

AS TO POETRY.

The disposition to write what one has to say now and then in rhyme is as prevalent now as it ever was, notwithstanding the discouragements to which the practice has been subjected by the press and otherwise. Some souls have music in them and whether their tenements are ever permitted to master an instrument or the means by which proper expression may be given the latent faculty or not, it still exists and in one form or another will occasionally manifest itself; so, we suppose, with the disposition to compose jingling lines. Sometimes rhythm and real poetry accompany each other, but oftener they do not; again, some good poetry does not rhyme, and once in a while we are confronted with a composition labeled a poem which contains neither rhyme, reason nor purpose. This is not to be ascribed to ignorance altogether; it is sometimes a disease.

A newspaper reader recently asked the New York Sun how many living poets there are in the world at the winding up of the nineteenth century, and received a characteristic reply. The luminary's estimate was that there are about a million. In making it it allowed one hundred thousand for this country, thirty thousand for England and Ireland, a half dozen for Canada, a hundred for Africa (excluding the Barbary States and Egypt), forty or fifty thousand for South America, where capricious poets flourish like mites in an old cheese, a hundred thousand for the powers of the Triple Alliance, seventy-five thousand for France, as many for Spain, half as many for Portugal, twenty for Russia, as many for Turkey, a big lot for the Scandinavian countries, six hundred for Iceland, a baker's dozen for Australia, a small squad for Mexico and the rest for Asia, which contains more than one-half of the human race. The Sun had not time to classify the poets, but three classes it concludes are always prominent; the muscular, the moral, and the morbid, or, in other words, the bass drummers, the harpists and the bones rattlers, to which kinds may be added those who fife for love, those who fiddle for fun, and those who run the burdy-gurdy for cold cash, all of whom fight for a place in the poetic orchestra of this period of the nineteenth century. It is held that some of our American poetry is better than most of the foreign poetry, though there could hardly be any worse than a heap of ours. No attempt is made to tell why it is that, in these times, less than a tenth part of the world's poetry is made by the gentle sex, which is far more poetical in spirit and life than the other sex, more zealous in devotion to the beautiful, and even perhaps more sentimental. Perhaps it is because women have something better to do than rhyming, or because they would rather put their poetry into their lives than into verse.

The concluding portion of the Sun's reply is not so bantering in tone but just as truthful and forcible, as nearly every editor of experience can testify to abundantly. "Poetry that is majestic, gentle, inspiring, splendid, dainty, ardent, pure, beautiful, heart-expanding, solacing, ennobling, melo-

dious, sparkling, heroic, lion-like, or bird-like, we love. The poets who are able to make such poetry can never be too numerous. We wish we had ten of them, or ten times ten, to every one we have now. But out with doggerel!" So say we all.

GETTING AHEAD DELIBERATELY.

The arbitration conference having in hand the Bering sea controversy draws its slow length along and it may be some weeks yet before any conclusion is reached. Of course it is a weighty matter that is being considered and it would not do to be too hasty, while precipitancy is to be shunned altogether; but it does seem as though the speeches being made might be greatly curtailed without losing anything in the nature of effectiveness or point. There are not many disputes even between nations the whole merits of which cannot be necessary be told in a few hours, let alone several days.

Mr. Carter for the United States occupied three weeks and Mr. Coudert on the same side then had the floor, but concluded yesterday and was followed by Mr. Russell for Great Britain. All are splendidly equipped for the task assigned them and all are as verbose as an encyclopedia. However, they are scoring points. We are informed that the second day of Mr. Coudert's speech was full of surprises for the opposing English counsel. The orator "held his audience as by a power almost necromantic. Argument, clear, cutting, convincing; wit, which is only wisdom in a fairy dress; alertness, which fears no surprise and destroys the adversary's power by using his ammunition in advance, and a graceful and delightful delivery, with occasional flashes and bursts of eloquence—these are the weapons which render this American orator and counselor such a redoubtable antagonist in a forensic and polemical arena."

It is also gratifying to be told, remarkable though it may appear, that up to the time named our counsel before the arbitrators had been victorious in every side issue raised before the tribunal. Mr. Coudert gained a great point in proving the English counsel in error when contending that all argument on the subject of regulations should be excluded until the question of rights was settled. The court finally decided against the English counsel on this contention, and it begins to look as if the decision could not be otherwise than favorable to the United States; such an outcome would be eminently satisfactory on this side of the water, however it might be received by our British neighbors.

MORE BONDING CALLED FOR.

At their adjourned session last evening, the board of education took an important step but one which they were at least partly justified in in view of the peculiar situation. It was the determination to call an election to determine whether or not the great sum of \$225,000 in bonds shall be is-

sued for the purpose of additional buildings and improvements.

The News has but little to offer on this subject in addition to what was recently contained in these columns. As a general proposition bonding should be carefully guarded when circumstances make it necessary to adopt such a course, and not resorted to at all unless there is an exigency at hand which will not be put off and can be met in no other way. We incline to the view that the Board of Education is in such a position as that indicated and are quite sure that it can carry on the proposed additions and improvements under no other present circumstances.

It is hardly equitable to make portions of the city which have inadequate school facilities or none at all pay as much toward maintaining the system as those which are not only fully but in some cases even luxuriously provided for. If this can be overcome in no other way, and as suggested none is now apparent, by all means let a smaller evil have an existence if by such means a larger one will disappear. Besides, it is not after all much of an imposition, if any at all upon the present generation, whose duties and responsibilities in the premises will be chiefly ministerial. Those who receive the benefits of the enlarged and improved schooling facilities, as well as the enhanced values of property naturally resulting through more and better buildings and beautified grounds, will have to bear the brunt so far as dollars and cents go; and why should they not? They might have just cause of complaint against us who are now the custodians of themselves and their means of prosperity presently and prospectively did we do otherwise.

"We must educate; if we do not, short will be our race from the cradle to the grave." And in order to educate and do it wisely and thoroughly, we must have the places and the means all of the most approved, most useful and most recent character. The money spent in this manner is seldom thrown away.

THE DELEGATE QUESTION.

The News has been asked, one way and another, several times what the delegateship status is. As it is a matter in which all the people are concerned, and such a situation never confronted them before, the necessity for a free and full discussion of the subject must be apparent, and that alone would be a sufficient justification for using a little space in the presentation of our views upon it. If in this it shall hereafter be shown that we are mistaken as to any point of law or fact, a correction or corrections thereof will be cheerfully received. Let there be light, no matter as to the star from whence it comes.

Joseph L. Rawlins in November last was chosen Delegate to Congress by the qualified voters of this Territory by a plurality of 2800 and a fraction; this is mentioned incidentally, for the preponderance of his vote does not figure at all. He was personally qualified for the position, not only in a statutory sense but in the light of personal acquirements and natural