

BEDTIME.

The 'Braska Baby climbed on my knee
And called for stories, six, eight, free;
So I told him the tales that I used to know,
Of the Sparrow, so reckless with his bow,
Of Adam an' Eve, that wouldn't mind,
Of Bo-Peep's sheep, with their tails behind,
Of the Pawnee boy and the Old Dun Horse,
And Little Red Ri'n Hood, too, of course:
—'Gain! said the 'Braska Baby.

So I told of the beasts in Noah's Ark;
How the old cat learned to see in the dark;
Of the ring-tailed monk, how he came that way,
Why bats are ashamed to be seen by day,
Of the woodchuck, 'way deep down in the
ground,
And of old Brer Tarrypin, loungin' 'round;
I told of the bear and the bumblebee,
And the great big whales that live in the sea:
—Why? said the 'Braska Baby.

Then I told of the boy with the chopping-knife,
How he ran and stumbled and lost his life;
How Giddy Miss Ellen fell in and was drowned,
Of Peter, who swung the hot poker around,
How Peggy and Polly had each a new dolly,
And how Uncle John had to punish their folly;
Of Hezekiah who played with the fire
And the boy who ran off and was lost in the
mire:
—What foa? said the 'Braska Baby.
—E. FOBES.

It is beginning to
TUNING UP. percolate. The idea
that there are

enough real democrats in the country to
rehabilitate the party, is at last slowly
filtering through the brain-protectors of
western publicists. The Hastings (Neb.)
Republican, which is all that the name
fails to imply, sighs over present con-
ditions and future prospects in the fol-
lowing lugubrious article:

"Senator Jones, of Arkansas, who
was chairman of the national democratic
committee, and who made a loyal fight
for a Bryan victory, is among the first
to fall at the political wayside—a victim
at the hands of the goldite wing of
eastern democracy.

"And it may be said there are others
marked for similar political destruction.
The news from Arkansas leaves no
doubt that it was eastern influences and
eastern money that enabled Ex-Gov-
ernor Clark to triumph over Jones.

"Some leading democrats are openly
opposing Bryan. Among them may be
mentioned Vest and Cockrell of Ar-
kansas, Bacon and Clay of Georgia,
Mallory of Florida, Baily and Culbert-
son of Texas, and other lesser political
lights in the South and West are now
more or less 'fernist' Bryan. The
democratic legislature of Mississippi, in
adopting resolutions endorsing Richard
Olney, of Massachusetts, for president,
and Carter Harrison, of Chicago, for
vice-president, furnishes a sample of
this opposition. Olney is a gold demo-
crat and Carter Harrison, while con-
sidered a friend of Bryan, has more or
less been figured in the compromising
class.

"All these are interesting facts that
have an important bearing on the po-
litical situation, and are bound to pre-

cipitate a lively contest in the next na-
tional democratic convention.

"With Bryanism dethroned by eastern
democrats in the next national conven-
tion, the question naturally presents it-
self, will Bryan and his followers lay
down, or will they line up under a
Bryan or populist banner?"

This is encouraging in the extreme,
coming as it does from a representative
of the "soft" press of Nebraska, the
members of which were only informed
some six or seven years ago that the
material interests and solid citizenship
of the country would not suffer the
money system to be corrupted, and that
a platform and a candidate which
threatened repudiation and commercial
rebellion could not stand. Having
been allowed but six short years in
which to ponder over the situation, it is
encouraging to learn that some of them
have grasped the idea already; which
fact justifies the hope that another de-
cade of cogitation, and the experience
gained from a periodical lambasting at
the polls, will suffice to convince a com-
fortable working majority of western
silver-struck publicists and illuded suf-
fragators that a platform founded upon
sophistry, and a candidate whose capital
extremity is more sonoric than prolific
of wholesome ideas, are not attuned to
the pitch at which modern business is
wont to hum.

It would be well for each of the de-
luded ones to purchase a tuning fork,
catch the correct pitch, and join in the
chorus of progress which is already
sufficiently loud to drown the quavering
discords which are intermittently
sounded in the Peerlessistic corner of
the choir loft.

PORTO RICO TRADE INCREASES.

Commerce between the United
States and Porto Rico is increasing
with phenomenal rapidity, especially
since the removal of all tariff restric-
tions in July of last year. Our pur-
chases from Porto Rico are nearly
three times as great as the average
during the closing five years of Span-
ish rule in the island, while the
shipments from the United States to
Porto Rico are five times as great as
the average during the five years
preceding the termination of Spanish
rule. The receipts of merchandise
from Port Rico at the ports of the
United States now range between five
and six millions annually, and the
shipments to Porto Rico, which were
about seven million dollars in the last
fiscal year, seem likely to be ten
millions in the present fiscal year
ending June 30.

This rapid growth in the move-
ments of commerce between the ports
of the United States and Porto Rico
is presented by a statement just pre-
pared by the Treasury Bureau of Sta-

tistics, which shows that the ship-
ments of domestic merchandise from
the United States to Porto Rico in
the eight months ending with Febru-
ary amounted to \$6,887,052, indicat-
ing that for the full fiscal year the
total shipments of domestic and for-
eign goods from the ports of the
United States to Porto Rico will ag-
gregate about \$10,000,000. The ex-
ports from the United States to
Porto Rico during the five years end-
ing with 1898 averaged less than
\$2,000,000 per annum, and thus jus-
tify the assertion that our shipments
of merchandise during the present
year to Porto Rico seem likely to be
as much as in the entire five years
ending with 1898. Over four-fifths of
the merchandise now brought into
Porto Rico is drawn from the United
States, and a little over one-half of
the merchandise shipped from that
island is sent to the United States.
The total value of goods shipped from
the island in the eight months end-
ing with February was \$5,787,619,
and of this sum \$3,016,258, or 52 per
cent was to the United States. The
total value of the merchandise re-
ceived into the island during the
same period was \$8,413,078, of which
\$6,887,052, or 82 per cent, was from
the United States.

The following table shows the
value of the principal articles shipped
from the United States to Porto
Rico in the eight months ending with
February 1902, compared with those
of the corresponding months of the
preceding year:

Eight months ending with February.		
Articles.	1901	1902
Rice.....	\$766,028	\$1,109,596
Cotton cloths.....	723,907	831,271
Cotton mfrs, all other	81,206	673,519
Wheat flour.....	559,928	657,955
Pork products.....	455,897	614,563
Machinery, etc.....	153,664	407,223
Other iron and steel		
mfrs.....	154,011	279,856
Fish.....	168,887	208,331
Boards, shooks and		
lumber.....	139,632	202,573
Wood manufactures	65,897	168,299
Chemicals, drugs etc.	53,611	90,025
Beans and pease.....	23,831	97,223
Dairy products.....	49,984	88,688
Refined mineral oil..	52,635	76,135
Paper and mfrs of...	37,931	71,499
Boots and shoes.....	28,927	95,108
Malt liquors.....	34,429	71,441
Books, maps, etc.....	24,724	49,280
Cars, carriages, etc..	50,422	52,262
Coal.....	35,787	45,401
Scientific instruments	21,202	43,668
Steel rails.....	11,080	57,006
Leather mfrs, other..	16,116	38,443
Beef products.....	38,927	39,734
Other meat products	52,022	60,279
Sugar, refined.....	10,709	45,988
Wool manufactures.	5,315	29,054
Soap.....	16,571	29,878