

"The result of wars generally depends quite as much upon diplomacy as arms—upon the proper use of the pen as of the sword. There is a time for each. So says Alexander H. Stephens, in his History of the United States.

It is said that Ex-Senator Ben Harrison, of Indiana, has settled down quietly to the practice of law in Indianapolis. He is said to be one of the best lawyers in the Western country, and has already accepted retainers enough to keep him employed until the autumn. Mr. Harrison's friends say he is not out of politics, notwithstanding his recent defeat for the senatorship. He will be a candidate for the presidency in 1888, and the Indiana delegation will enter the next convention solidly in his favor.

The Appalachian Philosopher says that four counties of three States corner at a tree on Pond Mountain, at the northwestern corner of Ashe county, namely—this county; Johnson county, Tenn.; Grayson county, Va., and Washington county, Va. Three counties corner on Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee, at Cumberland Gap, and our correspondent, "Old Man," says that a stone monument 2 and a half feet high is erected right there, over which he once stopped, rested his breast upon it, and while he stood in Tennessee he placed his right hand on Virginia and his left on Kentucky soil.

"MY LADS, BE HONEST."

Dr. Livingstone, the famous explorer, was descended from the Highlanders, and he said that one of his ancestors one day called his family around him. He was dying and had all his children around his death-bed. He said: "Now, lads, I have looked all through our history as far back as I can find it, and I have never found a dishonest man in all the line, and I want you to understand that you inherit good blood. You have no excuse for doing wrong. Be honest!"

Horace Greeley once said: The darkest hour in the history of any young man is when he sits down to study how to get money without honestly earning it.

What an heritage honesty is. There are people who believe in blood. Their theory is that low-lived parents transmit their qualities to their descendants, and high-toned, well-bred people do the same. Of course there are exceptions to all general rules, but the rule holds good, as a whole. And this we call heredity. We inherit our progenitors' property, but a good name is more valuable than gold, or silver, or cattle upon a thousand hills. Oh! young man, be honest! young woman, be honest and just to yourself, and you will be honest and just towards your neighbor, and above all to your Creator.

Texas is building a State House to cost \$5,000,000. Its furniture is to cost \$100,000. It is imitating the extravagance of New York State.—Exchange.

The Charlotte Home-Democrat remarks:

While the State of Texas is spending so much money foolishly, many of her citizens are starving to death for bread. Read the following telegram from Austin, Texas:

State Senator Woodward, of Calhoun county, has received a statement from Atascosa county, sworn to by four respectable citizens and endorsed by the County Judge, Sheriff and County Clerk, giving the names of nineteen families of that county, whom the affiants declare are in a con-

dition of starvation occasioned by the drouth.

It is lamentable that the people of a portion of Western Texas are starving. They are, and they need help. In 1848, when the people of Ireland were experiencing a terrible famine they were fed and clothed by voluntary contributions made by the people of the United States. Ships loaded with grain, clothing, groceries and other comforts of life, left our shores from Charleston to Bangor, Maine, laden with goods solely for the starving people of Ireland. We wish our people, again from Bangor to Charleston, Tallahassee, New Orleans, and all the inland country, could be aroused to relieve the wants of these few thousands of people in Western Texas.

The extravagant appropriation for a State House was made when there was plenty in all the Empire of Texas, and when no such a calamity was foreseen. If such a calamity should overtake any other portion of our country there are railroads and water courses quickly to convey the sufferers food and money for their relief. And, in the future, it does seem to us that such calamities may be avoided in great measure.

How "Curfew" Was Written.

Of the hundreds of residents of the city of San Antonio, Texas, says the Brooklyn Magazine, only a few who meet a tall, slender lady, with raven brown eyes and hair, with a singular attractiveness in her face know that she is Mrs. Rose Hartwick Thorpe, whose famous poem, "Curfew Must not Ring To-Night," has given her a reputation in both hemispheres. How, at the early age of sixteen years, the young country girl was led to write this poem, now so widely known, is thus narrated as furnished by her personally for this publication. The poem was suggested to me by the reading of a story, Love and Loyalty, in April, 1867. I was then a plain, country-school girl, not yet 17, residing with my parents at Litchfield, Mich., and under the pretext of working out mathematical problems, with my arithmetic before me, I wrote the poem roughly on the slate. I was forced to carry out my literary work under these difficulties because of the opinion of my parents, that my time could be better employed than in idle dreams and useless rhymes. I wrote the first copy on my slate between four and six o'clock in the afternoon, but much time has since been spent in revising and correcting it. I had no thought that I would ever be able to write anything worthy of public notice. The poem was first published in the Detroit Commercial Advertiser in the fall of 1870. The editor, upon receipt of my manuscript, at once wrote me a lengthy letter of praise and congratulation, in which he predicted the popularity for the verses which they have since received. I had no literary friends, not even a literary acquaintance—at that time, and did not know the simplest requirements for preparing my manuscript for publication. The poem at once attracted popular attention and bestowed upon its young author a reputation which each succeeding year enlarged. Although it has been published in innumerable forms and different books and collections, and has been translated into the French, German and other languages, the poem has never brought its author any financial remuneration, as is often the case.

It raised me, writes Mrs. Thorpe, from a shy, obscure country girl into public notice, and it brings to my side yearly, hosts of new and delightful friends. Wherever I go my friends are there before me, and the poem, which I gave to the public with no right reserved, while it has made fortunes for others, and dropped golden coins in other pockets, has reserved for its author admiring friends.

Mrs. Thorpe spends her summers in her native clime of Michigan, where she yearly recuperates from the effects of a Texan winter. The authoress is now 36 years old, happily married, and is enabled to quietly enjoy the love and respect of her neighbors and friends, while her literary admirers are legion.

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To the People.