

## IF WE KNEW.

If we knew the woe and heart-ache,  
Waiting for us down the road,  
If our lips could taste the wormwood,  
If our backs could feel the load,  
Would we waste the time in wishing  
For a time that ne'er can be?  
Would we wait in such impatience  
For our ships to come from sea?

If we knew the baby fingers,  
Pressed against the window-pane,  
Would be cold and stiff to-morrow—  
Never trouble us again—  
Would the bright eyes of our darling  
Catch the frown upon our brow?  
Would the print of rosy fingers  
Vex us then as they do now?

Ah, these little ice-cold fingers,  
How they point our memories back  
To the hasty words and action  
Strewn along our backward track;  
How these little hands remind us,  
As in snowy grace they lie,  
Not to scatter thorns—but roses—  
For our reaping by and by.

Strange, we never prize the music  
Till the sweet-voiced bird has flown;  
Strange, that we should slight the violets  
Till the lovely flowers are gone;  
Strange, that summer skies and sunshine  
Never seem one half so fair  
As when the winter's snowy pinions  
Shake their white down in the air!

Lips, from which the seal of silence  
None but God can roll away,  
Never blossomed in such beauty  
As adorns the mouth to-day;  
And sweet words that freight our memory  
With their beautiful perfume,  
Come to us in sweeter accents  
Through the portals of the tomb.

Let us gather up the sunbeams  
Lying all around our path;  
Let us keep the wheat and roses,  
Casting out the thorns and chaff;  
Let us find our sweetest comfort  
In the blessings of to-day,  
With patient hand removing  
All the briars from our way.

**PRAYER VS. DANCING.**—Mr. M. H. Blackford, of Hartford, Conn., complains that while fulfilling an engagement as a musician at a social party at the house of a respectable Irish citizen, Thursday night, a Catholic priest entered, stopped the dancing, locked the door, and ordered the assembled company to kneel and say prayers. The *Courant* says—

"Mr. Blackford objects to this unwarrantable interference with individual rights in this free country. If the peace of the neighborhood was being disturbed it would have been better for the priest to have called in the aid of the police instead of the rosary; and if the citizen whose house was invaded and his guests preferred to dance rather than to pray at the intruder's bidding, they should have called the police to eject the priest. The citizen has evidently a cause for action against the priest for trespass, and Mr. Blackford has reason for complaint at such an unwarrantable interference with his business. If the parties aggrieved will bring the case into court we shall be glad to give the evidence on both sides, which would undoubtedly be interesting."

The discovery of a subterranean forest just below the surface of the bed of the Thames river is attracting a good deal of attention in England. The oak, the alder, and the willow are the principal trees found. These retain their vegetable character, but other signs show that the forest belongs to the period of the elk and the red deer in the south of England.

The *Messenger Official* of the Russian empire publishes a note recommending the use of mineral fuel for locomotives and steamboats instead of wood, the great demand made on the forests for fuel having already had a very disastrous effect. Our own railways are rapidly destroying our forests, the wood for ties alone requiring the levelling of 250,000 acres of forests annually.

Much concern is felt by the young men of Prussia about the operations of the new military service regulations. Nineteen out of every twenty who reached the high physical standard last year were taken. Apart from the slight prospect of escaping the service, there is much alarm about the large number of men who had to go into the hospitals after the severe autumn manoeuvres.

## THE CHINESE QUESTION.

We have fought the Chinese fight in California and lost it. It has been, upon the part of the Americans, a Chinese mode of warfare—sound and fury—and on the part of the Chinese it has been a combat to which they brought neither arms nor strategy, but only persistence and patient endurance. We have agitated the question of Chinese emigration, and while we have made speeches and held elections, memorialized Congress, carried test questions to the Supreme Court, worried them by license laws and poll-tax collections, passed municipal ordinances to their annoyance, imprisoned their prostitutes, blackmailed their gamblers, threatened to burn steamships, and carried local elections upon the Chinese question, they have poured in upon us in a silent and irresistible sort of a way that is more alarming than an actual and forcible invasion. We say we have lost the battle, and so we have. At every single point the anti-Chinese emigration party has been routed and overthrown. The republican party and the democratic party have opposed Chinese emigration, and still the emigration pours in upon us. Senator Sargent and Congressman Luttrell have agitated the matter in the Senate and House, and nothing comes of it. We have passed laws in the Legislature and the Courts of California have annulled them. We have engaged our criminal courts to punish their prostitutes, gamblers and vagabonds, and they have defeated justice by doggedly submitting to imprisonment and overfilling the capacity of our jails, and by stolid non-resistance wearying our courts into letting them alone. Chinese emigration is not an unmixed evil. There is an argument in its favor. This argument is the one of temporary necessity, of individual profit, of cheap labor and present convenience. The farmers have utilized Chinese labor in the pressure of their harvests. The railroad builders have availed themselves of their steady and industrious working habits; they dyke the tide lands, build roads, work in factories, raise vegetables, catch fish, and serve in menial capacities; they solve the servants' problem in the country; they act as breakwaters between the mistress and the maid in cities, and do something towards mitigating the insolence of cooks and chambermaids by affording a poor substitute for white domestic servants in cases of dire extremity. But quietly and insidiously the Chinese are eating at the vitals of our prosperity, and unless the broad proposition can be maintained that a country may prosper with an alien and heterogeneous population, there can be no conclusion in favor of Chinese emigration.

If a country may attain a real and permanent advancement with its labor interests in the hands of a class that will send their earnings abroad, then California is on the high road to prosperity. If it is not essential that the population of a State should become citizens thereof, and be clothed with all the responsibilities and duties of citizenship, then we may look upon the incoming Chinese without alarm. Slowly yet surely they are invading fields of profitable industry; every branch of labor that they have attacked they have subdued; their advance is slow, cautious and silent, but it is as irresistible as an army of locusts; the progress of the Kansas grasshopper from field to field is no more destructive and absorbing than the march of Chinese labor. The Irish washerwoman was the first to succumb; the German cigar maker fell next in order; the Italian gardener and fisherman are made to give way before the inevitable Chinese; the slipper maker fell first in his line, the shoemaker next; women and tailors hung on upon the sewing machine for a time, but soon had to give way; store porters, boys to clean offices, cooks in kitchens, child's nurses and second girls, box and bag makers, employees in cordage, woolen and silk factories, at turning lathes and in all the lighter mechanical occupations, laborers on farms, in placer mines, on railroads, all made way for the cheaper Asiatic laborer. Instead of fifty thousand white laboring men, with fifty thousand white families, living in fifty thousand houses, raising children to multiply their generations, spending their money in the land where their labor produced it, we have fifty thousand patient,

laborious animals, living in crowded tenements, sleeping upon shelves, feeding upon tea, fish and rice, cooking with charcoal in braziers, importing from China their own goods and sending to China their earnings. The Chinese are not alone dangerous to poor men, but in good time they will eat up the rich; already and always they have been their own bankers; they have long since dispensed with our merchants as middlemen; they import their own goods; even now they monopolize the trade in tea, rice, sugar, silk, opium and all the fabrics and productions raised in China; they supply at San Francisco and in every interior village their own people with goods, and we see no reason why they should not in time own the woolen, cordage, silk, shoe, cigar, tobacco and other factories, the sugar refineries and rice mills, import goods in their own ships and remove the relation which now exists between the Chinese and the Americans. The Chinese have greater wealth; they have overwhelming numbers; they can live infinitely cheaper than our own people; and, when we reflect upon the war we have waged against them and its results, we are not altogether convinced that they are not the superior people. As yet we have had no trouble or conflict between the races; our times are prosperous, our country is expansive, labor is plenty; but remove all this and let us ask ourselves will our white working classes be patient and endure, should poverty press them, should hunger invade their families. Should labor become scarce and unremunerative, would they silently suffer while these barbarians consumed their substance? The rightful inheritance of poverty is labor. Will our poor people rest content while these aliens fill their places? Suppose in this coming Winter, with all its horrors of climate and its scarcity of labor, the city of New York had 200,000 Chinese men in the heart of the town, ready to perform skilled and unskilled labor, willing to work for any compensation and capable, by their habits, of living upon ten cents per day, would its white people, its laboring men and women look patiently on and see their children starve? San Francisco is young and prosperous, California is new and sparsely settled, labor to-day is abundant, food is plenty. But in the midst of this dream of comfort is there not in this Chinese population the germ of future danger? With all the modesty of a defeated partisan and all the humility that ought to characterize the advocate of a lost cause, we cannot avoid suggesting possibilities to our politicians, and throwing out these hints for the consideration of our prosperous business men and wealthy citizens. —S. F. Chronicle.

## The Age of Rings.

The world has seen its stone age, its bronze and its iron age, to say nothing of its age of steam, electricity, etc., each of which might have had a certain amount of ring in them, but we are now living in an age of rings—in the ring age.

Look where you will, in church, state, or social life, and there you will find them. If one cannot rule, he will combine his influence and talent with one or more and the ring rules, and plunder is generally the cohesive power which binds them together, and being so bound, they grow bolder with every move, until completely gorged, they fall off, or the public like a giant in uneasy sleep, shakes them off.

When will this ring era end? Not until the rich become richer and the poor are made poorer, and then it will end in revolution.

Men seem to have forgotten themselves and to act like wild beasts who prey upon one another. Honesty is scoffed at and honest men regarded as fools. Such a condition of things cannot last long, there is that hope for those who come after us. The ferment of corruption works swiftly, and a sound reaction follows as daylight follows darkness.

But we are in for it now at all events.

There are rings in every direction and plunder in the most of them. The rich man's income is swelled and the laborer's is pinched. The limit is fast being approached. Cities and companies are burdened almost to bankruptcy by debts heaped up by reckless jobbery. To own a house, is to be taxed to

yond income; to hire one, is to help shoulder debt, and to pour into the safe, of which robbers have the key.

Only grind down the people until they are too poor to spare time to vote, and spoliation's triumph is complete. As things look now, it will not be long before such a condition is brought about. But then comes a time after that.—*Washington Gazette*.

## SYMMES' HOLE.

The Undiscovered World in the Interior of the Earth.

A little more than half a century ago, John Cleves Symmes, then a captain in the regular army of the United States, with headquarters at St. Louis, became impressed with the idea that the earth was hollow, and habitable within as well as without. He devoted all his spare moments to the study of philosophy, and in 1819, while stationed at St. Louis, made known his theory of the earth by means of circulars first, and then through the press of that city.

The theory was then talked about considerably. Captain Symmes concluded to devote the remainder of his life to the realization of his theory, and for this purpose resigned his position in the army. His next step was to make known his theory to the world. This he strove to do by lecturing through the country, principally, however, in the Middle and Eastern States. Captain Symmes was of the opinion that Congress might perhaps make an appropriation necessary for fitting out an expedition to the North, were his theory presented for consideration. About this time he visited Colonel Richard M. Johnson, of Kentucky, and prevailed upon him to present the theory and desire of the originator to Congress. Colonel Johnson did so, and after numerous delays the matter received the consideration of Congress, by which body it was "laid on the table," the vote for such procedure being small, however. Captain Symmes was discouraged, but did not despair, resolving to again present the theory. Before he could do so, however, Count Romanoff of Russia, having heard of Captain Symmes, his hopes, etc., wrote him a letter concerning the same. The letter promised Captain Symmes all that would be necessary for fitting out an expedition to the Polar regions and an investigation of the theory, besides agreeing to place the American in command if he would conduct the same under the auspices and authority of Russia.

This kind offer by a foreigner was declined because Captain Symmes preferred having the expedition fitted out by his own country, and should any honor result from an investigation of his theory, that honor would belong to the United States.

The theorist then went East, and while lecturing in New England was taken sick and conveyed to his home in Ohio. Here he died, beseeching his eldest son, in his last moments on earth, to uphold and endeavor to investigate the theory. This son, Mr. Americus Symmes, was then under age, and, by the death of his father, made to care for a large family. For years he lived without doing anything concerning the theory. He is now an old man, but at this advanced period of his life has resolved to revive the theory.

Mr. Americus Symmes now lives in Jefferson County, near Louisville, and devotes much of his time investigating his father's scheme. From him a copy of it has been obtained. He firmly believes that it will some day be verified, and, indeed, says some of its statements have been proven by the discoveries of Hall and others in the Polar regions.

Mr. Symmes now hopes to do something for the theory by lecturing. His initial attempt will be made next Tuesday in Louisville, and if properly encouraged he intends speaking in all parts of the country. The annexed copy of Symmes' theory will give the reader an idea of what it is.

According to Symmes' theory, the earth is globular-hollow, and widely open at the poles. The diameter of the northern opening is supposed to be about two thousand or four thousand miles wide from outside to outside; the south opening is supposed to be somewhat larger. The planes of these openings are parallel to each other, but form an angle of twelve degrees

with the equator, so that the highest part of the northern plane is directly opposite the lowest part of the southern plane. The shell of the earth is supposed to be about one thousand miles thick. The edges of this shell are called verges, and measure from the regular concavity within to the regular convexity without about fifteen hundred miles. The verges occupy about twenty-five degrees, and if delineated on a map would show only the outer half of the verge, while all above or farther from the equator, both north and south, would lie on the apex and within the verge. All the polar regions upon the present map would be out of sight. The meridian lines extend at right angles from the equator to the outer edges of the verges, and then wind round along the surface of the verges, under the highest parts of the same, both north and south.

From the regular convexity of the interior concavity of the earth across the verge is fifteen hundred miles—a distance so great that a vessel, in sailing over the verge, would not perceive the change in her direction except from the apparent change of the heavenly bodies, or from the observations of the difference in the expanse of the visible horizon.

A ship going north along the deflected meridians upon and over the verge causes the apparent change in the North Star mentioned by Captain Parry, because he says that when sailing northward in high latitudes the star in question rises over the bow of the ship to the zenith, and then declines towards the stern.

According to the Newtonian theory the ship must have sailed directly under the star and over and down upon the opposite side of the earth. This can hardly be true, as no navigator has sailed so far north. The vessel must have been sailing over the verge and into the earth! This would necessarily bring the north star over the stern of the vessel. Captain Ross, another experienced navigator in the north, when in high latitudes beyond the verge, speaks of the Arctic sea as calm and clear of ice, while south of him was a belt of ice. He describes the current of air coming from the north as being so warm as to dissolve the snow and ice far to the south. Captain Parry makes frequent mention of these warm currents of air coming from the north and northeast, that is, from the interior of the earth, according to the theory of Symmes. Explorers all agree that 63 deg. and 70 deg. north latitude is the coldest region to pass through, and the farther north one goes from that point the warmer it gets.

Driftwood is found on the northern sides of Iceland, Spitzbergen and Norway, while none is found on the southern sides. Flowers are also found in these regions. They certainly do not grow in Arctic regions, and must come from a warmer climate, says Symmes, which is probably to the north, as the flowers and drift are always on the northern sides of the lands mentioned. "The most common objection to this theory," says Symmes, "is that if it were true the sun could not possibly light and warm the interior of the world. This is easily explained. The rays of light come parallel from the sun to the earth, and if it were no larger than the earth, they would fall at least twelve degrees upon the concave interior surface as they passed over the lower part of the verge, both north and south. But the earth in her annual revolution, owing to the inclination of the poles to the plane of her orbit, alternately permits the incident rays to fall much more than twelve degrees. This inclination is twenty-three degrees and thirty minutes, which, added to the twelve degrees angularity of the verge, gives thirty-five degrees and thirty minutes of the concave surface upon which the direct rays of the sun fall. But these rays, passing over the dense cold air of the verges, are refracted many degrees—probably ten or fifteen—so that by one refraction and one or two reflections the rays of light would be thrown out over the verge to that through which they entered, and because these rays would converge upon the concave surface. Instead of diverging they would produce abundant light and heat through the interior, so that this objection has not the slightest force.

Many people believe in Symmes' theory. Others, scientific souls, do not place any faith in it, and can produce figures and facts, too, per-