

## GOD BLESS THEM.

[Inscribed to the departing Missionaries.]

BY W. G. MILLS.

God bless them! those beloved ones  
That bear the words of Truth,  
With all the wisdom manhood owns  
And sanguine zeal of youth;  
That like the irresistible spell  
Of the Creator's rod,  
Disparts the dark, and sombre veil  
That hides man from his God.

God bless them! tho' endeared to all  
The charms of friends and home,  
They go obedient to the call  
Mid trying scenes to roam;  
Perchance to hear the scornful tongue  
In accents cold and rude,  
And see the callous, heedless throng  
Despise the wise and good.

God bless them! when the gentiles' strife  
Besets their peaceful path;  
Or Death on precious human life  
May wreak his envious wrath;  
When whirling Nature's parting breath  
Disturbs the sullen wave,  
And storms assail, may works of faith  
From every danger save.

God bless them! may they ever find  
Friends to supply th'ir need,  
Be in our circles borne in mind  
For them to intercede;  
Oh! may their works be great and good  
Among the sons of men,  
And with a happy multitude  
In peace return again.

G. S. L. CITY, April 26, 1856.

[From Graham's Magazine.]

## THE LITERATURE OF AMERICAN MONEY.

BY AN OLD BOOK WORM.

Money, like everything else, has both its poetry and its literature. With the former we have nothing to do, of the latter we have a little to say. In saying this little, we shall deal in historical facts, rather than in philosophy. Proceed we then to our task:

**ORIGIN OF PAPER MONEY.**—It would appear that paper money first originated in New England. In 1690, Sir William Phips, governor of New England, sailed from Boston, with an immense force, for the conquest of Canada. The scheme failed, and as the result, the New Englanders were about forty thousand pounds in debt, and without a penny in the treasury. "In this extremity," writes the historian of these occurrences, "they presently found out an expedient which may serve as an example for any people in other parts of the world, whose distresses may call for a sudden supply of money to carry them through any important expedition."

After the general assembly of the colony had passed an act for levying taxes to a certain amount within a specified time, "there was appointed an able and faithful committee of gentlemen, who printed from copper-plates, a just number of bills, and flourished, indented, and contrived them in such a manner as to make it impossible to counterfeit any of them, without a speedy discovery of the counterfeit; besides which they were all signed by the hands of three belonging to that committee." They were issued for various sums, from two shillings up to ten pounds. Here, then, was in fact, the invention of exchequer bills, commonly stated to have been first issued in England, in 1696, during the great recoinage of the silver money, on the suggestion of Charles Montagu, (afterwards Lord Halifax) who was then chancellor of the exchequer. Montagu was clearly indebted for the idea to the sharp New Englanders.

**PHILADELPHIA BANK NOTES.**—Half a century ago, a bank note, signed by Thomas Willing, president, and countersigned by a long row of hieroglyphic, perpendicular hair-strokes, only discoverable by the close inspection of microscopic power, to be the name of Tench Francis, the cashier, was a kind of rarity to the multitude, and not to be seen, as at present, in the hands of every one. It used to be viewed as a thing totally different from the continental paper money, as something puzzling to the brains of the common people, it being considered as so much cash in gold and silver, to be had in a moment. The strength of the paper caused a bet to be made, that in its material it consisted of either silk or Russia sheeting; and that three of the notes, twisted together, would lift a fifty-six pound weight from the ground. On trial, the notes broke by the weight; and the convulsive laughter of the crowd followed. A consternation seized the owner of the notes, whether or not by having torn them, he would be able to recover their amount from the primitive national bank.

**PENNY BILLS.**—In the early history of this country both New York and Pennsylvania issued bills of one penny each, to be used in change, so many of the copper pennies being counterfeited.

**THE DOLLAR MARK.**—The true derivation of this, is the figure 8. The Spaniards, from whom we derive the dollar, count by reals—as the French do by francs. A real is in value twelve and a half cents, or one-eighth of a dollar. Any one who has read "Gil Blas" or "Don Quixote," will recollect the "pieces of eight" which is frequently used by the author of these works. This term, then, means nothing more than a dollar, or eight reals.

When, therefore, the dollar became generally used, the figure 8 was prefixed to express dollars, and in process of time, the 8 has been changed to the present mark. It is asserted that General Hamilton first used this mark soon after the adoption of our currency of dollars and cents. However this may be, the figure 8 is, undoubtedly, the origin of the mark.

We may add to this statement, that the Spanish word for dollar is peso; in the plural, pesos. In old Spanish accounts, the word is written in full, and placed before the numerals. Then we find it abbreviated into "P.S." Afterwards we find the small "p" used, the letter "s" placed on the lower part of the "p." Next that the curved part of the "p" is omitted, which gives the present dollar sign \$. The use of two long strokes in the sign is modern in its use. Thus the sign \$ is equivalent to the word pesos.

According to a statement made by Professor Palfrey, at the Connecticut Historical Society meeting, in 1840, the colony of Massachusetts ventured on the coining of money about the time of the accession of Charles the Second. On one side of their coin was a pine tree. Charles was indignant at this bold interference with the royal prerogative, of which fact he became apprised while Winthrop was in London, applying for the charter, and he threatened to punish his usurping subjects, instead of granting them further privileges. One of his courtiers, however, a friend of the charter, called his majesty's attention to the tree, and assured him that it was intended to represent the oak of Boscobel—being, in fact, as he adroitly said, a loyal medal, struck in honor of his majesty's preservation in that tree. This view of the case had the intended effect; the king was pacified, and he granted the charter.

**VENERABLE PAPER MONEY.**—The New York Tribune, not long since, received a six dollar bill of Maryland currency of the year 1770, which it thus describes:—"It is a venerable specimen of typography and wood engraving, and in its uncouth coarseness, contrasts strangely with the neat and elegant paper currency of the present day. The indorsement informs us that 'to counterfeit is death.'"

**MONEY IN NEW JERSEY.**—A witty old gentleman, who kept an account of the rapid depreciation of money in New Jersey, at the period of the Revolution, used to say that a fast trotting horse could not keep pace with it. An old merchant preserved a scale of its depreciation, from which we learn that in January, 1777, one hundred dollars in specie was worth 107; in 1778, 325; in 1779, 742; in 1780, 2,934; and in 1781, 7,500. We have also seen a bill for merchandise, dated January 5th, 1781, in which a pair of boots was charged \$600; one skein of silk, \$10, and other things in proportion, amounting to \$3,144.50, or "if paid in specie, £18 10s."

To the eternal disgrace of the British in New York, they counterfeited the New Jersey paper currency by cart loads, and sent it into the country, with the base intention of increasing its depreciation.

**MONEY STOLEN.**—In 1724, Andrew Bradford, a printer in Philadelphia, offered a reward of £15 for the apprehension of John Jones, a tall, slender lad, of eighteen years of age, who stole five or six sheets of the five shilling and twenty shilling bills, which the said Bradford was printing. He escaped after capture, from the constable, by slipping out of his coat, and leaving it in the constable's hand. He wore a light bob-wig.

**MONEY LOST.**—It seems that money has always been in danger of being lost. The following lines appear as original in the New Hampshire Gazette, published at Portsmouth, under date of December 26, 1788:—

"Once I had dollars and a friend,  
Whom I can see no more;  
I lent my dollars to a friend,  
Which grieves my heart full sore;  
Had I my dollars and my friend,  
As I had once before,  
I'd keep my dollars and my friend,  
And play the fool no more."

**BANK NOTE POETRY.**—The Olive Branch says that the following was found by one of its subscribers, written on the back of a bank note:—

"Bank notes, it is said, once guineas defied,  
To swim in the torrent of trade's swelling tide—  
But ere they arrived at the opposite brink,  
The notes loudly cried, 'Help, Cashus, we sink!'"

That paper should sink, and that guineas should swim,  
May appear to some folks a ridiculous whim;  
But ere they condemn, let them hear this suggestion:  
In pun-making, gravity's out of the question."

**LAST OF \$20,000.**—Not long since, on the back of a three dollar bill, of the Fairfield county, Conn., Bank, were found written the following lines:—

"A little while ye have been mine,  
No longer can I keep ye—  
I fear ye'll ne'er be mine again,  
Nor any other like ye."

The last of a legacy of \$20,000."

**MORE PAINFUL STILL.**—The following, written in an elegant business hand, was inscribed on the back of a five dollar bill, lately received in New York, from North Carolina:—

"Here is a \$5 bill which I intend to toss out of my window, in Norfolk, as soon as I have written this. I am now no lover of money. I hate it most cordially, for it has been the ruin of all my family. I will beg from door to door eternally, rather than own another cent one hour. It made my grandfather a suicide, my father a murderer, my mother the victim of a sorrow that sunk her early to the grave, my brother a gambler, and myself a convict in the state prison four years."

We turn now to a view of the subject which is more pleasant.

**NOT AFRAID.**—A Western editor, in commenting upon the statement that diseases may be communicated by bank notes, remarks very coolly, that his subscribers need not neglect to "pay up" on that account, as he is willing to run his risk of "catching" anything in that way. On the other hand, he fears that if the bank bills are not forthcoming, the sheriff will catch him.

**AN INTERESTING LETTER.**—The finest of wits, Oliver Wendell Holmes, sent two poetical letters to the "Post Office" of an Episcopal fair at Pittsfield. In one of them the first stanza was—

"Fair lady, whose'er thou art,  
Turn this poor leaf with tenderest care,  
And—hush! oh, hush thy breathing heart—  
The one thou lovest will be there."

On turning the "poor leaf," there was found a one dollar bill, with some verses, beginning—

"Fair lady, lift thine eyes and tell  
If this is not a truthful letter—  
This is the one (1) thou lovest well,  
And nought (0) can make thee love it better. (10)"

**POOR POETRY.**—Even on the topic of money, newspaper editors may write indifferently. "A hard money" editor at the South, rejoicing over the defeat of a bank charter, thus goes into ecstasies—

"If ever you a bank bill see,  
Letter B! Letter B!  
For we've got 'em on the hip,  
Letter R! Letter R!"

**MONETARY FANATICISM.**—It appears that wild views and feelings may be carried into the money market, as well as into other places. In the latter end of the year 1852, Mr. Ira B. Eddy, of Chicago, having been chosen president of a bank in that city, issued the following card, which is assuredly worth preserving as a curiosity in financial literature:—

**"BANK OF CHICAGO.**

"Having accepted the office of President of the Bank of Chicago, I deem it proper to make known my reasons for so doing. I accept with the express understanding that I will not receive one iota of money compensation, and give the institution my whole strength of means, integrity, capability, and firmness of purpose."

I call it Institution, for it is to have many branches throughout the land. Its mission is a great one—no less than to assist directly in lifting up and bringing forth to the light the now dormant energies of the mechanic and the common people, so called, and to the knowledge of their own power and position of strength.

The people have been crushed by the aristocracy of money powers, and with money and a Union Bank, guided by the spirit of the Almighty, the fiat has gone forth, that time with the wicked shall be no longer.

We begin small, very small; but, like all beginnings, with the people and God's blessing, we now start the work. IRA B. EDDY.

Chicago, December 13, 1852."

**ALMIGHTY DOLLAR.**—The phrase "Almighty Dollar" originated with Washington Irving, who first made use of it in his charming little sketch of "A Creole Village," which appeared in 1837.

## Money below Par; or, the Jack Knife versus \$20,000.

A ship was driven out of her course, and cast away within sight of an unknown coast. All on board might have escaped in the boats, though rather crowded; but one of the passengers, on their refusing to admit his trunk in any boat, remained in the ship to unfasten it and get out his pocket book, which contained notes to the amount of \$20,000.

This he thought would not detain him a moment, and he requested them to wait, but in the hurry and confusion of the moment, he could not immediately recollect what he had done with the key of the trunk.

Having found it at last and secured the money, he perceived to his dismay, that every boat was out of sight, while the ship was falling apart, and suddenly he found himself in the sea. Catching at some article that was floating by, he clung to it almost unconsciously, not relaxing his hold even when his senses were failing.

Fortunately he was floated to land, and when he revived he found himself lying on the beach. As soon as his strength returned, he ascended an eminence, but could see no sign of the wrecks, or boats, or any human creature.

But as he was leaning despondingly against a tree, he was suddenly startled by being slapped on the shoulder, while a voice in his ear exclaimed, "what cheer my hearty?" Turning around he gladly recognized one of the crew, and inquired what had become of the rest.

"Why, I don't know, but I suppose they are safe by this time, but I have seen nothing of them."

"Were you not with them in the boats?"

"No, I stayed on board to the last."

"I had nothing to save but a jack knife and a plug of tobacco—both safe enough in my pockets."

"Then, why did you not think of saving yourself at once?"

"No, I could not think of leaving the ship as long as the planks held together. She could not say that I was not true to the last. But come, comrade, let us see what kind of quarters we have got into."

They traveled some distance without any sign of a habitation. Necessity quickened their ingenuity, they were successful occasionally in catching fish, oysters or birds, in all of which the sailor's jack knife proved of invaluable service in preparing the proper snares and weapons, in opening the oysters, cutting up and cleaning the fish and birds, above all in striking a light to make a fire for the purpose of cookery. Once, also, when they were attacked by a wild beast, the sailor by a prompt use of his jack knife saved their lives.

They had lived in this manner for some months, when arriving at the opposite side of the island, they found it inhabited by savages, who conducted them to their king. The gentleman, anxious to conciliate his copper skinned majesty, produced a five hundred bank note, and politely offered it to his acceptance.

The king examined it with some curiosity, applied it to his nose and tongue, and being satisfied that it was not good to eat returned it with contempt. The gentleman soon found out that his twenty thousand dollars could not procure him the least consideration.

The sailor, on the contrary, in a few days became a personage of great importance, for the

many services which he was enabled to render with his jack knife, among a people where iron was unknown. They literally supplied all their wants, and his rich friend was glad to profit by his bounty.

One day as they were attending the king on an eminence overlooking the sea, they descried a distant sail, evidently passing the island. They kindled a bonfire and hoisted signals, but they did not succeed in attracting notice.

"If we had only a boat," exclaimed the sailor, "I think we could get within hail, and she does not stand far out, though it is plain she intends to pass without touching this way."

As they came within sight of the white cliffs, the gentleman took the sailor one side, and handed him two notes, which amounted to a thousand pounds, and said:

"You must not refuse to accept this, for you have done for me more than twenty times as much as I could have done. I trust you may find these bills, one day, as useful as your jack knife has been. I have learned by this time that a man's wealth is to be measured, not by the extent of his possessions, but by the use he can make of what he possesses."—[Ex.

## News Items by last Cal. Mail.

**SPEAKER.**—On the 2nd of February the plurality vote was adopted in the House of Representatives by a vote of 113 to 104.

A motion to rescind was laid on the table by a vote of 117 to 101.

A motion to adjourn over until Monday was lost by 84 to 133.

The correspondent of the New York Herald gives the subsequent proceedings as follows:

Under the plurality rule three votes had to be taken, and if there should be no choice by majority, on the fourth ballot the highest wins. The first vote resulted as follows:—

Banks	-	-	-	-	-	101
Aiken	-	-	-	-	-	93
Fuller	-	-	-	-	-	14
Campbell	-	-	-	-	-	4
Wells	-	-	-	-	-	2
Necessary to a choice	-	-	-	-	-	103

The second ballot for Speaker resulted as follows:—

Banks	-	-	-	-	-	102
Aiken	-	-	-	-	-	93
Fuller	-	-	-	-	-	13
Campbell	-	-	-	-	-	4
Wells	-	-	-	-	-	2
Necessary to a choice	-	-	-	-	-	103

The excitement in the House is intense. The contest is exceedingly doubtful. Banks is perfectly cool—Aiken a little excited. Most of the Fuller men will come to Aiken. Barclay votes for Wells. He will vote for Aiken. The third ballot stands:—

Banks	-	-	-	-	-	102
Aiken	-	-	-	-	-	92
Fuller	-	-	-	-	-	13
Campbell	-	-	-	-	-	4
Wells	-	-	-	-	-	2
Necessary to a choice	-	-	-	-	-	107

The next vote decides the contest.

The House refuses to adjourn by a vote of 52 to 102, and the final vote is being taken.

One hundred and thirty-third and final ballot: Banks, 103; Aiken, 100; Fuller, 6; Campbell, 4; Wells, 1.

**THE KANSAS DIFFICULTIES.**—The accounts of the difficulties in Kansas are so conflicting it is almost impossible to get at a correct version. We herewith subjoin the correspondence of the St. Louis Democrat (free State):

Lawrence, Jan. 20, 1856.

I resume my correspondence. There is civil war in Kansas. An engagement was fought at Easton, a village twelve miles northeast of Leavenworth, by moonlight, about 2 o'clock Friday morning. It lasted about twenty minutes. Several of the border men were wounded, and two of them were expected to die every moment. One free State man—a son of Mr. Sparks—was slightly wounded in the forehead and arm, but not disabled.

After returning from Lawrence, without accomplishing their openly avowed determination of exterminating the Northern emigrants and free State squatters, they avenged themselves by destroying the ballot-box at Leavenworth and throwing the press of the Territorial Register into the Missouri river. They threatened, also, to lynch several of the free State men and hang two obnoxious individuals—Mr. Warren, a member of the Kansas Legion, and another person whom they call the "d-d correspondent of the Missouri Democrat."

Mr. Slocum, the free State Mayor of Leavenworth, seeing the impossibility of restoring order, resigned his office some time ago. A pro-slavery Mayor was elected.

**FROM SALT LAKE AND KANSAS.**—Chicago, Saturday, March 1, 1856.—The mail which left Salt Lake in December reached Independence on the 25th ult. News unimportant. The party were greatly detained by snow, the average depth of which was from two to three feet. They reached Fort Laramie January 1. At Forts Laramie and Kearney they were trying to protect the troops against the intensity of the weather. At Independence, a despatch had been received to send the militia to the border counties, and they would rendezvous at Fort Scott.

Intelligence from Kansas to the 29th ult. states that the Kickapoo Rangers had commenced making preparations to drive the Free-State men from their claims.—N. Y. Tribune of March 5.

## THE CRIMEA.

Letters from the Crimea are dated February 4, and state that the Russians continued to fire heavily from Fort Constantine. It was said that five thousand English were about to leave the Crimea for home, but a draft of three thousand was expected from Malta in their place. The health of the armies was remarkably good.