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By M. Fields. ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND, FRIDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 29, 1861. Vol. XII.—No. 16.

Poetry.

The Voice that Wins its Way.

If words could satisfy the heart,
The heart might find less care;
But words, like summer birds, depart,
And leave but empty air.

A little said, and truly said,
Can deeper joy impart
Than hosts of words that reach the head,
But never touch the heart.

A voice that wins its sunny way
A lovely home to cheer,
Hath on the fewest words to say,
But, O, those few, how dear.

An Interesting Story.

THE CHARCOAL BURNER.

One of the most celebrated forests in the world is the Schwartzwald, or Black Forest, a range of woody mountains which traverses the territories of Baden and Wurtenberg. It extends a distance of eighty miles, and varies in breadth, from eighteen to thirty miles. Its summits are, for the most part, destitute of trees, and only at midsummer display any verdure. To this barren region succeeds a growth of pine, beech and maple, and the middle and lower part of the range is covered with majestic firs, which supply masts for the navies of Europe. Out of these mountains open valleys, green with soft, close grass; odorous with sweet herbs; touched to a chastened beauty by the white narcissus, the snowy oxalis, and the sky-tinted gentian; shadowy with the broad arms of the walnut; and bright with wimpling brooks which go shimmering along the levels, curve smoothly over the slopes, or with a flash and laugh leap down the mimic precipices.

In their depths, at a date not certainly known, but before historians had grown sharp and critical, there dwelt a covy named Berthold Zahringer. Quite early in life he had not, in the warm seasons, so much as a fig leaf for clothing, but as he advanced in age he was promoted to his father's old bearskin jacket and breeches, when he felt fit to stand before kings. His bed was a heap of pine leaves, and during a large part of the year he fed, like the beasts and birds, upon fruit and nuts. But this utter want of culture was not without its modicum of good, in that it gave him fully back to nature. The sun, and wind, and falling rain shaped his form to magnificent proportions, and knit it to firmness and strength. For him the earth unrolled her choicest volumes and awoke her rarest harmonies. He was familiar with every growth of wood and glen, of hillside and meadow, far and wide. In the little germ, just lifting itself from the brown mould then lay, outlined to his view the whole future of stem and leaf, bloom and fruit. To him trained ear the foliage of each different tree, rustling and tossing in the breeze, pronounced, with curious certainty, its name, and age, and history. Every wandering scent, whether it were exhaled from the green roof above, or softly yielding from the moss, or shaken from the [illegible] of the wild beast, he read largely and stealthily from his lair, wooed or warned him. He could track his prey by mysterious, but certain signs, and in the longest chase neither foot, nor eye, nor hand ever failed him. Added to these accomplishments of the skilled woodsman, was his treasure of proverbs, and proverbial sayings, which, handed down from parent to child, supplied in part the want of books and experience. Grown into a youth, Berthold became a charcoal burner, like his father; but with a much clearer outlook for possible improvement than the latter possessed. "Fortune comes to him who expects as well as seeks her," he thought. "I expect her always, I shall seek her when the hour comes." Meantime he was not idle. He straightened the clay walls of the hovel, put on a new roof of leaves and boughs, and bought a new pot for the chimneylers hearth. This he kept also well supplied with game, saying the while; "Poverty is cunning, it outwits even a fox." But when his father urged him to get a wife, he replied, "No! no! better alone than in bad company. Who knows? I may yet marry a queen."

"He who lives on hope dies of hunger," retorted the old man. "He who grasps at all holds nothing fast."

"Slow and sure wins the race," returned the youth, with a laugh so full of glee that it never failed to restore his father's good humor. * * *

"The emperor will be in Baden the day after to-morrow, and I am going to see him," said Berthold, one evening.

"Hast thought of the way?" asked his father anxiously, although he would once have sneered at his own question.

"Does the bird think of the way, or the wild bear, or the goat of the mountains?" replied the son.

"Hast thought of the gibes and jeers of the townfolk?" asked the father.—"They love to sharpen their wits on the hill people."

"I have foreseen them, provided for them, and forgotten them," said the son, drawing from his belt a long, heavy knife.

"It is a dear honey that must be tasted from thorns," still remonstrated the father.

"A light heart can make even the thorns sweet," persisted the son. And so it was decided that Berthold should go to Baden.

He rose with the dawn, saying, "the morning hour has gold in its mouth." He drew a piece of boar's meat, a forbidden luxury, from a cave where it was hidden, put it into the pot, together with a quantity of beech nuts, and then lighted some pine boughs, which heaped with a thick smoke and a pitchy scent. Soon the old parents awoke, and while they watched the seething flesh, Berthold made his toilet at a little pool near by. He had a new suit of chamois leather, which fitted him closely enough to show his power of limb and grace of movement, and his fringed and painted sash of the same material held the knife, which was his only weapon. Long, black hair layed in waves round his broad forehead, and brilliant, out-looking eyes illuminated his dusty face. His was no drawing-room beauty, but the fascinating of splendid possibilities fixed itself in the memory and haunted the fancy of all who beheld him.

On the evening of the fourth day from that on which he set out, Berthold was again in the mountain hut.

"He who journeys sees for two—himself and the kinsmen at home," said the elder Zahringer. "Tell us about the great city."

"There were plenty of fine houses crowding on every side," answered Berthold, "and a rush and roar of men, and the flaunting of banners, and trampling of horses, and clashing of steel, and braying of trumpets, a great glare and dazzle, yet I could see nothing distinctly but the Emperor's daughter. She rode her coal-black horse as if she and the animal were one, and her white feather lay over his glossy sides, as the winter snow lies over the black crags of the Brocken stuhl."

"Pshaw!" muttered the old man. "To think of looking at a baby girl when one might see brave soldiers with their spears, and battle-axes and shining swords."

"I have seen soldiers and swords before," returned Berthold. "But I never saw or dreamed of seeing anything so beautiful as the maiden. I lived a whole life while she was passing by."

"You speak like a lover," said the old man with a sneer.

"Possibly," replied the youth. "Who knows? I may yet marry a Princess."

Thenceforth Berthold dreamed much, but not wrought also. Through the whole district there was no arm so strong as his to bring down the giant trees, no skill like his to build their great funeral pyres, to cover them with chips, and moss, and the fine brush, to arrange the apertures, and to tire the heap, and none watched with equal fidelity for each change in the smoke-vapor, recording upon the exterior of the mound the curious stories of its hidden processes.—Success awaited him—not the slow small success reaching to a better cabin and a warmer hearth—but such as gave his name and fame in the early historic annals. Digging for cloth to mix with the dust of former coalings, he perceived some white stones which gleamed under the rays of the midday sun striking hotly down the forest opening. His heart beat quickly. Were they—could they be—yes, they certainly were silver! Berthold told no one of his discovery. He still labored at his trade, but less diligently, for his laid fed at his trade, but less diligently, for his time was spent in collecting the ore and melting it into bars. These he concealed for future use, and continued to live as scantily and coarsely as before. * * * * *

Eight busy years had thus gone by, when the emperor, flying before his rebellious vassals, took refuge on the Kaizerstuhl mountains in the Breisgau. The little army he led thither was constantly diminished by desertion and death, while fortress after fortress fell into the hands of his enemies. He chafed at his compelled inaction, and finally offered his daughter's hand to the man who should effectually aid him. Berthold had always left his nook in the forest, saying, "the nobleman's calamity is the peasant's opportunity," and he soon heard of the proclamation. He immediately repaired to the Kaizerstuhl, obtained an interview with the Emperor, and promised his whole fortune if required, provided the Emperor would, after learning his extraction, formally ratify the terms proposed in his proclamation.

The Emperor hesitated, but utter ruin was close upon him, and necessity conquered pride. "I had not anticipated this possibility," he said, "but bring me three hundred bars of silver, such as you have described, and your marriage with the Princess shall be celebrated at once. In order, also, that you may from the first appear suitable at court, I here create you Duke of Zehring, and assign you the revenues of the province."

"When it shall have been reconquered sire," replied Berthold, with a laugh as merry and hopeful that the Emperor could be joined in his glee.

"Who is that?" asked the Princess Agnes, looking after Berthold as he left the camp.

"A nobleman in disguise," replied the young Graf of Nordheim, who, however, only guessed as much from the ease with which the stranger obtained admission and the manner of his departure.

"He has a finer person than any man at court," said the Princess—"except yourself," she added smilingly, seeing the Graf's countenance fall; and thence-forward she reached only for the coming of the Zahringer.

In due time he appeared, without attendants, but with several horses laden with ore which he had led, for security, through forest paths known only to himself. Trusty hands soon placed the precious freight in safety. Then, clad in garments furnished by the Emperor from his own not overflowing wardrobe, Berthold was publicly received with all the ceremony which the camp permitted, was confirmed in his new rank and formally betrothed to the Princess. Soon after the strangely assorted pair were united in marriage by the royal chaplain.

Furnished with arms, Berthold soon learned to use them; and, in spite of his inexperience, his genius was quickly felt by the forlorn hand. His sagacity, coolness and celerity were equally lauded. Liberal pay rapidly filled his ranks with good troops; successes, slight at first, but daily becoming more important, added to their numbers; while bribes and promises effected them still more. In less than a year, the Emperor had retrieved his losses, and sat upon his throne more securely than ever. And now, in the best armor of the period which flashed dazzlingly above a suit of crimson silk, his horse covered with nodding plumes and housings, sprinkled with gold stars, Berthold passed over the same ground where, nine years before, he had watched another gorgeous procession, as a simple peasant, happy in his new suit of chamois leather, and strung in the heavy knife, belted to his side. At his right hand, her hair in a golden net, her neck and arms covered with choice pearls, and her white dress edged with rubies and emeralds, rode the maiden who had opened to his untutored fancy a new world of bewildering beauty. Then she was so much above him that he scarcely dared to contemplate her loveliness. Now, a beloved and loving wife, she, ever and anon, looked into his face with a glance of merriment or weariness as she was amused or bored by the details or the progress.

He felt awed at the change. It was so entire, so wonderful, could it last? Then a strange dreamy mood crept over him. He felt as if under a magic spell. He half believed himself the sport of a malignant spirit, who played with his helplessness, and almost dreaded a hideous signal at which the whole pageant should vanish. Only the warm touch of a little hand, which sent a thrill of joy to his inmost heart, a half whispered word from lips whose accents were priceless, could assure him that the events of the past months were genuine facts and not the material of a baseless vision.

Good fortune continued to attend him. From him sprang a powerful house, conspicuous in the annals of Germany. He built the Castle of Zahringen and the city of Freiburg, and erected and endowed the monasteries of St. Ruprechat, and St. Peter. Yet, busy and brilliant as was the close of his career, the old chronicler hints that it was less happy than the care-free, gleeful life which he led beside his coal mounds in the Dark Forest.

VALUE OF AN EXPLANATION.—A certain king, it is said, sent to another king, saying:

"Send me a blue pig with a black tail, or else—"

The other, in high dudgeon at the presumed insult, replied:

"I have none, and if I had—"

On which weighty cause they went to war for many years. After a satiety of glories and miseries, they finally bethought them that, as their armies and resources were exhausted, and their kingdoms mutually laid waste, it might be well enough to consult about the preliminaries of peace; but before this could be concluded, a diplomatic explanation was first needed of the insulting language which had formed the ground of the quarrel.

"What could you mean," asked the second king of the first, "by saying, 'send me a blue pig with a black tail, or else'—?"

"Why," said the other, "I meant a blue pig with a black tail, or else some other color. But," retorted he, "what could you mean by saying, 'I have none, and if I had'—?"

"Why, of course, if I had, I should have sent it!" an explanation which was entirely satisfactory, and peace was concluded accordingly.

MESSAGE OF PRESIDENT DAVIS TO THE CONFEDERATE CONGRESS.

The following message was communicated by President Davis to the Congress of the Confederate States, which assembled in adjourned session, at Richmond, on the 19th instant:

President's Message.

To the Congress of
The Confederate States:

The few weeks which have elapsed since your adjournment have brought us so near the close of the year, that we are now able to sum up its general results. The retrospect is such as should [illegible] the people into a [illegible] gratitude to Providence for His kind interposition in their behalf. Abundant yields have rewarded the labor of the agriculturist, whilst the manufacturing industry of the Confederate States was never so prosperous as now. The necessities of the times have called into existence new branches of manufactures, and given a fresh impulse to the activity of those heretofore in operation. The means of the Confederate States for manufacturing the necessaries and comforts of life within themselves increase as the conflict continues, and we are gradually becoming independent of the rest of the world for the supply of such military stores and munitions as are indispensable for war.

The operations of their army, soon to be partially interrupted by the approaching winter, have added a protection to the country, and shed a lustre upon its arms through the trying vicissitudes of more than one arduous campaign which entitle our brave volunteers to our praise and our gratitude.

From its commencement to the present period the war has been constantly enlarging its proportions and expanding its boundaries, so as to include new fields. The contest now extends from the shores of the Chesapeake to the confines of Missouri and Arizona; yet sudden calls from the remotest points for military aid have been met with promptness enough not only to avert disaster in the face of superior numbers, but also to roll back the tide of invasion from the border.

When the war commenced the enemy were possessed of certain strategic points and strong places within the Confederate States. They greatly exceeded us in numbers, in available resources, and in the supplies necessary for war. Military establishments had been long organized, and were complete; the navy, and for the most part the army, once common to both, were in their possession. To meet all this we had to create not only an army in the face of war itself, but also the military establishments necessary to equip and place it in the field. It ought, indeed, to be a subject of gratulation that the spirit of the volunteer and the patriotism of the people have enabled us, under Providence, to grapple successfully with these difficulties.

A succession of glorious victories, at Bethel, Bull Run, Manassas, Springfield, Lexington, Leesburg and Belmont, has checked the wicked invasion which greed of gain and the unhallowed lust of power brought upon our soil, and has proved that numbers cease to avail when directed against a people fighting for the sacred right of self-government, and the privileges of freemen. After seven months of war, the enemy have not only failed to extend their occupancy of our soil, but new States and Territories have been added to our Confederacy, while, instead of their threatened march of unchecked conquest, they have been driven, at more than one point, to assume the defensive; and, upon a fair comparison between the two belligerents as to men, military means, and financial condition, the Confederate States are relatively much stronger now than when the struggle commenced.

Since your adjournment, the people of Missouri have conducted the war in the face of almost unparalleled difficulties, with a spirit and success alike worthy of themselves and of the great cause in which they are struggling. Since that time Kentucky, too, has become the theatre of active hostilities. The Federal forces have not only refused to acknowledge her right to be neutral, and have insisted upon making her a party to the war, but have invaded her for the purpose of attacking the Confederate States. Outrages of the most despotic character have been perpetrated upon her people; some of her most eminent citizens have been seized and borne away to languish in foreign prisons without knowing who were their accusers, or the specific charges made against them, while others have been forced to abandon their homes, their families and property, and seek a refuge in distant lands.

Finding that the Confederate States were about to be invaded through Kentucky, and that her people, after being deceived into a mistaken security, were unarmed, and in danger of being subjugated by the Federal forces, our armies were marched into that State to repel the enemy and prevent their occupation of certain strategic points which would have given them great advantages in the contest—a step which was justified not only by the necessities of self-defence on the part of the Confederate States, but also, by a desire to aid the people of Kentucky. It was never intended by the Confederate government to conquer or coerce the people of that State, but on the contrary, it was declared by the generals that they would withdraw our troops if the Federal government would do likewise. Proclamation was also made of the desire to respect the neutrality of Kentucky, and the intention to abide by the wishes of her people as soon as they were free to express their opinions.

These declarations were approved by me, and I should regard it as one of the best effects of the march of our troops into Kentucky if it should lead to giving to her people liberty of choice and a free opportunity to decide their own destiny according to their own will.

The army has been chiefly instrumental in prosecuting the great contest in which we are engaged, but the navy has also been effective in full proportion to its means. The naval officers, deprived to a great extent of an opportunity to make their professional skill available at sea, have served with commendable zeal and gallantry on shore and upon inland waters, further details of which will be found in the reports of the navy and war.

In the transportation of the mails many difficulties have arisen which will be fully developed in the report of the Postmaster General. The absorption of the ordinary means of transportation for the movement of troops and military supplies, the insufficiency of the rolling stock of railroads for the accumulation of business resulting both from military operations and the obstruction of water communication by the presence of the enemy's fleet, the failure and even refusal of contractors to comply with the terms of their agreements, the difficulties inherent in inaugurating so vast and complicated a system as that which requires postal facilities for every town and village in a territory so extended as ours, have all combined to impede the best directed efforts of the Postmaster General, whose zeal, industry and ability have been taxed to the utmost extent. Some of these difficulties can only be overcome by time and an improved condition of the country upon the restoration of peace, but others may be remedied by legislation, and your attention is invited in the recommendations contained in the report of the head of that department.

The condition of the treasury will, doubtless, be a subject of anxious inquiry on your part. I am happy to say that the financial system already adopted has worked well so far, and promises good results for the future. To the extent that treasury notes may be issued, the government is enabled to borrow money without interest, and thus facilitate the conduct of the war. This extent is measured by the portion of the field of circulation which these notes can be made to occupy. The proportion of the field thus occupied depends again upon the amount of the debts for which they are receivable; and when does, not only to the Confederate and State governments, but also to corporations and individuals, are payable in this medium, a large amount of it may be circulated at par.

There is every reason to believe that that the Confederate Treasury note is fast becoming such a medium. The provision that these notes shall be convertible into Confederate stock, bearing eight per cent. interest, at the pleasure of the holder, ensures them against a depreciation below the value of that stock, and no considerable fall in that value need be feared so long as the interest shall be punctually paid. The punctual payment of this interest has been secured by the act passed by you at the last session, imposing such a rate of taxation as must provide sufficient means for that purpose.

For the successful prosecution of this war, it is indispensable that the means of transporting troops and military supplies be furnished, as far as possible, in such manner as not to interrupt the commercial intercourse between our people, nor place a check on their productive energies. To this end the means of transportation from one section of our country to the other, must be carefully guarded and improved. And this should be the object of anxious care on the part of State and Confederate government, so far as they may have power over the subject.

We have already two main systems of through transportation from the North to the South—one from Richmond, along the seaboard; the other through Western Virginia to New Orleans. A third might be secured by completing a link of about forty miles between Danville in Virginia, and Greensborough, in North Carolina. The construction of this comparatively short line would give us a through route from North to South in the centre of the Confederate States, and give us access to a population and to military resources from which we are now, in a great measure, debarred. We should increase greatly the safety and capacity of our means for transporting men and military supplies.

If the construction of this road should, in the judgment of Congress, as it is in mine, be indispensable for the most successful prosecution of the war, the action of the government will not be restrained by the constitutional objection which would attach to such a work for commercial purposes, and attention is invited to the practicability of securing its early completion by giving the needful aid to the company organized for its construction, and administration. [illegible] If we husband our resources and make a judicious use of them, it will be difficult to fix a limit to the period during which we could maintain a war against the adversary which we encounter. The very effort which he makes to isolate and invade us must, by its means, while they [illegible] the circle of disaster [illegible] industrial system. The reconstruction which he seeks to effect by arms becomes daily more and more palpably impossible. Not only do the causes which induced us to separate still exist in full force, but they have strengthened, and whatever doubt may have lingered in the minds of any, has been completely dispelled by subsequent events.

If, instead of being a dissolution of a league, it were indeed a rebellion in which we are engaged, we might find ample vindication in the scenes which are now being enacted in the United States. Our people now look with contemptuous astonishment on those with whom they have been so recently associated. They shrink with aversion from the bare idea of renewing such a connection. When they see a president making war without the assent of Congress; when they behold judges threatened because they maintain the writ of *habeas corpus* so sacred to freemen; when they see justice and law trampled under the armed heel of military authority, and upright men and innocent women dragged to distant dungeons upon the mere edict of a despot; when they find all this tolerated and applauded, by a people who had been in the full enjoyment of freedom but a few months ago—they believe that there must be some radical incompatibility between such a people and themselves. With such a people we may be content to live at peace, but the separation is final, and for the independence we have asserted we will accept no alternative.

The nature of the hostilities which they have waged against us, must be characterized as barbarous wherever it is understood. They have bombarded undefended villages without giving notice to women and children to enable them to escape, and in one instance, selected the night as the period when they might surprise them most effectually, whilst asleep and unsuspicious of danger. Arson and rapine, the destruction of private houses and property, and injuries of the most wanton character, even upon non-combatants, have marked their forays along our borders and upon our territory. Although we ought to have been admonished by these things, that they were disposed to make war upon us in the most cruel and relentless spirit, yet we were not prepared to see them fit out a large naval expedition, with the confessed purpose not only to pillage, but to incite a servile insurrection in our midst.

If they convert their soldiers into incendiaries and robbers, and involve us in a species of war which claims non-combatants, women and children as its victims, they must expect to be treated as outlaws and enemies of mankind. There are certain rights of humanity which are entitled to respect even in war, and he who refuses to regard them forfeits his claims, if captured, to be considered as a prisoner of war, but must expect to be dealt with as an offender against all law, human and divine.

But not content with violating our rights, under the law of nations, at home, they have extended these injuries to us within other jurisdictions. The distinguished gentlemen whom, with your approval, at the last session, I commissioned to represent the Confederacy at certain foreign courts, have been recently seized by the captain of a United States ship-of-war, on board a British steamer, on their voyage from the neutral Spanish port of Havana to England. The United States have thus claimed a general jurisdiction over the high seas, and entering a British ship, sailing under its country's flag, violated the rights of embassy, for the most part held sacred even amongst barbarians, by seizing our ministers whilst under the protection and dominion of a neutral nation.

These gentlemen were as much under the jurisdiction of the British government upon that ship, and beneath its flag, as if they had been on its soil; and a claim on the part of the United States to seize them in the streets of London would have been as well founded as that to apprehend them where they were taken. Had they been malefactors and citizens even of the United States they could not have been arrested on a British ship or on British soil, unless under the express provisions of a treaty, and according to the forms therein provided for the extradition of criminals.

But rights the most sacred seem to have lost all respect in their eyes. When Mr. Faulkner, a former Minister of the

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