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THE LEDGER PUBLISHING COMPANY

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LEWISTON, N. C.

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BEHIND THE TIMES.

BY WALTER CLARK.

Give me the good old times again
When poetry was writ
To stir the hearts of many men,
With tales for heroes fit;
When love songs were not faint nor few,
But rang a lusty lilt,
Such as become a lover true
Of bone and sinew built.

I fancy not this dainty verse,
Spun out as fine as wire,
Some hopeless passion to rehearse,
All ashes and no fire.
These labored lines of perfect rhyme—
Poetic cameos—
Are cold as icicles; the time
Were better spent on prose.

Those little bits of light and shade,
Where some smart repartee
The reason and excuse is made
For stanzas two or three:
Amuse, 'tis true; but, save the mark!
If poetry has come
To such a pass, let Byron's hark,
And Walter Scott's be dumb!

Nay, give me the old days again
When poet's blood was red;
When love was warm, and men were
men,
And felt the things they said;
When woman chose to please her heart,
And not for others' praise—
Nay, smile: I know my sing-song art
Is that of other days.

WRITTEN ON TAKING A STROLL
WITH A FRIEND.

[For the LEDGER.]

One radiant, beautiful afternoon
in June 1863. Summer had robed
the earth in luxuriant beauty.
Not a fleecy cloudlet flecked the
heavens, the whole bosom of the
sky was blue and beautiful. Nature
with a silent rejoicing seemed
to bask in the warmth of the
genial sun. All around was tranquil.
Nature was then a magnificent
picture. The forest was
carpeted with flowers, the trees
arrayed in rich green robes
beading with blossoms. I was
solicited to accompany Jane to this
picturesque retreat amid the
woodland shades, grottoed dells,
encircled by very many winding
labyrinths near a crystal rivulet
whose purring streams came on
the ear like a tender song. While
gazing with admiration on the
beauties of nature, I forgot for a
time the direful concomitants of
the war, and was inspired with
hopes as buoyant as a spring
morning. I was full of animation
and romantic delight, which
was only to look on the sunny
side of things while embosomed
within this sequestered vale of
loveliness and beauty. While
engaged in convivial entertainment
of our pleasant pastimes, and
innocent sport I stumbled on many
a green spot and sunny knoll. In
our imaginative dreams of future
happiness we drew such bright
and beautiful pictures of a social
intercourse with our friends
around the pleasant fireside of
home, sweet home, with peace,
happiness and content encircling
our brows, and our faces wreathed
in joyous smiles; when the cannon
cease to boom, and the clattering
of horses hoofs over the field of
battle, and the bugle will be heard
no more, and hearts that are now
drooping with languishment and
repine will then gladden in the
floodtide of exhilaration and hope
that a new era will deck their
pathway when the cruel war is
over. How many happy hours we
passed at this charming oasis.

While seated on a moss clad rock
listening to the gentle tones of
her voice whose mystic minstrelsy
in mellifluous cadence fell up-
on my ear in echoes of delight.
When twilight let her purple
curtain fall and pinned it with a
star, and the moon empathized
the night, we retraced our foot-
steps home, where pleasure was
at my side. How sad to think
those pleasant hours of halcyon
peace will never return. When
I think of the streams and mead-
ows we so often roamed side by
side, and how many fond wishes
for our future happiness. But
alas, alas, all my fond anticipa-
tions are blighted by the frost of
disappointment. The icy hand of
death has placed the signet upon
her brow. Her cheek once glewed

with the rosetint of health, is now
pallid in death. Her dark pen-
etrating eye, once brilliant with
ecstatic joy, is now dimmed for-
ever. Her form the personifica-
tion of grace and elegance, is now
mouldering in the tomb. How
disconsolate I felt to be bereft of
such a good friend. Who has
ever reclined on the lap of luxury
without finding it dispersed with
thorns, or who has ever placed
the diadem upon his brow with-
out finding it indispersed with
thistles.

Mrs. ANNA N. IRWIN
Plymouth, N. C.

A LETTER FROM WASHINGTON.

[From our special Correspondent]

January 28, 1889.

The question of throwing out
the votes of some of the States on
account of irregularities in the
returns has awakened some curious
and difficult questions. Whether
if such a number of States should
be thrown out as to give the re-
ally defeated candidate for Presi-
dent a majority of the remaining
votes the latter should be installed
or whether there would be no
election because neither candidate
had a majority of the whole num-
ber of the electoral votes, if the
election returns had all been cor-
rect. In the latter event, no elec-
tion, a serious crisis would arise,
as after the fourth of March next
there would be no Executive, and
of course no Cabinet, as the Sec-
retaries of the several depart-
ments only retain their positions
with the incumbency of the Presi-
dent who appoints them. In
1870 the Republicans excluded
the votes of some Southern States
so the precedent has been estab-
lished, even though the exclusion
was against the spirit, if not the
letter of the Constitution, such a
course would evidently render it
possible for unscrupulous politi-
cians to so manipulate the returns
and election proceedings in doubt-
ful States that their votes would
be thrown out and the politician's
candidate elected, or declared
elected. The questions are serious
and might deserve the attention
of Congress, who should def-
initely settle the question to avoid
any possible contingencies.

An interesting case is before
the U. S. Supreme Court on ap-
peal from the Supreme Court of
Ohio. The facts of the case ap-
pear to be as follows: Under the
U. S. Statutes Treasury notes are
not taxable. An Ohio financier,
aware of this fact, shortly before
assessment and tax pay day, col-
lected and converted the greater
amount of his resources into cash,
and deposited the same in bank,
taking a certificate of deposit of
the amount as Treasury notes,
and the several State courts de-
cided in favor of the State. Should
the Supreme Court find against
the State, it becomes possible for
sharp money holders to avoid a
large amount of taxation.

The Samoan matter will prob-
ably be discussed in the Senate
this week; Saturday a small package
with \$1.40 in Samoan postage
stamps thereon, was received at
the State Department, and when
opened a ragged, tattered burnt
remnant of a United States flag,
which owed its forlorn appear-
ance to the conduct of certain
Germans, who burnt a house over
which the flag was flying. This
exhibit together with the corres-
pondence in the case will be
placed before the Senate, and we
shall probably hear some ringing
remarks about our anti-pork
friends in Europe.

The White Caps have made
their appearance in Alexandria
just below Washington, and have
warned several people in the town
to mend their ways, they were
thought to be only a set of practi-
cal jokers, until a night or two
back when two men who had
stayed out rather late were accu-
sated by night capped highwaymen,
and called to account. The two
beneficials however made such
good use of their canes and other
handy missiles, that the White
Caps were discomfited and fled
leaving one cap with their intend-
ed victims.

THE SAMOAN ISLANDS.

The Samoan or Navigators' Is-
lands are a group in the South
Pacific about 400 miles Northeast
of the Feejee Islands. There are
nine inhabited islands and a num-
ber of islets. All of them are of
volcanic formation. Tutuila Is-
land, where it is proposed to es-
tablish a coaling station for Uni-
ted States vessels, is high and
mountainous, with precipices ris-
ing to a height of from 1,200 to
2,300 feet. Pago-Pago, where
this country has the right to lo-
cate a coaling station, is on the
South side of the island and is an
excellent harbor, completely land-
locked, with water enough for the
largest vessels. It is de-
scribed as being "one of the safest
and best harbors in the Pacific,
and being on the direct steamship
route between America and Aus-
tralia, must become in time an
important port." Upolu is the
most important island. It has an
area of 835 square miles. Apia,
the capital of the kingdom, is lo-
cated on the island. The climate
of the islands is very equable,
the mercury seldom rising higher
than 88 degrees or falling lower
than 70 degrees. The interior of
the islands is covered with tropi-
cal fruits, with much valuable
timber. Sugar cane, cotton, cof-
fee, tobacco, lemons, limes, ban-
anas, coconuts and a variety of
other fruits are produced. The
inhabitants are a fine looking
people, the men averaging 5 feet,
ten inches, erect in bearing, and
having straight, well rounded
limbs. The women are usually
slight in figure and graceful. Their
complexions are a dark olive, and
many of the men have heavy
beards. All of them are nomi-
nally Christians, and there are
schools and a church in every
village. The United States ex-
pedition under Commodore Wilkes
visited and surveyed the islands
in 1839.—Norfolk Ledger.

THE DECEASED FLAG.

A curious little bundle arrived
at the State Department by the
San Francisco mail to day. It
was perhaps 10 inches long by 4
or 5 in diameter, covered in heavy
brown paper, tied with stout twine
and bore four great seals of the
United States Consulate General
at Apia, Samoan Islands. It was
addressed to George L. Rives,
Assistant Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C., United States
of America, and upon one side it
bore this superscription:
"Remains of an American Flag.
Burned with an American house
by the German man-of-war Olga,
Dec. 21st, 1888."

The package also bore the
postmark of Apia together with
\$1.40 in postage stamps and a
mark of registration. When it
was opened it presented a sight
calculated to make the blood boil
in the veins of every patriotic
American. When the flag was
new it probably measured 12 by
8 feet, and was made of stout
bunting. Long flapping in the
emotional Pacific breezes had
frayed out the ends and snapped
them into little ribbons of red and
white, but it was nevertheless a
goodly flag to look upon.

As the package containing the
flag was unrolled, bits of charred
bunting broke off from the rem-
nants and fell to the floor in
showers, and when it was quite
unfolded there remained nothing
but ragged, ill-shapen fragments
of red and blue bunting, torn by
the wind, pierced by German bul-
lets and half eaten by the hungry
flames that lapped the flagstaff
above the house it was intended
to protect.

Assistant Secretary Rives quick-
ly gathered it up and carried it to
examination to Secretary Bayard,
after which it was carefully put
away under lock and key.—Wash-
ington special in New York
World, Jan. 27.

The bantam-weight champion-
ship battle between Cal. McCarty,
of Jersey City, and Harry Wal-
ton, of Philadelphia, took place
last night at Gloucester, N. J.
McCarty won in five rounds.

GENERAL ITEMS OF INTEREST.

The Pennsylvania Railroad Com-
pany has imported an English lo-
comotive to make 70 miles an
hour.

Dr. Edward McGlynn has ad-
dressed a letter to Archbishop
Corrigan, of New York, protest-
ing against the prelate's pastoral
letter.

At a meeting of eight thousand
Panama canal shareholders in
Paris, Saturday week, a vote of
confidence in the new company
was unanimously passed.

At Auburn, Mass., it takes an
industrious girl two days to make
12 pairs of stockings for which
she gets 14 cents, 7 cents a day
for her work. She feeds herself
And that is what Protection does
for the stocking makers.—Wil-
mington Star.

During a drunken row in a
boarding house occupied by
Hungarian coke workers at Scot-
tsdale, Pa., Saturday night week,
James Brading was shot through
the lungs, and George Deaso,
proprietor of the house, had his
skull badly crushed.

The engineers of the Atlantic
and Danville railroad will make
a survey of a route from Milton
by way of the Yancey copper mines,
in Granville county. These mines
were lately bought by a French
syndicate, and will at once be
worked by 500 men and new ma-
chinery.

Residents of Ingalls and Cim-
arron, the Kansas towns which
are at war over the location of the
seat of Gray county, are arming
themselves with Winchester rifles
and plenty of ammunition. Ser-
ious trouble is apprehended.
The militia are on the scene of
the conflict.

In a private letter to a friend
in Wytheville, Va., Hon. Robert
E. Withers, United States
Consul at Hong Kong, China,
says that he hopes to leave for the
United States about the first of
February, and that he will send
in his resignation as soon after
the fourth of March as possible.

Last week 485 acres of unim-
proved land in the suburbs of
Chicago was sold for \$750,000.
The Chicago Manufacturing and
Improvement Company, which
made the purchase, proposes to
lease the ground to manufactur-
ers and if necessary, will erect
buildings and rent the same for
a term of years.

A Plymouth (Mass.) special to the
New York World says:
"Howard M. Fay, a peddler of
extracts, has received nearly
\$30,000 from the estate of a New
Orleans business man, recently
deceased, to whom his father
lent \$5,000 thirty years. The
debtor's will provided that the
debt be repaid with compound
interest."

A bill has been introduced in
the upper house of the Kansas
Legislature providing for a com-
mission to superintend the boring
of four holes three hundred feet
deep, west of the sixth standard
meridian, in the central part of
the State, "to see what can be
found." The cost is not to exceed
\$25,000. The bill will probably
be passed.

In Franklin county, this State,
an important trial ended this
week. It was the case of the
State against Samuel Williams
and ten other negroes for assault-
ing Lewis Neal, a negro school
teacher, because Neal voted the
Democratic ticket. The result of
the trial was the conviction of all
the defendants. The negro Re-
publicans in that section have
carried matters with a high hand
and have assumed to be regula-
tors. The result of this trial will
be good.

A HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY.

Little Lucy seemed much im-
pressed upon being told that it
was night in Australia when it
was day in England, and day
there when it was night at home.

After considering the subject for
some time she said: "I think it's
pretty hard on the Queen."
"Why, Lucy?" asked mamma.
"Cause when we are in bed and
asleep she has to be up all night
over the people in Australia."
—Harpers' Young People.

MUTUAL REVELATIONS.

Little Maud and Uncle Jim in
the parlor; Uncle Jim asks little
Maud for kisses.

Little Maud—No, your wife is
looking.

Uncle Jim—Well, what of it.

Little Maud—Mamma says she
is so jealous she can't stay in her
skin.

Uncle Jim—Well, never mind.

Give me a kiss and I'll give you
some candy.

Little Maud—Pooh! I can get
all the candy I want by not telling
when papa kisses Aunt Fannie.

Aunt Fannie being Uncle Jim's
wife, Uncle Jim makes no more
love to little Maud's Mother.—
The Cartoon.

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