

THE AMBITIOUS VINE.

AN APOLOGUE OF THE ALGIC INDIANS.

BY JOHN G. SAXE.

I.
A Vine that stood beside a thriving Oak,
Grew weary of the labor
Of self support—and thus she plainly spoke
Unto her stronger neighbor—

II.
"I prithee bend your handsome trunk to me,
My noble forest brother;
That, mutually embracing, we may be
Supporters of each other."

III.
"Nay, said the tree, I was not made to bend,
I'm strong and self-reliant,
As oaks are wont,—but you, my pretty
friend,
Are twenty times as pliant!"

IV.
"So clasp your tender arms around me,
dear;
And we will grow together,
High as yon azure cloud—nor ever fear
The roughest wind or weather!"

V.
"Nay, nay," replied the foolish Vine, "I
hate
To seem so much your debtor;
You do the twining now; and I'll be straight,
I'd like it vastly better!"

VI.
"Nature wills otherwise," the Oak replied,
However you may grumble;
The moment such a silly plan were tried,
Together we should tumble!

VII.
"Come you to me and taking Nature's
course
We'll keep our proper places;
I to the twain will add my manly force,
And you your maiden graces;

VIII.
"But if perverse, you try to live alone,
With none to hold and cherish
Your slender form—before you're fairly
grown
You certainly will perish."

IX.
"Or, if instead of fondly clinging fast
To one who would protect you,
You flit with others,—all the trees at last
Will scornfully reject you."

X.
"I see—I see!" exclaimed the musing Vine,
The weaker must be nourished;
Then clasped the oak with many a graceful
twine,
And so they grew and flourished!

EASTERN NOTES.

A reception to Miss Emily Faithful, on her return from the West, is designed by the working-women of New York.

Miss Throckmorton married the Baron Lemme in New York. They wanted her to marry some one else, but she said, "Lemme alone."

Dickens once said of the news-boys that "they seemed fresh from the hands of Nature." Some one thinks that nature must have had very dirty hands.

The principle of minority representation, on the free vote, as illustrated in Illinois, is growing in favor abroad. The latest convert to it is Gov. Dix of New York, who recommends it as the cure for many of the evils of the elective and representative system in the city of New York.

One of the late disgusting sights of Salem, Ind., was a woman wheeling her drunken husband home on a wheelbarrow. In answer to a sympathizing remark, she said he happened to be drunker than she was, and she was thankful to be able to take care of him, for she knew he would do the same for her.

The market value of a husband is no longer an open question. An Iowa court has fixed the matter. A Mrs. Malony brought suit for damages against one Maloy, the murderer of her husband. She estimated the damages at \$10,000. The court was more exact, cutting the bill down to \$8,075. The case was finally settled by the widow accepting 50 per cent. of her original claim.

Thirteen organized sets of lobbyists were in Washington recently, each representing a scheme for canal systems from the West to the seaboard. These plans involve in the aggregate the expenditure of \$229,000,000 and it is stated that others are yet to come. We ought to have a "raging canawl" clear around the world if these delegations keep on.—Ex.

The International Steamship Company, whose vessels are to ply between Philadelphia and Antwerp, will commence operations on or about the 1st of next month. A committee representing the stockholders of the company, have made an arrangement with the Postmaster General to secure the carrying of a portion of the European mails. It is understood that the steamship company has purchased property at the mouth of the Schuylkill, and that the Pennsylvania Railroad company will erect a depot there, so as to establish direct water and rail communications between Germany and the regions traversed by their roads. The company is composed of American capitalists only.

AN INDOOR TRAGEDY.

Well nigh half a century ago a newly-married couple settled in one of the western counties of Pennsylvania. They had what their neighbors deemed a fair capital with which to begin life—a well-stocked though small farm, sound health, good common sense, and a more than average amount of shrewd intelligence and culture. Under all this was a sincere trust in God and a jealous, sensitive love for each other, neither of which their neighbors knew much about. American backwoods farmers take a pride in covering their emotions under a hide as tough as that of their own beavers. They had three or four children, and night after night, over the kitchen fire, the problem they set themselves to answer was, what is the best thing we can do with them, and for them; the question asked daily with such a wrenching of heart in myriads of homes, and answered so differently. The fear of God seemed to Jacob and his wife the best heritage to give them; the next best, plenty of money. To give them the first, they began by hedging the children's lives with a system of rules, borrowed half from the Jewish laws, half from the theory of their sect. Strict morality, the keeping of Sunday as a periodical day of penitence and wretchedness, the learning under penalty of dark closets and thrashings of the chief duty of man, therein was their religion. Life they were shown as a straight and hard path through a dark valley with the terrors of Sinai behind and the traps and pitfalls of a flaming hell on either side. Even Jacob's wife, Mary, holding her darlings to her breast, than which no mother's ever ached or throbbed with more tenderness, had no other sermon to preach to them. It never occurred to her or her husband that it was into just such fields of grain as those about them, under just such towering cedars, that Jesus led his disciples and taught them, by the sunshine and the rain, the tender mercies of God. The world grew green around them, faded again and wrapped itself in snow, year after year; the river sang its mysterious song to the woods at their very door; and overhead the stars that had declared to the patriarchs of the old world the infinite secrets of Jehovah blazoned them forth still unregarded. Day unto day uttered speech, and night unto night showed forth knowledge of Him, but both farmer and wife were deaf and blind. God was to be approached only through a dog-eared catechism, and fields and river were worth only so much fish and wheat per year.

The children's salvation being thus provided for, the next thing to be insured was money. Husband and wife worked and stinted as only a Scotch-Irish farmer's family can work or stint. All produce that was saleable went to the market; the children were reared on the refuse, the skim-milk, poorest bacon, and watery potatoes. Their clothes were coarse and patched, their feet bare and chilblained. The house grew barer year by year, the father's back more bent, his face harder, but the balance in bank increased dollar by dollar. As for the plump, bonny Mary, she had long ago joined that sisterhood of lean, yellow-skinned, toothless women who, with dirty calico dresses and wisps of hair twisted up behind, are sometimes found in farm-houses like ghastly megrims, or daylight specters of a wasted life. When churning and scrubbing were done she would sit up until near morning washing and darning their clothes, that they might look more "genteel" than she, dragging her aching body to look at them when they slept, praying for them with a fierce longing to have power to be God himself—to be able to protect and care for them. The boys had certain strong animal propensities, and physical tendencies which required skill and knowledge to guide or restrain. One had a morbid imagination; another a tendency to alcoholic poisoning, against which his diet and training from infancy should have defended him. The girls, left to themselves, were filling their brains with sickly false fancies of life and their work in it. But what time had Mary to read or acquire in any way the power to comprehend or help her children? There was the scrubbing and churning to be done, the money to be saved. Boys and girls were sent to colleges and seminaries; every advantage that education could give them was theirs; the only mistake

Jacob and his wife made in this respect was not to educate themselves as well. The children went forward; they sat down and grubbed. What is the end of it all? The daughters grew up dyspeptic and sickly for the lack of early proper food; they married and died before middle age, brilliant, hard women, and neither of them in any sense religious. One son went into politics, was successful, is now a member of Congress, one of the most influential of his party. Jacob and his mother read of his life in Washington, his wife's receptions, his popularity. But long ago he was a stranger to them. It is years since he crossed the old threshold. What is there in common between him and the ignorant, boorish farmer and his wife? A few weeks ago, the last of the sons came home to die; the one of all the children who had real power of intellect; the only one who was not ashamed to talk of "mother" fondly to the last. He died in her arms, a drunken, worthless sot. The thin, haggard woman closed his eyes without a tear. "I have lost all my children," she said. "I must have made a mistake somewhere in the beginning. God knows."

Is no other mother making this mistake?—*New York Tribune.*

FOREIGN NOTES.

Naples has raised 3,000 soldiers to hunt down seven brigands, but the brigands are hunting the soldiers.

A man is considered in "comfortable circumstances" in England if his income is 800 dollars per year.

There are about 1,000 more pigs than men in New Zealand. The census recently taken gives the population at 256,393; 150,356 males, and 106,037 females, exclusive of aborigines. Live stock returns give 150,460 pigs, 9,700,629 sheep, 436,592 head of cattle, 81,028 horses, and 872,174 head of poultry.

In the Catholic churches of the towns and villages of Poland it is an every day occurrence, especially during Lent, to see women lying flat on their faces in the middle of the church with their arms stretched out so as to form a cross during the whole service, a long sermon included.

Bradlaugh, the English republican, writing in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, denies that he is the chief of the republicans, but confesses "that I have ambition to rise in the political strife around me, until I play some small part in the legislative assembly of my country, is true. If I live, I will. But I desire to climb step by step, resting the ladder by whose rounds I ascend firmly on Parliament-made laws, and avoiding those appeals to force of arms which make victory bloody and disastrous."

Much has latterly been said in regard to the uselessness of iron-clads, as offensive weapons have steadily kept pace with, if not exceeded in effectiveness, defensive armor. It is now said that drawings for the construction of two fifty-ton guns have been sent to the British War office, and that the authorities of the royal gun factories are ready to construct another of seventy tons on the Frazer plan, which will throw a projectile weighing 1,400 pounds. By using this, the most improved system of constructing guns by coil upon coil of wrought iron, there is no practical limit to the size of a gun or its projectile, which could be made large enough to annihilate anything afloat.

IS IT A SPARK OF WAR?—The old time speculation concerning Russia's designs and advances in the East are receiving fresh impulse from current negotiations between that power and Britain. The bone of contention is said to be the definite boundary of the dominions of Russia and Afghanistan, concerning which there is, to say the least, a serious misunderstanding just now, and grave apprehensions are entertained in Europe as to the result of the same.

There is a capital precedent for the conduct and settlement of the dispute, in the late Geneva arbitration. Let Russia and Britain follow the example of Britain and America over the Alabama claims, and this vexed question of Eastern supremacy may be soon settled with efficient satisfaction. That will be much better and more commendable action by two Christian nations than for them to follow the vulgar and brutal method of settlement by fighting.

[FROM WEDNESDAY'S DAILY.]

[SPECIAL TO THE DESERT NEWS.]

By Telegraph.

PER WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH LINE.

LAST NIGHT'S DISPATCHES.

CONGRESSIONAL.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, 28.—The Vice-President, in a personal statement, asked the appointment of a committee to investigate the charges against him in connection with the Credit Mobilier.

Pratt thereupon moved for a committee of five, and remarked that it would take more evidence than he had yet seen to convince him or the people of Indiana that the Vice-President was dishonest or dishonorable.

Thurmon said the Vice-President made a mistake in asking for a committee, because, as he was not a member of the Senate, that body could not expect to remove him or otherwise punish him. He could be only impeached. If reason was shown, it would be the duty of the House to impeach him, and as a Senator they would have to act as his judges. The Senate should not forestall the action of the House.

Pratt's motion was rejected, none voting for it but Morton.

The bill to pay the expenses of the mixed claims commission passed, with an amendment appropriating half a million for work on the new post office, New York.

The House amendment to the Vienna exposition bill was concurred in. The bill is therefore passed.

Morrill, of Vermont, afterwards offered a motion to reconsider the vote by which the bill was passed.

The bill to pay the Japanese government for land occupied by the United States in Japan for hospital purposes, was passed.

The consideration of the Legislative Appropriation Bill was resumed.

The amendment of Morrill, requiring proof of loyalty before payment of any judgment of the Court of Claims, was adopted.

Morrill explained what was the aim of A. F. Lamar, one of the most obnoxious rebels the country had ever seen.

Sherman's amendment, raising the salaries of assistant secretaries of departments, of commissioners of patents, Indian affairs, agriculture, customs, and a number of other department bureau officers to \$4,000, was adopted.

The amendment striking out an appropriation for \$22,500 for additional clerks and compensation to the treasury department was adopted.

An amendment offered by Hill, under instructions from the committee on privileges and elections, to raise the salary of Congressmen to seven thousand, was tabled, 23 to 18.

Edmunds moved to reconsider the vote adopting the amendment of Sherman, raising the salaries of certain deputy officers to \$4,000.

Buckingham formally announced the death of Julius L. Strong, late representative from Connecticut, and pronounced a eulogy on the deceased, as did also Ferry. Customary resolutions were adopted.

EASTERN.

CHICAGO, 28.—A Washington special says it is rumored here that a pool is now being formed, in which the Bank of California, and the Central Pacific Railroad are responsible parties, for the purchase of the Union Pacific Railroad in case the June interest on the bonds of the latter corporation go to protest, which event is regarded as highly probable in the present embarrassments of the company. Under these circumstances the trustees would be compelled to sell out under the first mortgage bonds, and it is believed that the entire U. P. line, with its rolling stock, could be bought for about fifteen million dollars.

A New York special says after Phelps, Dodge, & Co. had effected a compromise with the government, by paying \$500, Wm. E. Dodge, senior partner, caused an immediate dissolution of the firm, expelling the junior partners, who were the principal agents in swindling the custom house.

It is reported that twelve or sixteen wool dealers in this city, who attempted to corner wool after the Boston fire, have abandoned the ef-

fort and are in a distressed financial condition.

NASHVILLE.—Maerka, Maury & Co.'s distillery was burned this morning. Loss, \$80,000; insured, \$35,000.

WASHINGTON, 28.—The National Theatre was totally destroyed by fire this morning. The Imperial Hotel adjoining was damaged \$30,000 by fire and water. Mrs. Oates, who had just opened at the theatre, loses heavily.

The loss by the burning of the National Theatre to-day is estimated at \$100,000, fully covered by insurance. Manager Saville lost his entire wardrobe. Mrs. Saville lost much of hers. Mrs. Oates' company lost little.

Speaker Blaine appeared before the Poland committee this morning and requested that Stevenson, who introduced the resolution in the House for inquiry into the Sioux City Railroad, be called to support, by sworn statement, the allegation that Blaine was a stockholder in that road.

Stevenson then testified that Oakes Ames informed him of Blaine's connection with the road and of the alleged facts upon which the resolution was based. He had no personal knowledge of Blaine being a stockholder. The conversation with Ames in regard to the matter was previous to his offering the resolution in the House.

Ames testified that the conversation with Stevenson was at the Arlington House dinner table the day after Stevenson offered the resignation, that he (Ames) was laughing at Stevenson and told him that he got hold of the wrong road.

Blaine then explained his connection with the road. He owned stock in the road, which was a State road and could not possibly come before Congress for anything.

Senator Logan stated his connection with the Credit Mobilier. His statement agrees exactly with that made by Ames. Logan agreed to buy ten shares. He never paid any money, but received about the 20th of June, 1868, from Ames, a check for \$329, which he kept a few days and then returned to Ames with two dollars interest.

Swan, cashier of the First National Bank of Washington, showed that Schuyler Colfax's account showed a deposit of \$1,968.63 on June 22d, 1868, as follows—U. S. and National bank notes \$1,200, checks \$250, in 1863, and \$500. The last deposit by Colfax prior to this was June 1st.

B. F. Ham gave some additional but unimportant testimony.

NEW YORK, 28.—At White Plains yesterday the Greeley will case was again before the Surrogate, no compromise having been made between the proponent and the contestants. Neither of the Misses Greeley were present, and the only directly interested party in court was Storns, executor of the will of 1871. Jas. H. Shoate, appearing as counsel for the Misses Greeley, said if two weeks postponement was granted he was satisfied a compromise would be effected. Besides he desired to give the case further examination. The case had now a different phase, as all the legates under the disputed will of 1871 had signed a renunciation, and no others had the right to press claims against the estate.

The Surrogate decided that the executors of the will of 1871 could appear.

Oliver Johnson, C. Runkle, and Alvin Johnson were then called. Each testified his belief that Greeley was not in his right mind during some weeks prior to his death.

The case was adjourned to February 3rd.

NEW YORK, 28.—In the Tweed case the prosecution closed and the defense opened, and some testimony proffered was rejected. Defense asked leave to introduce more witnesses to-morrow.

Motion on bill of exceptions in the Stokes case will be heard on Saturday.

WASHINGTON.—Before the Wilson committee this afternoon B. Wispence cashier and acting assistant Treasurer of the Union Pacific Co. from June 1869 to June 1871, and acting assistant Treasurer of the board of Trustees under the Ames contract, testified to the payment, March 9th, 1871, of an item of \$126,000 for special legal expenses. He didn't know what use was made of the money. It was the talk between Williams the treasurer and Bushnell at the time that the money was used for the purpose of securing a reversal of the action of the Secretary of the Treasury. The payment of those moneys was in checks in two or