

THE ANGEL'S WHISPER.

BY SAMUEL LOVER.

A superstition of great beauty prevails in Ireland, that when a child smiles in its sleep, it is "talking with the angels."

A baby was sleeping,
Its mother was weeping,
For her husband was far on the wild raging sea,
And the tempest was swelling
Round the fisherman's dwelling,
And she cried, "Dermot, darling, oh! come back to me."

Her beads while she numbered,
The baby still slumbered,
And smiled in her face as she bended her knee;
Oh! blest be that warning,
My child, thy sleep adorning,
For I know that the angels are whispering with thee.

And while they are keeping
Bright watch o'er thy sleeping,
Oh, pray to them softly, my baby with me,
And say thou wouldst rather,
They'd watch o'er thy father,
For I know that the angels are whispering with thee.

The dawn of the morning
Saw Dermot returning,
And the wife wept with joy her babe's father to see,
And closely caressing
Her child, with a blessing,
Said, "I knew that the angels were whispering with thee."

The Irishman and the Deacon.

A few months ago, as Deacon Ingalls, of Swampscott, R. I., was traveling through the western part of the State of New York, he fell in with an Irishman who had lately arrived in this country, and who was in quest of a brother that came on before him and settled in some of the diggings in that vicinity.

Pat was a strong, athletic man; a true catholic, and had never seen the interior of a Protestant church. It was a pleasant Sabbath morning that brother Ingalls met Pat, who inquired the road to the nearest church.

Ingalls was a good and pious man.—He told Pat he was going to church himself, and invited his new made acquaintance to keep him company thither, his place of destination being a small Methodist meeting house near by. There was a great revival there at that time, and one of the deacons (who, by the way, was very small in stature) invited brother I. to take a seat in his pew. He accepted the invitation and walked in, followed by Pat, who looked in vain to find the altar, &c. After he was seated he turned to brother I. and in a whisper which could be heard all round, inquired—

"Sure, an, isn't this a heretic church?"

"Hush!" said Ingalls, "if you speak a loud word they will put you out."

"Divil a word will I spake at all at all," replied Pat.

The meeting was opened with a prayer by the pastor. Pat was eyeing him very closely, when suddenly an old gentleman who was standing in the pew directly in front of Pat, shouted "glory." "His-s-t ye clear divil," rejoined Pat with his loud whisper, which was heard by the minister, "be decent and don't make a blackguard of yourself."

The pastor grew more and more fervent in the devotions. Presently the deacon uttered an audible groan. "His-s-t ye blackguard, have ye no decency at all at all?" said Pat, at the same moment giving the deacon a punch in the ribs, which caused him nearly to lose his equilibrium. The minister stopped, and extending his hand in a supplicating manner, said—"Brethren, we cannot be disturbed in this way, will some one put that man out?"

"Yes, your Reverence," shouted Pat, "I will," and suiting the action to the word, he collared the deacon, and, to the utter horror and astonishment of the pastor, brother Ingalls, and the whole congregation, he dragged him through the aisle, and with a tremendous kick *a posteriori* as the legions say, he landed him in the vestibule of the church.

THE EFFECT OF WATER ON BURNING TAR.—The N. Y. Tribune says, speaking of the burning of the Austria:—

"Was such a catastrophe inevitable? Almost inevitable it certainly was, if a vessel of burning tar was still upon the deck, and water was thrown upon it. It was the fortune of the writer once to hear on shipboard, many hundred miles from land, and out of a much-frequented track of ships, the appalling cry of fire! A vessel of burning tar had been upset, and the liquid fire was flying in every direction upon streams of water dashed upon it by the half-frantic sailors. But the quickness, the presence of mind, the energy and the knowledge of the captain and his first officer were equal to the emergency of that terrible moment. The command was given, and instantly obeyed, to stop the water; the next moment every bed, and blanket, and bed-quilt, and pea-jacket was thrown on from the fore-castle, and in five minutes the fire, which in five minutes more would have wrapped the ship in flames, was extinguished. Undoubtedly the fire on board the Austria might have been as easily conquered if doing the wrong thing had been soon enough stopped, and the right thing done. But to these were requisite, first, knowledge, second, presence of mind, and, third, the power to use them.

Unfortunately the men in places of trust on board the ocean steamers are not always, perhaps not generally, the old-fashioned 'salts' who sailed the old-fashioned ships, who knew their business and never lost their balance; and even if the man who was sent down between-decks of the Austria with a bucket of tar and a hot iron was one of these, no knowledge and no presence of mind could avail him anything, surrounded, as he probably was, with steerage passengers, who in their

ignorance and affright, did precisely the wrong thing, and did it with their might, because they were sure it was the right thing to do. It was not a time to convince men that there are cases where water will not quench fire."

The Most Precious Land.

Ex-Governor Wright, of Indiana, now Minister to Prussia, has addressed a long and able letter to Hamilton Smith, dated Berlin, Dec. 11th, on the permanent system of geological and topographical survey, and the great mineral and agricultural resources of Indiana, and a comparative view of the productive industry of Europe and the U. States. The following is an extract:—[*Jour. of Commerce.*]

A few evenings since, at a meeting of the Geographical Society, a lecture was given upon the resources of Arnsberg, a small Rhenish province about the size of one of the largest counties of our own State. Deducting the farming and wood lands, the territory devoted to iron and coal mining, is perhaps, equal in extent to your county of Perry. During the year 1856, the value of the products of these mines amounted to twenty-one millions of thalers, averaging about eleven hundred thalers to each miner. Now, these Arnsberg mines, I need scarcely tell you, are vastly inferior to our own.

Hundreds of feet underground, half doubled up in low galleries, where the seams of mineral hardly average three feet in thickness, the German miner picks his slow and laborious way, while the expense of working so far beneath the surface, the expense of raising the heavy products of his labor to the light of day, adds considerably to their market price.

We are scarcely credited when we tell these people that in our own country we have immense coal fields, from six to nine feet in thickness, lying near the surface, and in every respect easy of access, with iron ore, rich soil and inexhaustible timber lands, all in close proximity. But let us not accuse the Old World of blindness, nor laugh at her for grubbing away five thousand feet under ground, as some of them do, while we, neglecting all this mineral wealth, content ourselves with scratching the rich soil and wearing it out with unscientific cultivation.

It is my firm belief that the iron and coal mines of Perry county alone, if scientifically worked, would yield an annual income greater than that of the wheat crop of the entire State; and I am sure there is not a wheat raiser in Indiana who has not an equal, and I think I may say a far greater interest in the development of this mineral wealth than in doubling the crop of wheat or other grain.

I think it may be confidently held, that the development of the natural resources of our extensive national territory, extending as it does from ocean to ocean, and embracing almost every variety of climate within its limits, will gradually lead to the grand result of which I have already spoken, and which I solemnly regard as the main basis of our Union in the future—the elevation of State legislation, and the full, free and cordial commercial intercourse of the several sections of the country. God grant that our wise and good men, instead of allowing themselves to be misled by a specious feeling of nationality, and perhaps an unconscious underestimate of the dignity and importance of our State governments, may give their time and thoughts and labors to the development and aggrandizement of their several States. This is true nationality; for it is the surest and speediest way to secure the permanent well-being and prosperity of our whole Union.

AMERICAN WATCHES.—They have a watch manufactory in Waltham, Massachusetts—of which a correspondent of the Philadelphia Ledger writes as follows:—

The factory is a spacious and attractive edifice, located in a commanding position, and, with its surrounding grounds, adds not a little to the beauty of the town. There are now employed in the various departments of the establishment between 150 and 200 hands. Every branch of the business of manufacturing the watch is performed by a uniform system of machinery, demonstrating the high degree of perfection and cheapness attainable by means of mechanism, under the direction of human skill.

The watches manufactured here differ in their construction very essentially from those made in England and Europe. They are less complex, and having fewer parts, are more substantially made than those of foreign manufacture. A patent lever English watch has upwards of eight hundred separate parts, while the American watch has but one hundred and twenty-five parts, and, most of them being very substantial, the probabilities of breakage are greatly diminished. In respect to price they are full one-half lower than the same quality of English patent levers, and, as they become known, they will unquestionably, to a very great extent, supersede them.

We were shown, during our visit, three or four styles of movement; all, however, constructed upon the simplest form of patent lever arrangement, and these styles differ only in elaborateness of finish, the cost of production being affected chiefly by the arrangement of jewels, &c. The manufacturers are now perfecting adjusted chronometer balances, and will soon bring out a beautiful and highly finished lady's watch. To give confidence to the skeptical, all who purchase these watches receive a certificate of warranty, not as in ordinary cases, for one year, but for ten years.

Our people certainly have reason to be proud of this new development of American skill, and from present appearances, the day will perhaps come when we shall not only supply those across the water with the Yankee clock, but also with the Yankee watches—and, then, that which has been exclusively a costly article of importation,

will soon be a very remunerative source for our own industry.

Special agencies for the sale of the American watch have been established in all the principal cities of the United States.

Want of Reverence for Law.

That spirit which is exhibiting itself in all parts of the Confederacy, and which is evidently fearfully on the increase, disregarding the Constitution and laws of the country, is one of the most alarming symptoms, not only of the degeneracy of the times, but of approaching danger to the permanency and safety of the system of government that has been inaugurated by the United States, separately or united. As long as this disregard of law could be located with a desperate faction of fanatics in the free States, and the South could hold up the Constitution and statutes passed under it as unsullied pledges of her fidelity to the compact of union, she wielded by it a point that rendered her position impregnable. But when she, too, wearied with the slow progress of truth, and apparently alarmed and chagrined at the rapid strides of error, attempted to retaliate by imitating to some extent that very disregard for law that she had so reviled and denounced in the Northern fanatic, she parted with much of her moral, which necessarily includes material, strength.

The South, being in the minority in the Union, will find her greatest security in the exactment of the strictest performance of all the obligations of the Constitution—of the most righteous observance of the laws passed in pursuance thereof; and that she may do this with the utmost efficiency, she should be able to make an accusation with a clear conscience, and not be herself one of the "adulterers."

These observations have been elicited by occurrences in the North familiar to every one, and by many, we are sorry to say, in the South; particularly of recent date. We have seen an Executive roundly taken to task, denounced and abused, for endeavoring to carry out his sworn duty to "see that the laws be faithfully executed." We have seen an eminent Judge of the Supreme Court—one of our own cherished and trusted fellow-citizens—traduced and stigmatized as a Jeffries and a tyrant, and even an ill conceived threat of the vengeance of a mob hurled at him, for daring to expound the law as he found it upon the statute-book. We have seen a band of reckless and irresponsible adventurers, whose designs were open and above board to invade and plunder a feeble neighboring republic, dethrone its government, murder its people, and devastate its soil, sheltered, protected and upheld by a large part of a respectable community, including a portion of the press, in utter disregard to the plain letter and spirit of the law.

We have just read an account where the Governor of Alabama had delivered up to the proper officers, upon requisition of the Governor of Pennsylvania, a man accused of some crime or offence in that State and had fled to ours. But the citizens of the place rose up in arms and took the accused party out of the hands of the officers of the law; and, not satisfied with that, forced the said officers to leave the country. And while we write we see that a whole jury had been burnt in effigy in Kentucky for some verdict that did not happen to meet with the sympathy of the mob. These are but a few of the numerous examples that might be adduced of that reckless disregard of law that is spreading with alarming rapidity in the South. Why, but the other day, a most respectable journal in the city of Mobile enunciated the dangerous heresy that a judge should interpret and expound the law in obedience to the principles of a party! Whither does all this tend? Where will it end?

We do not speak of a want of reverence for law as affecting our relations particularly to the Union; but as affecting our system of government itself generally. We hold that no government can permanently exist without a strict observance of law. In our system there is no excuse for its non-observance, as it is the work of our own hands. If unjust we can either repeal it, or, if forced upon us by an unscrupulous majority contrary to the fundamental agreement, we can dissolve the compact. Until we do this our greatest security will be found in a strict obedience to law.

Every intelligent mind that will run his memory back over the history of the world will recognize the fact that when a nation or people become thoroughly imbued with a disrespect for and disregard of law, they are on the highway to confusion, distraction, revolutions, anarchy; to escape from which a despotism is almost the only refuge. Let the Southern people hearken to it that they violate not a precept the observance of which is their greatest safety.—[Montgomery (Alabama) Confederation.]

HIGHWAYMEN AND BRAVOS.

WASHINGTON, Saturday, Jan. 22, 1859.

The intestine strife which is rapidly rending in pieces the Democratic party broke out with great virulence in the secret session of the Senate yesterday. Mr. Hale was in the chair, and a discussion arose upon the merits of some nominations to office which had been sent in by the President. Mr. Pugh of Ohio denounced the President with great bitterness, accusing him of insincerity and insolence, and declaring that he meant to oppose and thwart him whenever and wherever he could.

Mr. Douglas spoke in the same strain, stigmatizing Mr. Buchanan's recent appointments to office in the West in very severe terms. He intimated that the Buchanan Postmasters in Illinois were little better than thieves, and were so regarded by the people. If anything was missing from the mails, the Postmasters were instinctively suspected of larceny.

These imputations on the standard bearers of the Faithful roused the ire of Mr. Fitch, who denied their justice, charged Mr. Douglas

with uttering shameful calumnies, and denounced him as a rebel to the Democratic party.

Mr. Douglas haughtily replied that he was an unsubdued and successful rebel, and that neither the President nor his Senatorial followers could put him down. He then retorted upon the gentleman from Indiana his charges of falsehood and defamation. At this stage of the affair, Mr. Hale, the Chairman, called the disputants to order, kindly suggesting, in his facetious way, that the harmony of the Democratic party would not be promoted by such displays of fraternal affection.

The war of words still continuing, Mr. Jefferson Davis at length interposed, and sternly rebuked the scolding Senators. He told them they were talking "like highwaymen and bravos"—"I give you his exact language—and that their conduct was shameful, and disgraceful to the Senate. This brought them to their senses, and they subsided into silence.

This scene is said to have been the most violent and indecorous that has ever occurred in the Senate, even in secret session, where the proceedings are accompanied always with great freedom of manner and of language—the Senators lighting their cigars and talking and discussing in the free and easy style of an after-dinner conversation.—[N. Y. Tribune, Jan. 20.]

How Uncle Sam's Money Goes.

Among the "contingent expenses" of the national House of Representatives for 1857, may be found charged the following articles:—

Knives, 4479	\$6,829 00	Inkstands—	
Scissors	- 669 70	Fancy	\$635 92
Candles	- 1,057 50	Draper's	228 00
Propelling pencils	600 00	English	117 42
Two flags	- 100 00	Desks	80 00
Dressing cases	645 50	Ladies'	288 50
Odor cases	- 121 50	Plain	150 00
Cigar cases	- 97 50	Cut	291 00
Ladies' reticules	242 00	French	52 00
Portfolios	- 1,997 83	Pump	18 00
Albums, plain and illuminated	282 00	Screw	84 00
Snuff	- 24 00	Ladies' portemon-	-1,894 84
Vesta taper boxes	70 00	nales	- 347 00
Velvet	- 10 05	Pearl shopping tablets	247 00
Card cases	- 177 00	Rucksack purses	70 00
Engr. trav. cases	155 00	Pocket-books	30 00
English despatch boxes	- 75 00	Ladies' Companion	101 00

If there be not ten thousand seven hundred and sixty-two dollars and ninety-seven cents expended for crinoline in the contingents of the House in 1858 (says an exchange paper), let us live in hope, and believe that with the progress of Coleridgian art, in the year 1859 or 1860 that sum may be laid out by members for the beautification and beatification of their wives' and daughters' apparel. Certainly, the appropriations should not stop with albums, reticules, shopping tablets, portemonnaies, etc., but should, with spherical sublimity, rise to the adornment of the entire feminine person, giving it (at the public expense) that circular glory which rivals both the nimbus of the dawn and the tracks of the midnight stars.—[States.]

DESCRIPTION OF A YANKEE.—The Ohio Statesman, in noticing the formation of a "New England Society," in Columbus, makes the following acknowledgement of New England influence in the West:—

The New Englander has made much of our country what it is. The West, from "the ground up," is greatly the work of his hands. Adapted to any calling—manufacturing, preaching, or fighting, and whether preaching or fighting, the same principle is involved—a principle stronger than himself. His way is the only way, and that he will have, at any hazard, for it is with him a conviction beyond the reach of argument to the contrary. Should 'Millerism,' for instance, shake his confidence in the stability of the world and its indestructible nature, he soon reassures himself with a story of "wet season," and returns to his confidence in an efficient fire department. A still Yankee, is an unusual phenomenon, a condition indicative of funeral notices. Action with him is a positive principle.

M. Chevalier, in his letter from the United States, says: "There exists a Yankee in Connecticut, who has never been to bed of nights, for fear some of his neighbors would be up in the morning before him. And that is the characteristic of the people—they are all alike." He is, withal, naturally honest, religious, industrious, benevolent, and temperate. The world would be incomplete, unfinished, without him, and he knows it. He is, in fact, its percussion lock, self-acting, ever ready, and at aim.

THE GAMBLERS IN COUNCIL.—The gamblers of the United States are holding a national convention in Chicago. They are said, by the Democrat of that city, to make a decided sensation, being distinguished by their sleek appearance, sharp looks, and display of jewelry. The purposes of the convention are—first, to revise the old rules and establish new ones for their games; and second, to impose on the profession non-interference in politics. The importance of the first reform is indicated by the fact that several lives have been lost in broils arising from the different constructions of the rules. As for the second, it is evident that they should exclude politicians from their gambling houses, if the sacrifice in business would not be too great to allow it.

AN IDIOTIC ANNOUNCEMENT.—At the close of the sitting of the House of Representatives at Springfield, Ill., the clerk read the following:—

"I am requested to announce that Rev. Dr. McFarland will deliver a lecture this evening in this Hall, on the 'Education of Idiots.' Members of the legislature are specially invited to attend!"—[N. Y. Evening Post.]