

SELECTED POETRY.

There is a pleasure in poetic path That none but poets know.

HAPPINESS

Tis not in beauty thine will fade, And pass like morning dews away; Tis not in all the charms of form, Which lives the Summer fane decay.

A CHILD'S THOUGHT.

She stood with open lips and earnest eye, The deepening darkness thine shadows threw, While ever and anon a quivering light, Burst from their souls and made them briefly bright.

For who beheld her there, all eye, all ear, Tranced in a bliss too perfect for our sphere, Might well believe she held communion high, With the pure spirits of the upper sky.

COMICALITIES.

UNCLE JOE

AND THE SHERIFF.

Joe kept a flourishing grocery in the town of N. Perhaps the most profitable branch of business was in that class of articles which not only cheer but inebriate. Of course Uncle Joe was an uncompromising opponent of the Maine Law.

However, Uncle Joe was a law abiding citizen, and he made up his mind to obey the law so long as it remained in force—a resolution worthy of all commendation. Nevertheless he had no objection to getting a little fun out of it, if it should prove convenient and accordingly laid his plans for playing a trick upon the Sheriff, who, he was aware, would keep a watchful eye upon him, in consequence of his having until this time been so actively engaged in the traffic.

In fact the sheriff used now and then to drop in Uncle Joe's ostensibly to read the papers, and talk politics with the neighbors, but Uncle Joe could see as far into a nullstone as most people, and knew very well that it was all in the way of business. Some ten miles off there lived in a solitary house in the woods a man who had been a frequent customer at Uncle Joe's.

law has declared contraband. As an officer, it is my duty to ascertain by examination, unless you tell me what it is, said he. 'A good deal of fuss about a little lamp oil.' 'Lamp oil! Ah, well see if that's the case.' So saying, the Sheriff advanced towards the wagon, with the intention of investigating the matter, when Benton gave his horse a sharp cut, exclaiming—"Geo up, old mare, well fix 'em yet!"

The horse sprang forward leaving the baffled Sheriff behind. 'A horse! a horse! I want a horse!' he exclaimed 'who'll lend me one!' 'You may take mine for five dollars,' said a man whose wagon stood in front of the store. 'That's exorbitant.' 'I don't care, I can't let him go for a cent less.'

The Sheriff hesitated for a moment.— Five dollars was an extravagant price, but he burned to distinguish himself in the office to which he had just been appointed, so saying this he exclaimed—"I'll give you the money," and leaped into the wagon. The animal which he had in use, tho' not quite equal to Benton's was an excellent horse and he flattered himself that he could eventually come up with him—as he was still in sight.

On they both dashed at a break neck pace, Benton in advance. Wherever they passed a house, the windows were crowded with spectators all thinking as in the case of the luckless John Gilpin, that they "ran a race." Three—four—five miles were passed over, and still the sheriff was nearly a quarter of a mile behind. He comforted himself with the thought that Benton would make straight for his own house, and that there if not before, he should trap him.

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