

CLOUDS WITH SILVER LININGS.

BY MARY COLBY.

There's never a day so sunny
But a little cloud appears;
There's never a life so happy
But has had its time of tears;
Yet the sun shines out the brighter
When the stormy tempest clears.

There's never a garden growing
With roses in every plot;
There's never a heart so hardened
But it has one tender spot;
We have only to pursue the border
To find the forget-me-not.

There's never a cup so pleasant
But has bitter with the sweet;
There's never a path so rugged
That bears not the print of feet;
And we have a helper promised
For the trials we may meet.

There's never a sun that rises
But we know 'twill set at night;
The tints that gleam in the morning
At evening are just as bright;
And the hour that is the sweetest
Is between the dark and light.

There's never a dream that's happy
But the waking makes us sad;
There's never a dream of sorrow
But the waking makes us glad;
We shall look some day with wonder
At the troubles we have had.

There's never a way so narrow
But the entrance is made straight;
There's always a guide to point us
To the "little wicket gate;"
And the angels will be nearer
To a soul that is desolate.

There's never a heart so haughty
But will some day bow and kneel;
There's never a heart so wounded
That the Savior cannot heal;
There's many a lowly forehead
That is bearing the hidden seal.

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But a little cloud appears;
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New Scheme of Immigration.

The women of Massachusetts have awoke to a realizing sense of their most destitute and unhappy condition. They have ascertained by the census and experience that there are more females than males in the commonwealth, and that while in some of the Western States males predominate, in their unhappy neighborhood there is not one piece. They have been taught that every girl has a right to her Jack, and upon finding that there are more Gills than Jacks, and that the men are being monopolized, they rebel against the cruel law that allows one woman to secure for herself an entire man. Hence these disconsolate females are petitioning the Legislature to abolish the laws of monogamy and introduce polygamy into the old Bay State. For this they invoke the Old Testament doctrine, and bring forth Solomon and the Patriarchs, Brigham Young and the Book of Mormon, for authority, and demand a repeal of the laws punishing man for bigamy, and to allow him to multiply wives up to the point of his ability to support them. The young men run away from Massachusetts and leave the maidens in "maiden meditation fancy free," and the maidens do not like it, not being able to get a man, nor to realize the truth of the old distich that

"Every goose may, soon or late,
Get some honest gander for a mate."

Recognizing the fact that "half a loaf is better than no bread," they have determined to secure a repeal of the law and go in for an honest divide.

We do not doubt that this question will meet with great favor from the Legislature of Massachusetts, as it is composed of men, and we see no reason why they should not enlarge their privileges. Of course, some of the selfish old hens who have been lucky enough to secure a rooster all to themselves will cackle over the inconvenience and immorality of this proposed change and pretend that polygamy is not in accordance with the civilization of the age. This is all stuff and nonsense. Was not there double-wiving in good old Patriarchal days, and were not David and Solomon and Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and Moses and Joshua all good men? Don't the Bible uphold the practice, and do not the Turks and Mahometans, the Chinese and the Buddhists, the Parsees and the

Mormons still cling to the ancient usage? And who shall say that we are wiser in this generation than they of the olden time, or that the teachings of the modern Christian Church are right, while Plato, Aristotle, Confucius, Mahomet and Brigham Young are all wrong? There is high authority among philosophers and prophets and ancient law-givers for this polygamous system, while nearly all the poets of ancient and modern times have practiced the custom and celebrated it in song.

But, pending this change of laws in the old Bay State, and in the possible anticipation that there may be unreasonable delay in bringing about the innovation, we suggest to the single sisterhood of Massachusetts that in California we have more males than females. Let them emigrate in this direction, where we have men to spare—men able and willing to be married. We now proclaim to the females of Massachusetts that we can accommodate fifty thousand of them. If they are young, good-looking, and have enough money to support a husband in good style, and are not too particular, we have half a hundred thousand able-bodied men ready to become fond husbands and affectionate fathers of families.

We suggest an immediate organization in Massachusetts for the purpose of emigration to California. Fifty thousand good-looking young Massachusetts girls could find husbands, homes, farms and happiness in this land of fruit and plenty. They would be welcomed with open arms. We have canvassed the *Chronicle* office and find thirteen eligible bachelors, all ready and willing to be supported, so we can be put down for a baker's dozen of the youngest and prettiest. We give them notice, however, that they must pay their own passages. —*S. F. Chronicle.*

Do Cats Kill Babies?

The old superstition that cats sometimes kill infants by sucking their breath has been lately revived by a story in a Portland paper, in which it is stated that a babe was recently found dead in that city, with a large cat lying upon its breast. A writer for the *New York Tribune* shows that it would be almost impossible for a cat to kill a child by sucking its breath. Alluding to the Portland case he says:

"I do not doubt the death of the child, or that the animal was present at the time, but that a cat 'sucked its breath,' or would or could do so, must be regarded as a piece of gross superstitious ignorance; as such it is hurtful and ought not to pass unchallenged. Death is a serious matter, and therefore this subject must be treated seriously, otherwise it were easy to ridicule the assumption made, which I do not now meet for the first time.

"Let me say, then, that a cat could have no possible motive for sucking a child's breath, even if it were possible to do so. The breath of any animal after it has entered the lungs is disagreeable and poisonous, and we know of no creature with a liking for such air.

"Are we to suppose that the cat applied its lips closely to those of the child, and exhausted the lungs of the latter by filling its own? If so, what next? The cat must breathe or die. If it breathes, the child will breathe also and live.

"But it may be said that the cat places its mouth in such proximity to that of the child, as to intercept the pure air and so 'suck' in that which the child required. This would involve the death of the cat first, for it is the smaller animal; and the child's mouth must also be in the proper position to intercept the pure air required by the cat. That the latter, either from malignity or affection, would voluntarily suffer semi-suffocation, is of course absurd.

"In fact, the statement is absurd altogether, and it would require the clearest circumstantial description of the way in which the act was performed, and that by a disinterested observer, to entitle the assertion even to the consideration here given. The true explanation of the case is doubtless very simple. The cat lay upon the child's mouth, and so smothered it, or upon its stomach and chest, and by its weight tired the respiratory muscles so that they gradually ceased to act, and the poor little infant to breathe. Let me say, in conclusion, that such ac-

cidents are frequently facilitated by the senseless way in which mothers and nurses place their children, deeply imbedded in soft clothes and pillows, depriving them, by so doing, of a full supply of the fresh, pure air, which is their very life."

Ancient Voyagers.

MONUMENTAL RECORD OF A VISIT OF PHENICIANS TO BRAZIL FIVE AND A HALF CENTURIES BEFORE THE CHRISTIAN ERA.

There are good grounds for the belief that a remarkable historical discovery has just been achieved in Brazil, no less than an engraved stone, bearing a Phœnician inscription, commemorating a visit to Brazil some five centuries before the birth of Christ. Visconde de Sapercahy, a member of the Emperor's Council of State, received three months ago a letter from Parahyba, inclosing a drawing of the inscription upon a stone which the writer's slaves had come upon during their agricultural labors on his farm, and which drawing had been made by the writer's son, a young man who could draw a little. This copy was turned over to the Historical Society of Rio, and by it to Senor Ladislao Netto, director of the Rio Museum, for an examination. On examining it he was surprised to find that the characters were pure Phœnician.

I will now quote from the letter of this gentleman:

After immense labor I have been able to interpret this inscription with such good fortune that only two or three words have proved beyond my powers.

The inscription is of a commemorative stone—a rough monument erected by some Phœnicians of Sidonia, apparently exiles or refugees from their native land, between the ninth and tenth years of the reign of a King named Hiram. These rash or unfortunate Canaanites—the patronymic which they have used to denominate themselves—left the port of Aziongaber (now Akaba), a port upon the Red Sea, and sailed for twelve (?) novilunes (lunar months) along the land of Egypt—that is, Africa. The number of vessels they had and the numbers of males and females composing the adventurous expedition are all set forth, these particulars being placed intermediate between the invocation—one at the beginning and the other at the end of the inscription of the Alonim Valonuth—i.e., gods and goddesses, or *superos superasque*, as is the Latin translation by Gesenius of those well-known Phœnician words. The inscription is eight lines of most beautiful Phœnician characters, but without separation of the words, without the vowel points and without quiescent letters—three great obstacles to the interpretation, for whose overcoming a mere knowledge of Biblical Hebrew is insufficient.

A certain ararism, not slightly manifest in the emphatic termination in *alph* and in the feminine one in *thau*, and more than this the forms of the letters *mem* and *shin*, induce me to believe that the reign of the second of the two Hiram was the epoch of the adventure, and that the voyage was, therefore, made in the years 543 and 542 B.C.; that is, twenty-six years after the siege of Tyre by Nebuchadnezzar and four years before Cyrus reigned.

The inscription does not declare which of the two Phœnician monarchs is referred to as the Hiram of the epoch. The first Hiram of the two historical ones was the Hiram the ally of Solomon, and he reigned in 980 to 947 B.C. The second was an obscure prince who reigned in 558 to 552 B.C., under the pressure of Babylon and Egypt. But whichever the one this inscription is one of the oldest and evidently the most notable record yet discovered in relation to the heroic and enlightened people to whom, it would seem, the whole of the seas were known.

Leaving apart trifling matters, I will proceed to treat of the crossing of the Phœnicians from Africa to Brazil. To explain this crossing, of which they themselves appeared to be unaware, I have resorted to the beautiful and classic studies of Maury on oceanic currents, and I gather that the same happened to our Sidonians as did to Pedro Alvarez Cabral 2,000 years later, when knowing nothing of Brazil, he found himself unexpectedly off its shore. The only difference is that Cabral sailed from north to south,

while the Phœnicians voyaged from south to north. Like Cabral, in fleeing from the storms reigning from the Cape of Good Hope up to near Senegambia, they steered into the high sea, and seized by the famous equatorial current, which sometimes flows with extraordinary swiftness, they unexpectedly came upon the Brazilian shores.—*Rio Janeiro letter to the New York Herald.*

EASTERN NOTES.

An editor in Stark county, Ind., desires to trade his paper for two swarms of bees.

A Janesville (Wisconsin) woman put a brick on a bar-tender's nose, because he put a brick in her husband's hat.

Fort Smith, Arkansas, has a woman blacksmith who can throw a mule and shoe him in fifteen minutes by the clock.

A precipitate Detroit is miserable at discovering that his wife inherited half a million just after he had procured a divorce from her.

Boston milk is composed of molasses, chalk, burnt sugar, salt, water and dirt. It can be taken disguised in whisky or castor oil.

Before the close of the present year the law library at Yale college will be provided with every report in the English language.

The annual conference of the Western Unitarian churches have adopted a resolution in disapproval of reading the Bible in common schools.

A Vermont school teacher has struck the thing at last. He makes unruly boys turn a grindstone one thousand times while another boy bears on with a stick of wood.

George Barkley, a resident of Danbury, Conn., accidentally struck himself in the back of the head with a dumb-bell, while practicing recently, inflicting fatal injuries.

Two juries in Georgia have convicted a married preacher of seduction, and he has twice been sentenced to the penitentiary, but the supreme court of the State has granted him a third trial.

Spelling matches are held regularly in the Washington schools, and prove a fact which has been frequently noted elsewhere, namely, that the girls spell much better than the boys.

Alfred H. Gurnsey, for many years editor of *Harper's Monthly*, has left their employment and gone to the Appletons. He had been with the Harpers, in different capacities, for nearly a quarter of a century.

The *N. Y. Evening Post* understands that Mr. Edwin Booth is now studying the character of *Lea* to add it to his well known list of Shakespearian representations. He intends to devote two years to the work.

An Oswego county (New York) jury was liberally treated to brandy at the expense of the accused, the constable kindly officiating as a means of communication, and the verdict was "in accordance with the circumstances."

The Philadelphia *Press* is out in favor of a new party in Pennsylvania to protect the people from the railroads, the rings, and the political sharpers who are enriching themselves at the expense of the people.

The effect of climate upon governments is far greater than generally supposed. What is eminently a virtue in the neighborhood of Plymouth Rock is a flagrant crime in the delta of the Mississippi. In one place the people elect their rulers, in the other they are helped to them by a bayonet with the Attorney General at its butt.—*New Orleans Herald.*

Springfield, Kentucky, has just witnessed a most extraordinary revival, conducted by the Rev. M. Penick. The Russellville (Kentucky) *Herald* says that "there were sixty-five professions of religion. Among those converted were the sheriff of the county, one of his deputies, and quite a number of the most prominent citizens of the town. The interest in the meeting was so great that the Chancery Court, which was in session there during the time, adjourned, and business was suspended, and court, lawyers, merchants, and all others turned out to witness the workings of the Lord in their midst."

The introduction of glass-lined iron pipes for the conveyance of water is strongly advocated in some of the foreign scientific journals, the great advantage of their use consisting in the simple fact that, as the water comes in contact with nothing but glass it cannot be impregnated with any oxide.

Mark Twain modestly denies that he is the man alluded to in the line, "Mark the perfect man."

A stealthy rat which dwelt in a Chicago station house undertook to help himself from a plate from which an old game cock, captured in a raid on a cockpit, was eating his dinner. The old gamester permitted him to reach over the edge of the plate and nibble at a crust of bread, but before he had swallowed the first mouthful, the cock drove one of his spurs clear through him.

Mr. Watterson, in his address on journalism, says:

"I am, myself, at this moment, diligently seeking for a young Thackeray to sketch society; for a young Cooper to go upon the frontier and 'do' the Modocs; for a young 'Boz' to take the place of a very inferior police reporter; and for a young Bulwer to do duty as general utility man, and I make no doubt of finding what I want."

Yes; no doubt Mr. Watterson may find what he wants, but when he does find his Thackeray, his "Boz," and his Bulwer, he will want them to work for \$10 a week.—*Chicago Post.*

The Vienna Exposition is intended to represent the most characteristic industries and products of all civilized nations. And it is gratifying to know that America, with commendable enterprise, has sent forward a lot of her speculating officials. It is slightly humiliating to think that Official Corruption is the first article put on exhibition in our Department; but then, as that seems to be the chief and most characteristic product of our institutions just now, there is no reason why it should not be set up there to be seen and despised of all men as it deserves. Three or four of the Credit Mobiliers are on their way, and it is reported that General Sickles, M. C. Kremer, and a few other choice and characteristic specimens of our peculiar diplomatic agents, will be there to make the collection complete.—*N. Y. Graphic.*

Lately the Massasoit House, in Atchison, Kansas, received among its guests a fresh, good-looking young girl, attired in elegant, fashionable costume, who, unattended and unknown, came to the city and registered herself at the hotel. Her manner attracted attention from the beginning. At night she went out alone and attended the performance of a traveling circus that had arrived on the previous day from Leavenworth. On the next day the circus took its departure. The young lady then sent for the hotel proprietor, burst into tears, and told her story. She said she was without means, and that she had left her home in Warrensburg, Mo., unknown to her parents, to follow the circus, as she had an uncontrollable desire to become a circus actress. After some fatherly advice the hotel proprietor purchased her a ticket by the railroad to Warrensburg and sent her home, she tearfully expressing her resolve to be a circus actress "some day."

Recent experiments have disproved the accepted notion, indorsed by Dr. Dodding, Dr. Lethby and others of equal authority, that running streams, into which impurities have been emptied, free themselves of such in flowing a few miles. Locations on several streams, where the flow was a dozen miles or more without receiving any sewage additional to that of villages through which they previously passed, were selected, and the amount of organic matter destroyed by oxidation was estimated. As a result of these experiments it was shown that so far from sewage, mixed with twenty times the volume of water, disappearing in a flow of ten or twelve miles, scarcely two-thirds of it would be destroyed in a flow of one hundred and sixty-eight miles at the rate of one mile an hour, or after the lapse of a week. These results, obtained in New England rivers, sustain the opinion of Sir Benjamin Brodie, drawn from examinations of Thames river, that it is simply impossible that the oxidizing power acting on sewage, running in mixtures with water over a distance of any length, should be sufficient to remove its noxious quality.