

## THE EVENING NEWS.

Friday, December 12, 1872.

### Selected Poetry.

#### SILVER AND GOLD.

Spain is a wonderful city I see,  
With scenes and scenes before my eyes,  
Was invented for me to see,  
To hold there's truth in the motto old,

"Speech is silver, but silence is golden."

Never argue with knaves or fools,  
Although you know you're right of it;

You, clearly against all logical rules;

Waste sense on men whom it can't convince;

To the wise, "silence is golden,"

"Speech is silver, but silence is golden!"

Never waste words to folks at strife,

For make two opposite ones is enough;

And the passengers, just think with

For the passengers, just think each side a

Your interference will both embolden,

"Speech is silver, but silence is golden!"

But, however, of all, if a married man,

And the passengers, just think with

Believe me, my friends, that your only plan

To escape the results of your Wedding day

Speech is silver, but silence is golden!

How George Washington was once  
Fumpled.

George Washington's regard for his

person was in consonance with the

majesty of his character. His fame is

well known. On a certain occasion one

of the persons alluded to in the anecdote

below ventured to slap him familiarly

on the shoulder, a wager having been

laid that he would not dare do it.

Washington's rebuke was simply a

glance of the eye, but so intense and

so rapid that the blow was again attempted.

It is not known, however, that any human being ever

presumed to strike Washington in anger.

Yet, this really occurred, if the

memory of a relative of Colonel Peyton

may be trusted. His account of this

remarkable incident is as follows:

In the heated canvass which followed

General Washington's personal inde-

finiteness, General Washington's personal

friend, Lightfoot Harry Lee, was opposed for Congress by Colonel

Peyton. George was the interest

felt by Washington for Lee that

on election day he mentioned his name

and addressed Mount Vernon in a

speech to the people of influencing

by his presence as many votes as possible

for his friend. Among the many

acquaintances he encountered was a

plasterer who had been employed at

Mount Vernon. This plasterer was a

small man, defective, no doubt, in repre-

rence, and, it may well be believed,

somewhat worse for liquor, yet, in

the day it was, Harry Lee stated to the

Plasterer, the little man proceeded

to uphold him for his known friend-

ship for General Lee, a man who, in

his opinion (the plasterer's), was not

only a Federalist, but an aristocrat

to boot; whereas, Colonel Peyton was

a Democrat, a friend of the people, and

especially of the poor laboring classes.

Nettled by the disparagement of his

personal friend, Washington replied that

the plasterer's preference was the result

more of general ignorance on all sub-

jects than of any correct knowledge el-

eter of the character of the respective

candidates, or of the issues involved in

the canvass. The allusion to his want

of education was made by the in-

experienced witness he ripped

out an oath and said: "Well, I don't

care if I am ignorant. I know my

rights, anyhow, you fought for us in

the Revolution, and, for me, I

don't care if you can't!" whereupon

he delivered a number of dry blows upon

the chest of the august chieftain.

The bystanders made a rush to tear him

in pieces, but Washington, placing his

hand on the small man's shoulder, drew

him close to him and said, "He shall

not be harmed; I have wounded him in

the tenderest part of his nature; but it

is not natural that he should resent an

allusion to it." So the plasterer went scot-free. —Ex.

#### What of Denver?

Recent grave developments in our

city, with some tragic events, which

it is unnecessary to detail, have enforced

upon the public a serious consideration

of the social condition of Denver. The

open views to which even unluckily

do exist and flourish, and there is no

reason why, at any day, we may not be

called upon to record other fatal events,

coupled with other terrible results,

which we, in common with all other

good citizens, can only regard with

horror.

In Chicago, New York and almost all

of the eastern cities the people are re-

solved on having social order, and of

keeping crime in the back-ground at

least. This must be done, they say, to

avoid that social anarchy which, other-

wise, must throat society. And if we,

of Denver, cannot secure a better organi-

zation of society by more and more ef-

fective means, there will be no previous

warning of the means that will end it as

an alternative. That which will

happen will be like lightning out of a

clear sky. Right or wrong, the evil

will be grappled with, and in some way

absolutely.

With all other rightly-disposed citi-

zens, we deplore any infringement of

law, however good may be the object in

view. There is, and always must be,

great risk in such cases that injustice

will be done, and that the innocent will

suffer with the guilty. Consequently,

we believe in preventing such a

terrible anarchy as is presented

as it can possibly be—but it

is clear, even to the eye of a lay-

man, either that the law as it stands is

defective, and so ought to be amended,

or that the law being good, is not prop-

erly enforced.

Review the existing condition

of the social atmosphere of Denver, and

the evils that are certain to accumulate,

if there be not direct and decisive ac-

tion, we conceive it to be the duty of all

honest citizens to unite, as they have

done in Chicago and New York, and thus

thus secure a purification of the social

atmosphere and a rigid and impartial

execution of the law. —Denver Tribune.

The guillotine has never been for-

mally introduced into this country, but

something that performs its work very

accurately exists here, though it is not

a recognized part of our punitive sys-

tem. With a fair chance, a covered

railroad car will be filled with

harmless and non-lethal explosive

material, and the explosion will be

so sudden and so violent that

no one will be injured.

The passenger will be

unconscious of the explosion, and

will be dead before he knows it.

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