

## GLEANINGS FROM EXCHANGES.

ROBERT BURNS' birth-day anniversary was commemorated in most of the principal cities throughout the Union, by feasting, toasting and speechifying. The original copy of "Auld Lang Syne," in Burns' own hand writing, was presented to the New York Burns Association, which is something of a curiosity. The copy of it in our possession has been mislaid.

Of Burns as a man and as a poet, Henry Ward Beecher made the following remarks at one of the great Burns celebrations in Yankeeedom:—

"No man could form any estimate either of the good or bad that was in him who did not study Burns' heart, whose tides were deep as oceans, and sometimes as tempestuous. He had a hereditary taint of melancholy, and this temperament had a dark and despondent tone, which contrasted wonderfully with the other traits of his character. According to the latter physiologists there was in the human system a portion of the general mass whose function it was to produce general sensibility, without regard to the special affections of the mind. Burns was eminently a man that had this excessive sensibility. His one nature carried enough for twenty common men of more force of feeling. He never trickled, drop by drop, prudently; he gushed. He never ran a slender thread of silver water; he came down booming and bursting like one of his own streams which, when a shower has fallen, rushes down the mountain. All parts of his nature were subject to this same sudden overflow. He thought as dragons charge; he felt love as prairie-ferns autumnal fires—wild and broad-breasted flames turning the forest deer, and leaving nothing but an ashy waste behind them."

How unfortunate it is, that, in this world of ours, we are seldom or never able to discern the merit of our contemporaries, and that it is reserved for future generations—to whom, perhaps, the genius, the statesman, the mighty champion for human rights, and lastly, perhaps not least, the poet, was unknown except in history—to do the honor to their names which their good works deserve.

Some of the world's great "poets," however, have traduced themselves by their own vices and follies and rendered themselves unworthy of aught but present oblivion and eternal infamy. Byron, tho' his presence was courted by lords and rulers in Europe, because he had wealth and title to sustain him in the pursuit of his extravagant and libertine career, yet, as is well attested by private writings, his inordinate lewdness and his profligate life rendered him, while living, the object of detestation among the good and virtuous wherever he was known. He was a "first-rate fellow," in the world's acceptance of the term—full of hypocrisy and corruption; but now, the generations of a succeeding century almost idolize his memory, while his writings are numbered with the classics.

We trust that Burns has greater claim to canonization than a life of extreme licentiousness, else we would prefer withholding our adoration of his memory.

In all ages, even the best of men have failed to receive, while living, that deference due to them and, often, are misrepresented and maligned, but, when death has sundered the bonds of their association and intimacy with mortality, their deeds and names are emblazoned upon the pinnacle of worldly fame.

Such is the world now, and such it was eighteen hundred years ago, when a great and good man said,

29. Wo unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous,

30. And say, if we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.

31. Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets.

32. Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers.

33. Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?

34. Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes; and some of them ye shall kill and crucify, and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city:

35. That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel, unto the blood of Zacharias, son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar. [Matt. c. XXIII.]

As it was then, so it is now. The prophets of the present generation have been hunted by their enemies, persecuted and slain; nor have they been duly appreciated and honored, while living, even by those who professed friendship for them and obedience to their doctrines; but succeeding generations will praise their memory and say, "If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets."

Whether there is or can be any good resulting from the post mortem glorification propensities of mankind, we do not now assume the province of determining; but, if "that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God," among other radical improvements, would it not be more conducive to the general good of the Saints, to endeavor more fully to appreciate the virtues, and to emulate the illustrious example of the great and good now living in their midst, and "let the dead bury their dead?"

—"ROUGH BUT HONEST"—is maxim in every one's mouth. That a man may be rough and honest, we do not doubt. The fallacy, however, lies in the implication that roughness and honesty are naturally twinned. The Boston Statesman says:—

"Good manners and good morals are oftener found in company than rudeness and goodness. Genuine kindness of heart rarely fails to produce gentle words and a benignant countenance. Coarse manners are either the result of a coarse nature, or are assumed on the strength of the 'rough-but-honest' proverb, to get credit with shallow observers, for a sincerity that does not exist."

Shakespeare was a shrewd critic on men and things. He thus delineates one of this class of humbugs:—

"This is some fellow Who, having been praised for bluntness, doth affect A saucy roughness, and constrains the garb Quite from his nature; he cannot flatter, he— An honest mind and plain—he must speak truth; These kind of knaves I know, which in this plainness Harbor more craft and more corrupted ends Than twenty silly clucking observants That stretch their duties nicely."

Nor are all the specious pretences to gentility and affected modesty worthy of a more favorable construction. The genuine "blunt and honest" fellow is tolerable; the involuntary serf of etiquette is excusable; but the man who would basely ape them is the most disagreeable of impostors and should be branded in his real character as "rough and rascally."

—THE SPIRITS have rapped out that Shakspeare studied law with David Conger in Berkshire, England. Prof. McCoy, of the Albany Law school, to whom the spirit of William Shakspeare vouchsafed the above revelation, stated that Shakspeare also told him that, in the unseen land where he now is, he is occupying himself in writing a new play, and further, that, as soon as it was finished, he would send it to the Professor; and the Professor promised the students of the law school that, before it was published to the world, he would read it to them.

—TWO GRAND BALS, in aid of the Mount Vernon Association, have been held in the Boston theatre; the first appropriation of this vast temple of the drama to ball room purposes. The profits of the last are estimated at \$4000.

—ORLANDO F. PARSONS committed suicide in Baltimore, March 1. Morphine and strychnine failed three or four times to produce death, as he stated in a note found in his pantaloons pocket, through "some superhuman agency;" so he shot his own brains out. He had been a clerk in the New York post office; which situation he resigned to fill a more profitable one, promised him in one of the departments in Washington; but, as he further states, "from the fact that the departments were all full, and a general cry having been raised for retrenchment, it was impossible to get me through." Having subsequently applied for employment in various quarters and obtaining none, he became discouraged and finally desperate and, as he says, "feeling confident that I can do no good here to myself or anybody else"—he destroyed himself. He was about 23 years of age. The first victim of retrenchment.

—CHARLES SAMPSON, of the well-known publishing firm of Phillips, Sampson & Co., Boston, is dead.

—THE BIRTH-DAY of Thomas Jefferson, April 2, was to be celebrated in Boston, April 1.

—"HARDSHELL" must be getting rather advanced in years, hence his sermons are short and more to the point—an admirable quality for sermons in general. Here is a bit of one:—

"My brethering and sistern of a man's full of religion you can't hurt him! There was the three Arabian children; they put 'em in a fiery furnace, heated seven times hotter than it could be hot, and it didn't swinge a hair on their heads! And their was John the Evangelist; they put him—where do you think, brethering and sistern, they put him? Why, they put him into a caldron of blin' ole, and biled him all night, and it didn't faze his shell! And their was Daniel; they put him in a lion's den—and what, my fellow-travelers and respected auditors, do you think he was put into a lion's den for? Why, for prayin' three times a day. Don't be alarmed, brethering and sistern; I don't think any of you will ever get into a lion's den!"

—THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY has attained a circulation of 40,000—the first complete success in the publication of a high-toned literary periodical. Many had fondly hoped that, in Putnam's Monthly a refutation would be found to the charge of English writers, that the American people can appreciate nothing better than love-sick stories and sentimental poetry; but they were doomed to disappointment—Putnam's Monthly gave up the ghost after a short and quite unsuccessful career, tho' some of its contributors were among the best American writers.

We trust the Atlantic Monthly will practically illustrate its "excelsior" aspirations and never stoop to vile party crimination or the condemnation of any sect or creed whose rights and privileges are constitutionally guarded.

Upon this broad platform—the great char-

ter of human rights—a high-minded effort to encourage and cultivate high toned literature and provide for the reading public of the United States, without distinction of party or creed, a national periodical of chaste, elevating sentiments cannot fail to be sustained.

—EUROPEAN affairs are in a critical condition. Italy is the point around which vast political events are revolving. To make England a nonentity in Europe is said to be precisely Louis Napoleon's policy. In 1763, France was inferior, as a power of influence in Europe, even to Austria, and England was triumphant, having ruined her commerce and destroyed her navy. But now, France seems to be ascending the throne of influence and is fast growing to be the dictator of European politics. The Emperor, meanwhile, continues to deal out smooth words of a peaceful import; but does not cease his active preparations for war. He is determined to destroy the Austrian power in Italy.

A BALL by the Americans in Paris, was arranged for Feb. 22. Tickets 30 francs.

—HER MAJESTY'S Theater in London is to be converted into a hotel.

—THE KING of Naples is yet quite ill of water around the heart.

—ALL THE RUSSIAN soldiers on furlough have been recalled, and orders given to purchase cavalry horses.

—"DULLNESS and distrust seems to increase," says the Manchester (Eng.) Guardian of Feb. 19, "and the stock market has been heavy throughout the day."

—THE PARIS Presse, of Feb. 15, the organ of Prince Napoleon, has a very bold article on the present issue between France and Austria, Italy and Sardinia. Assuming that the duty of France is most imperative in relation to forcing Austria out of Italy, it demands:

"Who has riveted the Pope to his odious system, that is, the destruction of the Romans? Austria. Who instigates the King of Naples to his foolish resistance to the most legitimate wishes, and to unnameable persecutions? Austria. Who crushes under iron bondage Lombardy and Venice? Austria. Who enslaves Modena and Tuscany? Austria. Yes, Austria everywhere. Austria, therefore, expelled, the position of affairs is changed and order is established."

The Presse asserts that Italy, desirous of breaking loose from Austrian tyranny, does not rely upon her own strength in the struggle—that she does not now, in the frenzy of her patriotism, exclaim, "Itala fara da se!"—she invokes the co-operation of generous nations; that the opportunity of putting a termination to the "anxiety which torments Europe" should be welcomed with gratitude. But Austria has rendered herself obnoxious to France because she has raised her head not only in Italy, but also elsewhere. Hear the Presse again:—

"Is it not Austria that has nullified the results of the treaty of Paris? Is it not Austria that inspires Turkey with her treason and treachery? Is it not Austria that troubled the alliance that united us with England? Would not a war which would deliver us from the nightmare be blessed above all other wars? Such is the war, we believe, preparing in Italy, and why we regard it with confidence and security."

The prospects are fair, at present, that the proud looks and arrogance of Austria will be humbled.

—AUSTRIA is by no means inclined to war. The Austrian journals have received instructions to moderate their tone towards France. Great despondency is said to prevail in Venice, owing to the prevalent conviction that Louis Napoleon is determined, at all hazards, to quarrel with Austria. To provide for her security, in the event of the theater of war being removed from Italy, Austria has concluded treaties with the second-rate German powers.

—PRUSSIA has now the reputation of holding in her hand the key to future Europe, and if upon her fiat rests the question of peace or war, there is little doubt that she will throw her influence into the lap of Austria.

—THE SARDINIAN king, Victor Emanuel, a widower, has married Maria Maximilianowna, aged 18, daughter of the Russian Grand Duchess Maria. He has thus accomplished two most important family alliances—one with France through the marriage of his daughter Clotilde by Prince Napoleon, the other with Russia, through the marriage, by himself, of the Grand Duchess' daughter. What victorious career awaits King Emanuel doth not yet appear, but it requires no prophetic ken to discern that in this union of the great northern power as well as the great western power of Europe, with the comparatively small kingdom of Sardinia, immense results are pending.

—THE BRITISH army in India is to be increased some 14,000 men, while that of the home and colonial establishment is to be reduced about 7,500 of all ranks. The whole imperial force for the defence of the United Kingdom and the colonies and India will be 229,000 men.

—THE FRENCH ARMY.—A Paris paper says that on the 1st of June next, the French army will number 682,000 men, and that 497,000 will be ready for active service.

—THREE JEWS are now members of the British parliament—Mr. Solomon and two Rothschilds.

—A BEAUTIFUL Roman tessellated pavement and a coin of the reign of Constantine the Great have been found in the grounds of Dorchester Castle, England.

—It is announced that, on the 15th of Feb., M. de Lesseps left Paris to commence the great Suez canal. M. Belly, also, embarked on the same day to commence the canal through Nicaragua.

—BOSTON is now—since the completion of the Hannibal and St. Joseph railroad, only a three days journey from Kansas.

—GEFFERARD, the newly installed president of Hayti, is said to be severe and abusive, and the people are dissatisfied with him.

—SICKLES is getting cooled down and now converses freely with his friend who come in crowds to visit him prison. His beautiful, little girl Laura, visits him daily. No complaints escape him concerning any one. When shown some newspaper extracts inclosed to him, relative to the tragedy, he said, "I have the satisfaction to know that nearly every religious paper that has spoken of me has approved the step which I have been compelled to take."

—THE SPECIAL POLICE of New York City are a curious set of fellows. Gen. Nye, one of the commissioners, is charged with bribery; quite a number of the police are said to be guilty of outrageous crimes, and many are in the habit of associating with criminals of every grade.

—THE GRAND BALL, in Paris, at the Hotel de Ville, Feb. 14, was a brilliant affair. The decorations alone cost about \$50,000. The number of invitations was 10,000. The Emperor and Empress did not attend, but Prince Napoleon and the Princess Clotilda were present.

—FROM WASHINGTON, it is estimated, at least 1200 sojourners decamped, between 3 p.m. of Friday, March 4, and 8 a.m. of Saturday, 5.

—A FRENCH theater is in operation in New York.

—TWO MEN, named Low and Miller, were killed by a mob in Louisville, Ky., in a political row.

—THE ANONYMOUS letters to Key and Sickles, warning one and informing the other, it is stated, were written by a female friend of the former, who was jealous of his attentions to Mrs. Sickles.

—A CHINAMAN in New York was beating his wife for getting drunk and for infidelity, when three females, neighbors, ran to her assistance. The Chinaman, being assailed with flat irons, he "pitched into" the women, killing one and seriously wounding the others.

—SAM. MEDARY, now Governor of Kansas, went into a barber's shop at Leecompton to get shaved. Having sat down, he remarked that he would shave by the month.

"Don't know, massa, about that," said the Ethiopian.

"Why not, Tom?" asked his Excellency.

"Case, Massa, you Gubunurs stay mighty short time in Kansas."

—THE PRINCE of Wongsu, Siam, is represented as having a tolerably large corporation." A letter in a London paper say that

"His over-grown cheeks hang in great rolls till they are lost in the huge mountains of blubber which hide his shoulders; and, as for his body, it must measure three yards round."

What a prize he would be esteemed by the Feegean cannibals!

—A SEWING girl of New York has lately become the heiress, in connection with two uncles, of about \$135,000,000, by the death of an uncle in Calcutta, India.

—THE NAMES and ages of the presidential aspirants for the next term are:—

"Crittenden will be 77, McLean 76, Rivers 71, Bell 73, Com. Stewart 82, Seward 70, Choate 69, Cushing 68, Hunter 67, Hammond 70, Brackenridge 38, Bigler 69, Dix 97, Dickinson 70, Case 71, Wise 51, Silldell 71, Douglas 49."

—A DARKEY in Baltimore, after hearing read to him his death warrant, fixing the day and hour of his execution, betrayed no emotion, but coolly looked up into the sheriff's face and asked, "could ye gub us a chaw tabaca?"

—Gov. MORRILL, of Maine, has recommended that the State Legislature meet but once in two years. It is favorably regarded by the people.

IN PENNSYLVANIA there are 11,281 schools, 13,536 teachers and 628,201 scholars. The

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