

THE ISLE OF THE LONG AGO.

[Though Benjamin F. Taylor, who died recently, was a voluminous writer, he will be best remembered by his poem entitled "The Isle of the Long Ago," which is a marvel of musical versification, and which is herewith reproduced.]

Oh, a wonderful stream is the River of Time,
As it flows through the realm of years,
With a faultless rhythm and a musical rhyme,
And a broader sweep and a surge sublime,
As it blends with the ocean of years.

How the Winters are drifting like flakes of snow!
And the Summers like buds between;
And the years in the sheaf—so they come
and they go

On the river's breast, with its ebb and flow,
As they glide in the shadow and sheen.

There's a magical Isle up the River of Time,
Where the softest of airs are playing;
There's a cloudless sky and a tropical clime,
And a voice as sweet as a vesper chime,
And the Junes with the roses are staying.

And the name of this Isle is the Long Ago,
And we bury our treasures there;
There are brows of beauty and bosoms of snow—
They are heaps of dust, but we loved them so!
There are trinkets and tresses of hair.

There are fragments of songs that nobody sings,
And a part of an infant's prayer,
There's a harp unswept and a lute without strings,
There are broken vows and pieces of rings
And the garments she used to wear.

There are hands that are waved when the fairy shore
By the mirage is lifted in air,
And we sometimes hear through the turbulent roar
Sweet voices we heard in the days gone before.

When the wind down the River is fair.

Oh, remembered for aye be the blessed Isle
All the days of our life till night,
And when evening comes with its beautiful smile,
And our eyes are closing in slumber awhile,
May that "Greenwood" of soul be in sight.

* The beautiful cemetery of Brooklyn, N. Y.

GENERAL NEWS.

By Telegraph to the News.

WASHINGTON, March 21.—Among the tasks which the commission has set for itself, to be undertaken immediately, is that of attempting to repeople our coastal waters with halibut, despite the theory of some eminent scientists that mankind cannot control the appreciable decrease in the food supply of the ocean. The supply of the valuable food fish has been depleted in waters where it was once common and such as remain lurk in depths of from one hundred and fifty to four hundred fathoms. They may be taken with a hook and line, but difficulty is experienced in bringing them from such a depth with enough vitality remaining to make them serviceable to

THE COMMISSION.

The task will require time and careful experimentation. Encouragement, however, is found in the fact that a single venturesome individual of the species has recently been taken in the lower Potomac, the first instance of the kind known to the commission, with its stomach full of fresh water fish upon which it was to all appearances thriving. An attempt will probably be made to plant halibut in the Chesapeake Bay. The fish commission people have radical notions respecting the fisheries trouble with Canada, and speak in no gentle terms of the efforts of our neighbors to so harass our fishermen as to force a way for their own products into our markets, which, it is declared, is the impelling motive in all their later operations.

Instructions were issued to the assistant treasurers at New York, Philadelphia and Boston to

RECEIVE DEPOSITS

for one and two dollar silver certificates to-day, and to resume the issue of these notes.

Dr. Z. T. Sowers, one of the most prominent physicians of Washington, in an interview with a reporter to-day, declared there is danger that President Cleveland will not live through his term unless there is a change in his mode of living.

Dr. Sowers, six months before Manning's illness, made the same prediction with regard to the secretary and advised a friend to warn him of his danger. In an interview to-day, Sowers said: "It may be deemed impertinent to talk to the President through a newspaper man, but I know of no way of

REACHING HIM

and those about him so surely. You recall my attempts with friends of Manning's and their fruit, and I do not feel that I should take the same chances

in the matter. I am personally apprised of the President's condition, and while it is in no sense dangerous, it will not be long before there will be reason for alarm. President Cleveland is a large, fleshy man, and since he came to the White House has gained enormously in flesh. Now, when he lived in Buffalo, it was his habit to take long walks. Since he came here, however, he has abandoned every exercise save carriage riding. That is of little or no use with the springs now in use and the smooth streets for which Washington is famous.

THE PRESIDENT

is a man who works with his head a great deal; is, in fact, an intense brain worker. He was, in other words, a plodder, and his brain is consequently filled with an excess of blood. What is the result? He works with his head, eats enormously and fails to exercise his muscles. His blood vessels are weakened, and it is only a question of time when in a moment of excitement he bursts a blood vessel. I tell you at the gate President Cleveland is now living, there is great danger that he will not live throughout his term. Something should be done to bring him to realize his danger and take the proper steps to prevent a result which will surely ensue if he fails to take the proper exercise. What I should recommend would be the fixing up of a room in the

WHITE HOUSE

and the setting apart of half an hour every day for gymnastic exercise. That alone, in my opinion, will prevent a catastrophe the avoidance of which not only the President, but the country at large is interested in securing."

NEW YORK, March 21.—A mass meeting was held in Cooper Union to-night to protest against the enactment of the proposed coercion measure for Ireland by the English Parliament. The meeting was held under the auspices of the municipal council of the Irish National League. Chas. A. Dana, editor of the Sun, acted as chairman. Samuel J. Randall was among the speakers. Roscoe Conkling sent a letter expressing sentiments appropriate to the occasion. The resolutions passed quote "England's greatest statesmen" in saying that force is no remedy, and declaring that home rule in the establishment of a parliament to deal directly with

LOCAL QUESTIONS

is the only basis of a statement of the Irish question. The resolutions tender sympathy and promise support to Gladstone and Parnell, and encourage them to oppose coercion. The resolutions are to be sent to the two leaders and also the tory leader, Lord Salisbury.

The following cablegram was sent to Gladstone:

"The citizens of New York, in mass-meeting assembled, protesting against coercion, heartily endorse your noble policy and wish you God speed in your undertaking."

"CHAS. A. DANA."

NEW YORK, March 21.—Abraham Kline, counsel for a number of the creditors of the missing Walter E. Lawton, the guano magnate, made the first estimate to-day that has been attempted of how much the creditors will receive out of the wreck. The attachments reach a total of \$500,751. Kline thinks the assets will be about \$400,000, and assumes that the creditors will receive about 75 per cent of their claims. He considers Lawton's Catal Island the principal asset, but this already has \$1,250,000 worth of mortgages. It is expected that a legal battle to determine which of the various mortgages on the island shall take precedence, will be one of the interesting complications that is certain to arise out of this mysterious affair.

WASHINGTON, March 22.—The President has appointed the following inter-state commerce commissioners:

THOMAS M. COOLEY,

of Michigan, for a term of six years; Wm. R. Morrison, of Illinois, for a term of five years; Augustus Schoonmaker, of New York, for a term of four years; Aldace F. Walker, of Vermont, for a term of three years, and Walter L. Bragg, of Alabama, for a term of two years.

The fact that Mr. Cooley's name heads the list does not necessarily indicate that he will be the chairman of the commission, as it must elect its own chairman. Cooley was recently appointed by Judge Gresham receiver of the Wabash Railroad.

ALDACE F. WALKER

is a Vermont lawyer, about 44 years old, a republican in politics, who studied law with Senator Edmunds. He served as colonel in the Union army, and has since then practiced law at Rutland. In the Vermont Senate he has taken a leading part in framing the legislation to solve the railroad problem and has given much study to the question.

AUGUST SCHOONMAKER

is a lawyer of Kingston, New York, and was always a close personal and political friend of Governor Tilden. He succeeded Mr. Fairchild as attorney-general of New York State.

MR. BRAGG

has been a leading democrat in Alabama for some years. In 1881 he was made president of the Alabama State Railroad Commission and served in that position four years, during which time many important questions arising between the railroads and their customers were satisfactorily adjusted.

MR. MORRISON'S

public services are well known. United States Attorney Robert B. Smith, of Montana, had advised Commissioner Sparks through the Attorney-General, that the supreme court of that territory had reversed the decision of the district court in the case of the United States vs. Williams & Smith, in which the government sued for \$12,000 for timber trespass. The lower court decided against the government, but on an appeal prosecuted by the United States Attorney, Judge McLeary overruled the point of law raised, and held that the Government was entitled to recover.

Col. Lamont, in conversation to-day in regard to the President's health, showed that the fears recently expressed by Dr. Sowers are not shared by the President's family and his intimate friends.

THE PRESIDENT.

Col. Lamont said, was, to all appearances, in perfect health. He did not think Dr. Sowers was in a position to judge of the matter, as he did not know the President, and what he said was, in the Colonel's opinion, based merely on assertion, that the President was gaining flesh and took no exercise. This was not the case. "As a matter of fact," he continued, "the President weighs less than when he first came to Washington, and really takes as much exercise as most other men. It is true he does not walk about the city, but he frequently walks in the country, and there are other ways in which he gets exercise." The Colonel added that altogether, the President is in good condition, and there is no apprehension in regard to his health.

BRIDGEPORT, March 22.—Mrs. Kretschner, a German lady of this city, gave birth recently to a male infant which has an elephant's head, and in place of a nose, a short trunk. The mouth and lips protrude like those of an elephant. The child weighs about nine pounds and can be fed only with a spoon. The mother visited the circus winter quarters here during the past winter and was terribly frightened by the elephants. The parents succeeded in keeping the matter to themselves until recently, and now very few have been permitted to see the child.

WASHINGTON, March 22.—Bids were opened at noon to-day, in the office of the Secretary of the Navy for 1,350 tons of steel gun forgings and 4,500 tons of steel armor plate, for the completion of the vessels now under construction by the department. The bids for 1,350 tons of gun steel forgings were as follows: Cambria Iron Company, \$351,513; Midvale Steel Company, \$1,307,240; Bethlehem Iron Company, \$902,230. For steel plate (4,500 tons), there are but two bids as follows: Bethlehem Iron Company, \$3,610,707; Cleveland Rolling Mill Company, \$4,021,500.

THE PROPOSALS

of the Bethlehem Company were accompanied by a memorandum saying that the price named was based on the condition sent out in the advertisement of August 21st last. The company adds that their bids are for both armor plate and gun forgings and should therefore receive the preference, all things being equal.

Secretary Whitney expressed himself greatly pleased with the result of the bidding for the production in this country of armor and gun shell.

The advertisement issued by the Department contained a provision requiring the contractors to provide a plant, with all

NEEDFUL APPLIANCES,

adequate to the manufacture of forgings and to deliveries within periods ranging from thirty-three to fifty-four months after the signing of contracts in case of gun steel. In the case of armor plate, the contractor is required to provide within two and a half years a plant capable of forging or rolling 300 tons of finished plate per month, and to deliver all the armor within two years thereafter.

Attached to the proposal made by the Bethlehem Company is an offer to provide a suitable plant within one and a quarter years, instead of two and a half years allowed for the purpose. This company also states, in a foot-note, that

THE ARMOR PLATE

required by the department is fully equal to the best plate manufactured in Europe and higher in grade than any made in this country. Their bid proposes to supply such plate, and they are prepared to demonstrate their ability to do so. If plate of lower quality will be acceptable to the department, the company is prepared to furnish it at a lower price than that stated in their bid. All of the bids were accompanied by certified checks of \$50,000.

The bid of the Cleveland Rolling Mill Company was handed to the Secretary by the clerk after the other bids had been opened, with the explanation that it had just come to hand through the mails. When the reading of the bids had been completed Secretary Whitney announced that they would be taken under consideration and the awards announced within fifteen days.

St. Louis, March 22.—One year ago this month one of the bloodiest murders of human beings known was committed near Erie, Kansas. J. W. Sell, a well-to-do farmer and his whole family excepting one son, Willie, a boy 18 years old, were found murdered, their heads being crushed and their throats cut. There has been a great diversity of opinion as to whether

Willie Sell committed the murder. On the trial there was no evidence, and the State failed to find any motive for the crime. On the contrary, it was proven that Willie was an exceptionally good boy, and that he and his sister Ina were more than commonly fond of each other. The

BOY CONFESSED

last night that his father on the night of the murder had a quarrel with his son Watt, when the latter struck his father with a hatchet. Willie obtained the hatchet from Watt and knocked Watt down. The mother and sister came into the room screaming, and Willie knifed them down. In his frenzy he cut his brother Watt's throat and then declared that if any others came to life he feared they would declare he had killed Watt and so he cut their throats. The recital corresponds to facts ascertained at the trial.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., March 22.—An attempt was made to-night upon the life of representative George P. Bailey, the labor member of east St. Louis, by some person as yet unknown. Mr. Bailey was returning to his boarding house, and was in the act of stepping into his door when the shot was fired. He was one of the pall bearers at Mrs. Neebe's funeral. This is attributed by some as the cause.

MANDAN, Dak., March 22.—A good many streets here are full of water but there is no suffering. The water is spreading over a vast extent of country slowly. The gorge is expected to go soon.

BISMARCK, March 22.—The Missouri fell about twelve inches last night and this morning stood at the high water mark of 1881. The railroad managers and passengers were congratulating themselves on the prospects for relief when the water began to rise again and it has risen a foot since this morning. The rise at this point runs over land

SIX MILES IN WIDTH.

This is marvelous when it is considered that all the gorges and the total floods were supposed to have passed. It is almost a miracle and no one seems able to account for the action of the river unless that the warm weather is able to produce a rise. The train from the east was delayed 20 minutes this afternoon by the rise in Apple Creek, three miles east of this point. If the water in the creek rises much more it will be impossible for trains to come to Bismarck, as the water at that point will put out the fires.

There is no longer any doubt of the drowning of the Jackson family at Painted Woods. The family consisted of a father, mother, and two children.

A BISMARCK SPECIAL

to the Pioneer Press says: The water is now stationary. The Northern Pacific transferred in yawls to-day and will transfer by the steamer Helena tomorrow. All passengers delayed here are being fed at the company's expense. Dynamite was unavailingly used on the gorge at Sibley Island to-day. Little Heart River is expected to break, and when it does, the water will back into Mandan in a terrific flood.

CHICAGO, March 22.—A storm of snow and sleet east of Pittsburg, paralyzed the telegraph service between Chicago and New York, and there was no communication between the two cities up to 11 a. m.

BERLIN, March 22.—The ninetieth anniversary of Emperor William's birthday was ushered in by the pealing of bells in all the churches and the tower of the Town Hall, and the sounding of the choral. The city is decorated as it never was before. Garlands, flags, laurels, festoons of evergreen banners, bright drapery and brilliant carpets are hung on every conspicuous spot where ornaments can be made to add to the joyous appearance of the town. Conspicuous by the extreme elegance of their decorations are the Royal Academy and the university buildings and the residences of the Crown Prince Frederick William. The monument of

FREDERICK THE GREAT

is covered with wreaths and flowers. Wherever there is a bust or statue of the Emperor in a shop window or other exposed place it is buried in flowers. The people are all out in holiday attire and the streets are thronged. Early in the day special memorial religious services were held in all the churches.

Children from all the schools in the city went in the processions, accompanied by bands of music, to the church services. The students' procession which passed the palace was a grand affair. They went in carriages, of which there were several hundred in line, and carried

BRIGHT BANNERS

of various schools, societies and associations, and were accompanied by many bands playing music.

The long line of carriages was preceded and followed by students on horseback. Passing the palace, the bands played the national anthem, "Preussen Lied" and "Die Wacht am Rhein," the students all singing to the music. The Emperor appeared at the window as the procession was moving past and bowed, remaining there a considerable time. The great crowd in the street gave him an ovation, the multitude cheering itself hoarse and waving their waving hats and handkerchiefs. All the members of the imperial family and their princely guests drove in a procession to the palace and personally tendered their congratulations to

THE EMPEROR.

The procession was cheered by the crowds in the streets. The municipal procession was preceded by heralds and marshals bearing the town banner, the whole body of the evangelical clergy, the chief civil and military authorities, representatives of German science, art and commerce, directors of the gymnasium, and the burgesses and officers. In all there were over 20,000 persons. The procession was accompanied by several bands, which played marches alternately with chorals by trumpeters. The procession went in state from the town hall to attend the commemoration religious service in the church of St. Nicholas. The clergymen were all full-robed, and the officials were in uniforms and regalia. When

THE PROCESSION

entered the church, the organ played a prelude. This was followed by "Salvum Fac Regem," and the chanting of the Ambrosian hymn. The festival sermon was preached by Provost Bruchner. At noon the royal salute of 101 guns was fired from Koenigsplatz.

Prince Bismarck and Marshal Von Moltke went to pay their congratulations to the Emperor at 1 o'clock. They were enthusiastically cheered all along the route to and from the palace. The day is being celebrated with similar and equal enthusiasm in all towns of the empire. The rainstorm which set in at 3 o'clock and lasted until 6, had scarcely any effect upon the crowds of enthusiastic Germans who thronged the streets.

THE ILLUMINATIONS

to-night throughout the city are superb. An especially striking feature is a picture 100 yards long and 200 yards wide in front of the Academy of Arts depicting events in the Emperor's life. Prince Bismarck and General Von Moltke say they have received a wonderful reward for their services, the character of which is unknown. All the secretaries of departments were decorated by the Emperor.

On receiving the household deputation the Emperor said:

"I have reached this age by the grace of God, and if the Lord helps me and wants me to, I may live to see another year."

Emperor William conferred the decoration of the

GRAND CROSS

of the Red Eagle upon ministers Von Puttkamer and Lucius Von Boetticher; the Grand Cross of the Hohenzollern family order upon ministers Von Gossler, Von Sebalz and Von Schellendorf and General Albedyll; the first cross of the Red Eagle upon General Von Caprivi and Count Nesselrode, and the Star Red Eagle of the second upon Count Herbert Bismarck. General Katz was appointed grand huntsman and Count Puckler chief cup-bearer.

AT THE AFTERNOON RECEPTION

the Emperor, after receiving the congratulations of the royal family and the princely guests, with the empress by his side and surrounded by a full court, formally announced

THE BETROTHAL

of Prince Henry, second son of Crown Prince Frederick William, to Princess Irene of Hesse. The young couple were afterwards heartily congratulated by all the illustrious company. A family dinner followed at 4 o'clock at the palace of the crown prince. The Emperor and empress were driven from the Imperial Palace to the crown prince's palace in a closed carriage, as rain was falling. They were greeted with uninterrupted cheering along the way.

ST. PETERSBURG, March 22.—The Kaluga regiment, of which Emperor William is an honorary colonel, celebrated the Emperor's birthday with

RELIGIOUS SERVICES,

which was followed by a distribution of rewards donated by Emperor William. Afterwards a banquet was given to the officers, at which toasts were drunk to the health of Emperor William and the Czar. In the course of the evening the commander of the regiment sent a telegram of congratulation to Emperor William.

PESTH, March 22.—A banquet was given this evening in honor of Emperor William, at which were present Emperor Francis Joseph, prince of Reuss, the German ambassador, Count De Mount Marin of the French legation, Count Puckler, Dr. De Polanewski of the German legation, Count Kalucky, Austrian prime minister and all the Hungarian ministers.

EMPEROR FRANCIS JOSEPH

in cordial tones proposed the health of the Emperor of Germany and the King of Prussia, and the band played the Prussian national anthem.

ATHENS, March 22.—King George to-day sent his chamberlain to the German legation to offer his congratulations upon Emperor William's anniversary. The German residents of this city gave a banquet this evening in honor of the day.

BERLIN, March 22.—To-night Berlin is like a city of fire. The steeples and domes shine

WITH BRILLIANCY.

The electric light is the groundwork of the illumination. Three rows of colored lights radiate from the lofty avenues in the centre of the city where the palaces are situated to the remote streets. From the roofs of houses Bengal fires are everywhere sending