

PROF. WITTER'S POEM.

The following poem was composed by Prof. F. S. Witter, and delivered by him at the Teacher's Institute at Fort Smith, February 22nd, 1884. By request of the presiding officer and many of the teachers of the Institute, and citizens of Fort Smith, it was delivered again by its author on the last night of the Institute, in the overcrowded Music Hall of that city. Since then it has been the subject of wide remark and commendation. It will be found to be replete in moral and educational lessons, filled with historic facts, glowing with patriotism and having the genius of true poetry in every line:

BURIED EMPIRES.

BY F. S. WITTER.

Realms of departed ages, in whose fane
The antique bards tuned their immortal strains;
Whose glowing themes, the dulcet hearts
Inspire,
And wildest raptures fill the waking lyre;
Upon whose page, where'er the eye we turn,
The blazing deeds of mighty heroes burn.
On glory's leaf, with brightest radiance
Blaze,
The Lordly acts of those illustrious days,
Abodes of faded grandeur, whither fled—
Vast monuments of the ancestral dead.

Where are those high columns and those
Stately towers,
Those sacred groves and sweet Elysian
bowers;
High massive walls and battlements sub-
lime,
Majestic labors of departed time?
Where are those Empires—the long bright
array—
The pride of lost ages, say, where now are
they?
Go search through Assyria's wide domain,
The mighty cities buried 'neath her plain,
The walls of Nineveh no more are seen.
Like massive guards along the Tigris stream,
Whose headlong waters still in rapid flow,
Are rolling on, and in low tones of woe,
Her murmurs rise upon the list'ner's ear,
Like mournful dirges 'round some sable
bier;
Where ages long have drawn their last life
breath,
And vanished greatness lies enshrined in
death.

Yes, she's gone. No longer need we name
The wondrous glories of her perished fame.
No more the sinking orb with gilded ray,
Illumes with splendor of departing day,
Those guardian piles that tower'd sublime
on high,
As if suspended from the vaulted sky;
The hard no more in joyous measure sings
Heroic praises to Assyria's kings;
No more the deep toned anthem upward
rolls;
No mighty chorus fills exulting souls;
No proud monarchs kneel within her walls,
No longer banquet in her palace halls.
Her cup of blasphemy did overflow,
Her sins rose up to heaven, her tale of woe
Is heard from valley, plain and distant
shore,
In doleful tidings—"Nineveh, no more!"
Her fate is writ upon her shifting sands,
By ignorance's devastating hands.

And where is Babylon—pride of the past,
Home of splendor, magnificence so vast?
Her countless treasure, pomp, and pride and
power,
Her highest hopes all blighted in an hour.
Nor could Belshazzar, drunken with the
wine,
Or cunning Magi, by their arts, divine
How soon the time would come, or e'en how
late,
Ere the doomed city should bewail its fate.
Nor did they know the deadly foe was nigh;
The deep Euphrates yet was rolling by;
They still were safe, so thought the foolish
king,
And louder far the deafening cymbals ring.
'On with the banquet! On!' the swelling cry
In tones of mockery ascends on high;
'Fill up the goblets!' once again, they call.
They are full. A hand is writing on the wall.
The minstrels all have ceased. The tuneful
strain
Through golden aisles, echoes ne'er again.
The song of revelry no more is sung,
No more to symphonies the harps are
strung,
Deep silence reigns, and every cheek is pale,
On every rising breath there comes a wail,
As now the thrills of anguish widely rung
Of "Fallen, fallen, is great Babylon!"
Vice thus laid low in unmarked oriental
dust,
The Babylonian name, once honored, true,
and just.

And so I might of other cities tell;
Thebes, with her hundred gates, so massive,
fell;
Where Sodom sunk beneath the fiery storm.
The dead sea glistens, in the sunny morn.

And would you know the story of their
doom?
Go read IGNORANCE upon that tomb,
Where nations past are free from earthly
foes;
Where mighty empires lie in deep repose.
Go ask those towering peaks that ever keep
The ceaseless vigils where the Pharaohs
sleep;
To search the records of some silent mound,

And read the marks that on the rocks are
found,
In deep wrought characters, they truth por-
tray,
That false philosophy can not gainsay.
No man can cavil on this awful theme
And say—"Tis but the burden of a dream."
Of some strange fancy." No, but they re-
veal,
From many ages past they break a seal,
From deepest mysteries they lift the veil,
And news of empires comes upon the gale.
There rests, mayhap, upon the Fort Smith
mind
The thought,—how shall we ever find,
Amid the mass of quaint and mystic lore,
In buried caverns which we deep explore,
The hidden causes of a kingdom's fall,
That cast o'er cities a funeral pall,
When town, and turret, and foundation
stone,
In wild confusion, all were overthrown.
Indeed we find among those vast remains,
The sculptured idol Gods, and heathen
fanes.
No other Deities are set apart
For divine homage of the suppliant's heart,
And far more blighting than the hand of
time,
To those who fell beneath the pagan shrine,
Whose withered form they clasp'd in firm
embrace—
The doleful emblem of a fallen race,
Was this IGNORANCE vice, that nerved the
blow
That laid the proudest thrones of empires
low.

Tis foul corruption that in every age
Has writ the darkest scenes on history's
page.
Her direful rod o'er mighty kingdoms played
And fate of empires to their fall has sway'd
As was the past, SO MAY THE FUTURE BE
CHANGE FOLLOWS CHANGE, and coming
time may see
OUR PROUDEST MONUMENTS OF ART DECAY
OUR HOMES OF EARTHLY GRANDEUR FADE
AWAY.

It matters not how far extends our realm,
EDUCATION and VIRTUE must guide the
helm,
Or we, on time's vast ocean, but a speck,
Will float upon the shore a worthless wreck,
Or else will sink beneath the darken'd wave,
And, fathomless, will find a watery grave.
What though our granite heaps on heaps
arise,
Until our temples pierce the very skies,
When all is done, 'tis but the work of man,
Creative power needs nothing for His plan,
While worlds on worlds in systems vast lie
bulks,
Profoundest heavens with dazzling beauty
glide,
No human hand can add a single gem
That will adorn His Princely diadem.
'Tis man's to cull the choicest earthly
flower;
'Tis God's to weave creation's fadeless
hower;
'Tis man's to build the empires of to-day,
But God's it is the universe to sway.
So we, as many nations that are gone,
May yet be known in generations on,
By nothing save the granite in their beds,
As crumbling shafts that stand above our
heads.
The marble then, as well as e'en of old,
May mark the spot where our sad tale is
told.
Long after we our earthly course have run
In the far off future, the day may come,
When not in temples, but on rocks instead
The records of our glory shall be read,
Unless the watch-words of America shall
be—
EDUCATION, VIRTUE AND LIBERTY.

O, mighty empires of the dreamy past!
Through distant ages, teachers, shall their
story last,
It comes upon the ear in saddest tones,
It tells a tale of vast sepulchral homes,
Where myrtle shadows east their deepest
gloom,
Where ivy tendrils cluster o'er the tomb,
Of wrecks that on the shore of time are
tossed,
It sings the doleful dirges of the lost.
While time's ashes shall moulder in the urn,
This mournful theme in memory will burn;
And ever on, 'twill fill the restless soul,
As long as deep eternity shall roll.

TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

LONDON, June 13.—The Manchester
ship canal bill passed its second read-
ing in the Commons this afternoon
with the proviso that it be referred to
a select committee.

Sir James Ferguson, parliamentary
secretary of the foreign office, stated
that the Russian railway toward Af-
ghanistan was completed to within 125
miles of the frontier.

The house this evening resumed de-
bate on the

COERCION BILL.

taking up the fifth clause, which deals
with the proclaiming of districts.
Henry Fowler, liberal, proposed, as an
amendment, that the proclamations be
made by order of the privy council in-
stead of by the viceroy. He urged that
a change of such importance as pro-
claiming districts should be made by
the imperial instead of the Irish execu-
tive.

Mr. Balfour, chief secretary for Ire-
land, declined to accept the amend-
ment. He reminded the house that

the government collectively were re-
sponsible for every act of the Irish
executive.

Messrs. Healy, McNeill, Clancy and
Dillon, nationalists, successively sup-
ported the amendment.

Gladstone suggested that members
should not spend any more of the
short time at their command in futile
discussion. "It would be better," he
said, "to employ the remaining time in
discussing the weighty points."

Smith said he was anxious to allow
sufficient time for the discussion of the
substantial questions, and hoped the
opposition would assist the govern-
ment in this direction.

Mr. Fowler offered to withdraw his
amendment.

Mr. Dillon protested. He declined
to take advice from the government as
to what amendments should be dis-
cussed in the miserable period left to
the Parnellites to contest the meas-
ure.

Morley said he was sure Gladstone
had not meant to suggest that the op-
position assist in limiting the debate
in accordance with the government's
ideas. The opinions of the Parnellites
on the relative importance of amend-
ments deserve more attention than the
opinions of English members.

The amendment was put to a divi-
sion and was rejected, 235 to 167.

Mr. Doherty moved an amendment
that the proclamation be issued only
on a report of a judge of a high court,
after local inquiry.

Mr. Holmes, Irish attorney-general,
opposed the amendment on the ground
that it was not advisable to remove
any of the responsibility from the ex-
ecutive local inquiry. He said it would
be valueless, because the judge would
have no power to take evidence on
oath.

Clancy said that the government
would have been more candid if they
had given, as a reason for their
opposition to the amendment, their
desire to retain for political pur-
poses the power of proclaiming a dis-
trict.

The amendment was rejected by a
vote of 202 to 126.

Mr. Shaw-Lefevre moved an amend-
ment limiting the authority of the
Viceroy in proclaiming, to districts
where it might be necessary for the
prevention of crime and outrage. He
appealed to the government to assent
to this alteration, which he said would
bring the clause to accord with the
act of 1882.

Sir R. E. Webster, attorney-general,
said that it was refreshing to hear
Shaw-Lefevre defending the act of
1882. The government, he added,
could not accept the proposal, the ob-
ject of the bill being to punish the au-
thors as well as to prevent the com-
mission of crime. The amendment
would hamper the operation of the
measure.

Mr. Morley said he had never heard
a more ludicrous reason given for the
omission of an important limitation.
It showed that the real object of the
bill was not the prevention of crime,
but the suppression of political com-
binations. [Cheers.]

Mr. Bradlaugh suggested that to
meet the views of the government, the
words "and punishment" be added to
the amendment after the word "pre-
vention."

Mr. Balfour announced that the gov-
ernment accepted the amendment,
with Mr. Bradlaugh's modification.
[Cheers.]

An amendment providing that the
proclamation should endure six
months, and another providing that
a week's notice be given were re-
jected.

The government accepted an amend-
ment offered by Fowler, making the
proclamation subject to the veto of
either house of Parliament.

After several other amendments had
been rejected, Attorney-General
Holmes moved to amend the clause by
making the summary jurisdiction and
change of venue apply to crimes com-
mitted before the issue of the procla-
mation, if such crimes be committed
after the passing of this act.

Mr. Healy said he considered the
proposal a breach of faith, made in
order to occupy a little time that was
left for discussion. Amendment was
carried by a vote of 327 to 118.

LONDON, June 13.—The Standard
this morning says the government will
not introduce a local government bill
during the present session of Parlia-
ment.

New York, June 13.—Stephen Poole
(colored) to-day shot and fatally
wounded his wife, and then went to
the cellar and shot himself. Finding
he was not dying, he went back up
stairs and cut his throat with a razor.

JERSEY CITY, June 13.—District At-
torney Winfield, of Hudson county,
has taken steps to bring to punish-
ment Herr Most and a number of his
followers for their connection with the
rioting at Oak Hill Park, near Guten-
berg, yesterday afternoon.

PITTSBURG, June 13.—Mary Ann
Valentine, daughter of General Valen-
tine, of Etoborough, was found to-
night a short distance from home in an
insensible condition. She had left the
house shortly after supper to meet her
father, carrying with her some money
for him. Fritz Weiman, a German, has
been arrested on suspicion. Miss Valen-
tine was dying.

CINCINNATI, O., June 13.—A conven-
tion of the river and lake transporta-
tion men is being held here for the
purpose of forming a permanent or-
ganization of steamboat owners to re-
sist the encroachments of the railroads
and to appoint a general superintendent
of steamboat interests, whose
duty it shall be to take cognizance of
any complaints of the violation of the

inter-state commerce law by railroads
by discriminating in rates.

TORONTO, Ont., June 13.—The strik-
ing carpenters met this morning, about
1,200 answering to their names. It was
announced that twenty-seven

MASTER CARPENTERS

had signed the agreement granting an
increased rate, and the men, about 400
in number, employed by these twenty-
seven, went back to work this after-
noon. It is expected that other mas-
ters will soon follow suit. About 300
plasterers also went out on a strike
this morning for an advance of 2½
cents per hour. Twenty master plas-
terers promptly agreed to grant the in-
crease, and their men will go back to
work to-morrow, leaving only about
sixty men out.

New York, June 13.—The Home
Club District Assembly 49, Knights of
Labor, which has caused so

MUCH TROUBLE

among the other district assemblies in
this city, is said to be fast disintegrat-
ing. The matter which is causing in-
ternational trouble, and from which
there is said to be greater danger than
from outside attacks, is the failure of
the auditing committee appointed last
October to report the financial affairs
of the assembly. The report was to
have been made yesterday, as a result
of the strong pressure, but it was not
forthcoming, and the members declare
that if this is not submitted next Sun-
day there will be war.

SAN FRANCISCO, June 13.—The Earl
of Aberdeen, Lord Lieutenant of Ire-
land under Gladstone's administration,
was given a notable reception at his
hotel this afternoon. There were pre-
sent all the judges of the Supreme Court
of California and judges of the local
courts of the city, and a large number
of state officials and prominent citi-
zens numbering in all 300. A memorial
was presented to the notable man on
behalf of the citizens of San Francisco,
which declared that the subscribers
could not allow the opportunity to
pass without expressing their warm
approval of the manner in which he
had discharged his duties as lord
lieutenant. The memorial was highly
complimentary to the Countess of
Aberdeen in winning the love of the
people of Ireland. The

MEMORIAL SAID:

Our experience as citizens of this
great republic having convinced us
that state government is not incom-
patible with the integrity of the Union,
we regard the broad and generous
statesmanship of Gladstone, so admi-
rably seconded by yourself, in propos-
ing to restore to Ireland her national
parliament, as not only the best
method, but the only method of pro-
moting her prosperity, while securing
the integrity of the general govern-
ment.

In response Aberdeen said he recog-
nized the significance of such an ex-
pression apart from its qualifying per-
sonal character. He referred to the
political expressions contained in the
address, saying he was quite sure that
the best American opinion would never
be in favor of anything like dismem-
berment of the relations existing be-
tween Great Britain and Ireland. It is
therefore a

HIGHLY DESIRABLE

thing, he continued, that leading mem-
bers of the Irish community should
make it plain that their views and aims
are not in favor of the separation of
Great Britain and Ireland, but of that
form of self-government for Ireland,
which would be perfectly consistent
with and contributive to imperial uni-
ty. The earl further assured the audi-
ence that he had perfect faith that the
liberal party would be victorious in
the home rule fight. This expression
and all mention of Gladstone's name
were loudly applauded.

The earl leaves to-morrow for Texas
to visit his brother living there, and
then will go north, visiting Chicago
and New York.

LEIPZIG, June 13.—The trial of mem-
bers of the Alsatian Patriotic League,
charged with high treason for support-
ing the attempt to separate Alsace-
Lorraine from Germany, was begun to-
day. Judge A. Rinkmann, of the
imperial court of justice, presides.
Prosecutor Superior Tessenloff and
Prosecutor Treplin, conducted the
prosecution. The prisoners were de-
fended by a great array of distin-
guished counsel, including the local
advocates, Herren, Lugen, Lehman,
Frelage & Fils, Herr Mincker, of
Berlin, Herren Ott, and Schodelstorn,
of Strasburg, and Herr Straesser, of
Metz.

LOUISVILLE, June 13.—The whole-
sale liquor dealers to-day endorsed the
action of the distillers in not making
any whisky from July 1, 1887, to July 1,
1888, and recommended to the trade at
large not to buy any goods between
those dates.

DENVER, Col., June 13.—Two boys,
10 and 12 years old, both Italian, and
neither of them able to speak a word
of English, arrived in Denver this
morning, having come all the way from
Italy without the guidance of any
older person, or any one who could
speak English. They were labeled,
however, and came through without
any trouble. The labels, which were
attached to their jackets, bore the ad-
dress of their relatives, at No. 200
Fifteenth Street, where they were de-
livered well and happy.

New York, June 13.—Advices from
Pdoana, under date of the 4th instant,
are as follows: Vozum de Antioquia
reports a landslide on El Pedrera's
farm in Concordia, burying Señor Pe-

dro Arestrops, his wife and nine chil-
dren and the servants in the house. In
all sixteen persons were killed.

NEW ORLEANS, June 13.—A special to
the Times-Democrat from Foinde-a-La-
Stache, Louisiana, says: A brisk east
wind the past few days has driven the
ruinous salt water of the gulf up, sub-
merging all the rice fields from this
point to the quarantine station, a dis-
tance of about thirty miles, and forced
it inland up as far as La Chiene, in St.
Bernard parish, and all along the east
bank of the river to this point. The
damage cannot now be estimated, but
if bright sunshine follows the subsid-
ence of the floods, then not a head of
rice will be made for thirty miles along
the east bank of the Mississippi.

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., June 13.—
News reached here to-night that

FIVE MEN

have been killed and many wounded
by the explosion of a dynamite cart-
ridge at the Inman mine, four miles
from here.

The explosion occurred in the mines
of the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Rail-
way Company, where most of the em-
ployees are convicts. However, the
company of late has been employing
English miners, and it is said these
were the victims. The scene of the
explosion at Inman is five miles from
any telegraph office, and it is impos-
sible to secure later news to-night.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., June 14.—At 1:30 a.
m., a fire broke out in the stables of
the Mount City Street Car Company in
the outskirts of the city, and

TWO ALARMS

have been turned in. At 2:30 a. m., a
message by telephone said 315 mules
had been burned and the stables to-
tally destroyed. The loss probably
will be \$50,000 or more.

BOSTON, June 13.—In the United
States court to-day before Judge Colt
and District Judge Nelson, the case of
the United States vs. the American
Bell Telephone Company came up for
argument on the demurrer by the tele-
phone company. The counsel for the
government are ex-Solicitor General
Goode, ex-Senator Allen G. Thurman,
Grosvenor P. Lowery, of New York,
Wm. C. Strawbridge, of Philadelphia,
and Jeff Chandler, of Washington.
Chauncey Smith, J. J. Storrow and
Geo. L. Roberts represent the tele-
phone company. J. J. Storrow opened
the argument for the company, dwell-
ing at some length upon the historical
aspect of the case and the law of pa-
tents generally. The hearing will prob-
ably last three or four days.

WASHINGTON, June 14.—The board
of examiners have completed the re-
port on the designs for cruisers and
gunboats submitted by naval experts
in response to the circular from the
Navy Department offering \$15,000 for
the best design of each type of vessel.
The report will be made public in a
few days.

BOSTON, June 13.—The Ancient and
Honorable Artillery Company voted
last night to send a delegation of
twelve members to London to repre-
sent the organization at the celebration
of the 350th anniversary by the Ancient
and Honorable Artillery Company of
London, which occurs July 11.

LONDON, June 14.—The jubilee yacht
race around Great Britain and Ireland
was begun to-day. The yachts were
started by the Prince of Wales at
Southend, at the mouth of the
Thames.

The starters were the *Aline*, *Steuth-*
hound, *Dawn*, *Davutless*, *Genesta*, *An-*
emone, *Mabel*, *Volant*, *Atlantis*,
Guendolin, *Bridesmaid* and *Helene*.

DUBLIN, June 14.—It is reported
that the government intends to prose-
cute Michael Davitt and Jos. Richard
Cox, a national member of Parliament,
for their conduct in inciting the Bo-
dyke tenants to resist eviction.

LONDON, June 14.—The *Thunderer's*
correspondent at Rome says the
Pope has no sympathy with Parnell's
Irish campaign, but that no
official opinion to show how
the church regards the movement
has been given because of the ener-
getic pressure brought to bear by the
majority of the Irish bishops who hold
the normally conservative tendencies
of the Vatican in check. The corres-
pondent adds that nothing more is
definitely known regarding the question
of reconciliation between Italy and the
Vatican or the establishment by Eug-
land and the Vatican of diplomatic re-
lations.

BRIGRADE, June 14.—M. Ristic, the
new Premier of Serbia, is a man of
strong pro-Russian sympathies. His
elevation is considered a check to
Austria and a gain for Russia in the
Balkans.

DUBLIN, June 14.—A farm servant
named Hurley was shot and killed last
night by moonlighters, near Trales,
County Kerry. Eleven bullets pierced
his body.

LONDON, June 14.—Prince Albert
Victor, the eldest son of the Prince of
Wales, will attend the grand jubilee.
Thanksgiving service will be held in
St. Patrick's cathedral in Dublin on
June 28th, and he will on that occa-
sion be decorated with the order of
St. Patrick.

CITY OF MEXICO, via Galveston,
June 14.—The present action of the
government in granting important con-
cessions for colonization, public im-
provement, etc., to Americans and
American companies, is the pretext for
an assault on the administration by the
organs of the church party. The
National, a prominent opposition jour-
nal, will in a leading article to-morrow
take a strong stand against the Diaz
administration for granting conces-
sions to Americans. "If foreigners are