Bellevue Gazette.

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Hon. J. Sterling Morton, Nebraska City.
Omaha, June 20, 1857. 35

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POETRY.

To the West! To the West!

BY CHARLES MACKAY.

To the west! to the west! to the land of the free,
Where the mighty Missouri rolls down to the sea,
Where a man is a man, if he's willing to toil,
And the humblest may gather the fruits of the soil.
Where children are blessings, and he who hath most
Hath aid for his fortune and riches to boast;
Where the young may exult, and the aged may rest,
Away far away to the Land of the West!

To the West! to the West! where the rivers that flow,
Run thousands of miles, spreading out as they go;
Where the green waving forests that echo our call,
Are wide as old England and free to us all;
Where the prairies, like seas where the billows have rolled,
Are broad as the kingdoms and empires of old;
And the lakes are like oceans in storm or in rest,
Away, far away to the Land of the West!

To the West! to the West! there is wealth to be won—
The forest to clear is the work to be done;
We'll try it, we'll do it, and never despair,
While there's light in the sunshine, and breath in the air.
The bold independence that labor shall buy,
Shall strengthen our hands, and forbid us to sigh,
Away, far away, let us hope for the best,
And build up a home in the Land of the West

The Artic Expedition.

Wild fields of ice, gleamed cold bright—
Around are frozen snows—
And with portentous ruddy light,
The Aurora grandly glows.

A ship stands bound by rugged walls
Of adamantine glass;
Lonely she stands while night appals,
And tempests howling pass.

The grim bear, silent, eyes the form,
Of that deserted bark:
And ruthless as the Artic storm,
He growls his purpose dark.

The lonely wolf's sharp echoing cry,
Resounds from wilds afar;
And twinkling in the deep profound,
Is seen no guiding star.

All cheering Hope her syren lay,
Sings not amidst the gloom;
No warmth, no food, no light of day,
Naught but an icy tomb.

Though fierce the conflict, sharp the pain,
On that disastrous night;
Yet, calm and prudent, gallant Kane,
Stood in collected might.

Resolved he stood, with purpose high,
To face his ghastly foes!
The savage beasts, the stormy sky,
The dreary realms of snow.

This need obtained, fair science smiles,
Upon her trophied sons;
In western lands, in eastern isles,
What honors has he won.

'Tis all One to Me.

FROM THE GERMAN.

Oh, 'tis all one to me, all one,
Whether I've money, or whether I've none!

He who has money can buy him a wife,
And he who has none can be free for life.

He who has money can trade if he choose,
And he who has none has nothing to lose.

He who has money has cares not a few,
And he who has none can sleep the night through.

He who has money can squint at the fair,
And he who has none escapes from much care.

He who has money can go to the play,
And he who has none at home can stay.

He who has money can travel about,
And he who has none can go without.

He who has money can be coarse as he will,
And he who has none can be coarser still.

He who has money can eat oyster meat,
And he who has none the shell can eat.

He who has money can drink foreign wine,
And he who has none with the gout will not pine.

He who has money the cash must pay,
And he who none, says "Charge it, pray."

He who has money keeps a dog if he please,
And he who has none is not troubled with fleas.

He who has money will die one day,
And he who has none must go the same way

Oh, 'tis all one to me, all one,
Whether I've money or whether I've none.

MISCELLANEOUS

WASHINGTON, D, C.,
Dec. 29th, '57.

Friend Burt:—Having a few minutes to spare just now, I thought that perhaps a few lines to you would not come amiss.

You have doubtless learned before this that Col. Richardson has been appointed Governor of your Territory. Judge Hall, of Iowa, ex-member of Congress, has been appointed to succeed Chief Justice Ferguson, and John Parker jr., to succeed his father as Register of the Land Office at Omaha. Chapman did his best to prevent the Senate ratifying this last appointment, but his efforts were like the pattering of hail upon the granite hills of New Hampshire.

I have just left the rooms of our Delegate, at the United States Hotel, where I saw over a thousand volumes all packed and marked for Nebraska—about a hundred of these were to go to the post office at Bellevue. A large box of seeds from the Patent Office, also, were done up in small parcels directed to his constituents in various parts of the Territory. This is attended with no small amount of labor and expense, and yet at this early stage of the session this vast amount of labor has been performed by our indefatigable Delegate. No other member has yet done as much for his constituents. How different this from last session? scarcely a book sent to the Territory from this place. The books that should have been sent to us I found piled up here in the library; I will not say for what purpose, but I can think what I please. By a vote of Congress, however, they were all transfered to the new Delegate, which made *some one* hop like a cat on hot bricks. Judge Ferguson is working hard for his constituents and not for himself; and, by so doing he is growing in favor daily with the body of which he is a member, as well as with the heads of the Departments. He has only to be known in order to be respected.

Nebraska has been pretty well represented here, at the seat of Government, for a few weeks past, in the persons of our Delegate, Marshal Rankin, John Parker, jr., M. Snyder, of Omaha, Geo. Jennings, Judge Cook, Chapman and your humble correspondent. The Poncas and Pawnees are also represented by their braves and chiefs. We will do our best, of course, to impress the community with the importance of our Territory.

Yesterday I visited the President of the United States, and was not much surprised upon finding him only a man, and a pretty old one at that. The long nine between his clean shaved lips, and the thick leather slippers that enclosed his rather flat feet, impressed me rather favorably. I like this rather homely, don't-care-a-tive-ness in the President as well as any one else. He was free and easy, and seemed anxious to learn as much as possible about our Territory; I think, however, that he is laboring under the erroneous impression that there are many cliques and parties among us.

Having a letter to the Vice President, I sent it to him with my card and was received in the most courteous manner. He is a young man, not over 37 years of age, straight, of moderate size, clean shaved, tastily dressed and withal quite a type of a Southern gentleman. As to his mental ability, I know nothing, but benevolence and hospitality streams out of his very countenance. I like him now, but if I were a young feminine I should love him.

Only a few months since there were millions in the Treasury of Uncle Sam; now the old fellow is bankrupt. By a vote of the American Congress, however, twenty millions of paper dollars are placed in the vault in order to keep him from starvation. Many are foolish enough to suppose that this act was designed to benefit the nation generally. But this was all a mistake; the truth was, the vault was empty, and there was nothing with which to meet the monthly payments of the hundreds of Uncle Sam's workmen. Congressmen, Clerks, and all employees, are all paid monthly; and last month the old man had to borrow several wagon loads of half dollars from the mint in order to pay them. This state of things made it imperative that something should be done, and the result was said twenty millions bill. While then the nation at large will be benefitted a very little, if directly, the object of those who made the law was to benefit themselves directly.

This panic in the commercial world has had the effect to make the legislators of the nation less prodigal than ever before. By a unanimous vote they invited the clergy of the City of Washington to do their praying for them gratuitously. "Saving prudent men," as the Englishman said. Sage legislators, receving $3000 each for about three hours work per day, for six months of the year, and only pay a Chaplain $500 for the same period of time, and require him to preach also on the Sabbath day. What an enormous expenditure of money! Who can wonder in these tight times that they asked the clergy to do their praying gratuitously? Cheap asking of course, cheap blessing! Dead-heading it to heaven is a new wrinkle in these days of progress.

CHAUCER.

Debating Societies.

We have before called the attention of our readers to the importance and utility of debating lyceums, as a method for developing and disciplining the intellectual powers, and for cultivating a correct and ready method for communicating our thoughts and expressing our feelings. In no other way, perhaps, can one of the winter evenings of each week be more profitably employed. It would, however, be an improvement, and a very great one too, with many debating associations, if the young and old, male and female, would participate together, as members, if not as speakers.

One of the chief difficulties in maintaining permanently a debating club, is the want of questions to discuss of a fresh and practical character. It happens frequently, if not generally, that after going through the usual routine of stereotyped propositions, the proceedings become spiritless, and the society dies of ennui.

We suggest the propriety of selecting *living* instead of *dead* questions for debate; subjects which concern our present duties and future destinies, rather than those which relate to metaphysical abstractions, or have no importance except in their past historical reminiscences.

A few examples will indicate our meaning: "Should women be allowed to vote?" "Is the use of intoxicating drinks more injurious to society than that of tabacco?" "Is it morally right, under any circumstances, to traffic in alcholic beverages?" "Would the Legislature be justified in passing a law to prohibit the smoking of cigars in the streets?" "Are the sexes equal in mentality?" "Resolved, that the natural dietetic character of man is frugiverous?" "Is the male organization more enduring than the female?" "Is Phrenology a science?" "Is Hydropathy the best system of medical practice?"—"Is Homeopathy more rational than Allopathy?" "Has nature provided remedies for diseases?" "Can man break or violate a natural law?"

These, we submit, will interest an audience more and elicit more useful information from and for the members, than the stale propositions about the relative pleasures of "Anticipation and participation," the comparative merits of "Washington and Columbus," etc.

When our readers will inform us they have debated all of the above questions, we will furnish them with another list, and so on as long as LIFE shall last. Meanwhile many excellent hints and necessary rules for regulating the proceedings of debating societies, and for conducting the discussions, may be found in our little Hand-Books, "How to Talk," and "How to Behave."—*Life Illustrated.*

☞ Brigham Young tried to induce a chief of the Snake Indians to join him in fighting the United States. The reply of the Indian shows that he understood the "neutrality" policy. Said he: "When redskin fights redskin, blue-coat stands by and looks on; when blue-coat fight blue-coat, redskin stands by and looks on; when blue-coat fight redskin, redskin turn his back—blue-coat is very great."

☞ A farmer, named Rainey, who resides on the banks of the Sacramento river, about twelve miles from Sacramento City, has a cat which distinguished himself by killing fifty-two rats, and piling them in a heap, in one night.

☞ A young Jonathan took it into his head one day to get a wife. He accordingly looked about him, and very soon made such a selection as suited him, and was not long in striking a bargain and settling the preliminaris. He then applied to a clergyman to perform the ceremony.

"But are you prepared for such an important change in life?" said the reverend and worthy gentleman.

"I guess I be," says Jonathan, "for I have got my land just paid for, and owa a good yoke of steers and a cow."

"Very well," said the holy man, with a long breath and sober face, "all these worldly things may be very proper in their place, to be sure; but have you ever thought of salvation?"

This was a poser. "Sal Vation!" said Jonathan, "who in thunder is *she?*"

The Marshall (Texas) Republican lays down this maxim, adding, "if you do you are lost." and "illustrating" as follows:

We have in Marshall as in most towns in Texas, an ordinance forbidding persons hitching horses to the shade trees within the corporation limits, affixing as a penalty for its infringment a fine of one dollar. Our constable, who is a very dilligent and persevering man in the discharge of his official duties, has enforced this ordinance in a manner that has rendered him a terror to all offenders. Recently a lawyer, whose office is on or near the square, and who has a beautiful shade tree before his door, rode up hastily and hitched his horse to it. The constable happened to be passing by shortly afterwards and proceeded to unhitch him and take him off. The owner, witnessing the act, and perhaps having an idea of what it meant came out and said:

"Hallo! Mr. B., what are you after? What are you ageing to do with my horse?"

"Why," said the constable, "you have violated the city ordinance, and must pay a fine of one dollar."

"Bless my soul," said the lawyer, with great emphasis, "that's my tree; I planted it myself."

"Can't help that," said B., "the law makes no distinction, and says nothing about ownership. It embraces all *shade* trees in the town."

"Pon my word. Pshaw! I planted that tree, as I told you, myself, and for the express purpose of having a place to hitch my hors. Haven't I a right to plant a post before my door?"

"Of course you have," said the constable.

"Well, then, sir," said the lawyer, "just call it a post, as I planted it for one, and if the *shade* is any objection I am willing to *saw the top of it off.*"

The following inscription can be read on a tomb stone in a country church yard, in Maine;—

"The little boy that lieth here,
Was conquered by diarrhea."

The best description of weakness we have ever heard is contained in the wag's query to his wife, when she gave him some chicken broth, if she would not try to coax that chicken just to wade the soup once more.

"My dear," said an Irish gentleman to his wife, "I would rather the children be kept in the nursery, when I am at home, although I would not object to their noise, if they would only be quiet."

"My brudders," said an old darkey preacher, "I would hab bin a desiple ob de Lord's forty years ago, but, *brass de Lord*, de debbil wouldn't let me.

On a tomb stone near San Diego, California, reads thus:—

"This yere is sakrid to the memory of William Henry Skaraken, who came to his deth by bein shot by Colt's revolver,—one of the old kind, bras mounted and of such is the kingdom of heaven."

The following is said to be recorded in an Irish grave yard:—

"Here lies the body of John Maund,
Lost at sea but never found."

An Irishman, who had been talking in ambiguous terms about the sudden death of his paternal relative, was asked if he had lived very high?

"Well, I can't say that he did," said Terrence, but he died high."

"Faith, I mean that, like the United States Bank, he was suspended."

A judge in Indiana threatened to fine a lawyer for contempt of court.

"I have expressed no contempt for the court," said the lawyer "on the contrary, I have carefully concealed my feelings."