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Maxham & Wing

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THE BEAUTIFUL HAND.

Sweet hand, that field in mine,  
Seems the one thing I cannot live without.  
The soul's anchorage in this storm and doubt,  
I take thee as the sign  
Of sweet days in store  
For life and more than life, when life is done,  
And thy soft pressure leads me gently on  
To heaven's own evermore.

I have not much to say,  
Nor any words that fit such fond request;  
Let my blood speak to thine and bear thee rest  
Some silent, heartward way.

Thrice blest the faithful hand  
Which saves me when I'm blest; hold me fast;  
Let me not go beneath the floods at last,  
So near the better land.

Sweet hand, that, thus in mine,  
Seems the one thing I cannot live without.  
My heart's one anchor in life's storm and doubt,  
Take this, and make me thine.

THE COUNTRY COUSIN.

BY ALICE GARY.  
[Continued.]

How sleepy she was in the morning when her grandmother said, "Come, Orpha!" It seemed as if she had but just come to bed; she could hardly open her eyes, and the "Yes, grandmother," was a good deal fainter than common; but when "Come, Orpha," was repeated, with the added words, "it's time to get up, pet, if you want to go to Aunt Hannah's with your grandfather and me," she was wide awake, and sitting straight up in bed in a moment. She saw the snow piled up against the window, white and high—the candle in her grandmother's hand, for it was not daylight yet, and her own fresh and smoothly-ironed clothes over her arm. "Oh, grandmother!" that was all she could say for the happy, happy tears.

Redder than a clover field in June, was all the east, when having carefully secured the doors, and sprinkled the hickory sticks in the fireplace with water, they set out, breaking and plowing their way through the deep snow, in the old woods. Nobody would notice that it was not the best sleigh in the world, Orpha thought, for grandfather had tied the newly painted wagon body on the sled, and that was filled with straw, and overspread with the nicest coverlet of all the house.

What a pretty pink the clouds made on the snow—she was never weary of looking at it, and how strangely the cattle looked in pastures of snow, and the haystacks, crusted like pound cakes. Grandfather's horses would be the admiration of all the city, she was sure, so gay and fine they looked, their manes loose in the wind, and their ears trembling with the exhilaration of the snow drive.

For the seven first miles the scene was quite familiar—she had twice been that distance on the road—once with her grandfather to mill, and once to a funeral, but the strange country into which they went, after crossing the creek where the mill was, afforded new and surprising interest. The sleighride, in itself, was a perfect delight: to watch the snow dropping from the bent boughs, the birds dipping into it with such merry twitters, and to lean down over the sled side and plow a tiny furrow with her hand, were a great joy, without the crowning fact that it was to end in the evening by arrival at Aunt Hannah's.

Now she came forward to the front of the sled and held grandfather's hands in hers, wondering why they were so cold; now she turned up the collar of grandfather's overcoat, brushing back the gray hair the wind blew about his eyes; and now, wrapping his hands in her woolen shawl, and taking the reins for a little while, she could drive as well as he, she said; upon which she smiled, patting her cheek, but not telling her that the horses were so well trained, and so sobered now with the distance already travelled, that they would go straight along without any quivering at all.

Now they went through a wide, brawling creek, where the water ran fast through brown sandstones and cakes of broken ice, and Orpha trembled a little as grandfather walked out on the tongue of the sled, and loosened the bridle reins so that the horse could drink. "Cold as it was, their sides were all wet, and they breathed very hard and fast between the drinking. At length, grandfather pulled off his blue mitten, and pulled out his big silver watch and said it was two o'clock, and a little while after that, where a painted sign was erected at the forks of the road, and a curious old house, having no fence in front of it, stood, they stopped to procure an hour's rest, and some refreshment for themselves and their beasts. There was a great fire glowing in the big room into which they were shown, before which sat half a dozen travellers, eating apples and cakes, and drinking cider and whiskey; across the middle of the floor a long table was spread, and at one end of it, there sat a young man, sipping tea and writing alternately. He looked up from the sheet before him, on the entrance of our party, and having made a friendly salutation, such as country folks, though strangers are in the habit of giving one another, resumed his pen and was presently quite absorbed; his heavy black hair fell over and partly concealed a smooth, fair forehead, and he wrote, and a smile of extreme sweetness played round the mouth, betraying no irresolution, but seeming rather the outward shining of firm and good principles. The headful glow of his cheek was in fine contrast with the blackness of his full curling beard, and the pearly teeth, sound and even, with the ripe redness of the lips.

Orpha thought she had never seen so handsome a man in her life, and in verity, she never had seen beauty cultivated and matured under the refining influences of intellect and art. She could not tell why, but there was an indefinable air of superiority about him, that made even the schoolmaster and the village clergyman seem commonplace in comparison with him. When her thoughts reverted to her Cousin Anna, she could not imagine how she could have fallen in love with any one, not having seen the young traveller. But how much did his beauty increase in her eyes, when looking up as he folded his letter, he made haste to offer her grandfather (who was sitting on a hard bench) the leather cushioned chair in which himself had been sitting, and with a gesture and a word, not rude, but authoritative, caused the men at the fire to dispose themselves in half the room they had previously occupied so giving her grandmother and herself a nearer and warmer feeling of the fire from which, till then, they had almost been shut out.

"How far is it to the town of—?" said the old man to the landlord, as he entered with hot doughnuts and a fresh pot of cider; but the question was too modestly low for that blustering personage to hear.

"It is twenty-two miles, sir," replied the young man, who had heard the question.

"Are you much acquainted there?" Mr. Davidson ventured timidly to inquire.

"The young man answered that he knew the city pretty thoroughly, and had, indeed, a large personal acquaintance with the inhabitants.

"Then, perhaps, you know or have heard of my son, Joseph C. Pettibone?" suggested the old man, his face aglow with animation.

"Oh, yes, sir—no one in the whole city better, an admirable family."

"Why, isn't it strange," exclaimed the father, turning to the wife, "This young man here knows Mr. Pettibone. I am glad I have met you," he continued, offering his hand to a

stranger, and he went on ingeniously—"we are on our way to Mr. Pettibone's house, my wife here, and this little girl—we haven't seen any of them these twenty years, not they are. Indeed, Orpha, our little granddaughter, has never seen her Aunt Hannah Pettibone at all, and you may be sure she is happy enough, having a sleigh ride and a chance to see the town and her aunt and cousins;" and tenderly he patted the cheek of Orpha, already blushing painfully with the attention called to her. "And so you know Mr. Pettibone, and Hannah and all of them?"—a new thought seemed to strike the old gentleman—and he continued, "may be you know a young man of the name of Hammond, who is shortly, Hannah writes me, to be married to her daughter, Anna?"

There was a confused heightening of color in the cheek of the handsome stranger, and he bit the lip, to which, however, the accustomed smile came back with unwonted brightness as he replied, that he had some acquaintance with the young man and was just returning from a visit to his father's family, but that he was quite ignorant of the proposed marriage.

"A family of position and influence, I suppose, from what Hannah says," mused the grandfather aloud; "she seemed to think it would be a fine match for her girl—what do you think? Was the young man at home when you were at his father's?"

"Why, yes," replied the stranger, "he was there, but in fact I did not converse with him much."

"Well, do you think Anna is going to do pretty well?" continued the grandfather, perseveringly: great fathers don't always have great sons, nor even good ones."

The young man replied that he hardly knew what to think, and hastened to interrupt the conversation by inquiring of the landlord what time the coach would arrive.

That personage raised himself on tip-toe, and looking from the window, said the coach was just coming in sight, and taking out his watch, he continued in a tone that indicated especial felicity:

"She is making good time to-day—that coach is—but, young man, your chance of getting aboard is slim, mighty slim, sir—black as she can be with passengers on the outside," and this additional fact evidently gave him increased happiness.

"I have provided against that," said the young man, (a shadow crossing his face as he spoke) "in part, at least," and giving a letter into the landlord's hand, he begged that he would see it forwarded.

"You were designing to reach the city to-night?" said Mr. Davidson, again addressing the young traveller.

"Yes," he replied, "Mrs. Pettibone has a kind of birthright merry-making at her house to-night, and I had promised myself the pleasure of being with them;" and he went on to say his horse had fallen lame that day, and he had proposed leaving him in the landlord's care, and going forward in the coach.

"You are very welcome, sir, to a seat with us," said the grandfather, cordially, and surveying the fashionable exterior of the young man, he added: "we have only a sled, but our horses are in good order, and we move pretty fast and very comfortably."

Half an hour after this, the horses having been regaled with oats and an hour's rest, our party, with the accession of the young man, were gliding briskly through.

The variously amusing talk of the young man kept the old people from feeling the cold as they had done in the morning; and then he was so kind, taking his fine comforter from his neck and wrapping it about the neck of the old farmer, and quite forcing Mrs. Davidson to wear his plaid shawl, and taking the reins for an hour when the hands of the old man became numb.

Not one word spoke Orpha, but such smiles dimpled the cheeks that were nestled among brown curls and almost hid in her hood, with every attention bestowed on her grandparents, that no words were needed to assure the young man of her goodness of heart. The old folks grew tired after awhile, and sat silent, wishing the journey at an end, and the stranger, singing—it may have been to himself, it may have been to Orpha—

"It may be for years, and it may be forever,  
I know why art thou silent, thou bride of my heart."

They moved on and on, and at last to its lullaby sound, Orpha nestled down in the coverlet and fell asleep.

When she awoke, it was night, and the sled standing still before the finest house she had ever seen—all brilliant with lights and musical with voices. Lamps were shining thick, down the street, carriages and beautiful sleighs moving to and fro, and houses and people as far as she could see.

"Well, pretty, we've got there," said the grandfather, and taking the handkerchief from her face, she sat up; and in her bewilderment, said, almost sadly—

"I am sorry, I wish it was further."

"So do I," said the young stranger, "from my heart;" and he almost lifted Orpha out of the sled.

"I wonder whether Mr. Pettibone has any stable?" asked Mr. Davidson of the young man; adding, as he patted the necks of his horses caressingly—"poor fellows, you are tired, ain't you?"

"I know where he keeps his horses," replied the young man, "go right in, and I will attend to them, if you will trust me," and he ran up the steps and gave the bell a most vigorous pull.

"See they don't drink while they are so warm, if you please," said the careful farmer, availing himself of the young man's kindness; "and that they have plenty of meal and oats, and I will see you at my son's house, by-and-by, and thank you."

"I guess we have got to the wrong place, like enough," he said, looking inquiringly at his wife as he saw the gain in the face of the negro who opened the door, and the number of black men and women moving through the great hall.

"Does Mr. Pettibone live here?" he inquired of the usher.

"Yes, sir," replied that functionary, drawing himself up.

"Joseph C. Pettibone?" repeated the old man, still in doubt.

"Yes, sir, who shall I announce?"

"Why, I will announce myself," said Mr. Davidson, indignantly; "Mrs. Pettibone is my daughter, will we find her in here where she frolics seems to be?" and with his good wife beside him, he made his way to the open door of

the brilliant drawing-room. Poor Orpha trembling like a frightened bird, and nestling close to her grandmother's skirts.

A stylish and richly dressed woman advanced as their shadows crossed the threshold, and started, retreating slightly, and a kind of blank surprise taking the place of the welcoming smile she had assumed, when she saw the persons who came behind the shadows.

The mother's heart, rather than her eyes, told her that was Hannah, and with the sobbing cry of "my daughter!" she would have taken her in her arms, but the white-gloved hand of the lady motioned her back—the lights dazzled, and the wonderstruck faces repelled her; staggering, rather than walking, she retreated.

"Hannah, Hannah," said the old man, giving one reproachful look, and with his head dropping on his bosom, and the tears making everything dim in spite of the much light, he retraced solemnly and slowly the way he had come.

At the door they were overtaken by Mr. Pettibone, whose strong common sense had been outraged by his wife's reception of her parents, though, perhaps, his feelings had little to do with his manner, which was cordial enough.

He reminded them how long it was since they had met, adding that a child might be forgiven for forgetting even her mother, in the course of twenty years. Hannah would be as rejoiced as himself when she knew it was her own father and mother were come. All they could do, however, the old folks could not feel what the man's words implied. "And this little body," he said, shaking the trembling hand of Orpha, "who is she?"

"Nancy's child, to be sure," answered the old man.

"Nancy, Nancy; who is she? Oh, I remember now, the one who went to the new country," for Mr. Pettibone felt it incumbent on him to remember something, and believing he had struck the right vein, continued: "I was under the impression that Nancy's children were all boys. Well, how does she like the new country?"

"We don't know," the father said, wiping his eyes; "poor Nancy has gone to the country from whence no traveller returns."

Half believing and half disbelieving that Hannah had in truth failed to recognize them, the old folks suffered themselves to be conducted to one of the chambers, furnished so luxuriously and warmed and lighted so comfortably, that if anything could have made them forget the chilly air, which rustled out of Hannah's brocade, they would have forgotten it.

In the second meeting with her parents, she hid her eyes for a moment in her lace handkerchief, but the tears if she shed them, left her eyes dry; and though she said she was never so happy, she looked distressed and mortified, and seemed not to know what to do or say.

Her children were brought and introduced to dear grandpa and grandmama, and to pretty cousin Orpha, and having kissed the cheeks of the old folks, retired very properly—gay butterflies that they were. Orpha, in her close fitting woolen frock, feared they would catch cold with bare neck and arms, but she dare not say so; as with admiring eyes (for they looked very pretty) she watched them leaving the room.

Anna, a tall, slender girl, with a colorless and expressionless face, and thin, flaxen hair, insisted that Orpha should wear one of her dresses and accept the services of her maid—she could easily be dressed before midnight, and that was quite early enough.

Mrs. Pettibone could not leave her guests—Mr. Hammond—Anna's intended, would of course be greatly annoyed by her absence, her dear parents must excuse them—they would hasten to join them the earliest moment at which they were at liberty. Some wine, sweetmeats and cake were sent up, very unlike the substantial supper they had hoped to take with their dear children and children's children.

Orpha was not hungry, she said, but climbing to her grandfather's knee, smoothed his long, silver hair, and nestling her cheek against his home made coat, than which she had thought till that night, nothing could be finer, she fell asleep, thinking in her heart she did not care what anybody said, her grandfather was just as good as any one. And she was right—good little Orpha.

Having seen the sled and horses of his new friend properly cared for, our young traveller made haste to present himself at Mr. Pettibone's, wondering how those dimpled cheeks would look outside the muffling hood.

To his surprise, he neither saw nor heard anything of the country people—he feared it was all a dream, and sending himself apart in the shadow of a curtain, recalled minutely all the circumstances of the afternoon. "Surely he was not mistaken: we come so much nearer guileless natures the impression they leave upon us is deeper than all the artificial devices in the world are able to leave. He could almost hear the voice of the grandfather and see his benignant smile, and no matter at what beauty he looked, his eyes could not see it for the dimples of Orpha. He was not long left to his quiet meditations—Mrs. Pettibone soon joined, and having rallied him on the sentimental seriousness of his mood, protested that it quite baffled her powers to dissipate; and, having deputed her daughter, Anna, whose skill she hoped would be more effective, she playfully, let us hope not designedly, retired.

To any one except the young lady addressed, Mr. Hammond would have been delightfully entertaining, but to her he was particularly unsatisfactory—he said not, in short, what she had expected him to say.

When Orpha awoke in the morning and looked about the fine chamber, she could not at first tell where she was, and with memory came a strange, sad, home-sick feeling that she had never in her life known till then. When she was dressed in her brown flannel frock, she looked at herself in the great looking glass, before her, with painful dissatisfaction. Afterwards she seated herself at the window and looked into the cold, dreary street. Few persons were stirring yet, for it was early; the snow was driving before the wind in dismal gusts—all looked strange and dreary; dreary: despite all she could do, the tears kept dropping and dropping on her little brown hands, folded together in her lap. When the first sunshine touched the window, she held up her handkerchief to dry the tears in its light. Why did she blush and smile and tremble all at once?

It is not her own name wrought with black silk thread that she sees—Richard Hammond is written there in clear, black characters. How came she by it? Ah, she remembers now that when she awoke from sleep in the sled last night she found her face covered with a handkerchief—could this have been the one?

Richard Hammond rose early too—it was not his habit, but that morning he could not sleep—of course he could not imagine why, and the thought came to him that a little exercise before breakfast might be beneficial, and with no defined plan or motive, he bent his steps in the direction of Mr. Pettibone's house; he saw those tearful eyes at the window, and intuition told him why they had grown so dim since yesterday, and his heart knocked tumultuously to get out of his bosom and go up to that window and comfort her.

Two hours later he was ringing the bell, and inquiring for Mr. Davidson. It was his duty to tell the old gentleman how well his horses were doing and where they were.

"I am glad you have come," said the old man. "Our folks think they have been in town long enough;" but the light which beamed in his face said very plainly how pleased he, too, was with the prospect of going home.

"Not to-day, surely," said the young man, but the farmer thought he would get up the horses, drive about a little and show his folks the town, and then start home—they would have a full moon to light them, he said, and if they were a little late in getting there, why no matter.

Mr. Hammond knew the town well, everything that his new friends he would be happy to show his new friends, if they would accept his guidance.

They could not think of making him such trouble, the old man said, but it was evidently not a trouble; and when, some minutes later, the horses came prancing up to the door, it was Richard Hammond who was driving them.

Neither Mrs. Pettibone nor Anna came to the front door to see their guests go away—they were afraid of the chilly air of morning; but what was their astonishment and confusion on looking from the window, to see Richard Hammond almost lifting Orpha into the sled, and with a tenderness of manner which they had never seen in him till then.

He saw them—smiled and kissed his hand gayly as they drove off, and the last their wonder-struck vision saw of him, he was carefully wrapping the coverlet about the young girl's feet. No, not the last they saw of him—the following winter, looking handsome and happier than ever, they chanced to see him sitting, only a few boxes from them, at the opera, and beside him, the sunny lengths of her hair rippling over her dimples and haloing her snowy cloak, a young woman whose beauty was evidently the admiration of the house.

"I wonder what Hannah and her proud daughters think of their country cousin now!" said grandfather Davidson, as he snuffed the candles and heaped high the fire, the while his wife polled the silver teapot, and adjusted the pound cake and custard cups, on the evening "the children" were expected home from their bridal visit in town.

The two pins in the sleeve of the grandmother's black silk dress, were not straighter and brighter than everything else about the house; and the hearts of the old folks were not happier their own marriage day than when the joyous barking of the watch dog at the door told them "the children" were come.

Freedom of Debate.

We copy the conclusion of Mr. Fessenden's able speech in the U. S. Senate, on the motion to expel Mr. Davis of Kentucky, for offering certain reasonable resolutions and seconding them with remarks highly offensive to the loyal members:

"The Senator from Kentucky has chosen to say certain things; and he will allow me to say, without meaning to offend him at all, that I think he has said many things in these resolutions that are not well founded on fact; I think he has said many things intemperately, many things in bad taste, and many things that at some future day when he comes to read them over he will be very likely to be sorry for. But, sir, that makes no difference after all. The honorable Senator from New Hampshire has well said that we cannot undertake to judge of men's opinions by our own in the first place, and we cannot undertake to bring men in debate to our standard."

"The rule is a wise one, infinitely wise, and lies at the foundation of all our liberties in reality as legislative bodies, that we shall not be questioned outside of the Chamber for what we say in the Chamber. I agree with what was said by my colleague. I think that inside the Chamber we have a right to punish improprieties in words and acts. There is no doubt about that; but Senators must reflect that it would be extremely dangerous to begin to apply that rule upon a commentary on the Government. Of all things in the world, however much it might offend me, however much I might disagree with the sentiments that were propounded, whatever they were, the last point I would seize upon for punishment of any kind, or description would be free, unlimited commentary upon the acts of the government in power, the executive, or the authorities of the United States. Sir, everything depends upon the fact that we are, in this legislative hall or in the other, or in both, shall, when we choose, have the privilege entirely and perfectly to rise in our places and express, in as strong terms as we can, within the limits of parliamentary language and propriety, our disapprobation of anything and everything, if we choose to express it, that is done by the President or his cabinet, or anybody who is in the administration of executive power. It is the great safeguard against corruption. It is a thing that ought not to be limited in any shape; and we ought to leave any Senator or any Representative who transcends the proper limits, to the judgment of the country and the judgment of the opinion of those about him. If he goes beyond the proper limits of parliamentary propriety, if he exposes himself to those rules which have been laid down as proper to govern all legislative bodies, he must take the consequences; but for what he says—I mean the nature of what he says—whether true or false, whether slanderous or otherwise, especially upon the Government, we ought to be the last persons in the world to attempt either to restrain or to punish him. He may make great mistakes. He may be very unjust. I think the Senator from Kentucky has been and is

unjust; and more than that, I think, in these resolutions he is ungenerous in many things. I have a right to rise in my place and say so. I can comment upon him with as much freedom as I choose, always keeping myself within the limits of which I have spoken. We must meet these things here, and not attempt in any degree to stifle the clear, decided, vigorous expression of disapprobation of anybody and everybody connected with public affairs."

"This is the nature (if I have not misread them) of these resolutions. I need not say that I do not approve of them. I need not say perhaps, that I think they are, in a great degree, almost entirely unfounded, that they are fallacious, calculated—I will not say designed—to deceive; a stump speech, in point of fact, and of a very violent and very inexcusable character. That is my opinion; but nevertheless I would not restrain the Senator from Kentucky or any other Senator. I support the administration. I uphold it. I respect it. I am ready to sustain it. I helped to put it in power. Up to this point I have stood by it, and I expect to stand by it hereafter. But, sir, if I cannot defend it against any attacks which the Senator from Kentucky or any other Senator on this floor may choose to make, then he must have the advantage of me, and he should be allowed to go out to the country and obtain all the advantages he can on that account."

"It is by attempting in any way to limit such a free expression, that we, in fact, as some gentleman has said, make a confession of our weakness, or the weakness of our friends, which I, for one, am not prepared to make for a single instant. I am ready to meet these resolutions if they ever come to an argument on this floor; that is if I have time and feel like doing it. I certainly have not much inclination to talk here if I can avoid it; but I really am of opinion that such is their character they are so better, so unjust, so violent, so unreasonable in their charges upon the government, that if it had not been for this debate that has sprung up upon them, they would have fallen like a mere dead letter and sunk into complete oblivion, even if backed up by a three days' speech by the honorable Senator from Kentucky; and he certainly could not get through in less time than that, from the length of the resolutions, if he discussed all of them."

"Under these circumstances, therefore, holding to these ideas with reference to the matter, as I do not believe and cannot see by any fair construction of the language that the Senator has called upon the people of the country to oppose the laws or do anything of an illegal character, I cannot vote for his expulsion. I hold to the largest liberty of comment upon this administration and every administration, and have indulged in it myself, and mean to hold it as long as I remain a member of any legislative body. If my friends over on the other side of the chamber get into power, I have no doubt they will afford me ample occasion to comment in the severest terms upon pretty much everything they do; it has always been the case heretofore. I desire to retain that privilege, and not to say that anybody shall be censured for it. Let the censure come from the people; let the censure come from public opinion if a man abuses his place; and makes unfounded charges and attempts to pervert the people from a true and correct judgment of the acts of their rulers. I therefore revert precisely to what I said in the first place—I am sorry to have talked even so long on the subject—that I shall vote both against the resolution of expulsion and the resolution of censure. However censurable in a private point of view I might think the Senator, I am not prepared to set so bad an example here. As my friend from New Hampshire has said, beware of the first step; beware of the beginning; set not so evil an example. If we support this thing, we may find ourselves very soon travelling in a downward road, when perfect freedom of speech in this Chamber cannot be exercised without having the heavy hand of a majority placed upon it, putting something upon the record by way of censure. Censure, in my judgment, should come from another quarter."

In the flush times of California, when San Francisco was not what it now is, I went into a barber's shop to have my beard cut off. The barber was not learned in his profession, and his time was too valuable to be spent in sharpening razors. Near me a stranger was undergoing all the torture of another dull razor and another dull barber. Just then a monkey came in, noiselessly, hopping about on two feet and a hand, or three hands or three feet, I don't know which, and after gymnasticizing a while, jumped on the lap of my neighbor, and immediately jumped off again and disappeared into another room. We left the shop together, and after we had got off a little distance the stranger asked me in the most confidential manner if I saw "that thing."

"What, that monkey? certainly."

"Ah, I'm glad of it; for I had heard so much of monkeys following a fellow after drinking that I was afraid 'twas one of them blue devils."

I never saw the man before, nor have I seen him since; but I'll be bound the fright saved him from running the risk of delirium tremens.

TAKING A HINT.—It is very surprising to see how slow men are to take a hint. The frost destroys about half the bloom on fruit trees, everybody prognosticates the loss of fruit; instead of that, the half that remains is larger, fairer and higher flavored than usual, and the trees, instead of being exhausted, are ready for another crop the next year. Why don't the owner take the hint and thin out his fruit every bearing year? But no; the next season sees his orchard overloaded, fruit small and not well formed; yet he always boasts of that fine crop, without profiting by the lesson it teaches.

We heard a man saying, "The best crop of celery I ever saw was raised by old John—on a spot of ground where the wash from the barnyard ran into it after every shower."—Did he take the hint, and apply liquid manure to his celery trenches? Not at all.

We knew a case where a farmer subsoiled a field and raised crops in consequence which were the admiration of the neighborhood, and for years the field showed the advantages of handing. But we could not learn that a single farmer in the neighborhood took the hint. The man who acted thus wisely sold his farm, and his successors pursued the old way of surface-scratching.

A staunch farmer complained to us of his soil as too loose and light; we mentioned ashes

as worth trying. Said he; "Well, now you mention it, it will do good; I bought a part of my farm from a man who was a wonderful fellow to save up ashes, and round his cabin it lay in heaps. I took away the house, and to this day I notice that when the plow runs along that spot the ground turns up moist and close-grained." It is strange that he never took the hint.

A farmer gets a splendid crop of corn or other grain from off a grass or clover lay. Does he take the hint? Does he adopt the system which shall allow him every year, just such a sward to put his grain on? No—he hates book-learning, and scientific farming, and "this notion of rotation," and jogs on the old way. [Indiana Farmer and Gardener.]

"INTO THE LION'S MOUTH," is the title of a chapter in Hosmer's "Color Guard," perhaps the most readable and valuable book called forth by the war,—the following is a specimen of the book, culled from this chapter:—

The Fifty-second had stopped for its dinner last Saturday noon. I lay, as I have written it, on my side, pencil in hand; then I snoozed; then I looked across the furrows, through the sweet, sunny, blossom-scented air, to the long line of the Ninety-first, their color exactly opposite ours. Half a dozen pigs ran down between the regiments; a gauntlet, I believe, not one survived; and before night they were eaten with much gusto; for, during our stay at Baton Rouge, we have very rarely tasted fresh meat.

Boom, boom!—big guns from the river. We can hear, too, the cough of high-pressure transport steamers, and know now that the fleet are, at least, as near old Port Hudson as we are; and we are only four or five miles away. At length, "Fall in, men, at once!" An aide has come galloping up to the colonel, who is on horseback in a moment. "We shall probably have sharp work before we come back." "Keep cool, and do not waste your fire." So Capt. Morgan and the rest gave such caution to their men as is needful on the eve of battle: "Leave knapsacks here; the footsore men will guard them;"—poor Hines, and the like of him, whose feet these real seceder roads have beaten and bruised with true rebel violence.

How do we feel? We are going out to meet the enemy, we all fully believe, and so do our officers; and even staff officers of the general, who are friendly to us, look pityingly after, we march on; for they know, though we do not, that we are to be pushed up in front of the whole army, into close range of the cannon upon the fortress walls. The Fifty-second is cool, and yet eager; and not a man, that can limp at all, wants to stay. For the last thing, "Load!" Open cartridge-box; tear the tough paper from the powder and—there it goes down the barrel; and now the ball; half-cock, then cap the cone, and all is done. If I have to fire, it will be for the cause. Scruples, now, are mere squeamishness. Now, "By the right flank, forward?" Hardier carries the white State flag, the tall sergeant, the Stars and Stripes. Old flag, you are woven of ordinary stuff! With rank and file and shoulder-straps, you are a sacred thing! It has for a war, liberty; and for a wolf, constitutional order; and is dyed deep in tints of love and justice. Between Hardier and the sergeant marches Wilson—a fine-looking corporal, with a military face, eye, and figure; mustached, bearded, eager—such a face as I have seen in Horace Vernet's battle pieces. A good marksman, too, is Wilson; for many years the terror of quirels in the woods of E—. Prince and Claypole cover Hardier and Wilson; while I march behind, right in the folds of the great flag. Alongside, in the line of file-closers, go West, and flapping light-haired Wiebel, the German; and, last, the ever sage, serene, and satisfactory Bias Dickinson.

So we go out of the field into the road, in the centre of the long column, with banners waving, and, I hope, the true light of battle upon our faces—soldiers in a noble cause—farmer and mechanic, merchant and preacher, shoulder to shoulder. "Boom!" go the faraway guns. We are moving rapidly to the front; so the other regiments and the stout battery-men and the yellow cavalry-men give way for us, cheering us on. Down a cross-road towards the river, a sweet south wind shaking white cloud-favors out of every window in heaven at us; the sun smiling God-speed, and the lady rose bushes, from the fence-corners like balconies, showing their blossom-handkerchiefs.

Cautiously, boys! A few steps, and we stumble over the handsome horse of the wounded colonel, dead in the middle of the road, with eight bullets through him. There, too, is the bloody boot of his rider, hastily cut off after the wounding was accomplished. A company are detailed as flankers; and, as they go through the wood a few rods distant from the road, they hear the groans of other wounded men. They cannot go to them; for to stop would be to expose the whole flank of the column to danger.

Now we pass other dead horses belonging to cavalry-men, which were shot in the road by the retreating Rebel pickets. At length we reach a fork where is a regiment drawn up, and Gen. Grover sitting on horseback with his staff—a light-haired man, with face sufficiently resolute, his beard cut in a peak, and wearing a cavalier hat. We halt only for a moment. The general's pointing hand indicates the direction we are to take; so down we go through a wooded road, driving before us the enemy's pickets; our flankers in the woods seeing them mount their horses and gallop off as we come within musket-range. Presently we go by their camps, where they have cut on trees some defiance or warning to us: "Beware, Yankee! this is a hard road to travel."

By the side of the column rides an officer of engineers



cessant, like the winking heat-lightning of a hot summer evening. Through the air rolled reports, now isolated, now twenty combining in a grand crash, now a continuous roll of them—a thundering rub-a-dub, as if the giants were going to storm heaven again, and were beating a *reville* to summon every gnom and all the geni and each slumbering Titan to fall in for a charge. The centre of the regiment, the color-guard, rested in the road. The pickets, four or five rods off, could see the falling of bombs, the streams of comet-like rockets, and the outlines of the shore batteries lit up by the cannon flashes. It went on, and we sat listening with our hand close at our guns. Then, at last, the heavens reddened high and far, with a fiercer and crimson glare, that moved slowly southward, extending in turn the mow and old sears on the north, on the west, on the south-west of the trunk. Meantime came up the boom of cannon, slowly receding in the same direction. So we heard the swan song of the stern old "Mississippi," abandoned, beaten with shot, ragged through her whole frame where shells had torn and burst. On that night, a freight of dead men were on her deck, and the bodies of drowned men floated about her hoary hull for refuge! Then came a crash—a light making all bright, then back from the bursted gun-stocks, from the pool by the roadside, revealing the watching soldiers and the slain steeds fallen headlong in the road in the midst of the camp. So passed the veteran ship through fire and earthquake-shock to an immortality in history.

The book is published in Boston, by Walker, Wise & Co., who will send it free by mail on receipt of \$1.25.

## Waterville Mail.

EPH. MAXHAM, DAN'L R. WING,  
EDITORS.

WATERVILLE . . . FEB. 12, 1864.



AGENTS FOR THE MAIL.

S. M. PETERSON & CO., Newspaper Agents, No. 10 State Street, Boston, and 37 Park Row, New York, are Agents for the Waterville Mail, and are authorized to receive advertisements and subscriptions, at the same rates as required at this office.

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ALL LETTERS AND COMMUNICATIONS.

Relating to the business or editorial departments of this paper, should be addressed to "MAXHAM & WING, or" "WATERVILLE MAIL OFFICE."

**CHARMING!**—Such a winter as we are having!—sleighting perfect; bright sunny days, just cold enough to keep warm and just warm enough to keep cool;—sweet moonlight nights, such as accommodate lovers, levers and loafers. How delightful to be a peddler, and ride about all day!—or a farmer, and fodder sheep on the clean snow!—or a dry-goods clerk, and wait upon a whole street full of women a-shopping!—or a wood-hauler, and walk in the sunshine by the side of fat oxen!—or a grocer, and deliver packages for miles around!—or a minister, and preach and marry folks off for wedding tours!—or even a printer, with the privilege of going three times a day across the street, in the sweet light of God's fair sunshine! Who wants a southern winter, when a down-cast winter can be had at home! Out doors with ye!—all hands out, but especially mother and daughters. Go and ride—go and skate—go and slide down hill—go and get sunshine and fresh air—go and get health and happiness. What a charming winter this is!

**HEAR YE!**—The Sanitary Commission is at present in special need of "dried fruit of all kinds, particularly the smaller descriptions, such as blackberries, blueberries, raspberries, and currants." Supplies of these articles, clear, or of anything else for the use of our invalid soldiers, will be thankfully received by W. H. Hadley, Special Agent, Portland, and forwarded, free of charge, to the places where they are most needed.

Among the recent offerings to the Sanitary Commission, we see that Benton is credited with seventeen barrels; Clinton, 34; Winthrop, 155; Skowhegan, 119; but we looked in vain for any credit to our town, though we know that much might be obtained here, if some one would lead off in the matter.

The needed man has been found. Mr. E. T. Eldon has consented to receive at his store, during all of next week, dried fruit, all kinds, potatoes, or green apples, which he will forward to the Agency at Portland, from whence they will be sent to the army. Now bring in your offerings, and show that Waterville is not behind other towns in her care for the comfort of the soldier.

**ENLISTMENTS.**—The work goes bravely on—even the good old fountain of patriotism giving signs of being again stirred. The meeting in this place on Saturday evening was attended by a good number, though mostly those particularly interested in the draft. There should have been more of those not thus interested. Good and liberal plans were devised for filling our quota, and the results since exhibited are encouraging.

**LATEST.**—We hear nothing further from "Hiram Drew," the beautiful and famous horse whose owner challenged us to bet him the trifle of a thousand dollars for a trot. Still our friends of the turf may continue to hope, for if he declines our offer we intend to double the sum. We hold a "ribbon" on Hiram, who is too anxious for another trot to be denied a chance. We "pause for a reply."

**PRISON FARE IN DIXIE.**—The following letter from a returned prisoner, addressed to A. Richardson, Esq., of Fishon's Ferry, shows how our boys relish prison fare down in Dixie:

Annapolis, Md., Jan. 10, 1864.  
**Friend Richardson:**—Dear Sir: I received your letter of the 4th in due time, and was very glad to hear from my friends once more and to hear that they were all well. I expected to hear that some of them were no more. You asked me to give you a history of my treatment while a prisoner. You know it is not my style to find fault with my fare, for I expect to see hard times and get short feed, but God grant that I may not have to rely on the Confederacy for my living another six months, for I do not think I could stand it. Well, I will try what I can do to give you a history of my treatment while a prisoner.

I was taken on the 2nd of July, about sunset, and marched to the rear, where I was kept until the morning of the 4th, and then they started us for the Potomac. We had not any thing to eat all day the 2d, and the rebels did not give us a thing until the night of the 4th. They marched us all day until after dark, and then they gave us a pint of flour and a small slice of fresh beef, and we had to mix the flour up in cold water, and bake it on flat stones or sticks; and the beef we had to roast on the coals and eat it without salt, and in this manner they marched us 175 miles to Stanton, giving us a pint of flour and a small piece of beef every other day, and we could eat it all at one meal. Once or twice they gave us bacon and it was alive with maggots, but the men were so hungry that they would eat it with a good relish.

When we passed through Martinsburg, Va. the women rushed out with their arms full of bread for us, but the rebel officers would not let them give it to us. I never saw more true patriotism than was displayed in that place. One of the ladies there gave the Col. in command of us, the greatest lecture that I ever saw a man get.

When we got to Stanton they took everything in the shape of clothing but our woollen blankets and overcoats. We arrived there on the 18th, and on the 19th they sent seven hundred to Richmond and the next day they sent seven hundred more, and I went in that lot. We got to Richmond the morning of the 21st of July, and was put in the Libby Prison, where they took our haversacks and canteens from us and then sent us to Belle Island, and that was the beginning of sorrow.

Here we got two meals a day—four ounces of bread and two of meat to a meal and every four or five days they would only give us one meal. On the second of August they searched us again and took all of the money that they could find, and watches, etc.

On the eighth of November their flour gave out and so they had to give us corn bread, and that was stirred up with nothing but water and no salt in it. This we got until we came away. There were eight days that we did not get any meat; but we used to get bean or rice soup for supper, but you could not find any beans or rice. We used to get a pint to a man and I have seen worms on the top of it, two inches long, and still we had to eat it or die of starvation. They gave us some sweet potatoes once, and they brought them on to the Island in a flat boat and they went down to the boat and took a shovel and shoveled them up into pails, and carried them up and turned them right into the kettles and boiled them, and mashed them all up with the dirt and straw and that is the way they gave them to us. There was one fellow that tented with me that killed a mouse and ate him.

My health was good, but I was so weak I could not walk without staggering, and I was so poor that my bones almost stuck through the skin. I have known twelve men to die in one night and they had taken all of the sick out of camp the morning before. They were dying at the rate of fifteen or sixteen a day in Richmond hospital. There were three men shot dead, and two wounded while I was there, for nothing at all. I know of no other reason for the guards shooting them, but to have a chance to say they had killed a Yankee; and they were such cowards that they did not dare to go into a fight to shoot any, and so they shot two prisoners.

I think the Confederacy is about played out. When I left they were paying twelve dollars for their scrip for one of greenbacks, and twenty for one of gold. Flour is a hundred and seventy-five dollars a barrel; sugar eight dollars a pound; molasses ten dollars a quart, etc.

Our government sent us clothing and hard tack and meat, and we got to living some better before I left. We had plenty of clothing and a little more grub than we had been getting, but they gave the most of the grub to their guards, and gave them all a suit of clothes out of what they sent us, besides what they could steal. I will say one thing for the Lieut. that had command of the camp. He was an honest and good-hearted man—the best one I ever saw in the Confederacy—but he was not a Southerner, but a Frenchman.

Well, I have given you a few of the facts but there are a great many things that I could tell you if I could talk with you. I am a poor hand to write as you know, but I am in hopes to be at home before long and then I want to see the copperhead that dare say that we were used with any kind of decency.

More than three quarters of the inhabitants of Richmond will say they are sick and tired of the war, and their daily prayers are that our army will take Richmond, so that they can get enough to eat and get it at a reasonable price. I do not think they can stand it a year longer any way, and may the time be short.

O. M. NASON.

**SOCIABLE.**—The old folks, from sweet sixteen upwards, had a dance Wednesday night, at Town Hall. It did one's heart good to see

the silver greys shake their locks. They'll never be old—not they!

### West Waterville Items.

(Communicated.)  
The subject of West Waterville enterprise was by no means exhausted in the short article in a recent issue of the Mail. Other improvements in dwellings and their surroundings are making, and other indications of business property are apparent, which are reserved for future notice: it is not always best to tell all the good things one knows at once. Perhaps then it may be well just here to allude to a matter which seems to call for further exhibition of public spirit.

The beautiful new schoolhouse in the grove, near the center of the village, appropriated to the use of the high and grammar schools, shows plainly that the citizens know both what a schoolhouse should be, and how it should be situated, but the two buildings occupied by the primary schools tell a different story. It certainly is due to the credit of the village that both of these ancient, inconvenient and forlorn edifices be speedily superseded by new and better ones. As regards the one at the upper end of the district, something more than a new building is necessary. It is doubtful if a more unsuitable location for a schoolhouse can be found than the present one: it is in one of the most public places in the village; has no play ground but the public street, and is in close proximity to several stores and workshops, and other resorts of village loafers, whose example and conversation seldom do children good.

The attractions and excitement of so public a location exert a powerful influence upon the pupils which the best instructions of the school room do not successfully counteract. The children of the upper part of the district are as intelligent and as tractable as those of the lower, but there is a marked difference in the character of the two schools. It is therefore important that a new and more retired location be sought for; a lot, large enough to enclose an ample and convenient play ground, purchased; and a new, commodious and attractive schoolhouse erected. At the lower end of the district also, the lot needs to be enlarged, and a playground enclosed, for children never should be driven into the street to find room for their lawful sports. It is to be hoped that the necessary steps toward securing these essential improvements will be taken soon. A word to the wise is sufficient.

### TALK ABOUT WINSLOW.

(For the Mail.)  
No. VIII.  
Since writing my last I have ascertained that the free bridge, built across the Sebasticook, instead of being as I stated, on, or near the site occupied by the present bridge, was built where the railroad bridge now stands—the south end occupying the same land the free bridge occupied; while the north end is farther to the right, or up stream. This bridge as I said, stood but a short time, and was carried away by an uncommon freshet, in Feb. 1807. Capt. Timothy Heald and Thomas Smiley were a committee to build it.

The next day we find the inhabitants still anxious for a bridge to cross the river and in town meeting made choice of Messrs. John Webster, Richard Thomas and Thomas Smiley, as a committee to raise funds by subscription to rebuild the Sebasticook bridge. How well they succeeded the record does not say, but we may infer from what transpired afterwards that they were unsuccessful. The valuation of the town was small, then, as compared with the present; beside many of the people no doubt were discouraged—judging from a vote recorded previously, viz; "that we will never vote any more money for the Sebasticook bridge."

In 1808 a charter was granted, by the General Court at Boston, to build a toll bridge; which was built about 1812 or 1814. This as I have been informed, was a very weak and imperfect structure, although made of large timber and a large amount of iron. In a short time this shared the same fate as its predecessor—the free bridge leaving to its proprietors but little toll for all their trouble. The river was then crossed by a ferry till 1824, when another toll bridge was built. Since the first toll bridge was built, to the building of the second, great improvement has been made, so that this bridge resisted the water, the ice and logs, until the mighty freshet of 1832, when all the bridges in Maine, except such as were made in the most substantial manner, were swept away.

The present bridge was built in 1834. During the interval of ten or more years, science had not been idle, and had advanced, even in bridge building. The present one was built on an improved plan, so that for about thirty years it has resisted the watery element, and all things connected with it, with but very little repairs; also it has placed in the pockets of its fortunate owners, the pretty little sum of from \$1000 to \$1600 a year, if we can credit the toll takers.

Now while we are on the bridge and thinking and talking of so much money received every year, let us see what that money would have done. But first we will suppose this bridge cost \$3600; then we will suppose the annual toll to have been \$1200, a sum sufficiently large to build a bridge every three years. Now were our fathers wise in that they did not continue to build bridges, or was science in fault? Partly both. Had they continued to build with their limited resources, they might have become bankrupt. Now we may safely conclude what will be wisdom, and also judging by the past of the art of bridge building, we shall be safe in saying that a bridge may now be built to stand an indefinite period of time.

And we will also think of those who have paid all this money. Has it been the rich men—the heavy tax payers? No; but few such

men pay much toll. Farmers and mechanics have paid the most directly and indirectly. Those who have employed physicians have been obliged to pay his toll as much as those who buy lumber or wood drawn over the bridge. But I will not discuss the propriety of this or that course to be adopted in the future. Let wiser men and better judges do this. Joseph Eaton Esq., built this bridge and is at present a large owner in it. All my readers know him, noted as a self-made man and remarkable for his clear perception of anything of a business nature. He has lived in the town more than forty years, and was formerly associated with a Mr. Stafford in mercantile business; has been several times a member of both houses of the Legislature, and once for a few hours Gov. of the state.

### A Word for 'Skipet.'

WEST WATERVILLE, Feb. 10th, 1864.  
**Messrs. Editors:**—I have been waiting patiently to see who would have compassion upon poor, distressed "Skipet." But as he is likely to get no consolation unless he can obtain it from Bachelor's Island, permit an old woman to give him a little advice.

When I was a small girl, my grandmother, in attempting to explain to me what love was, described it as an "alloverness like." I was reminded of this when reading "Skipet's" communication. He surely has this feeling to some extent, but the impression is not deep. Only think what the ideal image in his mind must be which produces it, when in the honeymoon, in his imagination, he is treated to these endearing epithets, "What a fool!" "Get out!" &c. He then goes into mourning over his exhausted "holder," and follows with the usual slang of such men about bonnets and other things. Poor fellow! He was so frightened by looking at Meader and Phillips's carpets, and Elden & Arnold's stoves, that he thought Merrifield's elephant had trod on his "holder."

Now, I have been married a great many years, but have never told my husband to "get out," nor called him a "fool," nor has he ever complained to me about his "holder." But then we have always bought all the articles we could of Esty and Kimball and of course have saved a great deal of money.

Skipet is evidently a modest, perhaps a timid man, certainly not a resolute or a dangerous one. You know this by the faint noise he makes in fumbling about in the commencement of his spasm before he breaks the shell, and, also, by the perfect resignation with which he decides to "grin and bear" everything.

He did well to lay his awful condition before the readers of the "Mail." But he seeks no advice, is only troubled about what the girls may say, and evidently expects to be surrounded by a bevy of them. The girls, phew! they, at least some of them, are as silly as he is. But, as silly as they are, they have the good sense to stand aloof from "Skipet." Perhaps he has succeeded in convincing them that the game is not worth the catching.

It is the want of practical ideas with regard to the marriage state that causes so much misery in the world, and such foreboding in the minds of the whole "Skipet" family. No wonder it is compared to the millers and the candle at the window.

"Those that are out, butt heads against the pane, and those that are in, butt to get out again."

Now this "alloverness like" is a wise provision, an important principle implanted in our natures for obvious reasons, but never intended to root out judgment, reason, or common sense. The ancients personated this principle, by Cupid, a blind god. But surely they could not have considered him as permanently blind, for he is certainly sooner or later bound to have his eyes opened. If we would secure to ourselves a reasonable prospect of happiness in the world, we should look upon marriage as the real beginning of the battle of life, seek a partner that will help us to victory in the struggle, prepare ourselves to perform our whole duty, and, Cupid-like, be blind to all minor faults in each other.

I have carefully considered Skipet's case, weighed him in the balance—but say nothing more. My advice, however, to him is, to look up a good sensible girl, marry her if she will have him, and then give himself up, "holder" and all, entirely to her keeping. I have no doubt she will do much better with him than that he can ever hope to do with himself.

**AUNT JANE.**  
P. S.—I hope you will excuse my many uncouth phrases. They don't look ladylike—they were rendered necessary by Skipet's "holder." I really don't believe he ever had much in his "holder" or ever will have without his wife's assistance.

**DR. JOHN B. WILSON,** formerly captain in the 15th Maine, and recently commissioned surgeon in the 2d La. Engineer Corps, now stationed at Matagorda, has been appointed medical director of the U. S. forces on and around Matagorda Island. A good sized hospital is being built, for the accommodation of the wounded sent from the front, and the box of hospital stores recently forwarded through the liberality of our citizens, will be found very serviceable and opportune.

Among the recent promotions it gives us pleasure to notice that of Commissary Serg't M. T. V. Bowman, of this town, who has been commissioned 1st Lieut. and Regimental Commissary of the 1st Maine Cavalry. Lieut. Bowman has re-enlisted and is at home on a short furlough.

Among the petitions before the Legislature are two from W. W. Edwards and John Mathews, et als., of Waterville, that may be set off from Ticonic Village, and exempted from taxation by that corporation.

Joseph T. Hallett—son of Chas. Hallett, Esq., of the West Village, and formerly a student in Waterville College—has been appointed

to first class clerkship in the War Department at Washington.

### Cattle Markets.

The number of cattle and sheep at market, last week, was double that of the week before. Of the Maine cattle, Daniel Wells drove 35; Thomas Gage, 19; J. J. Holbrook, 14; and B. Hersom, 14.

Prices are quoted as follows:—  
First quality beefs, \$8.75 to \$9.25; second do., \$7.75 to \$8.50; third quality, \$6.75 to \$7.50; extra \$9.50 to \$10.

Working oxen—\$80 to \$150, or according to their value as beef.

Sheep and Lambs—6 1-4 to 8 cts. per lb. on live weight; extra fat and heavy, 8 1-4 to 9 1-4.

The following remarks are by the reporter for the *New England Farmer*—

**Extra Maine Oxen.**—The rich beef which the West has sent to this market for several years past, has created a demand for stall-fed bullocks which exceeds the supply. And we like to mention such superior oxen as Mr. B. Hersom brought from Maine, this week. Ten of these oxen in particular were as good as the best, and a credit to the State. One pair, raised and fed by Mr. Stephen Cannon of Fairfield—well known at this market as a drover—were laid to dress 1,300 lbs. each, and another pair, fed by Aaron Hoxie, of the same town, were laid at 1,400 lbs. The whole ten were laid to average nearly 1,300 lbs. We heard butchers admit that they had never seen a better carload from Maine. They were purchased by E. Porter at 10 cts. a lb.

**Store Cattle from Maine.**—Some of the Maine drovers seem to prefer to use the working-oxen talk, even when selling cattle to the butchers. J. J. Holbrook sold three pairs of year-old oxen, which he said he would recommend as first-rate to draw and not bad to eat, as follows: one pair, 6 ft. 10 in., for \$160; one pair, 6 ft. 8 in., for \$137; one pair, 6 ft. 7 in., for \$128; two pairs of three-year-olds, 6 ft. 5 in., one pair for \$110, the other for \$114. One pair extra good oxen, laid at 2,700 lbs., for 10 cts. a lb.

### Maine Legislature.

**Thursday, 4th.**—The Senate passed an order authorizing the committee on Indian Affairs to visit that "institution!" The bill increasing the poll tax to two dollars was recommitted by the Senate for the purpose of so perfecting it as to secure the object contemplated. A large amount of miscellaneous business was transacted by the House. Mr. Williams, of Augusta, moved a consideration of the vote refusing the resolve making a grant to the Maine Wesleyan Seminary a passage. The motion lies on the table until Wednesday next. The seat of government question was taken up and able arguments were made by Messrs. Knowlton of Liberty, and Peters of Bangor in opposition to the proposed removal.

**Friday, 5th.**—In the Senate the Judiciary Committee reported the bill legalizing the action of towns in raising bounties in a new and much more perfect draft. The first appropriation bill was reported in the House. After a somewhat protracted debate the question was taken in the House on the removal question, and the resolve was indefinitely postponed by a vote of 68 to 63.

**Saturday, 6th.**—The Military Committee reported in the Senate a resolve urging the general government to establish a military hospital in this State. The House chose Col. James M. Stone of Kennebunk, Speaker *pro tem* in the absence of the Speaker. A large number of petitions were presented and referred. Twelve o'clock noon, was fixed as the hour of meeting on Monday.

**Monday, 8th.**—Mr. Tenney presented in the Senate a bill defining more clearly the powers, duties, and compensation of the secretary of State. Mr. Hinks of Bucksport, introduced an order of inquiry which passed the House, looking to an important change in the policy of the State regarding the taxation of religious societies.

**Tuesday.**—The committee on Senatorial votes made an elaborate report on the contested Lincoln county case, giving the seat to Mr. Stetson. A resolve was reported in the Senate by the committee on State lands and State roads, granting an appropriation in aid of the construction of the Milford and Princeton Turnpike as a military road. A bill introduced in the Senate by Mr. Stewart provides for the publication, quarterly, of a list of all civil magistrates under commission from the Governor, their residence, office and date of commission. It was referred to the committee on Judiciary. A message was sent to the House by the governor, transmitting a communication received by him from Hon. Francis O. J. Smith, proposing to donate to the State a farm of 90 acres, more or less, situated in Gorham, and valued at about \$30,000, provided the State will take upon it the Agricultural College provided by the act of Congress. An interesting debate occurred in the House on the bill making valid the doings of cities, towns, and plantations in raising bounties to volunteers, etc. No action was taken on the bill. A large amount of miscellaneous business was transacted in both branches.

**Wednesday 10th.**—There was a long debate in the House on the endowment of the Maine Wesleyan Seminary (Kent's Hill), the vote refusing the resolve a passage having been reconsidered. The House refused to pass the resolve by a vote of 55 to 56. The members of both branches testified to their respect and appreciation of the services of the gallant defenders of our country by a substantial contribution to Serg't Plunkett, who was rendered helpless by a shot which deprived him of the use of both arms, while nobly doing his duty at the battle of Fredericksburg.

Under the pressure of a threatened removal of the capital, the citizens of Augusta are talking of building a new hotel, of large size and first class.

### War of Redemption.

The rebels, knowing there was but a small force at Newbern, made a demonstration upon that post recently, hoping, no doubt, to capture it with the force garrisoning it. They did succeed in capturing one section of a battery, secured nearly 200 prisoners, and seized and destroyed the government steamer Underwriter. We also lost several men, killed and wounded; but the rebel force, finding serious work finally retired without accomplishing the main object of their expedition. Some government property was destroyed to prevent its falling into their hands.

There has been more fighting on the Rapidan, and after some skirmishing, our forces crossed the river, driving the rebels and taking a number of prisoners. After some fighting, our forces retired to their side of the river harassed by the rebels, who took some prisoners. Some of the Maine regiments were among the sufferers. The main body of Lee's army is said to be between Gordonsville and Orange Court House, and great efforts are being made to increase his force. The conscription act is everywhere enforced mercilessly, to swell the rebel army for the coming trial in the spring.

Gen. Butler tired of his fruitless attempts at negotiation for the exchange of Union prisoners, planned an expedition a few days since for their more speedy relief. He sent a force of infantry and cavalry up towards Richmond, hoping to take the rebels by surprise and open the prison doors. A federal deserter, however, had preceded the movement, giving information that placed the confederates on their guard; but they had a big scare, and summoned all the citizens to the defence. Our force advanced to within ten miles of Richmond, and finding the rebels all prepared for a vigorous defence, retired. An attack on their rear, on the march back was repulsed without federal loss.

Longstreet still threatens Knoxville; but it is hoped that the reinforcements sent forward will make things all secure. A gang of whites and Indians at Quallatown, rebel guerrillas, was recently dispersed by orders of Foster, 215 being killed and wounded, 50 taken prisoners.

Our talented musical trio, Misses Barney, Bates and Carroll, accompanied by two score of little misses, went up to Kendall's Mills, last evening, and repeated the Operetta of the "Twin Sisters" to a large and highly delighted audience. We hope they will conclude to favor a home audience again soon.

**HALL FUND.**—The joint committee appointed by the meeting of citizens to devise and conduct the various plans for raising funds for a hall, are actively pursuing the duties for which they were delegated. Their last meeting was adjourned to Saturday evening of this week, to give a sub-committee an opportunity to raise what they can by subscriptions from citizens interested in the object. Several gentlemen have offered one hundred dollars each. This is liberal, and looks well.

**VALUE OF THE BENEVOLENT COMMISSIONS.**—At a recent meeting of the friends of Christian Commission in the Capitol at Washington, Mr. Speaker Colfax, in the course of an interesting speech submitted the following pertinent facts:—

"In the Peninsula war, the annual loss of the British army was 165 to every 1000; in the Crimean war, during July, August and September, it was at the annual rate of 203 in 1000; during the following winter months it rose to 511 in 1000; and during the next three years the loss was at the fearful rate of 912 in 1000. During the last year the loss in the American army was only 55 in every 1000."

**A good pig at a big price.**—Mr. J. A. Dingley, whose residence on Pension Hill commands a lookout upon Poverty Valley, recently sold a pig, five months old, for the snug little sum of twenty-five dollars.

**HERO WORSHIP—over the left.**—Fred Douglas was recently invited into the pew of a citizen of Portland, who was formerly one of Frank Pierce's postmasters, and the sturdy democrat immediately put a lock on the door and no one has sat there since. The Portland Press mischievously affects to regard this as pure hero worship—the colored orator having rendered the seat so sacred by his occupancy that it is not hereafter to be profaned by common people.

Geo. G. Percival, of Waterville, who has been acting as Assistant Surgeon of the 8th Infantry, Corps d'Afrique, stationed at Port Hudson, has recently been commissioned as Surgeon of the 12th Infantry of the same corps.

"Last night's doings of the burglars," has got to be a regular heading in the Bangor dailies. These "minions of the moon" seem to have complete control of the city by night, undisturbed by the police. The Times is bold enough to say that something ought to be done about it.

The attendance at the hearing before the Legislative committee, in the Winslow Bridge case was large.

The most disastrous fire which ever took place in Connecticut occurred Friday morning in Hartford. The flames broke out in the drying room of the factory of the Colt Fire Arms Company, and before they could be subdued one-half of the establishment was destroyed. One man was killed, and another is reported as missing. The loss is estimated at two millions of dollars, only a small portion of which is covered by insurance. Nine hundred men are thrown out of employment. One million dollars worth of stock completed and in process of completion for the market was destroyed.

The Richmond Enquirer says—"The Congress has got into a pet with the newspaper men, and will compel all below 40 years of age, making it more easy to suspend all the papers except such as are necessary to the public printing. They are now but 35 papers in the Confederacy."

Brigham is in no hurry to have the mines in Utah worked. He says: "When it is necessary that we should possess gold in great abundance the Lord will show it to us in vision, and we shall not have to prospect and dig to find it as the wicked have to do."







