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GOD'S MUSIC.

Since ever the world was fashioned,
Water, and air, and sod,
A music of divers meaning
Has flowed from the hand of God.
In valley, and gorge, and upland,
On stormy mountain height,
He makes Him a harp of the forest,
He sweeps the chords with might,
He puts forth His hand to the ocean,
He speaks and the waters flow,—
Now in a chorus of thunder,
Now in a cadence low.
He touches the waving flower-bells,
He plays on the woodland streams—
A tender song—like a mother
Sings to her child in dreams.
But the music divinest and dearest,
Since ever the years began,
Is the manifold passionate music
He draws from the heart of a man!
F. E. WEATHERLY.

OUR CHICAGO LETTER.

We are now in the midst of a political campaign that for filth and noisomeness is unequalled in the annals of electioneering. Economic issues and political integrity cut no figure at all. Abuse and billingsgate are the great agents. Carter Harrison appears again in politics. He welcomes abuse and says he grew fat on it for eight years as Mayor of Chicago. Frank Lawler, the Congressman, is the democratic nominee for sheriff of Cook county. If abuse can put a man in office Frank will surely be elected. He had been charged with every offense in the whole catalogue of crime. They have even charged him with being a polygamist. Frank had two wives but one is dead. He is now living with the second and is the happy father of fifteen children.

So far the republicans are getting the best of the fight. They employed a detective agency to work among democrats; the result is that several of the Frank Lawler statesmen are now in jail for procuring fraudulent naturalization papers for persons not entitled to them by law. That political university from which Orlando Powers and Judge Anderson graduated is now pronounced by patriotic republicans to be the *alma mater*, the bounteous mother of the grandest rebels and rascals, boasters and blackguards,

caterans and cutthroats that any school, political or religious, ever produced.

The most bewildering feature of the present political excitement is that the shrewdest prophets are completely at seas as to the results next November. Old party issues are being ignored, and the result is a seeming disintegration of old organizations. Farmers' alliances and trades' unions, singletaxers, free-traders, personal righters, prohibitionists, protectionists, public schools, parochial schools, free religion, Lutherans, Catholics, Clan-na-gaels, Patriotic Sons of America, British Americans, the German language, the English language and a dozen other topics enter into the present campaign.

The McKinley bill is not making much of a noise after all. However, republicans can't tell at present how it will affect the elections. Several of the party papers, while professing friendship for it, take every opportunity of ridiculing and disparaging it. For instance, the *Chicago Tribune*, while advocating the bill, uses every possible way to bring it into disrepute. It collects all the bad things hostile and pro-English papers say of the bill and publishes them. I begin to like the bill, simply because Europe and papers like the *Tribune* oppose it so. I think there must be something good, something American in it; and if war should arise between our country and any foreign country, this bill will make us industrially independent of the whole world.

In Indiana, Wisconsin and Ohio, even Michigan, the same uncertainty prevails as in Illinois. Kansas, aye, bleeding Kansas. It is supposed will flop over to some other side. But I doubt it.

In Minnesota the situation is quite as perplexing as it is anywhere else. When the Farmers' Alliance nominated a full State ticket last July, the affair was looked on as a joke. Now it is proving too serious for jesting. It is admitted on all sides that it will poll fully 70,000 votes. The labor unions are all working in harmony with the farmers.

Sydney M. Owen, the farmers' candidate for governor is a man of unblemished reputation. Erwin and Donnelly, two well known

men, are stumpling for the Alliance ticket. They are both popular and are distinguished for subtlety of intellect. Erwin is a famous criminal lawyer. Donnelly is both a politician and a man of letters, though he did not succeed in cooking William Shakespeare's bacon.

Gov. Merriam, the Republican candidate, is seriously handicapped on account of a prison contract for machinery which was awarded to a Scotch firm for \$22,000, though an American firm offered to supply the plant for \$16,000. Robert J. Hall, president of the alliance, writing on this incident, says:

"The American machinery is known to be a success, yet the State of Minnesota, with its 38,000 majority in favor of protection, gives a premium of \$6,000 to a foreign manufacturer. This is protection with a vengeance."

I believe it was this alliance that wanted the abolition of the U. S. Supreme Court. If so, it says little for the wisdom or for the Americanism of its controlling spirits.

Mrs. Frank Leslie of New York is here. In her lectures she has been telling us a great deal about the royal personages of Europe from the days of Henry the Eighth to the present. Henry she describes as a duck of a boy when young. He was cultivated, accomplished and social. He was physically perfect and mentally bright as a young man. He became a fashionable society giant. Mrs. Leslie forgets to mention that Henry was intended for the Roman priesthood until his elder brother died. That is why, perhaps, he had so many social graces, and such a humane, generous and amiable demeanour.

Mrs. Leslie speaks well of the Prince of Wales but not so well of his nephew, the German Emperor.

Her lectures though intended for the 400 are attended more by the 1000. She appears on the platform a very poem in petticoat, a painting in a cloth of gold, or a celestial visitant in diaphanous drapery. One wishes she were Queen of this realm, but then what would the poor Marqu's of Leuville do. I wonder is he any relation to Lovell the widower.

John L. Sullivan, king of the prize ring, is also here, starring as a fullfledged actor. He has nothing.