

MISCELLANY

A WINTER LAMENT.

For The Public.

No songs have we.

Our hearts, grown cold with weary waiting
for the spring,

Shrink in the breast;

No songs have we.

Through all the winter woods, the flowers
we would sing

Are laid to rest;

No songs have we.

We dance not now.

Too long the night of sorrow ere the sun
shall rise;

Too dull our feet—

We dance not now.

In vain does oaten pipe bring music's
sweet surprise,

With echoes fleet;

We dance not now.

LAURA EARLE.

TREATMENT ACCORDED PHILANTHROPY IN SOUTH AFRICA.

The Daily News printed on Friday the news that Miss Hobhouse had been arrested in South Africa and deported home. The facts as to Miss Hobhouse's return to South Africa were given the same day in the Manchester Guardian. Miss Hobhouse did not go out to South Africa to visit the camps, leave having been refused by Mr. Brodrick, she went with the sole object of relieving by her personal efforts the distress among British and Boer refugees in the coast towns. The Times and other critics of Miss Hobhouse had often complained that she had not undertaken the care of the British refugees. Miss Hobhouse took up the challenge, returned to South Africa with a trained nurse who was to help her in alleviating the sufferings of the outlander in distress, and for this she has been thrown into prison and then deported home. When philanthropy receives the same punishment as political conspiracy, and an English lady of the highest character is treated like the cosmopolitan "undesirables," we begin to understand what martial law means. Martial law had not been proclaimed in the coast towns when Miss Hobhouse started.—The London Speaker of Nov. 9.

UNCLE SAM'S LETTER TO JOHN BULL.

Printed from the Original Manuscript.

Dear John: Don't think because I do not write often that I am not always ready to pass the time of day and give a little good advice. The fact is, I've been 'tending to my own business lately, and I'm mightily troubled about anarchy. You are yourself at times, John, I take notice; but you hold pretty close to the old common

law at home at any rate, and the charter, and that saves you. Now, my boys have just been running wild, and I'm worried. That's the truth.

In the first place, my administration begun the Philippine war without authority of congress. Then of course I was in for it—loss of money and reputation, too, for the browns had started a republic, and I've done lots of big talk about supporting republics. It makes the old man ashamed.

Then the republicans assassinated the governor of Kentucky. Then the man charged with it skipped over the border into Indiana, one of my states, and the republican governor refused to honor a requisition for him. Then a republican political meeting invited the refugee to a seat on the platform. Then my supreme court abandoned the constitution and time-honored principles, and followed the administration.

Then a fellow named Czolgosh differed from the president on the subject of prosperity—said he couldn't get a job—and shot him. Then most all my Christian ministers went to the devil, and wanted something unlawful done to Czolgosh. A lot of anarchists, too, came out in the papers and wanted all anarchists except themselves "stamped out."

It does beat brass potato bugs how many people there are willing to do illegal things; but I'm hoping for saner times.

How are the Boers? You don't seem to be having much fun yourself.

UNCLE SAM.

THE NEW AND IDEAL REPUBLIC:
FOR THE VERY POOR AND
VERY RICH.

Of course I believe in a republic. I was born under a republic and I expect always to live in a republic. I am as sure as any other American, native or foreign born, that a republic is the best form of government; but I am of the opinion—and the opinion seems to be growing—that a republic founded upon some other principle would be much better for us common people, and very much nicer all around.

Now, there are the syndicates and trusts. They give men employment, why should they not give us a good government as well? They know best what is for their own interests, and they can select the men who will be sure to look after them, and then all we have to do is to vote them into office; election once over, it's all fair sailing again. Should anything go amiss, or should there be needed any new franchises, subsidies or islands, all they have to do is to pass a bill and there you are. Done!

For the last two months I have been really troubled as to which and what to believe. Some of the best papers have been telling us that everybody—even the anarchists—should be allowed freedom of speech; while other papers say the government should allow nobody freedom of speech if it's going to hurt business, affect our prosperity; that government is a thing so peculiar that she mustn't be spoke against except when she's either coming "in," or just going "out;" then a little talking will do no harm, provided you remember that she never goes out and that while she's "in" nobody can change her any way, and such bein' the case, and all things bein' considered, it is best to let her be taken care of at all times, by the administration, without any criticism whatsoever. They know what she needs and also how to make the most of her.

It's just this way, as I tell Louis, though he doesn't agree with me. I say to him:

"Louis, see here, what do I need to know astronomy for? It's not my business to hang out the moon, or to turn her into her quarters in order to let the people know when one month ends and another begins. Now, it's just the same about the government. What do I need to know about tariffs, or bother my brains over which is first, the rights of property or the rights of men; over who shall stand over the franchises, Messrs. A., B., & C., or the whole alphabet. If I were one of the letters in the alphabet, why, then, of course, that would make it different, but I am not sure as I am; only college professors understand these things. They are the ones to tell us when and where to hang out a new moon. My motto is: 'Let everybody look after his own job,' college professors, politicians, ministers, everybody. But jobs differ. For example:

"A minister of the Gospel should feed the people Gospel, and nothing else. What time does he have to study into the causes of hard times, or the reasons why men are out of employment?

"When you have had as much time, Louis, to think as I have, you will be surprised to find how few people there are who have time to bother their heads over these questions. Just count them up, the things the best people are busy over, and see what time is left to take any interest in government. I tell you the people haven't got time to govern themselves!

"Society people haven't time, because they have their balls, theaters,

fairs, horse shows, charities and fashions to attend to, and most of them have also their little club essays to write about art, and the lives of the dead men, and all the late novels. What time have they left, any more than the clergymen, the lawyers, college or business men, to look into these things and find out who will give us the best government—a government that will make all Europe blush under her epaulets because she's way out of sight when we're around with our big navy, our millionaires, our steel and sugar trusts, our men of brains, who have learned how to run the government? Perhaps you don't believe all this? Wait a bit; I'll prove it. Look at the men in state prisons. Do they trouble themselves about finding work, or food, or the best way to govern the institution, or whether the warden makes a profit buying his supplies or out of their labor, or what they are going to get for a Thanksgiving dinner? No; these things are all provided, and many a man this winter will steal to get himself put under this form of government rather than have his full liberty outside. Now, Louis, doesn't that prove that a poor man's liberty may be now and then a fine thing to talk about; but for a man who owns no land, and who can't get a job, a government that will give him work and feed him is the best kind, and the way for all of us to get a government founded upon some such principle, is to let those few whose interests it is to make a profit out of supplies, or out of franchises and all such, to do the governing?"

Louis said not one word. Sometimes he does that way, when he's not listening, but Budd got tired, so she climbed up on my knee, put her hands around my neck and, shaking her curls at me, said, impatiently:

"Why, papa, why don't you let the down-town man see to all that?"

She calls "the city" the "down-town man," and thinks that he paves the streets, and keeps the cars running, and makes Sunday come round once a week.

The "down-town man" answers to my idea of government, only I desire to have it understood that I am no socialist. My down-town man is a gentleman, a man who doesn't need to work, a rich man of brains.

I do not believe in mob rule, or in a government by the people, but in a government for the people; in short, in a syndicate government.—James Richard Semple, in the San Francisco Star.

MAYOR JOHNSON'S WAY.

MATTERS OF PUBLIC SAFETY.

Building Inspector Harks called on Mayor Johnson yesterday for advice regarding the south wall of the old York building north of the Superior street viaduct. This building was burned a year or so ago, but the south wall, which is brick and about three stories high, has stood. The building inspector told the mayor that the owners of the ruins had been ordered to tear this wall down; they had been told time and again, but had failed to do it.

"We have the wall tied to the viaduct," said Harks, "but it should be torn down at once. It stands on Elm street and is likely to fall at any minute and crush the life out of one or more persons. In order to take it down properly we have to undermine it and then cut the ropes that bind it to the viaduct. The only trouble is that it will take a lot of telephone and telegraph wires with it."

"Notify the owners of the wires to remove them," said the mayor.

"I have notified them," answered Harks, "but they have paid no attention to the matter. The wall ought not to stand another night."

"Then tear it down," said the mayor. "If it destroys any wires the companies will have themselves to blame. Notify them that the wall comes down this evening, wires or no wires."

"All right," said Harks, and he left the office to give the necessary orders. The wall was toppled over on schedule time, but no wires were destroyed. The companies hustled about and removed them.—Cleveland Plain Dealer of Nov. 28.

Assistant Director of Law Babcock will shortly draw up an ordinance regulating fire escapes. Mayor Johnson held a conference on this subject yesterday with Director of Fire Lapp and Judge-elect Babcock.

"We can't make anyone put up fire escapes," said Lapp, "for we have no power. We may be able to persuade them, but we cannot compel them. There is no city ordinance on the subject, and the state law has been knocked out in a case at Cincinnati. The supreme court held that it was a piece of special legislation, and therefore invalid. I don't see how we can do anything. It is outrageous the way buildings are left unprotected in this city."

"I can fix that," said Judge Babcock. "The regulation of that matter comes within the power of the police au-

thorities of a city, and I can draw up an ordinance that will correct the evil and at the same time be valid."

"That settles it," said the mayor. "I want you to draw up that ordinance right away, judge. If we have any power to compel owners of buildings to properly equip them with fire escapes we will do it."

The ordinance will probably be introduced into the city council in a week or two.—Plain Dealer of Nov. 30.

EVERY MAN HIS OWN ASSESSOR.

Within a few days Mayor Johnson will inaugurate a new method of getting from land owners their ideas as to the value of their land. Lithograph maps showing the real estate in each ward, together with a signed letter from the mayor, will be distributed at every house in the city.

The map shows to each person all the land in the ward in which he resides or owns property, and the unit values placed on it by the annual city board of equalization at the open meeting held in the city hall last summer. While the mayor believes that the figures on the maps come pretty close to representing the real cash values he thinks that some mistakes have probably been made, and for that reason he wants to get the individual opinions from the land owners as to what the cash value of their property is.

Those receiving the maps are requested to mark in plain figures what they think the values really are, and return the maps to the tax bureau in the city hall. They will be given careful consideration, and the unit values as they now stand will be revised to make them as nearly accurate as the combined opinions of all land owners in the city can make them.

The values which are finally determined on will be placed on the tax duplicate next June in place of those on which taxes are now based. At that time the annual city board of equalization will have the power to make these changes.

It is believed by Mayor Johnson that the result will be to bring about as nearly a uniform valuation of real estate in Cleveland as it is possible for men's minds to meet on. He also says that the effect will be to greatly reduce the taxes, for, while the people are asked to give the actual cash values of their land, it does not follow that the board intends to assess any land at its cash value.—Plain Dealer of Nov. 30.

The tax maps which the mayor will have sent out to the residents of the various wards of the city will be print-