

of European politics at last brought the Englishmen to their senses and the treaty signed left things in the same condition as before the war. The *London Times* angrily declared that the Yankees had negotiated better than they had fought, that England had attempted to force her principles upon America and had failed.

Again, as Secretary of State under Monroe's administration Adams met John Bull in the person of Mr. Canning, English minister at Washington. England was trying to quietly get possession of the mouth of the Columbia river. There had been some talk in Congress of sending some troops thither. Canning called to see the Secretary of State about it. "Have you," asked Adams, "any claim to the mouth of the Columbia?" "Why," said Canning, "do you not know that we have a claim?" "I do not know," answered Adams, "what you claim or what you do not claim; you claim Asia, you claim Africa, you claim ——" "Perhaps," interrupted Canning, "a piece of the moon." "No," said Adams, "I have not heard that you claim exclusively any portion of the moon; but there is no spot on *this* habitable globe, that I could affirm the you do not claim." John Bull didn't secure the mouth of the Columbia. Adams wanted to be president, he worked hard to secure the office,—how did he work? By toiling with almost superhuman industry at his duties as Secretary of State. Further than this he did nothing to help his individual "boom." Adams, Jackson, Clay, and Crawford were the candidates; there was no choice in the electoral college, and by Clay's help Adams was chosen President by the house. Clay being thereafter made Secretary of State, the cry of bargain was promptly raised by Jackson and Co. but no proof that could survive the campaign that gave it birth was brought forward. The fact was that Clay had to choose between Adams and Jackson, and whichever one he had supported would probably have made him Secretary if he desired the office; he undoubtedly showed good sense by making the choice he did. As president Adams refused to use his appointing power to reward old friends or make new ones and it is a ghastly commentary on our civil service, that his rectitude paved the way for Jackson's success. Adams' political history did not end when he vacated the presidential chair; position was but a secondary affair with him. As was said of another president "His high aim was manhood." All he desired was a chance to work. When asked if he would accept the position of representative in congress, he replied that he would, and that he should not consider it as detracting from his dignity as ex-president, to serve as town councilman if elected to that position.

At 63 years of age this ex-president took his seat for the first time in the house of representatives. He shirked no duties because of age, was regular in attendance, never failed to vote unless for some good reason, and did an amount of committee work that might well have put to shame many of the younger members. Iracible and at times sarcastic he gained few personal friends, but bearishness is not a dangerous vice in a government like ours.

He became by force of circumstances preeminently the champion of the right of petition. In 1836 the southern members secured the passage of the "Gag Law," which forbade the reception of any petition in regard to the question of slavery. Each time when the old rules were to be adopted, Adams would move to strike out this

portion of them; each session he offered great numbers of petitions from all over the country only to have them ruled out of order. He presented petitions of all kinds that were sent to him; petitions for the abolition of slavery, petitions for the perpetuation of slavery, petitions for the dissolution of the Union, petitions for his own removal from the committee on foreign affairs; even petitions for his own expulsion from the house. The fight was long, but in 1846 the Gag Law was repealed. Twice during the contest did democratic members try to get through resolutions calling him to the bar of the house to be censured by the speaker, twice did he begin the fight well nigh alone and both times did he succeed so well in his defense that his opponents were glad to lay their own resolutions on the table.

He was possessed, Morse tells us, of but few of the attributes of an orator, yet in the excitement of passionate debate, with wild gesticulation, with cracking voice and streaming eyes, his brain still went like clock work and by virtue of his deep sincerity he gained for himself the title of "Old Man Eloquent." In spite of bad temper and caustic speech he gained the respect both of friends and foes, and in 1848 when he entered the house for the first time after a prostrated illness, the entire body rose to receive him. In the following February, at 80 years of age, paralysis struck him down at his post of duty. Borne from the house in an unconscious condition, he died on the twenty second.

He was a man made great by manliness. Many have died for the sake of liberty, he lived for it. He may well have been one of the great departed whose spirits were invoked by Whittier when he said,—

"To party claims, to private aims,
Reveal that august face of truth,
Where-to are given the age of heaven,
The beauty of immortal youth.

So shall our voice of sovereign choice,
Swell the deep bass of duty done,
And strike the key of times to be,
When man and God shall speak as one."
—'85.

Scene at a club table:

SENIOR: "Who is going to hear Prof. Grube speak on Faust tonight?"

FRESHMAN, (eager for useful information); "Faust! What is that?"

Oh! a curious thing is love
As it comes from above
And lights like a dove
On some.

But some it never hits
Without it gives them fits
And scatters all their wits—
Oh hum!

"Are you certain of securing the diadem?" asked the minister of the dying man, and when the man said he didn't "want to diadem bit," the minister and the doctor both flew, and as a matter of consequence the man got better.

Facitious Friend (to young lady engaged in an *entre nous* with a Soph)—"Kittie, do you think you could be saved if I threw you a rope?" Young lady (momentarily relieved)—"Why, do you think me in danger?" Facitious friend—"I do, indeed, seeing you over bored."