The Commonwealth.

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VOLUME I. BOSTON: FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 1863. NUMBER 50.

Poetry.

QUATRAINS.

BY R. W. EMERSON.

CRAS, HESTERNI, HODIE.

Shines the hot sun, the next with hope is rife,
Today sinks poorly, at sunset bewaileth,
Future or Past no richer secret folds,
O Hindoian Proteus! than thy bosom holds.

FROM ACUSHLA.

The sea is the road of the bold,
Frontier of the wheel-worn plains,
The pit wherein the stresses are rolled,
And fountain of the rains.

NATURE.

Boon Nature yields each day a brag which we not first beheld,
And twice as on to see the new, as if it were the old;
But blest is he, who, playing duly, yet happy asks not why,
Too lazy with the crowded hour to fear to live or die.

For the Commonwealth.

BURY DESIRE, AT HER SPINNING WHEEL.

BY LUCINA M. ALCOTT.

"Oh, flower at my window!
Why blossom you so fair,
With your green and purple cup,
Upturned to sun and air?"
"I blossom Bittersweet Desire,
To cheer your childish heart,
The world is full of care,
And this shall be my part."

"Oh! busy wheel, faster!
Spin, little thread, spin!
The sun shines fair without,
And we are gay within!"

"Oh, balmy wind of summer!
Oh, silver singing brook!
Why rush through the branches?
Why shimmer in your nook?"
"I flutter, blithesome Bessie,
Like a blessing, for and wide
I scatter bloom and verdure,
Where'er my footsteps glide."

"Oh! busy wheel, faster!
Spin, little thread, spin!
The sun shines fair without,
And we are gay within!"

"Oh, birds, and breezes, and blossoms!
And robin on the roof!
You make a joy of duty,
A pride of industry.
Teach me to work as blithely,
With cheerful willing heart,
For the world is full of care,
And I must bear my part.
Whirl, busy wheel, faster!
Spin, little thread, spin!
The sun shines fair without,
And we are gay within."

THE COUNTRYMAN

IS AN

GARDEN AND ORCHARD.

VIII.—SERIAL CULTURE.

"Nor need the muse to Palaces resort,
Or bring examples only from the Court,
The Country serves to do our subject aid,
And Gard'ning is the Gentleman's delight."

I remember it the best part of an education to have been born and brought up in the country; the art of mendicant and vagabondizing coming by nature wit, like the best use of books, the language one speaks. There is virtue in country houses, in gardens and orchards, in fields, meadows and groves, in rustic recreations and plain manners, that neither cities nor universities enjoy. Nor is it creditable to the teaching that so few college graduates take to husbandry and rural pursuits. Hold aside ordinary to thoughts, as every calling should be, these possess intellectual refinement and moral vigor. They have been made classic by the genius of antiquity; are recreations most becoming to men of every profession and rank in life!

"Books, wine discourse, garden and fields,
And all the joys that sunniest nature yields."

Rural influences seem to be most desirable, if not necessary, for cherishing the home virtues, especially in a community like ours, where, lately judices of traditions, we seek ourselves more through books and universities than from that closer contact with men and things to which newer countries cities owe so much,—which agriculture promotes, and for showing which the classic authors well deserve to be cited. We are a fast people, as we have the most free, and the troubles of our time give the free impulse to timeliness as to zeal. Our country there is no, want, see or readers, facilities of intercourse, lectures. The magazines, the daily papers (and the home news and reading rooms, at the humblest freshies) intelligence comes rushing upon us all with telegraphic speed, posting information to date from all parts of the globe. The time adds its pressurement excitement. We care for nothing; respect nothing; Even the scale of mercury rises about to be broken; everything reading strain-wise and fresh-right to the market and camp. Thither rose the scholar, too, with the rest, beating down the few mysteries that have escaped the sciphics and democrats: the temper of the hour threatening to depose things held most sacred and venerable in times past.

Thus four easy way of getting entertainment compress the demand for noble pleasures, while men of six and ninety years become content to shine, nor can fall, along with their smart sense and lively style, of giving the agreeable entertainment. The temptation is irresistible to parade their learning, and have the author's name appear, beneath the display of rhetoric, there may be less of substance than appears, while the topics, for the most part, have the associates affe from the severe scenes and pleasures. Of course, the war has paramount claims upon all just now; yet of what service this even, if it fail to secure the permanent advantages of peace; the liberties of the free side, the free principles, the safety that victory should secure? Still, our reading cannot be after in progressive communications, like that of New England, is a best exercise, converting itself presently into a permanent advantage, by calling into activity the appetite for more profitable and refreshing pleasures. Men fulfear what they love, and the love of rural enjoyments is almost universal. Very come into the country, whose mates are entirely out, in the home, and who enjoys what is primitive and pure. The citizen time of city pleasures. He soon finds that there is no freedom comparable to that which the country affords; for though he dwell in the city for the advantages of libraries, and social entertainments, he seeks the country for inspiration, when these have lost attractions and his spirits as his friendships crave refreshment and renewal.

"For every year wise in and cities dwell,
Are of the green trees fully sensible."

We see how this appetite gratifies itself in the general exodus during the summer months from the cities to the suburban towns, if not to the hill country, for the freshness, the health, fond there; and how to gratify and use this desire, we have manuel assistance, our Guide Books have become, not only the most attractive geographies of the territories therein described, but works of value combining some of the choicest illustrations of poetry and prose, in our literature; and abroad, too, of such scenes and pastes are not an engrossing.

"Tis a hopeful sign, a progress in the right direction, since the best teaching is insinuated then indirectly from nature and persons; benefiting as most when least expressed. Not, that the books, too, are beginning to be inspired after; translations made of the ancient authors, which bringe the abundant riches of the classic, the group of the plainest minds. And we look forward to the time, when, according to the recommendation of Cowley and others, poets will be as much for the culture of their time, they will be emulei in our schools and universities, as Virgil and Homer have been so long. How refreshing and how profitable, for cultivating the love of nature, of rural pursuits, the beauty of sentiment, the graces of style, to read these authors abroad, and without an acquaintance with which, the spirit of their liberal and elegant culture were misapplied or a-y grasping. Not need the students be restricted to Greek and Roman pastoral poets, when some of our own authors have given charming examples of rusticity. New England life and landscape. In their pages, as if to leave wanting no imagination toward the arts of poffie, when the ordeal of arms shall give place to the genius of the West to prove its classic honors; a people's freiman insurance ever opening from free soil, and opening only as it is tilled by free men.

"Agriculture, for an honorable and high-minded man," says Lamartine, "is the best of all occupations and arts by which man secures the means of living. For it is a pursuit that is most easy to learn and most pleasant to practice; it puts the bodies of men in the fairest and most vigorous condition, and is far from giving such constant occupation to their minds as to prevent them from attending to the interests of their relations or their country. And it affords some incitement to these two objects, in its tranquil occupations, the long dances and stanzas what is necessary for human life without the walls of fortresses. A man's home and female are the sweetest of all human possessions.

Every man owes primary duties to the soil, and shall no bold insinuation of a contemporary claim in implant planting on orchard at least, if not a family, or a book, for their benefit.

I have always admired the good sense and fine ambition of a friend of mine, who, on quitting College, with fair prospects of winning respect in any of the learned professions, chose rather to take aside into the quiet retreat of a cottage, and there give himself to the pleasures and duties of cultivating his family—very family, and he did find in it a sense of its satisfactions to promote the best ends and aims; esteeming his gifts and accomplishments, and his opportunities of culture, and gaining means of securing self-respect and independence. His first century was moderate—a sequestered field, with which he cultivated, and which he found favorable for convenience and hospitality. His grounds were laid out and planted with shrubbery, the slopes covered with evergreens, and the grounds, in a manner, was set; a conservatory, with suitable outbuildings and ornaments. As he gave himself personally to the work, and with the simple tools he touched. A few years' profits paid for his investment, and his thrift soon enabled him to add a second acre, and then a third, and so on, and so successful was his adventure, that his most skeptical neighbors, the old farmers, confessed him to be the better husbandman, and spoke of his work, and his ways, and his thrift, with respect; and they thanked him instead for having enriched them by his example. Nor did our Lovejoy disgrace our ancestral pagan. His friendships were kept in as good order as his grounds. He was ever the same, the most free, and the troubles of our time give the free impulse to timeliness as to zeal. Of course there is no want, see or readers, facilities of intercourse, lectures. The magazines, the daily papers (and the home news and reading rooms, at the humblest freshies) intelligence comes rushing upon us all with telegraphic speed, posting information to date from all parts of the globe. The time adds its pressurement excitement. We care for nothing; respect nothing; Even the scale of mercury rises about to be broken; everything reading strain-wise and fresh-right to the market and camp. Thither rose the scholar, too, with the rest, beating down the few mysteries that have escaped the sciphics and democrats: the temper of the hour threatening to depose things held most sacred and venerable in times past.

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From the Authorities.

Although the financial ability of the Secretary of the Treasury has been and still is the subject of some differences of opinion, we think that Mr. Chase can fairly claim to be recognized by all parties as an accurate prophet of the income of the public debt. Starting with a debt of $90,000,000 on the 1st of July, 1861, he estimated in his report made in December of that year that on the 1st of July, 1862, the debt would amount to $517,000,000. It did, in fact, at that date, amount to $514,211,372, as appears by his report of December, 1862. In that document he estimated that on the first day of the present month the debt would amount to $1,122,297,403, increasing the estimate which he had made early in the war by about $125,000,000. It now appears from statements drawn from official sources of the debt contained, in the report of the Beginning of the current month to $1,097,274,500—an approximation which is truly remarkable, in an account of such vast magnitude. It might be entertaining to compare this marvelous accuracy of prediction with some of the wild estimates, made at a time of financial difficulty by the last of Mr. Chase's predecessors under the old regime, Mr. Hoard. Cook, but such a comparison is not needed, either to establish Mr. Chase's reputation for foresight, or to depress that of Mr. Cobb.

There is a certain amount of indebtedness, still antiquated, consisting of arrears of pay to the army and to contractors and of similar claims, which must be added to the amount above stated, to give a proper idea of the position of the Treasury at this time. That amount is not large, however, and, it is estimated, I would not take the amount vary materially from the estimate made by Mr. Chase last December. There was also an unliquidated debt of the same sort due from the Treasury at the same period last year, at least equal in amount to the same class of indebtedness now outstanding. It follows therefore that the allowance to be made for claims of this sort does not materially affect the accuracy of Mr. Chase's prediction as to the rate, at which the debt of the country would be found to increase. The world is full of idiots, who suppose, that the debt of this sort is now less than it was at the beginning of the war. A little good, it will be seen the more distinctly that Mr. Chase is right in supposing, whether errors fall on the safe side, and that so far from being too sanguine in his calculations, he prefers to overrate the probable obligations of the country rather than deceive by too narrow an estimate.

The following table, drawn from official valuations, and the fact that his errors tend to overshoot the mark rather than fall short of it, are circumstances which give no small weight to his estimate of the increase of the debt for the year which has now begun. In his report made in December last, after making the estimate above, he said, "I have closely verified he says that "on the supposition that the war may be continued for the ensuing year, the estimate extends until the 1st of July, 1864, the debt likely to have been then incurred must be estimated at $1,741,585,587." This as it appears from past experience with Mr. Chase's estimates, may be taken as an "outside" calculation showing the most that is to be looked for in any event, and that large as it is, falls short immensely of the gloomy predictions of the opponents of the war, many of whom are fond of stating the national debt even now at "two thousand million of dollars" and calculation best known to themselves. Indeed, the aspect of the war is not such as to warrant the fears that gave the position of Mr. Chase's prediction,—that the war continues through the year "with undiminished disbursements,"—may not occur, and that the government may fall far short of his estimate. We do not enter now into the question how long the war is likely to last in some form or other, after the defeat of the great armies of rebellion. It seems to us very clear, however, that the immense current of opinion which has now set in in favor of the Union is so breaking down the strength of the rebels as to greatly increase the probabilities that the government will be able to "put down the rebellion" in its expense. The theatre of war is being rapidly circumscribed, and the resources of the Southern portion of the hostilities is likely to be diminished in almost similar proportion. There is, therefore, at least probability that, that in his next report the Secretary of the Treasury may see proper to dissolve his usually his anticipations of the amount of our indebtedness at this time next year.

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Per cent interest-bearing debt	
Loan—cent.	$5,029,001 20
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5 per cent temporary loan	$27,029,001 20
6 per cent temporary loan	$70,869,189 91
5 per cent temporary loan	4,450 00
5 per cent do do '61	2,487,000 00
5 per cent do do '71	7,022,000 00
5 per cent do do '81	1,000,000 00
6 per cent do do '67	$1,081,397,039 91
6 per cent bonds due '68	18,629,500 00
6 per cent bonds due '70	68,000,000 00
6 per cent bonds due '80	185,664,141 50
6 per cent Certificates of Indebtedness	157,083,241 65
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Aggregate debt as it stood in June	517,000,000 00
Total debt July 1, 1863, as published in the books of the Treasury	$1,097,274,500 00
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EMANCIPATION IN THE WEST INDIES; by F. B. Sanborn.

GEN. HUNTER'S LETTER to the Secretary of War, relative to the employment of negroes in the Military service. Any of the above will be forwarded free on application to JAMES M. STEVENS, No. 22 Bromfield street. Contributions sent by mail, will pass cents postage.

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