## Poetry.

### BACKBONE.

When you see a fellow mortal
Without fixed and fearless views,
Hanging on the skirts of others,
Walking in their cast-off shoes,
Bowing low to wealth or favor,
With abject, uncovered head,
Ready to retract or waver,
Willing to be drove or lead;
Walk yourself with firmer bearing,
Throw your moral shoulders back,
Show your spine has nerve and marrow—
Just the thing which his must lack.
A stronger word
Was never heard
In sense and tone,
Than this, backbone.

When you see a theologian
Hugging close some ugly creed,
Fearing to reject or question
Dogmas which his priest may read,
Holding back all noble feeling,
Choking down each manly view,
Caring more for forms and symbols
Than to know the Good and True,
Walk yourself with firmer bearing,
Throw your moral shoulders back,
Show your spine has nerve and marrow—
Just the thing which his must lack.
A stronger word
Was never heard
In sense and tone,
Than this, backbone.

Whene'er you see a politician
Crawling through contracted holes,
Begging for some fat position,
In the ring or at the polls,
With no sterling manhood in him,
Nothing stable, broad or sound,
Destitute of pluck or ballast,
Doublesided all around,
Walk yourself with firmer bearing,
Throw your moral shoulders back,
Show your spine has nerve and marrow—
Just the things which his must lack.
A stronger word
Was never heard
In sense and tone,
Than this, backbone.

A modest song, and plainly told—
The text is worth a mine of gold;
For many a man must sadly lack
A noble stiffness in the back.

### NO.

No home, no friends—
No one that lends,
No hopes that fill my heart with pleasure,
No hat—no shoes—
No pleasant news,
No earthly thing to call a treasure.

No room, no bed—
No fine silk spread,
No dressing gown to wrap me up in;
No gloves, no socks,
No black silk stocks,
No-thing like these for me to get in.

No kin, no wife—
No love for life,
No telling what will come to-morrow,
No place to stay,
No joy to-day,
No friendly smile to sooth my sorrow.

No love, no light—
No visions bright,
No thought for me that's gay or funny,
No sleep—no rest—
No kind bequest,
And what is worse than all—NO MONEY.

—*Lay of the strap'd printer.*

### RISING IN THE WORLD.

You should bear constantly in mind that nine tenths of us are, from the very nature and necessities of the world, born to gain our livelihood by the sweat of the brow. What reason have we, then, to presume that our children are not to do the same? If they be, as now and then one will be, endowed with extraordinary powers of mind, those extraordinary powers of mind may have an opportunity of developing themselves; and, if they never have that opportunity, the harm is not very great to us or to them. Nor does it hence follow that the descendants of laborers are always to be laborers. The path upward is steep and long, to be sure. Industry, care, skill, excellence in the present parent, lay the foundation of a rise, under more favorable circumstances, for the children. The children of these take another rise; and, by-and-by, the descendants of the present laborer become gentlemen. This is the natural progress. It is by attempting to reach the top at a single leap that so much misery is produced in the world. Society may aid in making the laborers virtuous and happy, by bringing children up to labor with steadiness, with care, and with skill; to show them how to do as many useful things as possible; to do them all in the best manner; to set them an example in industry; sobriety, cleanliness and neatness; to make all these habitual to them, so that they never shall be liable to fall into the contrary; to let them always see a good living proceeding from labor, and thus to remove from them the temptation to get at the goods of others by violent and fraudlent means, and to keep far from their minds all the inducements to hypocrisy and deceit.—*Cobbett.*

### A SCHOOL-BOY'S COMPOSITION ON THE BULL FROG.

The bull frog is green. If I could jump like one I could beat a pig or two pigs. Frogs is a bald headed animal but he can't draw timber for a meetin' house. If I was a frog it would hurt me to stand on my head to see the President sworn in. Jane Martin wears a red dress and hopped at me when I didn't know it. It scared me so I jumped too. If frogs could run with a fire machine it would be fun to go too for they are all Baptists. When they growl they don't bite. Mother melted the bottom out of her tea-pot, and Lordy, how dad ripped about it. Geese have more feathers than young frogs, but geese don't give milk. Nor does a wild frog. When ashes are worth fifteen cents a bushel is the best time to go frogging. Little frogs peep, but who is afraid? Scrambled frogs are nice in cold coffee, but as for me, give me liberty or death, but no frogs or a revolution in France. I'm goin' to sell my dog and see then if he wont fetch something. Frogs never have the mumps, but they always come with a spring.

THOMAS SHINE.

FIVE WAYS TO DESTROY ANTS:—1. Pour copiously hot water as near the boiling point as possible, down their burrows, and over their hills, and repeat the operation several times.

2. Entrap the ants by means of narrow sheets of stiff paper, or strips of board, covered with some sweet, sticky substance. The ants are attracted by the sweet, and, sticking fast, can be destroyed as often as a sufficient number are entrapped.

3. Lay fresh bones around their haunts. They will leave everything else to attack these, and when thus accumulated can be dipped in hot water.

4. Pour two or three teaspoonsfuls of coal tar into their holes, and they will abandon the nest.

5. Bury a few slices of onions in their nests, and they will abandon them.

### SPEECH OF THE HON. WM. B. SHEPARD, OF PASSQUOTANK,

*In the Senate of North Carolina, on the bill to ascertain the sense of the people on calling a Convention.*

An engrossed bill from the House of Commons proposing to take a vote of the people on the propriety of calling a Convention to amend the Constitution being before the Senate, Mr. Wm. B. Shepard spoke as follows:

I have so often, Mr. Speaker, during this session addressed the Senate, that it is with great reluctance I again intrude upon it. I feel, however, that some reply should be made to the remarks of the gentleman from Rutherford, who has just taken his seat, as well as to those which fell from the gentleman from Buncombe yesterday. The bill upon your table proposes to take the voice of a majority of the people upon the propriety of calling a Convention to amend the Constitution. The Constitution points out precisely the mode of calling Conventions, and amending the instrument. The gentleman from Rutherford has made the discovery, that amendments to the Constitution, made through the instrumentality of a Convention, were more suitable to the genius of our people, and more republican, than when made by act of the Legislature, which act is afterwards to be ratified by the people themselves. It seems to me, Mr. Speaker, if either of the two modes of amendment, sanctioned by the Constitution, can be called particularly republican in its character, the one by bill is undoubtedly entitled to this distinguishing trait. When an amendment is made by an act of the Legislature which is afterwards submitted to the people for their approval, a vote is taken upon the proposed measure alone; it must stand upon its own merits, and not rely upon extraneous circumstances for success. On the contrary, should a Convention be called, the whole Constitution will be laid before that body, and such amendments as it may think proper to make, will be submitted in gross to the people; the consequence will be, some few popular amendments will be incorporated with others of doubtful expediency, and the popular amendments made to carry others which, if left to themselves, would not receive the votes of a majority of the people. I am not, therefore, Sir, at all surprised that both the gentlemen from Rutherford and Buncombe are so unwilling to see Free Suffrage, by itself and alone, submitted to the people. If they could have persuaded the Senate to reject the Free Suffrage bill, and retain it for agitation, as a proper clamor, to urge the necessity for an unlimited Convention, they might have stood some chance of succeeding. As it is now, however, when the cry for Convention is reduced to its own merits exclusively, I think the prospect of success very small; because there is not, in fact, the slightest necessity for a Convention, nor any reason why the people should be subjected to its unavoidable expense and turmoil. There is no amendment of the Constitution desired by a constitutional majority of the people, which cannot be procured more certainly, and at less risk and trouble, by legislative enactment than by a Convention. This feature of our Constitution, so far from deserving the denunciation it has received from some gentlemen, is, in my judgment, its wisest, its most conservative feature. It is the very feature which gives to the people themselves the sole and exclusive right of deciding what and how many amendments shall be made to the Constitution. The gentleman from Rutherford says, were a Convention called, it would be composed of the wisdom, the gravity, and the experience of the State. I am afraid, sir, should he live to see a Convention assembled in North Carolina, his Utopian visions will be sadly disappointed. It will be composed of precisely the same sort of people as those who compose this Senate; a little wiser perhaps, probably not much older, or more experienced, but they will be men governed by like passions and prejudices with ourselves, each one struggling to obtain some power or advantage for his own section, and thinking it meritorious to do so. This natural result of a Convention was perfectly well known to the framers of our Constitution, and, for that reason, they made a vote of two-thirds of the Legislature necessary to the call; and that it should never be done upon light and frivolous reasons, a mode was pointed out by which the sense of the people could be taken upon all proposed amendments.

A very large majority of the people seem to desire Free Suffrage. This subject has been much discussed in two Gubernatorial campaigns, and a bill has been passed, submitting that question to the people; should the change be approved of by such a majority as would justify a change of the organic law, it will be made without disturbing any other feature of the instrument. Should it hereafter be found that a decided majority of the people are in favor of the mode of electing the judges by the people, or of altering the basis of representation as now established, let each of these questions separately and distinctly, be submitted to the people, that they may be fairly discussed, and fully understood by them, and then let the vote be taken upon each proposition by itself. I do not wish a Convention, where the friends of those measures could combine, and force the people to take them all, in order to get some one measure they might desire.

It is, therefore, Mr. Speaker, perfectly manifest that so far as amending the Constitution in any manner that may be the wish of a constitutional majority of the people of North Carolina, is the object, there is not the slightest necessity for a Convention.

Gentlemen, therefore, who are urging a Convention so vehemently, and who will be satisfied with nothing but a Convention, must have some ulterior object in view. They have even spurned Free Suffrage, the object of their first love, which, if I mistake not, was, two years ago, so fondly cherished, and petted upon this floor, by all those valiant gentlemen, who so gallantly defended the rights of the down-trodden and oppressed West. Why is this so, Sir? We might, for some time, look for a solution of this mystery, if the gentlemen from Buncombe had not, in his speech yesterday, kindly furnished us with a solution. I requested the reporters to note that speech carefully, and to publish it verbatim, that the whole people of North Carolina might know the real cause of all this uproar about a Convention. It seems, then, that a Convention is desired by the gentlemen from Buncombe and those who act with him, not because the West is oppressed by our present Constitution, *but solely to change the basis of representation, that the West, which has now the command of the House of Commons, may likewise get the Control of the Senate, and then, says the gentleman, we can extend our Railroad to Tennessee and redeem the character of North Carolina.*

Before the gentlemen from Buncombe unfurls the banner of a Convention, and inscribes upon it what he confesses to be its real object, viz: to give to the non-tax-paying counties the unlimited power of taxation, without any control whatever, I would advise him to look closely into this matter, and see what rank and cruel injustice it would work.

Let us examine the district represented by the gentleman of Buncombe, and see where, and in what, his constituents are oppressed by the provisions of the present Constitution, and compare them with the burdens thrown upon my constituents, that we may exactly understand which party has the greater right to adopt his favorite notion of rebellion or revolution; or, in any more convenient manner, to destroy the Constitution under which they live. I select, Sir, these two districts at hazard, because they afford the best defence of the present Constitution, and because they more immediately concern the gentleman and myself.

The district represented by the gentleman, is composed of the counties of Buncombe, Henderson and Yancy. It contains a population of 19,057 whites, and paid into the State Treasury in 1847, $2,152, 79. It is represented in the Senate by one member, and by four in the House of Commons. The district represented on this floor by me, has a white popluation of 8,640, and paid to the State Treasury in 1847, $2,598 98. Thus we see, Sir, that the people whom I have the honor to represent on this floor, paid into the State Treasury in 1847, $446 19 more than the constituents of the gentleman from Buncombe, and are represented in the Legislature by two members less.—Should the gentleman from Buncombe succeed in his wishes, to change the representation in the Senate, the people of Pasquotank and Perquimans, although paying largely more revenue than Buncombe, Haywood and Yancy, would be unrepresented in the Senate, and would stand as two to four in the House of Commons.

Now, Sir, I appeal to the gentleman's own fairness, and ask him if he had the power, would he commit such rank injustice as this? In what are his constituents oppressed by the present arrangements of the Constitution? They have largely the majority in the House of Commons; no bill can possibly become a law without the approval of the western members, and in the Senate his has an equal vote with my constituents, although they pay much less revenue to the State. Does the gentleman think it a grievance that, because he desires a splendid scheme of a railroad extending to Tennessee, he has not likewise the unlimited power of taxation, which would enable him to throw the larger part of the burden of such railroad upon people who have not, and never can have, any interest whatever in it?

Whatever may be the wishes of the gentleman from Buncombe on this subject, I will not believe he speaks the feelings of his people. The land of the mountain and the torrent is proverbially the abode of the free and the brave. I will not believe that, whilst they cherish so fondly the inestimable blessings of freedom, they would, knowingly, place upon any portion of their brethren a most oppressive burden. Why, then, gentlemen may say, reject a Convention? In reply, I vote against a Convention, not because I doubt the justice and fairness of the people of the West, but because I have no confidence in the politicians who would fill that Convention. The gentleman from Buncombe, who would doubtless play a conspicuous part in that Convention, should it assemble, has already told us that he desires the power, and the means, to make an extensive Railroad. Such being his wishes, he would think it all right and proper, and would be even able to convince some of our Eastern political aspirants, that the people of the State would be vastly benefitted by transferring the right to tax from those who pay to those who do not pay.

No man in the Senate is more ready than myself to strike from our Constitution any feature that is burdensome to the West, or to give them any additional guards for the protection of their persons and property. But when gentlemen get up here and coolly tell me they wish the right and power to put their hands in my pocket, and take my money without my consent, to cut down mountains and fill up valleys, from which I can, in no conceivable manner, derive any benefit, they must at least expect a very severe scuffle before they succeed.

What, Sir, was the object in the formation of government? Solely, and for no other purpose, than the protection of persons and property. Property is exclusively the creature of government. And when, to this fundamental principle of all governments, there was added, by the American revolution, the great conservative principle "that taxation and representation should go together," our ancestors supposed they had perfected the designs of this institution.

I do not believe, Sir, that the wit of man could devise a more perfect scheme for the security of the persons and property of an extended commonwealth, organized upon republican principles, than the present basis of representation, as contained in our present Constitution. The House of Commons represents persons, for although the basis is a federal one, slaves being in the eye of our law both persons and property, still the House of Commons may be said with truth purely to represent the white population of the country, as that population has a vast numerical majority, and alone speaks through the ballot-box, and controls without an effort and without dispute, the proceedings of that House. The Senate is based upon taxation, and is intended to secure the property of the different sections from invasion, or from being used for purposes alien to that property, or in which it could have and feel no interest. It is based upon the plain and obvious truth, that those persons who pay for the support of government, should have some voice in appropriating its revenues. Mr. Madison said, in the debates on the federal Constitution, that "whenever there is a danger of attack, there ought to be a constitutional power of defence." This was the opinion of one of our greatest men, before the discovery was made that perfect wisdom resided in bare majorities, whether that majority had any interest in the subject or not.

Now I would ask the gentleman from Buncombe how long would the tax-payers of the large tax paying counties of Bertie, Halifax, Warren and New Hanover, have any control over their property, if it were not for the protection afforded them in the Senate against mad schemes of internal improvement, and other prodigal waste of public money?

No persons are so prodigal, or liberal, if you please, of money, as those persons who do not draw from their own resources; and the only way to make legislative bodies economical and considerate, is to keep constantly before the eyes of the representative the responsibility to his constituents. Now, Sir, where would be the responsibility of the gentleman from Buncombe, safely entrenched in his mountains, to the people of New Hanover, after having voted to tax them twice as much as his own constituents, the whole of which tax was to be spent in giving him a good road to Tennessee?

These principles, Mr. Speaker, appear to me too plain to need much illustration; and if it were not for the agrarian notions, which, under the mask of republicanism, are insinuating themselves in society, they would meet with no dissent, because they are perfectly fair, with foundations deeply laid in the unalterable principles of truth and justice.

Since the passage of the Free Suffrage bill, and the removal of that invidious distinction which existed in all the counties, between the land holder, and all other tax-payers which was often unreasonable, I can see nothing in the Constitution to be complained of, which cannot be remedied much better by legislative enactment than by a Convention.

As to the idea which has been very industriously circulated, that a Convention would be composed by men less likely to be governed by self-interest, it is a mere delusion—a mere coinage of the brain. The inhabitants of the tax-paying portions of the State will never consent to go into a Convention, unless they are disposed to surrender at discretion—a folly of which I do not suppose them capable. It is incorrect to suppose that the Senate is organized upon aristocratic principles. Since the passage of the Free Suffrage bill, the Senate is as perfectly the representative of the poor as the rich. The true question is whether the poor man residing in the county where the property lies which pays the tax, would be more likely to know what burdens it could fairly bear, and have some sympathy with its owner, than the poor man living some hundred miles off, both a stranger in interest and feeling. It is, in fact, truly a sectional question; and whenever it is brought to an issue, the great law of self interest, which, when enlightened, is the greatest security for any people, will combine both the rich and the poor against a plan which is, in truth, nothing more or less than a scheme for legislative plunder and extortion.

To convince the Senate what little cause there is for complaint against the working of the present Constitution, I will state a remarkable fact drawn from the public records.

The following counties, viz: Burke, Cabarrus, Caldwell, Catawba, Cherokee, Cleaveland, Davidson, Davie, Guilford, Haywood, Henderson, Iredell, Macon, McDowell, Montgomery, Moore, Randolph, Rutherford, Stanly, Stokes, Surry, Wilkes and Yancy, paid taxes into the public Treasury, in 1850, amounting to $27,957 only, and received during the same year from the school fund, 31,373. Here are twenty-three western counties, entitled to some fifty members in the Legislature, receiving from the Public Treasury, exclusive of the expenses of Judges, Members of Assembly, &c., over $3,000 more than all their payments for the support of government; and yet these counties are represented by the very members that complain most of injustice done them by the present Constitution.

Mr. Speaker, if gentlemen will permit me to tender them any advice upon this subject, I would say to them, with the greatest sincerity and respect do not raise the cry of Convention or no Convention, with the hope of organizing a party upon that issue in North Carolina. Should you succeed, it will have no other result than to divide the State geographically; to embitter the two sections against each other, and for years to come, to place an insurmountable barrier to all judicious or practicable schemes of improvement. Wait until the objects of Internal Improvement which have been commenced, are finished and matured; if they are successful, they will be extended by the intelligence of the Legislature to the remotest parts of the State. Neither our Constitutions or Legislature, can be fairly blamed, that so little has been done for the cause of Internal Improvement in North Carolina. Our State is unfortunately situated, having no seaport, which, being the centre of trade, could concentrate improvement; our efforts were unconnected and desultory; the consequence of which was, much money, was lost, and many errors were unavoidably made. But certainly this unfortunate state of things will not be remedied by throwing the whole State into confusion, and upturning the old settled foundations of the Government.

The gentleman from Rutherford complains, and perhaps justly, that his section has been neglected. I can sympathize with him in such complaints. I have the honor to represent a people who know nothing of your Government except through tax collector. We have great work to be executed in our immediate neighborhood, which, if made, would add incalculably to our wealth, comfort, and even health; and yet when we come here for assistance, you refer us to the General Government, and when we go to the General Government, and urge your agents there to exert themselves in our behalf, we are met by indifference, if not by positive hostility. We have borne this state of things patiently for more than twenty years, and have not even dissolved our party ties, much less attempted to destroy those stronger or dearer ties which should bind us to the institutions and memories of our native State.

Let no gentlemen deceive themselves by the success of Free Sugrage. That question did not raise any sectional issue; it had numerous partisans in all parts of the State, and for years had been regarded by many persons as an odious individual distinction that ought to be blotted from our Constitution. The basis of representation is a very different matter; it involves the very security and protection of much the larger portion of the property which pays revenue for the support of government; and it cannot be abandoned by those persons to whose charge it is now committed, without admitting themselves unworthy of the trust confided to them. If gentlemen wish a hobby, by means of which some gubernatorial aspirant may ride into the Executive Chair, I beg them to select something that will produce less disastrous results to the best interests of the State.

As regards the bill upon your table, which proposes to consult the people upon the propriety of calling a Convention, in addition to the evils of a Convention already mentioned, this bill is liable to a very serious charge. It proposes indirectly to reach a result, in a mode directly opposed to the one mentioned in the Constitution. And this result is urged by men who, but a few days ago, made this hall ring with patriotic devotion to constitutional law. Then, the very idea of consulting the people upon a matter deeply interesting to them, raised all sorts of horrors in their minds; now, it seems, a positive injunction of the Constitution, can unhesitatingly be disregarded, when another favorite purpose is to be answered.

Well, Sir, suppose this bill passes, and a majority of the people, but not a constitutional majority of counties, express themselves favorable to the assembling of a Convention; gentlemen will be no nearer a Convention then than they are now, unless they intend to get up a Dorr rebellion, and after succeeding in a popular vote, to march to Raleigh, capture the Capitol, form a Constitution, and install a Governor, &c. I hope, whilst they are doing all this, they will not forget to send to Rhode Island and borrow that celebrated sword of the unfortunate Gov. Dorr, that the play may be correctly performed with all the appropriate costume. It remains for this Senate to decide whether they will countenance such a proceeding in law-loving, law-abiding North Carolina. Pass this bill, sent us from the House of Commons, and you will array the two sections of the State in deadly hostility to each other, and we may see, in a few months, a tumultuous assembly in this Capitol, calling themselves the people, acting over the same scenes, which but a few years ago brought the State of Rhode Island to the verge of destruction, and consigned the leaders and deluders of the people to a prision and the contempt of mankind.

* Since this table was made, I have seen the Register of the 5th of February, containing an "Address to the people of North Carolina on the subject of Constitutional Reform." This address is signed by members of the Legislature from nineteen counties. These counties compose nineteen out of the 23 counties contained in this list, intended to illustrate the unreasonableness of the complaints made against the present basis of representation. This address shows very clearly that the great grievance complained of by these gentlemen, is the mode of representation as adopted for the Senate, and that this can only be got rid of by calling what the address calls a "free Convention." In this opinion I agree with the signers of the address, and I hope the several counties will never agree to such a Convention, but will adhere to the compromise of the Constitution, and whenever it needs amendment, let it be done by the people themselves voting directly upon the subject matter, and not by politicians assembled in Convention.

Dr. Oliver C. Wiggin, of Providence, Rhode Island, bears the following testimony to the value of milk:

The nutritive value of milk, as compared with other kinds of animal food, is not generally appreciated. There is less difference between the economical value of milk and beefsteak for eggs or fish than is commonly supposed. The quantity of water in a good quality of milk is 86 per cent., in round steak 75 per cent., in fatter beef 30 per cent., in eggs about 68 per cent. From several analyses, made last winter, I estimated siribin steak, (reckoning loss from bone,) at 35 cents a pound, as dear as milk at 24 cents a quart; round steak, at 20 cents a pound, as dear as milk at 14 cents a quart; eggs, at 30 cents a dozen, as dear as milk at 20 cents a quart. Many laborers who pay 17 cents for corned beef would consider themselves hardly able to pay 10 cents for milk, when, in fact, they could as well afford to pay 15 cents. Milk is a most wholesome and economical food for either the rich or poor. It ought to be more largely used. If the money expended for veal and pork were expended for milk, I doubt not it would be an advantage both to the stomach and pocket, especially during the warm season. Relatively speaking, then, milk at 10 cents, or even 12 cents, a quart is the cheapest animal food that can be used. Whether farmers can afford to produce it cheaper is a matter for them to decide. It is very probable that were they to ask 12 cents a very large number of poor people would refrain from its use from mistaken notions of economy, notwithstanding they are excessive meat-eaters.

A young lady, the daughter of Mr. Isaiah Thomas, of New Castle, Delaware, received a severe injury in the face about four years ago, from the effects of which her lower jaw bone had grown perfectly solid and immovable. Her front teeth had been removed to enable her to receive nourishment, which had to be injected mostly in a liquid state. The inconvenience of this arrangement and the total loss of speech rendered life almost intolerable, and her case was laid before eminent surgeons of Philadelphia. After mature deliberation, two of them, Doctors Charles D. Green and J. Gilbert, undertook an operation which has scarcely a parallel in the annals of surgery. The jaw bone was sawed off below each socket, kept in motion till healed, and a new and artificial joint was the result. It is said she can now open and shut her mouth as well as ever, and can eat and talk without difficulty.

As two civil engineers were at work in the wilds of Michigan a couple of weeks ago, eighteen or twenty miles from any camp, one of them began to suspect that the other had become insane, a suspicion which was made certain when his companion came to him and said: "I wish you would hide my revolver and the axes; for I came very near killing you with them last night. I got the revolver and cocked it at your head three times; but something told me not to kill you with that, but to get the axe, and then I was commanded not to kill you then. But I am afraid I will if you don't hide them, and God knows I don't want to hurt any man." This was very pleasing information, and he did his best to persuade him to go back to the camp. Failing in this, he left him, went back alone, procured assistance and the unfortunate man is now in an asylum.

A writer in the *Country Gentlemen* says: I believe that experience has settled the somewhat anomalous fact that the sweet potato is improved by successive cultivation on the same for a series of years. The more the soil is enriched by the proper stimulants, the better will the product be both in quality and quantity. The principle of rotation does not apply in this instanee. The most successful cultivators have found this to be true by uniform experience, and the fact I know can be attested by the most reliable testimony.

Take time to deliberate; but when the hour of action arrives, stop thinking, and—go it.—*David Crockett.*

### MANSARD ROOFS.

A few years ago the monotonous style of roof used in our architecture was agreeably varied by the introduction of what is known as the Mansard roof, sometimes called the French attic. The splendid agricultural piles in Paris received some of their best graces of expression from the handsome skylines the Mansard roof gave them, and almost every American traveling abroad wondered why so handsome a roof could not be adopted in our American cities, where the large buildings usually terminated with an abrupt, sharp and unpicturesque sky-line. The Mansard roof after a time was introduced, and its peculiar beauty soon made it very popular. But like all fashions which become the rage, and which are adopted by people imitatively, without perception of the principle that governs them, the French attic has become with us an architectural infliction. The Mansard roof was designed for tall buildings. Its special purpose is to break the monotony of a massive pile, and to reduce in appearance its height. A structure that would seem awkwardly tall, with an unvaried succession of stories, has not only, by means of the Mansard roof, a more agreeable proportion. The specific purpose of this roof being recognized, the absurdity of its use in small buildings becomes at once apparent. Our builders, however, seem to lack all power of perception, and to have reduced the art of architecture to indiscriminate imitations. Everywhere now the Mansard roof confronts us. Every new cottage on the roadside, new cheap villas in those extemporized villages that line our metropolitan railways, new public buildings of every sort and degree, railroad stations all over the country—everything of the kind now, no matter if only a story high, must have its Mansard roof, with entire disregard of fitness or propriety. It is exasperating to see a good idea thus dragged into absurd and ignoble uses. As we at first hailed with pleasure the appearance of the Mansard roof, we shall now look with hope for the signs that will indicate the termination of its career. And yet, whatever may follow it will have to undergo the same experience. It is our natural way to try and appropriate big things for every little purpose.—*Appleton's Journal.*

### CURIOSITIES OF PAWNBROKING.

The following notice was recently placarded upon the walls of Paris: "Don Patriotique del' Angleterre a la France. Remise gratuite des outils engages pendant la duree de la guerre." The London Times' correspondent remarks that the admirable idea of furnishing the poor people of Paris, who, in the days of their extremity, had been obliged to pawn the means of earning their livelihood, with the tools which are now stacked in the Mont de Piete, is due to Mr. Marshall, one of the committee for the distribution of the English Charitable Fund, and possesses this special advantage—that it will not merely relieve the material condition of thousands of families, but produce a political effect of the utmost importance, and deprive the working class of the complaint which the Radical prints have already suggested that they should make against the operation of the rules by which the Mont de Piete is regulated.

During the siege no one was allowed to borrow more than 50 francs on any article, no matter what its value might be. In spite of this, the pressure for money was so great that the storerooms of the Mont de Piete became encumbered with articles, which 150,000 persons of all classes had pledged. There were no fewer than 100,000 watches and 25,000 clocks, diamond necklaces and bracelets of fabulous values. There were also evidences of the distress to which persons of rank had been reduced—one piece of lace after the other, the last cashmere shawl, or a pocket-handkerchief embroidered with a coronet, of such fine material that it was still possible to raise 3fr., the lowest figure allowed, upon it; gentlemen's gold-headed canes, even ordinary riding whips, and no fewer than 2,300 poor wretches had pawned their mattresses, and starving seamstresses had pawned 1,500 pairs of scissors.

### THE HEATHEN CHINEE.

Only a few months ago, the whole country was dreadfully excited over the influx of Chinamen who were to reduce American working-men below the level of pauper Europeans. We pointed out at the time how utterly insignificant was the number of Chinese coming to the country, only twelve thousand in all last year, against three hundred and sixty thousand German and Irish, and how little likely it was that the immigration of these undesirable Celestials would materially increase. Our prognostications are most emphatically borne out by experience ever since. The arrival of Chinese laborers has steadily fallen off, and the last Pacific mail steamers arriving in San Francisco, bring smaller numbers than ever before since the line was established. Let us remember that all great movements are necessarily slow in proportion to their magnitude, and that nature provides that every one shall have ample time to accommodate himself to every change, whether beneficical or otherwise!

TOO TRUE.—We find the following in one of our exchanges, expressing more forcibly than we are able, a fact established by the observation of every reflective mind.

"When a rakish youth goes astray, friends gather to bring him to the path of virtue. Gentleness and kindness are lavished upon him to bring him back to innocence and peace. No one would ever suspect that he had sinned. But when a poor, confiding girl is betrayed, she receives the brand of society, she is henceforth driven from the ways of virtue. The betrayer is honored, respected and esteemed; there is no peace for her this side the grave. Society has no helping, loving hand for her, no voice for forgiveness.—These are earthly moralties unknown to heaven."

Earn your own bread, and see how happy you'll be! Work, and see how well you'll be! Work, and see how cheerful you will be! Work, and see how independent you'll be! Work, and see how happy your family will be! (Try it my young friend, who is loafing on the streets, and see how much more like a man you will feel!)

Curran once said to Grattaw: "You would be the greatest man of your age, if you would buy a few yards of red tape and tie up your bills and papers."

### THE CUMULATIVE VOTE IN PENNSYLVANIA.

The Pennsylvania Senate has passed a bill authorizing the cumulative system of voting in all the boroughs of the commonwealth at elections for members of town councils. In boroughs wherein the number of such members is now fixed at five, the bill requires that six shall hereafter be elected. Voters may then either distribute their ballots among the six candidates, or cumulate upon one or more, as they shall choose. This bill, should it pass the other branch of the legislature, will permit a more general test of this particular plan of minority representation than has hitherto been possible. This is the plan devised by ex-Senator Buckalew, of Pennsylvania, and it has not only been thoroughly tested at several town elections in that State where it was provided for by special legislative enactments, but it has in every case proved eminently practicable and productive of the most beneficial results. It is the nearest approach to a satisfactory system for insuring representation to the minority that has ever been reached. The new constitution recently adopted for the State of Illinois provides for a similar plan of voting.—*Exchange.*

VICE PRESIDENT COLFAX came very near losing his life in order that the Senate might preserve its dignity in a becoming manner. That its Executive Session might not be violated by a too-enterprising news-paper correspondent, the Senate chamber was hermetically sealed, so that while the debates of the Senators could not get out, enough pure air to preserve the health of members could not get in. Overcome by being penned up in quarters close and unhealthy as the chamber grew after a five hours' sitting, the Vice President was carried to an adjoining room, where he still lies, apparently in great danger. All this risk and trouble and danger for no better object than to prevent the country from learning that which it has a right to learn about the treaty. President Grant and the entire Cabinet have been from the first desirous that the great treaty of amity and reconcilation should be publicly discussed, but the Senate, clinging to its preposterous ideas of dignity, shut out from the chamber not only the people, but the pure, sweet air as well.

These Swiss are a curious people. No sooner were 80,000 French soldiers thrown on their hands than they seemed instinctively to know how best to provide for them. In some places the more unclean, were first treated to a bath of lye or soda, clothing of all kinds, provisions and hospital stores so sadly required at once, all made their appearance as if by magic, instantly. Ladies immediately opened classes in all barracks for such as could not read and write, while teachers and professors took turns in delivering daily lectures on subjects calculated to interest the French or prove useful to them. I am quite surprised at the readiness of these people, and wonder if it is really their republican institutions that make them alike prepared to a man to defend their fatherland or to do good to their neighbors. I muse and raise the question, what country in Europe has most earned in the war of '70-'71 the title of —"Leader of civilization"—the great monarchies of the continent, or our brave and noble little sister Republic ensconced among the Alps?—*Letter from Lausanne.*

The *Edinburgh Review* was first published in 1802. The plan was suggested by the celebrated Sydney Smith, at a meeting of literati, in the eighth or ninth flat or story in Buccleugh Place, Edinburgh, then the elevated lodging of Jeffrey. The motto humorously proposed for the new review by its projector was: "Tenui musam meditamur avena"—i. e., We cultivate literature upon a little oatmeal. But this being too nearly the truth to be publicly acknowledged, the more grave dictum of "Judex damnatur cum nocens absolvitur," (the judge is found guilty when a criminal is acquitted) was adopted from Publius Sirius, of whom, Sydney Smith affirms, "None of us, I am sure, ever read a single line!" Lord Byron, in his fifth edition of "English Bards and Scotch Reviewers," refers to the reviewers as an "oat-fed phlanx."

IMPORTANCE OF AIRING BEDS.—The desire of an energetic housekeeper to have her work done at an early hour in the morning, causes her to leave one of the most important items of neatness undone. The most effectual purifying of bed and bedclothes cannot take place if the proper time is not allowed for the free circulation of pure air to remove all human impurities which have collected during the hours of slumber. At least two or three hours should be allowed for the complete removal of atoms of insensible perspiration which are absorbed by the bed. Every day this airing should be done; and occasionally bedding constantly used should be carried into the open air, and when practicable, left exposed to the sun and wind for half a day.

John Saxton, of Canton, Ohio, the oldest editor in the United States, died on Saturday last, aged 81 years. He commenced the publication of the Stark County (Ohio) *Repository* about the year 1814, and has published it consecutively for *fifty-seven* years. During all this period he has worked at the case, as well as written editorials and selected matter for his paper. He has been in easy circumstances for many years, but, from sheer force of habit, continued to set type and do other manual labor on the paper, almost to the day of his death. He was a man of exceedingly temperate habits, and enjoyed such excellent health that he hardly knew what it was to be sick.

The Democratic new departure puts the party in the way of progress. It begins by adopting the Republican measures of the last ten years. If it keeps on in this glorious path of progress, next year it will adopt the ku-klux bill; the year after, anything the Republican party has accomplished. Thus its new departure in progress will be in the line of safe precedents. And the Republican party will have that appendage which our ancestors had, a long tail.

SUBSTITUTE FOR CREAM IN COFFEE.—Beat the white of an egg to a froth; put to it a small lump of butter, and turn the coffee into it gradually, so that it may not curdle. It is difficult to distinguish the taste from fresh cream.—*Am. Rural Home.*

We confess our faults in the plural, and deny them in the singular,