. Y. Times, Ind. Rep.

"The advocacy of this Blair bill by its author has been long and tedious, but while he has been prosing before a yawning Senate and burdening the records with a mass of documentary evidence more or less irrelevant to the question as it stands to-day, the opportunity has been given the better sort of opinion, North and South, to be heard in condemnation of the scheme. So strong and so unanimous in this opinion, especially among educators of the West, whose views command respect, that it will be surprising if it fails to have its effect upon the action of the Senate. Indeed, the Blair bill as now presented to the Senate is stripped of all its earlier pretensions to appear as a great moral necessity and stands on the same footing as other jobs involving patronage whose impropriety is never questioned.—Boston Post, Ind. Dem.

"In defending the internal tax upon whiskey Alexander Hamilton pursued the same line of argument. The taxation of spirits, he maintained, would encourage the substitution of malt liquors; and thus indirectly promote temperance. He said that ardent spirits were 'one of the fittest objects of revenue,' and were taxed in other countries to an extent which bore no comparison with what had been done in the United States. To the plea that the whiskey tax would endanger a new manufacture he responded, with a touch of humor, that as this infant had 'arrived at maturity' it was as fit an object of taxation as any other. There was then one distillery in Pennsylvania to every eighty inhabitants. In the debate the First Congress James Madison, who voted for the first whiskey tax, also advocated a high duty on liquors as being in harmony with popular sentiment and as tending to discourage the use of ardent spirits.—Phil. Record, Dem.

Washington Gazette: J. Norflet Harris, son of Thomas W. Harris, Esq., proprietor of Passos Springs, in the town of Passos, in the county of Lincoln, N. O. and Texas Valley R. R. and H. O. may get it. Harris was dogged the claim of a similar character before several months. It was a case of mistaken identity.

Henderson Gold Leaf: The death of Mr. W. P. Hewkins, at his home near the city of Richmond, Va., is well known citizen and a good man at heart. He died of pneumonia after a short illness, aged 60 years.

Carriage Blade: On last Saturday evening, while on his way home, Mr. Sprague was being frightened, ran away and threw his out of his buggy, and painfully though not fatally injured him.

REVENUE'S CURE FOR BARRIERS' CARE.

Man's burden, many a labor, Many a fretting care, Busy footsteps coming, going, Little time for prayer. Duties waiting on the threshold, Will not be denied; Others coming round the corner, Crowding to their side. How shall I these numbers master? How shall I get through? How keep calm amid the tumult? Lord, what shall I do? Thou canst still the wildest conflict, Bid the billows cease; Thou canst still earth's busiest moment With Thy perfect peace. Give Thy strength to meet my weakness, Give a heart at rest; Give Thy peace to my troubled spirit, Give me Thy perfect rest.

RELIGIOUS MISCELLANY. —Christ has lived and He asks for living followers; He has died, in sacrifice; He asks the spirit of self-sacrifice in you. —Bishop Huntington. A deliberate purpose to practice things which one's conscience clearly condemns, is a knife that cuts the tie of displeasure and separates one from Christ. —"This same Jesus" is one of the chief watchwords of his faith. I constantly seek to see and I think it will be my comfort in the dark valley.—P. R. Haasger. —Losses on earth, left him by name, But that is free from blot or blame. Despairing, bowed with care and dread, As if he had, he said, "I have my name." —"I have pleaded for Christ—have His note of hand—which is my support, my refuge and my aid, and though the world should shun me, I will not be parted from you, even unto the end of the world." If Christ be with me, what shall I fear? If He is mine, all the terrors of death are nothing more than a spider's web.—Chrysostom. —And so in nature taught is hastened, taught delight. The worlds above and around us move on in their unvarying course, and in their unbroken line, point succession until that time when time shall be no longer—and then, precisely when the clock shall fall and the heavens depart as a scroll when it is rolled together, and the mountains and islands be moved out of their places, and the world be no more.—Chrysostom. —Light is given to be given—"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. A soul that is not lighted by the love of God, though it is instrumentally, a soul is found that others may be led to the fountain of life." —The Lenox (a) Time Table relates the death of a man in Taylor county under the following circumstances: A. W. Polite, living in the eastern part of the county, met an untimely death on Wednesday of this week. He was a man well known in this community and was quite well when he was last seen. He was struck by lightning, and he died almost instantly.

CHICAGO DEMOCRATS. Beat on Capturing the National Convention. (By Telegraph to the Morning Star.) CHICAGO, Feb. 13.—A big delegation of Chicago Democrats, headed by General H. Smith, left for Washington to-day, to capture the National Convention, held on the Pennsylvania limited, bent on capturing the Democratic National Convention. The delegation is an imposing one, including bankers, hotel men, journalists, lawyers and representative local politicians of the party, and it goes to Washington with confidence in its ability to secure the coveted prize. Subscription to the required fund already exceeds \$25,000, and guarantees have been given beyond this amount up to the possible limit of fifty thousand dollars. The Jackson League will send a large delegation forward to-morrow evening.

MISSISSIPPI. Conf. dejected Soldiers and Sailors to be Penioned. JACKSON, Feb. 17.—Senate to-day adopted the House bill to pay \$30 yearly pensions to officers, soldiers and sailors, and their survivors, who served in the federal army from Mississippi, and who are now unable to labor because of injuries received in the service. Thirteen prisoners escaped Friday night from jail at Newark, Ohio, by digging through the floor. Two had been sentenced to the penitentiary.

POLITICAL POINTS. —It is gratifying to note that the press of the country accepts the decreased senatorial majority for the Blair bill as decided by the voters of the Democratic-un-American measure.—N. Y. Star, Dem. —The leading Republican organ, though treating Mr. Blair's letter editorially as a "withdrawal," continues to print letters protesting that the Blair measure must and will accept "the World, Ind. Dem." —The Democrats are horribly afraid that Mr. Blair does not mean what he says, but that he is only a tool of the great many Republicans arming and talking as though they doubted his sincerity.—N. Y. World, Ind. Rep. —If the House Committee on Manufactures begins its investigation it might come to Philadelphia and investigate the Standard Oil Trust's method of freezing out independent refiners.—Ph. Times, Ind. Rep. —Mr. Blair is a great humbug. He made his immense fortune in ten years out of the same system that kept workmen, although getting good wages from laying up money except by the most painful economy.—Troy Press, Dem. —The falling off in the value of farm property in Illinois since the war has been estimated at \$200,000,000. Coincidence with the State there has been a very marked increase of manufacturing establishments in the cities and towns as growing space.—Ph. Record, Dem.

FLIPS AND FLASHES. —A shabby coat is no disgrace, but it is a great impediment to the successful negotiation of a small loan.—Fort Worth Gazette. —When Time grows lame and limps along, With painful steps and slow, Then love has turned to surfeit song, And Hope has lost its glow. —For the best of those who are getting tired of "Truly raw" as a cure for stammering the following is respectfully submitted: Pronounce rapidly "She sells sea shells along the sea shore." —A south-west Missouri attorney is reported to have made the following remarks in closing a case: Owing to the perjury and the ignorance of the jury and the prejudice of the Judge, I expect to lose this case.—New York Star. —A friend warns us to fasten our doors and windows securely at night for fear burglars are a good, well-to-do burglar, with money in his pocket, would be a godsend to us at present. —Everything is wide open and waiting for you.—Smithville (Ga.) News. —The careless use of the editorial "we" frequently gets newspaper men into trouble, and the use of the word "we" to represent the people of the whole country is sometimes as fatal—at least this is probably the opinion of the editor of the Springfield Union, who recently said "We are 8,100,000 bases of peanuts last year."—Rochester Post-Express. —A man walks 921 miles in six days, and the exploit is heralded far and wide as something phenomenal. Another man might read 921 pages in the Congressional Record in the same length of time and claim to notoriety would be hooded at. Yet in point of real endurance how immeasurably his achievement would overtop the other.—Chicago Tribune. —Oxford Orphan's Friend: The question of navigation has been a very serious one for the past month. The mud and water on the streets of Oxford have been rather too shallow for large boats and too deep and dangerous for small ones.

PENNSYLVANIA. The Strike Situation in the Reading Coal District. By Telegram to the Morning Star. WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—Dispatches from various points in the Reading coal district indicate that there is a good deal of discussion about the mine owners' action in declaring the strike off. The railroad company's employees unanimously denounce Lewis, and there is a large force of miners who refuse to be bound by his action, and a strong effort is being made to have the miners' organizations repudiate him. The sheriff of Boone county, Ark., and a posse of four men, while attempting to arrest G. W. Middleton, of Chadwick, Mo., were first met by Charles Richardson, one of the sheriff's men, who was killed, and another seriously wounded; Middleton making good his escape.

THE READING R. R. STRIKE.

Testimony before the Congressional Investigation Committee. PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 18.—The Congressional Investigation Committee resumed its inquiry into the Reading railroad strike this morning. The first witness called was General Superintendent Swigard, of the Reading R. R. Co., who was recalled to state this morning the first witness called to enable him to put in evidence the agreement made with employees of the railroad company, and the vouchers showing that Lee, one of the Labor organization, had been in the pay of the company while he was at Pottsville, at the outbreak of the trouble. Swigard read the clause of the agreement which guaranteed the trial before discharged for any cause. The clause of the agreement which was recalled by the committee was that if any accident had occurred through carelessness, the Des voucher was given to the company for the amount of \$50 a day. The Philadelphia Record, who was called, he said that he had been investigating the coal trade and the management of the Reading Coal and Iron Company for many years, and as a consequence the Record had gone into the coal business for the benefit of the people of Philadelphia, and the first witness called by the Record was called. He said that the company charged \$1.80 a ton from a mine now, and did the same service twenty-five years ago for \$1.25. The witness quoted figures to show that coal could be bought at Port Richmond for 95 cents less per ton if wanted for shipment to Boston or New York, and was demanded if the very same coal was intended for the Philadelphia trade. Norris said last year the Reading Railroad Company had earned \$10 per year, and the cost of the road was one of the most profitable roads in the country. Its losses since the strike prices had gone up again. 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