

A SIMILE FOR THE SEASON OF 1862.

"Hosanna to the Lord on high—
Good will to men," the angels sung!
Enraptured praises pierced the sky!
The conscious air with anthems rung!

Ah! well might nature lift her voice;
Well might the angels chaunt their lay;
For how could all things but rejoice,
Upon the Savior's natal day!

Unto his own, Messiah came,
But they knew not "the first-born Son;"
They put him to an open shame,
And gloried in the wrong they'd done.

Of that proud race, how few were blessed,
To know the Christ, the Son of God!
And those who boldly him confessed,
Paid for the truth with life and blood.

But, oh! a fearful reck'ning came,
A day of wrath—of vengeful ire:
That nation drained the cup of shame,
Perished by famine, sword and fire.

Perished in unbelief and pride,
With none to pity, none to save;
All when they pierced the Savior's side,
They opened then their nation's grave.

So, in our own ripe latter day,
Faithful to his redeeming plan,
To teach the world a better way,
The Lord raised up a chosen man.

Tender in years, not versed in lore;
Untutor'd but by Heaven's own light;
To him God gave the priesthood's power,
And matchless wisdom, grace and might!

Columbia first of all the earth
(Land of brave hearts that would be free)
Heard the glad tidings of great worth—
The truth, that sealed her destiny.

Heard the pure truth, and knew it not;
By their vile hands the Prophet fell:
How soon their day of reck'ning came,
Let widowed wives and orphans tell.

Deserted lands, forsaken homes,
And childless mothers stricken down.
Oh, God! is this Columbia's fate?
Is this the end of her renown?

Oh! for the aching, gulleless hearts,
Whose hopes are buried in the tomb:
Alas, alas! that such should share
A blood-stained nation's well-earned doom.

Peace from their land has passed away;
Among the hills she's refuge found:
All "who would not their neighbor slay,"
Must tread this consecrated ground.

For so the Prophets have declared,
And who shall dare their words to doubt?
Surely, we cannot help but see
Their prophecies are brought about.

EMILY H. MILLS.

G. S. L. City, Dec. 15, 1862.

ITEMS OF SOUTHERN NEWS.

The channel through the stone blockade is temporarily obstructed by the use of railroad iron, so that the Confederates can readily remove it for their own use.

The enemy—says the Charleston Courier of Nov. 25—have from ten to fifteen wooden vessels lying in sight of this city, where they have been allowed to lay for months, notwithstanding our having means for reaching and sinking every one of them with perfect safety to ourselves.

The authorities of the city of Savannah have adopted a resolution that the city shall never be surrendered; that it shall be defended street by street, until, if taken, the victor's spoils will be a heap of ruins.

Gen. Preston, of the Confederate army in Tennessee, advises his wife (in Nashville) to look for peace in some happier land until this cruel war is over.

The Southern Chronicle says that the sooner the people of the Border States find out that the object of the immense army and navy, of which Mr. Lincoln is the head, is something else than to prevent the value of slave property from becoming impaired, the better off they will be.

Capt. Page, formerly of the U. S. Navy, now in the Confederate service, in an intercepted letter to his wife, writes thus of the U. S. troops: "We whip them most soundly in almost every engagement, when they are not more than three to one, and yet you will read their accounts as 'glorious victories.'"

It has been lately discovered in Georgia that, by digging wells forty miles from the main shore (where the tide runs and out of reach of the "Yankees") water is obtained of which two hundred and fifty gallons will make one bushel of salt, whereas it takes seven hundred gallons of tide water to make the same quantity.

The celebrated screw steamer Sumter, pioneer of the Alabama, is advertised for sale at Gibraltar.

The Richmond Inquirer says the conduct of the Yankee Abolition Army under Burnside has exceeded that of Pope. The outrages in Fauquier county require retaliation—prompt, swift, and effective.

The Confederates at Richmond are reported to be under no apprehensions from an attack, their defences being so efficient, and having fully 200,000 troops in that vicinity.

The Charleston Mercury cites the following instances of Southern female patriotism:—Miss A. Dunham, finding that she could not buy shoes, with her own hands tanned skins and made shoes for her mother, three brothers, decrepid father and herself. Miss E. Fickling, a girl nine years of age, spun a most beautiful article of fine cotton sewing thread upon a common spinning-wheel.

The earliest and heaviest fall of snow at Richmond, known to the "oldest inhabitant," fell on Nov. 8. The Richmond Examiner says it is the more remarkable, as settling the question whether or not the army of the Potomac would get there to keep a merry Christmas, as vehemently maintained by the New York Herald.

At a late Richmond auction a gang of forty-six negroes (principally women and children) sold for the round sum of \$23,368, averaging \$508.

A slave of Jeff. Davis has been arrested at Richmond for forging Confederate treasury notes.

Officers from Lee's army represent the troops as being tolerably well clad and very cheerful.

The legislature of Arkansas assembled at Little Rock, in the early part of November. Gov. Rector, for some time a refugee from the capital, was present, and delivered his message, and then resigned his post.

The Richmond Dispatch thus indignantly treats the bauble of intervention: "We would have the very word intervention expunged from the Southern dictionary, and the bare thought dismissed from the mind as a guilty and shameful thing. We are able to establish our own independence, and no independence obtained in any other way would be worth having. As for those governments which stand aloof from us in our hour of trial, after having, by their intrigues brought about the present state of things, we leave them to reap the fruits hereafter of their sinister and inhuman counsels. If we succeed, they can expect no favors at our hands; if we fail, we shall fall with honor, but our fall will sound the death knell of their power upon this continent, and perhaps their stability at home."

Parson Brownlow says, to be a Union man in Tennessee is at once to be a martyr; that, ever since the Federal Government extended its authority over Middle and West Tennessee it has been much more safe to declare one's self disloyal than loyal.

The conduct of the negroes in New Orleans to their owners is reported to be intolerable, and they have little or no control over them, the abolitionists having utterly demoralized them.

In New Orleans lately, a white man struck a negro who had insulted his sister. The case was brought up before Provost-Marshal Killborn. The "gentleman" was sent to jail one week for striking the negro, and the "nigger" was fined \$5.

Gov. Brown, in a recent message to the Georgia Legislature, calls attention to the landing of several companies of negro soldiers from the North, at St. Mary's, Camden co., who were committing great depredations. The Governor complains that he has not power to call out the militia for the protection of the people. A resolution was offered by Mr. King, conferring the required authority.

The Richmond Dispatch of Nov. 28 says, "the most reasonable cause we have heard assigned for the exorbitant prices asked and obtained is the superabundance of money. The markets and produce stores in Richmond indicate anything else than a scarcity. The latest quotations are: Flour—\$20 @ 25, with heavy stocks and downward tendency. What—\$4 @ 4.15. Corn—\$1.90 @ \$2. Bacon—55 @ 75c. Potatoes, Irish and sweet—\$2 @ 4.30. Gold—\$2.15 @ 2.40. Silver—\$2 @ 2.10.

Jeff. Davis has positively denied to the people of Louisiana all privileges of trade with New Orleans, in the exchange of cotton, sugar, etc., for other much needed articles, until after the first of January, when Mr.

Lincoln's emancipation policy may be more clearly developed. Gov. Moore had dispatched to President Davis that the people were dying for want of these necessities and that the people would not stand it till then.

In Arkansas the Confederates have not only burned all old cotton, but are now burning the new. All north of White river is to be destroyed, and a force is now there attending to it.

One-tenth of the negro population of Georgia between the ages of 15 and 50 are said to be at work on the State fortifications. One million dollars have been appropriated for the same purpose.

The Confederate forces now in Middle Tennessee are estimated at 50,000,—the respective corps commanders being Breckenridge, Cheatham, Withers, Buckner, Hardee, Polk, Kirby Smith and Bragg.

Vice President Stephens, in a recent speech, suggested as a plan for clothing the Confederate soldiers, that the people of each county should provide first for their own soldiers—each contributor selecting particular soldiers for whom he should undertake to provide.

The population of Wilmington, N. C., before the war, was 12,000. It is now not more than 6,000; some 4,000 having joined the army.

[For the Deseret News.]

THE THEATRE.

The history of art and literature is, of itself, a history of the progress of intelligence. It is generally the opinion of the learned that man was created at first a savage, and ultimately attained to the advanced state of a barbarian in the progress of improvement, overlooking the first primary state of his existence as a being coming direct from an order of creation through the wisdom, intelligence, and experience of a superior being.

The history, then, of his (man's) degeneracy, although palpable, is lost; and philosophers and historiographers date his progress from the rise and prosperity of heathen nations, and the onward progress of more civilized commonwealths, such as Greece, Rome, Athens, and ultimately the kingdoms subjugated by them, forgetting the decline and fall of greater and more remote nations.

Observations on the character of man must of necessity include the sports and amusements which would be calculated to improve his mind, and would doubtless be introduced in various forms, from the platform, the forum, and the stage; and the incidents and change of circumstance in their history, would furnish all that was necessary to promote the march of intelligence. The fiery debates of political demagogues, the cold far-fetched homilies on ethics, would doubtless engage the partisans and sectaries to whom they were delivered; but for that method of teaching which combined the grave and gay, the rational and sublime, the misanthropy and madness of human life, exemplified in character, would of all other methods of teaching be the most likely to grow with the demand of a semi-enlightened people. From the earlier ages of history we have gradually developed to us amusements of a theatrical nature; but, like all other inventions of art, they come to us from one period to another embellished with the improvement of the age which succeeded the one in which they derived their existence.

Tragedy, according to history, seems to take the first place in the annals of public exhibitions, with the exception of the Trojan plays, which consisted in horse-racing, athletic exercises, and feats of young men, wherein the utmost dexterity was practised, something, perhaps, ruder than our circus companies in the performance of "Paul Pry," "Dick Turpin, &c.," accompanied as an interlude with a bull fight or modern tournament, wherein manslaughter terminated the exhibition.

Plays became a favorite pastime in Greece and Rome, about a hundred and fifty years before the Christian era, when, on occasions of great festivity, such as the change of the consulship, or the subjugation of a new country, or the termination of war. The actors displayed their triumphs in war, the tyranny of the nations they subdued, their barbarism, &c., or it might be their progress in arts and science, their pomp in processions to the forum, and their discoveries in arts and sciences, and of arms. All these formed the groundwork of public festivals and amusement.

The plays of Ceres and Flora were taken from their ideas of heathen mythology; Ceres being the goddess of corn and Flora of flowers, whom they deified, but in consequence of the obscene characters introduced, they were put down. In later times they have been modified and brought forth in "The Fairy Queen," "The Water Nymphs," and parts of them in the "Dram Polka," and other light semi-pantomimic operatic effusions. Funeral plays were also got up in honor of the dead, and acted, down to the one hundred and sixty-ninth Olympiad, taking their beginning from Cato, the Roman patriot, who, unable to survive the independence of his country, stabbed himself, from which funeral exhibition, and other philosophers' banishment and cruel treatment, we have many historical plays brought down to our own day. "The Tragedy of Alastor," however, is recorded to be the

first represented by Thespis, the first tragic poet of Athens, five hundred and twenty-six years before Christ. Prizes were gained by several poets prior to this era, some two hundred years, for plays, dialogues, and effusions for public sport. Satire, pantomime and burlesque representations were in existence as early as any of the former dates.

What is called the modern drama arose early in the attempt of troubadours, minstrels and buffoons at public fairs in France, Italy and England.

Stories from the Bible were represented by priests, and became the origin of sacred comedy; hence arose the plays of the "Passion of Christ," "Joseph and his brethren," etc., in the three hundred and sixty-fourth year of the Christian era, said to be put forth to counteract the profanity of the heathen stage. London is noted as having its theatrical exhibitions, holy plays and representations of miracles, allegorical characters, and mysteries, performed by parish clerks in fields.

The first regular drama for certain, introduced in Henry Seventh's reign, and performed in Europe, was "The Sophonisba of Trissina," at Rome, in the year fifteen hundred and fifteen, before Pope Leo the Tenth.

The English drama did not become fairly established until the reign of Elizabeth, when the first royal license was granted to players in 1574. Shakspear and his associates were licensed in 1603. In this very distant period of stage history we have Marlow, Jonson, Beaumont, Fletcher, and other poets and actors, who contributed largely before we have the renowned, undying plays of Shakspear, which hold their place among the illustrious stars who have emblazoned, since that time, the galaxy of the temple of Momus. Sheridan, Bulwer, Scott, Dickens, and a number of authors, by their novel and romance writing have contributed in our own day much to invigorate the healthy state of the stage and histrionic character of individuals and country. Leo.

GEOLOGICAL WONDERS.—About thirty years ago, somebody made the discovery that the ice fields of Siberia contained immense numbers of fossils of elephants and mastodons. Where they came from, or how they got there, was a problem; their existence, however, was no mere chimera, and as ivory is one of the most valuable commodities amongst all nations, some utilitarian Englishman conceived the idea of turning these vestiges of a former epoch to a profitable account. Accordingly, about the year 1832, Thompson, Rorer & Co., a rich London firm, fitted out an expedition to search for ivory in the Siberian ice. Novel and incredible as it seemed, the expedition was crowned with complete success. The ships returned to England richly laden with the choicest ivory; and even to the present time, although the world knows but little about it, the ivory market is mainly supplied from the ice fields of Siberia.

HOW PONTOON BRIDGES ARE MADE.—Pontoon boats are flat-bottomed, thirty feet long, two and a half feet wide at the bow, and five feet wide at the stern, swelling out at the sides to the width of six feet. Each fits on a running gear of four wheels, and is used as a baggage wagon for the pontoniers, carrying its proportion of string pieces and of plank. On reaching a river the boats are unloaded, floated across by cables made fast up the stream, then the string pieces are laid across from one boat to the next, and on these are placed the planks, each twenty-one feet long, which form the gangway of that width.

GEN. ROSECRANS' GALLANTRY.—A lady approached him, pleading for a pass on account of her "poor, dear, sick uncle."

"I condole with you, Madam," said the General, in that quiet way of his. "It is unfortunate that uncles will sometimes get seriously indisposed. I, too, have a dear afflicted uncle."

"Then you can sympathize with me," she said.

"Yes, Madam, I do; and when my Uncle Sam gets over his present serious indisposition I will give you a pass."

METHODISM.—Parson Brownlow has a rather poor opinion of his own religious brethren. In a late speech he said: "So far as I am individually concerned, I am so thoroughly convinced of the corruption and profligacy of a majority of the ministers of my own church (Methodist) that I would scorn to be associated with them in church relations."

---Old Wethersfield, Connecticut, the abode of virtue and onions, is rebellious. It has directed its selectmen to pay no attention to any government order for a draft.

---At a recent visit of Mrs. Pres. Lincoln to Boston and Cambridge, she was displeased because the boys in front of the Parker House, where she stopped, hurrahed for McClellan.

---Late West India papers furnish accounts of an insurrection among the free negroes in the island of St. Vincent, which led to much excitement and some bloodshed.

---Gen. Anderson, of Fort Sumter fame, has been assigned to the command of the troops and fortifications surrounding Covington and Newport, Ky.

---The bride-elect of the Prince of Wales is named Alexandra Caroline Maria Charlotte Louisa Julia, and she is in London.