

DEAR BROTHER, COME HOME TO THE FARM.

BY SUSIE M. DICKIE.

Your letter has reached me, dear Herbert
And I have read it all through,
So now I am going to answer,
And talk quite plainly to you.
'Tis time that you learned, my dear brother,
A little for others to care;
Letting reason guide you a little,
And stop living in castles of air.

I don't want to be hard, my dear brother,
But the truth must be verily told;
Since the death of our dear, darling mother,
Our father's grown wonderfully old.
I think he longs for you often,
And wishes Bert's strong, sturdy arm
Would willingly, cheerfully help him
Find wealth from the soil of the farm.

There's no disguising it, Herbert,
I think you sadly mistake
When you say "the life of a farmer
Is of such a contemptible make."
I'm sure no life suits you better,
And you know this to be a grim fact,
The professions of doctor and lawyer
Fill the country until it is packed.

Be sensible now, darling Herbert;
Remember our family cares;
Remember your promise to mother,
Remember how poor father fares,
All alone with no one to help him;
Don't longer let idleness charm,
Look away from yourself for one moment;
Dear brother, come home to the farm.

What good did the few months at college
Do you, I would like to find out;
It only unsettled your prospects,
And ended in running about;
As for being a gentleman, Herbert,
That end can as well be attained
At work on the farm for your father
As in the city you named.

Don't spend any more idle moments,
Nor live for yourself all alone;
But come back to the cheery old fireside,
And enliven our dear father's tone.
Mother Earth will welcome you gladly,
Her soil will ne'er do you harm;
You will find your richest vocation
At home and at work on the farm.
—Cincinnati Times and Chronicle.

— Josh Billings says, very truly: "You'd better not know so much, than to know so many things that ain't so."

— The women of a Wisconsin town have organized a society to prosecute men who leave their teams standing on street crossings.

— The women of St. Joseph paraded the streets the other day, carrying the motto, "We'll vote or fight."

— The new woollen mill at Los Angeles is manufacturing one hundred and seventy-five yards of cassimeres and flannels per day, though it is working at only about two-thirds of its capacity.

— The laborers at certain Missouri mining works are discussing the problem, "Ought a copper dresser, when the whistle blows for twelve, to empty his shovel of the sand or throw it back on the pile?"

— The only man who seems to understand himself in Posey Co., Ind., confesses that he is a jackass, and because he has frequently repeated it, they call him insane and will send him to the lunatic asylum.

— Mr. Lyman Beecher upon a certain occasion said: "Should a foreign army land upon our shores to levy such a tax upon us as intemperance levies, no mortal power could resist the tide of swelling indignation that would overwhelm it."

— The first thing a young man does when he sees a friend with a new hat on is to take it off and serenely try it on his own head. When a young lady sees one of her acquaintances with a new bonnet, she just lifts her nose and serenely wonders "where the thing got that fright."

— They put an intoxicated woman in the lock-up at Altona, Pa., and the way she did try to commit suicide was very entertaining to the turnkey. She hung herself up with her garters, first lacing herself up so she could not breathe. The turnkey rushed in after he had watched her kick a few minutes and cut her down. He then put hand-cuffs on her, but she would not be baffled, and stood on her head and braced her heels against the grating and tried to push her head through the floor. She was stopped in this, when she gave up and went to sleep. —Pittsburg Leader.

The Problems of the Future.

Charles Francis Adams, in his address on Education, delivered at Harvard, June 26th, said:

"The times are critical, not here alone, but all over the world. Prospering in purely material interests as I fully believe the people at large have never done before, the elements to work out the gravest moral changes are simultaneously at work everywhere. The problems now freely presented for agitation reach the very foundations of religious faith, of moral philosophy, of civil government, and even of human society. New forms of associated power are developing themselves, seriously menacing the solidity of all established institutions. Even that great principle ever cherished as the apple of our eye, and which really is the rock upon which our political edifice rests, the durability of representative government, bids fair to be, sooner or later, drawn into questionable serious grounds. The collision between the forces of associated capital and those of associated labor is likely to make itself felt throughout all the wide extent of human civilization. Much as we unquestionably advance in education, in refinement and in the spread of a blessed spirit of benevolence, some fearful catastrophe now and then opens our eyes on a sudden to the existence of a blind ferocity still clinging to animal nature, which would have disgraced the rudest age of the creation. Hence it seems difficult to deny that we make almost even progress in our philanthropy and in the magnitude of our crimes. If it be conceded that this is so, and that the elements of good and evil are yet gathering with almost equal energy to try their strength in a conflict, so much the more imperative becomes the duty of those who aspire to the glory of promoting noble objects to waste no opportunities of fortifying their powers for the fray—so much the more imperative it is upon the highest institutions of education in this land, the great arsenals of supply, to furnish every kind of armor with which the more certainly an ultimate triumph of the right and the true may be secured. Cast a momentary glance over this broad continent. You will see at once that it is the most magnificent theatre upon which human power has ever had an opportunity to exert itself; remember that upon it 40,000,000 of beings are already placed, and that the future will doubtless contribute its annual millions in an ever-ascending ratio. You will also note that flocking in from outside come the Celt, the Teuton, the African, the Aztec, and the native of far Cathay, all rush in to form parts of one huge conglomerate mass of restless humanity, upon whose fiat depends the realization of the highest hope ever yet formed of approaching the image of a Utopian Commonwealth. Surely never in any preceding record of human history has there been a fairer opening for the dull development of the noblest aspirations for good which the Divine Being has been pleased to implant in the bosoms of his creatures. Here is ample space and verge enough for the most far-seeing statesman, the most persuasive orator, the most profound philosopher, the most exalted philanthropist. Here is a field the like of which Aristotle or Plato never trod. Here are problems on which Cicero never could have speculated, or Bacon exercised his wonderful sagacity. Answer me if you can, I pray you. Shall it indeed be that this marvelous scene will be occupied by actors worthy of their place, who will strain their utmost power to rise to every great emergency and do for their fellow-men all that mortal power has been able to effect since the forfeiture of Paradise? Let us hope that the enthusiasm for a higher education may more and more stimulate the young to weave for themselves a garland of laurels wherefrom they receive on their brows an everlasting crown, and of whom the historian may mark the good, the wise, the true, for lessons to the multitude unborn. Blessed indeed will be the Alma Mater who shall be able to cry out, 'These are my sons.' Sad will be her reproach if she should find them emanate from any inferior source."

— At a recent "fashionable wedding" in New York, the mother of the bride wore in her "silver white hair a simple white feather."

A Vile Business.

The act of Congress under which Mrs. Woodhull was recently tried is entitled, "An act for the suppression of trade in and circulation of obscene literature and articles of immoral use." It enacts that "no obscene, lewd, or lascivious book, pamphlet, picture, paper, print or other publication of an indecent character, or any article or thing designed or intended for the perversion or conception or procuring of abortion, or any article or thing intended or adapted for any indecent or immoral use or nature, nor any written or printed card, circular, book, pamphlet, advertisement, or notice of any kind giving information, directly or indirectly, where, or how, or of whom, or by what means either of the things before mentioned may be obtained or made, nor any letter upon the envelope of which, or postal card upon which indecent or scurrilous epithets may be written or printed, shall be carried in the mail," and for the mailing or delivery, or assisting to mail or deliver, any of the foregoing articles, the law affixes a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$5,000, or imprisonment from one to ten years. The federal courts have jurisdiction of such cases, and any United States judge may, on proper affidavit, direct the Marshal to search for and seize all such articles.

Few persons, probably, are aware of the grave necessity that existed for the passage of such an act. So infamous a business as the circulation of obscene literature, and the deliberate poisoning of the morals of youth would naturally be carried on in the most sneaking and secret manner, but facts show that it has been systematically and extensively carried on. It is impossible to conceive of anything more nefarious in itself or more dangerous to public morals than such a commerce, which attacks parents through their children and society through the youth of the land, by means so stealthy as scarcely to be detected and so vile as to be almost nameless. The men who engage in this loathsome traffic make a business of obtaining lists of scholars and students in schools and colleges all over the land, and forwarding circulars with price lists of their vile publications and other articles. The credit of unearthing the business and procuring the passage of the law against its prosecution through the mails, belongs to a young man of New York named Anthony Comstock, who, it must be confessed, has rendered the public a real service in calling attention to this great infamy. In a memorial to the House of Representatives at the last session of Congress, he said he had been engaged in the war against obscene literature for about a year, with the following results.

"Seized and destroyed obscene photographs, stereoscopic and other pictures, more than 180,000; obscene books and pamphlets, more than five tons; obscene letter-press in sheets, more than two tons; sheets of impure songs, catalogues, handbills, &c., more than 21,000; obscene microscopic watch and knife charms and finger rings, more than 5,000; obscene negative plates for printing photographs and stereoscopic views, about 625; obscene engraved steel and copper plates, 350; obscene lithographic stones destroyed, 20; obscene wood cut engravings, more than 500; stereotype plates for printing obscene books, more than five tons; obscene transparent playing cards, 5,500 to 6,000; newspapers seized, about 4,600; letters from all parts of the country, ordering these goods, about 15,000; names of dealers in account books seized, about 6,000; list of names in the hands of dealers, that are sold as merchandise, to forward catalogues and circulars to, independent of letters and account books, seized, more than 7,000; arrests of dealers, over 50."

Out of 144 obscene books published in New York during the year 1871, Mr. Comstock succeeded in capturing and destroying the stereotyped plates and engravings of 142. Among the letters seized were orders from all parts of the country, with lists of names, etc., and what is rather startling, there were found on the books of one dealer twenty separate orders from the librarian of a public school in a Western city. How extensively the traffic has been carried on no one can tell, but the fact that it has been carried on at all, and that the mails were open to use for placing this poisonous stuff in the hands of the young,

shows that some legislation was loudly called for, and it is to be hoped that the war thus vigorously begun will be waged to the complete extermination of the business. —*Indianapolis Journal*.

Relics of the Mound-Builders.

There have been of late several independent investigations into the character and fate of the people who built the mounds scattered so extensively over the Western States; and while little that is new and positive has been developed, certain general conclusions seem to be strengthened. The works were constructed, as appears by trees growing upon them, at least five or six hundred years ago, and by a race quite dissimilar from the present Indians. They were mainly an agricultural people, as appears from their favorite locations along rich river valleys. They had some engineering skill, as their works abound in geometrical outlines, squares, circles, octagons, ellipses being often combined in one comprehensive plan. The squares are so frequently exactly two hundred and eighty feet on a side that their builders must have had a standard of measurement.

At the same time their civilization must have been of an humble grade. They used stone hatchets, axes, arrow-heads and lance heads. They took great pains to get native copper from Lake Superior, but they had no knowledge of melting or casting the metal, but merely hammered it into utensils or ornaments. Their pottery was superior in execution and design to that of any of the present Indian tribes. They were great smokers, as is evident from the numerous stone pipes they have left behind, bearing marks of their choicest carvings. "In fine," says one of the most careful students of the subject, Mr. M. F. Force, of Cincinnati, "the mound-builders appear to have been an agricultural people as well as hunters, capable of patient toil, living under a strongly centralized or despotic government, and were somewhat more advanced than the Indians who succeeded them in the rudiments of civilization. They were perhaps on a level with the Zuni or Pueblo Indians of Arizona."

What became of them? It has been said, and truly, that civilization generally radiates from a centre, and when it fades out, contracts on that centre. If we concede, therefore, that the remains of the mound-builders ally them with the ancient races of Central America, who have left such striking monuments of their qualified civilization, we may conclude that after spreading northward and holding the country for a long time, they were gradually driven back by a more warlike but rude race, while at the same time they may have been weakened by pestilence. At all events, the successive lines of fortifications show that they withdrew southward and disappeared—possibly died out—in that direction. And yet not wholly, for it is a curious fact that there are tribes and parts of tribes yet extant which are so unlike the ordinary Indian type as to suggest that they must have been remnants of the mound-builders, separated from the main body, and either by choice or subjugation detained among the conquerors. Such were the Natchez, now nearly extinct, the Mandans, called by Catlin "the white Indians," and other fragmentary tribes, whose language and habits stamped them with an exceptional superiority.

We are glad to see these researches going on. Ours is called the "New World," but it has an antiquity, rich and instructive, which lies behind the curtain of our ignorance, and which may be brought to view. Every fact adds something, and by and by the man will come who will put them together and extract their meaning. —*Boston Journal*.

A late number of the *Scientific American*, discoursing upon the above subject, gives the following description of a skeleton found in an old mound:

"The most peculiar feature about the formation of the skeleton was that the arm at the shoulder connected with a short, strong bone that was connected firmly with the sixth joint of the backbone, counting from the head."

To which a correspondent replies as follows:

"A bone reaching from the shoulder to the sixth cervical vertebra is a new feature in human osteology. This excited my curiosity, and I

wished to enquire if other skeletons of these mound-builders have not been found, and whether this extra bone is common to them all, or whether this is a single example, and ought to be looked upon as a *lusus nature*? If common to all, then we have some fragmentary knowledge of a race of human beings entirely unrelated to the race of Adam, but another and extinct species of the same genus. I say another, for the skeleton found in one of the caves of Italy, in immediate juxtaposition with the skeletons of the extinct tiger, cave bear, etc., shows pretty conclusively that these animals and men existed contemporaneously, probably long before Adam and Eve were created. In saying this I do not wish to be understood as denying revelation, or any of the truth contained in the Old Testament. Of course, it could not be expected that Moses, from his very limited means of knowledge, most of which was legendary, would attempt to enlighten mankind about the fossil remains of extinct men and animals of which he could know nothing. Geology shows very conclusively that creation and extinction have been the natural order of nature, and that the conditions favorable to a given form of life have ceased, and therefore that form must have necessarily become extinct; and the evidence is the fossil remains belonging to this or that geological age. Fossil remains of animals and plants exist in different latitudes where the living specimens have ceased to exist for an indefinite period of time. It seems a fair inference, then, that this Italian skeleton, and perhaps these mound-builders also, were of species extinct long before our progenitors were created. This being true does not necessarily fix the stigma of untruthfulness on Moses, for he could not be expected to know what the combined researches of science for ages have but just unfolded. His history was in accordance with the best light he had, and he undoubtedly believed it to be true." —*Ex.*

A Writing Machine.

The new writing machine now being exhibited by Mr. Emmett Dewsmore seems to be an invention which, if the difficulty of its somewhat high price can only be surmounted, will be almost as great a boon to printers as printing itself was to the world at large. At all events its adoption will deprive that *hostis humani generis*, "the printer's reader," of all chance of throwing back upon the crabbed penmanship of the maddened author the responsibility of the travesty in which he has presented his pet incubations to a bewildered public. The writing machine is, with its stand, about the size of a small sewing machine, and consists of a key-board with three rows of keys, each of which is marked with a letter or number and connected with a long wire hammer, similar in action to those of the pianoforte, but bearing at the striking end, instead of the usual hard covered leather hammer, the metal dye bearing the same letter or figure as that on the key. These hammers are ranged in a circle, so disposed that each hammer when thrown up by the action of its key strikes upon the same spot on a wooden cylinder, round which is rolled the paper to be written upon.

Underneath this paper is a piece of ordinary carbonized paper, so that when the die on the hammer strikes upon it the white paper is at once marked with whatever letter or figure may be upon the die. As the key which has been struck rises on being relieved from the pressure upon it, its action loosens a catch by which the wooden cylinder has been detained in its place, and the cylinder, acted upon by a coiled spring at one end, moves on a small space so as to expose a fresh surface for the impact of the next die, which, on its key being struck, rises as before, and marks the paper with a fresh letter or figure immediately following the first. In this way each word is spelled, the striking of a light wooden bar which runs along the front of the key-board sufficing at the end of each word to move the cylinder forward without making any mark upon the paper, thus forming the spaces between the words.

There are, of course, keys carrying the various notes of interrogation, etc., and it will readily be seen that by this simple arrangement a sentence may be printed off even much more rapidly than it