

## Poetry.

## THE RABBIT ON THE WALL.

The cottage work is over,  
The evening meal is done;  
Hark! through the starlight stillness  
You hear the river run.  
The little children whisper,  
Then speak out one and all:  
"Come, father, make for Johnny  
The Rabbit on the wall."

He smilingly assenting,  
They gather 'round his chair;  
"Now Grandma, you hold Johnny—  
Don't let the candle flare."  
So speaking, from his fingers  
He threw a shadow tall,  
That seemed a moment after  
A rabbit on the wall.

The children shout with laughter,  
The uproar louder grows;  
Even Grandma chuckles faintly,  
And Johnny chirps and crows.  
There ne'er was gilded painting,  
Hung up in lordly hall,  
Gave half the simple pleasure  
Of this rabbit on the wall.

## GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, UTAH,  
G. S. L. City, Dec. 10th, 1886.

Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:

The year which has passed, since last you were assembled, has been one prodigal in blessings to the people of this Territory. Most conspicuous among these blessings, has been that of well nigh universal health. The terrible scourge of cholera, which has made desolate the homes of thousands of our fellow citizens throughout the States, has mercifully left us unvisited. The labors of our husbandmen have been rewarded with an unstinted hand. A bountiful supply of all the necessities of life, both for domestic consumption and export, has been garnered for the year to come.

The past year will be also ever memorable in our national history, for the magnitude and cosmopolitan character of its labors, inaugurated or completed. The Oceanic telegraph, long regarded as the imaginative project of an impractical dreamer, has proved a magnificent success. Rendered but more hopeful by previous failures, undismayed by countless obstacles and discouragements the heroic projectors of the enterprise have held their faith unshaken, until it has become the most wonderful of verities.

Beside the every day workings of this magical wire, the most fanciful of even oriental dreams becomes prosaic; in our intercourse with distant nations, time and space alike cease to be elements of computation and disappear. What a wonderful display of genius and perseverance! It forcibly reminds us of the scriptural saying that man was made but a little lower than the angels, finite, yet how vast his power! He measures the distance to the planets and gives you their circumference. He says to the ocean do this, and to the lightning do that, and they obey his commands. All honor to Cyrus W. Field and his coadjutors for this sublime achievement. Who can over-estimate the power of this new agent in socializing and Christianizing the world, and hastening that golden age of humanity, the era of universal brotherhood and peace?

Another vast project, the national highway from ocean to ocean, in which the people of this Territory have such vital interest, has been within the year pushed forward with characteristic energy. It has approached us, in the east well nigh one third of the entire distance to be traversed. On the west the iron horse has nearly reached the snow-capped summits of the Sierra Nevada.

During the year, also, another enterprise has been inaugurated and virtually completed by the people of this Territory, which, in view of the great difficulties to be surmounted, the scarcity of capital and the great cost of labor and transportation, deserves mention, even in connection with the great undertakings to which allusion has been made. The completion of the Territorial Telegraph line, passing through nearly every settlement in the Territory for a distance of more than five hundred miles, is one of the most important steps yet taken in the development of our varied resources.

An unusually large number of foreign

immigrants, animated by the hope of bettering their condition and of here enjoying a higher degree of civil and religious liberty, have, during the present season, sought homes within our borders. They seem to be, as a class, eminently frugal and industrious, and will prove a most valuable addition to our population. The greatest want of our Territory is labor, wherewith more fully to develop our natural resources, and every addition to the great army of producers is a benefit to all.

Our Territorial state, as well as our isolation from the scenes of political strife, has rendered us lookers-on rather than participants in the political turmoils of our fellow-citizens throughout the States. So long as a people are intelligent, educated and accustomed to freedom of thought and action, earnest differences of opinion will arise among those equally solicitous for the public good. In all such contests, however, the truth and the right will ultimately be victorious, and the cause of free government will be promoted by the honest dissensions among its advocates. Our hopes should be, with those of all true patriots, that our country, lately distracted by civil war, may be speedily restored and made harmonious on the principles set forth in the Declaration of American Independence. The geographical, commercial and political interests of the United States and Territories are one and indivisible. We need only the healing balm of time, in connection with the many and varied agencies now at work, to restore and fit us for that high mission assigned us by God in the family of nations.

Reflections upon the subjects to which I have briefly alluded, with others which will suggest themselves to all, should fill our hearts with devout gratitude to Almighty God—the Father of mercies—for His unceasing and parental care. Let us, with one accord, beseech of Him a continuance of His divine favors, and that He may preside in our councils and guide our deliberations to the end that the highest prosperity of the people be promoted by our labors. The great blessings, which have been by Providence vouchsafed us as a nation, should be regarded as evidence that the efforts of our fathers and of our own generation, to build up an empire for the people, have been blessed in His sight; should make us the more implicitly rely, as of divine acceptance, upon our *magna charta*—freedom of speech, freedom of the press and religious toleration; should make yet more solemn the obligation, resting upon every citizen, of loyalty to the Republic and implicit obedience to its laws, lest, in his disobedience, he be battling against the will of God.

## MEXICO.

The condition of affairs in the Republic of Mexico is the political topic which, owing to our proximity to the scene of events, has been, perhaps, of the highest interest to the people of this Territory. The doctrine known as the Monroe Doctrine is one especially dear to the American people, and its infringement by the French Emperor has ever been viewed with feelings of gravest dissatisfaction. The great predominance in numbers, wealth and energy, of the Anglo-Saxon race upon the North American Continent, has caused to be entertained, among our people, the conviction that it will have ultimately to absorb and govern all other races. In view of the distracted political state of our sister Republic, her best wishers could but view with satisfaction a liberal admixture of emigrants from the United States with her present population. Such emigrants would bear with them the more advanced ideas, prevalent throughout our Republic, regarding governmental policy, education and religious freedom; and would, ultimately, either remodel and energize the effete institutions of Mexico, or prepare the way for her absorption into our own family of States. No judicious observer can question that either consummation would be infinitely advantageous to the Mexican people. Our citizens will view, with ever increasing watchfulness and interest, the progress of events. A Republic, stretching from the north pole to the Isthmus of Panama and from the Atlantic to the Pacific, embracing within its limits the products of every clime, harmonious in all parts, and indivisible because of its advantages to all, is a dream which wise and prudent statesmanship may yet realize, and that too without bloodshed, with-

out civil convulsion, but by simple demonstration of its benefit to all.

The subjects proper for legislative action at your present session are not numerous, but are of grave importance. Your duties are simple, yet highly responsible. In legislation it is wise to bear in mind the end and aim of all legal enactments—to redeem the fallen, to restrain the lawless, to encourage education and to promote industry in the development of the varied resources of the country.

## TERRITORIAL FINANCES.

The annual reports of the Auditor and Treasurer are herewith submitted. The finances of the Territory would seem to be in a prosperous condition. It is cause for congratulation that the Territory is unfettered by indebtedness of any character.

## EDUCATION.

In my Message, communicated to your Body at its previous session, I stated, somewhat at length, my views in reference to common schools. It is not, perhaps, necessary to repeat here what was there set forth; I must, however, reiterate the views then expressed in regard to the importance of immediate action. Although, owing to the sparseness of our population and a want of means, a common school system cannot be, perhaps, at once entirely perfected, yet such steps as are practicable should be taken towards making the means of education free to all children within the Territory. Your Memorial to Congress, at its recent session, asking that the proceeds of the sales of city and town lots, within the Territory, be donated to your school fund, failed to induce favorable action by the National Legislature, yet I would respectfully recommend that the subject be again presented. The barren and worthless character of nearly all the school lands, which will ultimately be donated to the Territory, renders this but an act of simple justice, needful to place us on an equality with adjoining States and Territories.

## PENITENTIARY.

A recent visit to our Penitentiary has satisfied me of the importance of legislation in reference to that institution. With our increasing population, it is but reasonable to expect a corresponding increase of the number of criminals. The present Penitentiary building is insecure. A substantial stone building should be erected within its walls, provided with strong but commodious cells for the retention of prisoners; to which should be added a suitable library and bathing room. At present, too, the prisoners are usually chained and taken from the Penitentiary to labor upon the highways, or upon agricultural improvements. The predominant aim of punishments for crime should be the reformation of the criminal. The course at present pursued, by exposing the prisoners in public, bearing on them the badges of their ignominious lot, can but tend to harden them against all effort for their improvement, and to extirpate from their bosoms those feelings of shame, sorrow and remorse which should work in no small degree their reformation. It would be far more advantageous to the prisoners could they be engaged, within the walls of the Penitentiary, in mechanical employments, learning, perhaps, some useful trade, where previously ignorant. In the discharge of our duties towards this class of our fellow citizens the golden rule—"that we are to overcome evil by doing good," should never be forgotten.

## MILITIA ORGANIZATION.

I would respectfully refer you to my previous Message, upon the point of the necessity for a revision of the present militia laws. Such laws, in my opinion, are not in accordance with the Territorial Organic Act. The provision therein, that the Governor shall be Commander in Chief of the militia, is practically ignored. A Staff should be provided for the Governor, and reports made to him through his Adjutant General. Surrounded as we are by Indian tribes, the militia are liable at all times to be called upon to protect settlers from their ravages. Claims for such services would be much more favorably considered by the General Government, were such militia called upon, in case of need, by the recognized superior officer of the organization. I trust that such action may be taken, at your present session, as will conform the militia laws of the Terri-

tory with the spirit of the Organic Act.

## THE PUBLIC LANDS.

It is of the highest importance to our settlers that they be enabled to speedily avail themselves of the beneficent provisions of the homestead act. The occupied lands of the Territory have been reclaimed from their desert state by a marvel of persevering industry, and the title of the occupants, who have in truth created for the lands their only value, should be placed beyond legal question. I would be pleased to unite with you in a memorial to Congress, soliciting an appropriation for completing the public surveys, the appointment of a Surveyor General for the Territory and the opening of an office at this city for the sale and entry of the public lands. Under the present laws title to the city and town sites can be perfected, and I should urge in these cases the desirableness of immediate action.

## ROADS AND BRIDGES.

Heretofore a considerable portion of the annual Territorial revenue has been expended in the construction of bridges and the improvement of highways. No expenditure can be more judicious than this, whereby communication between our scattered settlements is facilitated and made practicable throughout the year. During the past season I have traveled over a considerable portion of the Territory, and thus been made familiar with the importance of still further expenditures in this regard. Coming as you do from every portion of the Territory, your information of the public needs will enable you to judge correctly as to the most judicious among the many needed improvements. The road from this city, through Parley's Park to the Weber river, is the avenue through which passes the greater portions of the imports for the Territory. The road is an extremely difficult one, and, although much labor has been expended upon it, it is still, for much of the year, almost impassable. The action had, under the law passed at your last session, has failed to meet the requirements of the public, and some further legislation would seem desirable, either in the way of additional appropriations, or a revision of the law.

## POSTAL FACILITIES.

The recent decision of the Postoffice Department, relative to forwarding mails from this city to Prescott—the capital of Arizona—will, doubtless, soon lead to the establishment of a daily service between those points, thereby giving to the greater portion of our southern settlements the benefit of daily mails. The establishment of such service would be a proper subject for a memorial to Congress, and I should anticipate therefor a favorable consideration. Your familiarity with the various settlements will enable you to incorporate, in such memorial, petitions for such other mail facilities as are demanded by the public. It might be well for you, too, to call the attention of Congress to the present law requiring the prepayment of letter postage upon all mail matter, other than newspapers sent direct from the office of publication, which makes a most unjust and oppressive discrimination against the people of this and the adjoining States and Territories. The circulation of magazines and other periodicals and the purchase of books to be forwarded by mail are virtually suspended by this law. It is a well nigh prohibitory tax upon knowledge. In our isolated condition, and with our population in many localities so sparse that good schools cannot be maintained, it is an added hardship that the dissemination of knowledge, by means of books and periodicals, should thus be practically denied by Congressional enactment. You should certainly embrace in your memorial a petition for the repeal of this oppressive law, to the end that the people of this and the adjoining Territories, in respect to postal facilities, be placed upon an equality with those in the Atlantic States.

## MINERAL RESOURCES.

During the past year some progress has been made in the development of the unquestionably great mineral wealth of our Territory. Assays and other experiments would seem to demonstrate that the Cottonwood, Rush Valley, Bingham Cañon and Minersville mineral districts equal in richness any yet discovered upon the continent. The Pahrnatagat mines, too, much more ex-