

complicity with the revolutionary party. The man, according to his own story, was thought to be in communication with other suspects whom the officers wished to secure, and to force a confession from him he was wracked and beaten with lashes until the brute who superintended the operation concluded he was too near a dead man to realize the pain of the torture. All this, the victim claims, was done under the immediate direction of the government ministry.

Such stories as these have been filling the columns of Chilean papers ever since the struggle with Balmaceda began. There may not be a word of truth in them, but there is nothing in the situation, as demonstrated thus far, to contradict them. It is a great pity that his men, in their eagerness to punish his secret foes, had not jumped onto some such American citizen as Editor Cutting of Mexican prison fame. The furore that would have surely followed might have been the means of making peace.

The funniest thing about the affair is that some dare devil has not found his way into the communion of these alleged warrior barbarians and created an international complication. It will have to be done before we shall know whether Balmaceda is deserving of succor or belligerence from the nations of whom he is soliciting assistance.

JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL.

THE old Latin poet who said that pale Death knocks with indiscriminating foot at the cottage of the poor man and at the palace of the king, spoke correctly. So does he knock with equal impartiality at the cabin of the obscure laborer and at the mansion of the man of fame and wealth.

The dispatches tell us that James Russell Lowell is gone to join the vast majority. He was a man of fame, and an American whose name will probably stand on the role of literary honor as long as the English language and literature survive.

He was born in Cambridge, Mass., February 22, 1819. He sprang from a family which was one of the foremost among the founders of New England. He graduated from Harvard in 1838. He was admitted to the bar in 1840, but never adopted law as a profession. In 1841 he published his first volume of Poems. He married Maria White in 1844. She was an ardent abolitionist, and probably by her influence he became one himself, though in his younger days he satirized and lampooned abolitionists and transcendentalists alike.

Mr. Lowell was best known by his

"Bigelow Papers," which were first published in the *Boston Courier* during the period from June, 1846, to 1848. In fact, it was by means of these papers that the abolition movement acquired the recognition of men of wealth and learning. Hitherto it was looked on as the work of a few misguided fanatics or insane anarchists.

In 1855 Mr. Lowell was appointed successor to Longfellow as professor of belles-lettres and modern language in Harvard University. He was a voluminous writer. He was the first editor of the *Athlantic Monthly*. In this magazine appeared his second series of "Bigelow Papers," in which he lashed the pro-slavery party right and left.

Lowell's life in official political work commenced in 1877 when he was appointed to the Spanish mission by President Hayes. He was transferred in 1880 from the land of the inquisition to the Court of St. James, London, from whence he was recalled in 1885 by President Cleveland. Notwithstanding this recall Mr. Lowell endorsed the policy of Cleveland's Administration, and though not becoming one of his active supporters, incurred the displeasure of the leaders of the Republican party.

A memorable incident of his life occurred in Chicago in the winter of 1887. The Union League Club of that city is among the staunchest and most orthodox of the Republican political clubs of the country. One of its main features is an annual lecture or discourse by some distinguished party man, who is expected to expound party doctrine. On this occasion Mr. Lowell was invited to lecture, and was given, as customary, the privilege of choosing his own subject, but as a matter of course, it was supposed he would touch on the Republican political gospel.

The Union League turned out its chivalry and its beauty on the night of the lecture, but the chagrin pictured on the faces of the Leaguers can be better imagined than described when Mr. Lowell announced his subject as the authorship of "Richard III," one of Shakespeare's plays.

The fact is Mr. Lowell did not endorse the tactics of his party at that time, nor was he prepared to accept honestly its tariff and pension schemes. He was naturally conservative, though where reform was needed he was a vehement reformer. In later years the Republican party press and leaders made little of him, but Mr. Lowell did not propose giving to a party what was meant for mankind. He was an American in the full sense of the word, and

made the name American respected in foreign lands.

As a scholar, poet and diplomatist he takes first rank with any among the English speaking races. It was known his health was declining for the past two years, but the announcement of his death seems sudden and unexpected, and will be regarded by the country at large as a great national loss.

THE DENVER OFFICIALS FRAUDS.

THE new city authorities in Denver are looking over the "cash books" of their predecessors in office. Already they have discovered a hiatus in the accounts through which over \$25,000 of the public moneys have escaped from the till, nobody knows where. But the work has only just begun, and the prospects are favorable for exhibits yet to come which will be very much more interesting to the taxpayers.

The committee have been looking casually through the records of ex-Auditor McKnight. The findings are of the unsatisfactory sort, and Mr. McKnight has endeavored to reconcile public opinion by the declaration that he did not participate in the swindles personally. Here is the satisfaction he gets from the *Denver News* on the score of non-participation:

"It may be that Mr. McKnight did not directly participate in the frauds and robberies with which his office was connected during his term. No one can scan the records without being overwhelmed with a conviction that the auditor's office was a nest of robbers, and whoever was in charge of it was captain of the gang and deserves the stripes and food of the convict for the term of his natural life."

That paper further avers that being elected and qualified as city auditor, if he was honest with the people he would have given the office his personal attention, or if not able to do so, he would have resigned. From present disclosures and the explanations of the ex-auditor, his case looks exactly as though he had sought the office solely for what there was in it, with no consideration whatever for the service to the people implied in his election.

It has become popular in these days for the lesser "bosses" to buy in the offices that yield the fees, as a source of speculation. They have no intention from the first of ever touching the work themselves, any more than the Chicago wheat speculator has of handling the grain he purchases at the stock exchange. The wheat speculator buys his grain futures with the hope of "margins." So the political boss invests in official "futures" also with the hope of "margins." With him as with the wheat speculator it is a deal in something he never expects to touch or see, with