

JAS. E. MURDOCK AND THE FAIR.

The Lebanon Ohio, Star, May 25, says: "A friend informs us that he visited our distinguished fellow-citizen, James E. Murdoch, last week, and found him, though confined to his bed and suffering much, hard at work and wholly absorbed in the noble cause to which he has consecrated himself for the past four years, viz: that of arousing and developing the patriotism of the country and providing good cheer for our sick and wounded soldiers.

Murdoch is the author and compiler of a most charming and interesting book entitled 'Patriotism in Prose and Poetry' comprising extracts from his lectures, patriotic poems by his friend Reed, and other eminent poets. This has been published by the philanthropic citizens of Philadelphia, and the proceeds of its sale—the third edition being already exhausted—is given to the Sanitary Commission. The little book, beautifully printed and bound, contains so much of pathos, poetry and patriotism, that it is difficult to select points of interest. The cuts representing the historic and emblematic presents, made by the author to President Lincoln and Secretary Chase, in connection with the history of their component parts, have a peculiar and thrilling interest to the student of our country's early trials and troubles and present triumph and progress. All that one feels in his soul on contemplating these relics, is most beautifully and poetically expressed by Buchanan Reed in the Presentation Odes, which accompanied them to their recipients, the President and Secretary. But that which gives the book a peculiar charm for Mr. Murdoch's friends and neighbors here, is that in every page and line is seen his own noble, devoted, and patriotic soul portrayed."

"The author has presented some fifty copies of the book to the Sanitary Fair to be held at Chicago on the 27th inst. Upon the fly leaves of each copy, in his own hand writing, and over his own signature, are most beautiful and apposite quotations from his favorite works, the Bible and Shakespeare, applicable to the character and mission of President Lincoln; the treason of the South; the country's triumph; the fiendishness of Booth, &c., &c., and even to the catching of the arch-traitor in skirts. The applicability and pertinency of these quotations, demonstrates the truth of Mr. Murdoch's assertion 'that there is no subject, past, present or future, upon which Shakespeare has not written.'"

"The managers of the Sanitary Fair may well congratulate themselves on the receipt of this rare donation from our county, and we predict that the patriotic admirers of Shakespeare and his great delineator, and the lovers of autographs will make each one of the volumes bring enough to comfort and cure at least two sick soldiers."

—The Queen of Sweden, in alighting from her carriage, lately, fell to the ground, in consequence of her foot becoming entangled in her dress. Her ankle was sprained, but no serious consequences are expected to ensue.

—Jean Ingelow, the English poetess, has written to her American publishers, Messrs. Roberts' Brothers, Boston, expressing her sympathy for the nation's late calamity. The original letter will be given by the publishers to the Chicago Sanitary Fair, where it will certainly be disposed of for a good round sum.

—Mr. Mason Jones, the English orator who made a tour of this country some time since, has delivered two orations on the American war (including sketches from personal knowledge of the late President Lincoln and President Johnson). The entire proceeds will be devoted to the fund of the United States Sanitary Commission for the relief of the sick and wounded soldiers.

—Mrs. Anna Cora Ritchie (late Mrs. Mowatt,) the well-known author and actress, has just completed a new story, entitled, "Fairy Fingers," which Mr. Carleton will publish in a few days. It is a long time since the author of "Mimic Life" has favored the public with anything from her pen, and we look forward with pleasure to the perusal of "Fairy Fingers."

—President Johnson is admirably fitted for the business duties of his office. The Washington correspondent of the New York Tribune says:—"The rapidity with which President Johnson despatches public business is remarked by all who visit the executive office. He takes hold of every routine matter in the order in which it comes up, and finishes it at the moment, with the aid of but two clerks."

—Why is a lady's belt like a scavenger? Because it goes round and gathers up the waist.

GEN SHERMAN IN NEW YORK.

Gen. Sherman was the subject of many attentions in New York last Friday. After driving to various points on business, he made several calls upon old personal friends, Mr. Stilson, Mr. Van Vliet, Mr. Scott, and others. Everywhere the crowd followed, and the General was frequently called out. He made no speeches, except on two occasions, when he merely indulged in a few expressions of compliment and gratitude. While at Gen. Van Vliet's he was quite voluble and vivacious in conversation, and told an anecdote, reported as follows:

The beautiful badge worn by the General gave rise, by a simple reference to it, to the subject of the army badges generally. It was in the Army of the Mississippi that badges were first displayed; but they became so popular at once among the troops that each corps had its separate and distinctive badge allotted to it. The selection of a badge in some instances was a matter of taste, sometime as symbolical of a claim of precedence put forth by the men. That of the 15th Corps (Logan's) was due to the Irishman who, when asked what corps he belonged to, replied, "Why to the 15th, to be sure." "Then where's your badge?" was the next query. "My badge is it—what's that?" "Why a badge to distinguish your corps—something like this." "Like that, is it? Oh, be jabers, then my badge is here behind me, my darlins—my cartridge box and forty rounds." And true enough, added the General, laughing, Logan adopted Paddy's cartridge box as his corps badge, and a very appropriate one it is too for himself and his brave boys.

Gens. Rosecrans, Butterfield and Swayne were also at Gen. Van Vliet's, and were severally called out by the people. Gen. Swayne appeared leaning on his crutches.

GEN. ROSECRAN'S SPEECH.

FELLOW CITIZENS: I come with diffidence to present myself before you, to express to you my profound thanks for the honor you have done me. I attribute a good deal of it to the activity of the enemy in the rear (pointing to some gentlemen around and behind him). [Laughter.] But at the same time I do not doubt the warm feelings and thanks of the great American people for any man who has had any share in this war, and I thank God I can express my joy at its termination. Good night. [Renewed cheers.]

VIRGINIA.

The address of Governor Pierpont to the citizens of Richmond is certainly, in tone, all that can be desired. By the events of the war he finds himself transferred from his formal capital at Alexandria, to the ancient capital of the State. He finds himself among men who were lately his deadly foes. They are subdued, and whatever may have been their honest desires, they are compelled to accept the consequences of the overthrow of the cause which they favored. Governor Pierpont is the only legal representative of the civil power who has authority over them. He is bound by his oath of office to support the Constitution of the United States and the authority of the Union. Before they can participate in civil rights, they must take such an oath. The past is past; the future must be regulated with no reference to what has been done. Virginians generally recognize the obligations and profess a desire to return to the pursuits of peace. They can only do so by mutual charity and forbearance. To keep up the old disputes, after every opportunity of being benefited by them is gone, would be a folly. Forgive and forget should be the motto! Governor Pierpont has wisely recommended that policy. He has nothing harsh to say to his late opponents. To bring back the State to prosperity, to repair the ravages of war, requires that there shall be mutual confidence and co-operation.

On his part he tenders these manifestations of good will, and requests similar favors from the citizens. Faith in each other, he correctly observed, was all that was necessary to bring back Virginia to its old prosperity, and, he might have added, to increase that prosperity a hundred-fold. There is no State in the Union which has finer natural advantages than Virginia. Relieved from the blight of slavery, with labor placed upon a pedestal of dignity, the future of that State will be astonishing to its citizens. Time will heal the wounds of war; vegetation will spring up on the battle-fields; plenty will restore the places that are desolate. To secure such a grand object it is only necessary that there shall be an accord. Labor and hope will do all. That Governor Pierpont is anxious to do his best to bring about such an era of happiness is apparent from his remarks. It is gratifying to learn that they were well received by the Virginians who were present, and that they expressed their determination to assist him. Under such circumstances the restoration of tranquility and the re-establishment of a good Government cannot be far distant.

THE DANTE CELEBRATION AT FLORENCE.

America seems young and virginal when we think of all Italy gathering to honor the memory of one of the world's great poets, born six hundred years ago. On the 13th and 14th of May, of this year, at the city of Florence, a grand celebration in honor of Dante took place. On the 13th, King Victor Emmanuel inaugurated the ceremonies in the Palazzo Pretorio. He was presented with a magnificent sword, with a quotation from the "Inferno" on the blade, together with allegorical figures on the hilt representing the two great ideas of Dante, with figures of Dante and Beatrice. An inaugural address was read by Professor Conti, in which he stated that the various books, documents, and other objects in the exhibition, had been collected from all parts of Italy and Europe, for the purpose of illustrating the poet's life, the time in which he lived, and the fame he has acquired. The address was listened to with deep attention by the king and all present. Victor Emmanuel then examined the exhibition in detail, and appeared to be much impressed by the many valuable and interesting treasures it contains. Among these is the muster roll of the Florentine army, at the battle of Montaperti, in which Dante is enumerated among the combatants. The king and all the company then signed their names in a book, which is to be preserved in the Magliabechi library, as a memorial of the exhibition. On the 14th, the statue of Dante was uncovered, in presence of a grand concourse of delegations from all the cities of Austria Italy, the ceremonies consisting of a parade, the unveiling of the statue, and a grand outburst of music. In the evening the city was illuminated, and, according to the accounts of correspondents, on the next day a musical celebration was to take place, at which hymns in honor of Beatrice and Odes to Dante were to be given, after which Madame Ristori was to read a letter of Victor Hugo.

A FREAK OF THE TELEGRAPH.—Of all the freaks of the telegraph, the following is the most laughable which has come under our personal knowledge. Not long since a graduate from one of our eastern theological schools, was called to the pastoral charge of a church in the extreme south-west. When about to start for his new parish he was unexpectedly detained by the incapacity of his Presbytery to ordain him. In order to explain his non-arrival at the appointed time, he sent the following telegram to the deacons of the church: "Presbytery lacked a quorum to ordain." In the course of its journey the message got strangely metamorphosed, and reached the astonished deacons in this shape: "Presbytery tacked a worm on to Adam!" The sober church officers were greatly discomposed and mystified, but after grave consultation concluded it was the minister's facetious way of announcing that he had got married, and accordingly proceeded to provide lodgings for two instead of one!

HOW TO WRITE A SENSATION STORY.—An Ajax in the army of blood-and-thunder story writers, tells his followers how to do the thing:—Whenever you wish to get up a story in the "sensation" style, do it in this wise: If you have occasion to remark that your hero drank a jug of beer, say, "He reveled in the foam covered liquid—he swallowed it wildly, furiously—paused for breath—again sank his nose, mouth and chin, into the gigantic tankard, and, with an appalling oath that shook the rafters of the crazy barn, shouted, "'Tis done! ha! ha! I've swigged it all—every drop—ha! ha!" You see at once the picturesqueness of the latter mode of description; and yet you will observe, after all, that it expresses the same event as the first miserable sentence, viz.: the fact of his drinking some beer.

—Mr. James Anderson, the tragedian, has written a letter to Mr. Adams exculpatory of the histrionic artists as a body, for having had amongst them so unworthy a member as Booth, the assassin. Mr. Anderson writes that "it has brought disgrace and obloquy upon the class," and feels strongly as a member of that profession "which reared the ruffian who razed God's temple of honesty and blighted our fair fame."

—The ladies of Paris are arming themselves with steel to an immense extent, steel waistbands and bright ribs of steel going round the entire body at about two inches' distance. They wear steel ornaments of all descriptions, even ear-rings of steel, and a necklace and head-dress of steel bells, which jingle something after the fashion of sleigh bells, but, of course, more poetically.

A GRAND PYROTECHNIC DISPLAY ON FRIDAY.

On Friday of this week the fourth anniversary of the United States Sanitary Commission will be celebrated in Chicago by one of the grandest pyrotechnic displays ever witnessed in the country—certainly the most brilliant ever seen in the Northwest. Five thousand dollars worth of fireworks have been sent from New York for the purpose. The display will be superintended by Messrs. J. G. & J. Edge, well known pyrotechnists of Jersey City, N. J., who have prepared a programme of great beauty and grandeur. Commencing with illuminations of all colored fires, there will be a rich exhibition of aerial fireworks, consisting of colored and golden rain, bomb shells, colored rockets, Mosaic and Union batteries of Greek and Union candles, Union and parachute rockets, flower pots, mines of serpents, and similar beautiful luminaries.

Then follows a series of the most magnificent stationary pieces, to be concluded by four splendid designs for the occasion.

The first of these will be the "American Coat of Arms" in the shield of which is a bust of Washington, with flags gracefully drooping on each side. Above will appear the American Eagle resting on a section of the world, surmounted by an arch of stars, with figures of Justice and Liberty, and the words "Victory and Union Forever." The next grand design represents three figures—a Union Volunteer in full uniform, standing between allegorical figures of Honor and Sympathy, the former in the act of presenting a wreath to the scarred veteran. Underneath will appear the notice "A Tribute to the Brave," and surrounding the figures will be parti-colored American flags.

The third special design is an allegorical representation of the works of the Sanitary Commission. It will represent a battlefield with implements of war scattered around, and dead and wounded soldiers lying on the ground, with an angel of mercy hastening to the relief of the wounded. Above will appear an immense arch, surmounted by beautiful scroll and leaf work, in which will be the words United States Sanitary Commission; and underneath, the words "Honor to Northwestern Women." The piece will occupy a space sixty feet long by thirty feet high.

The exhibition will be terminated by a grand finale piece occupying 100 feet in length by thirty-five in height. On one end will appear the figure of Neptune, the God of Commerce, representing New York, and on the opposite end the figure Ceres, the Goddess of Agriculture, representing Chicago. The figure of Ceres is represented as offering the wealth of the West to New York; in the centre will appear the anchor of Hope, and immediately over, resting on a section of the globe the figure of Mercury the God of Trade; over the figure of Neptune is the letters Commerce; and underneath, the letters New York; over the Ceres is the letters "Agriculture;" and underneath, the letters "Chicago." The whole enclosed by beautiful and chaste scroll work, all in appropriate colors.

Our readers will do well to remember next Friday night.

THE PRINCE OF WALES AND THE FAIR.

The following rather characteristic letter from the Prince of Wales has been received by the officers of the Fair:

"MARLBOROUGH HOUSE, }  
"Pall Mall, S. M., March 28, 1865. }

"SIR: I am desired to express the regret of the Prince of Wales that although he appreciates the philanthropic motives which have induced you to submit this notice of the proposed Bazaar at Chicago, in aid of the United States Sanitary Commission, whose labors are well known to his Royal Highness, he does not feel himself at liberty to accede to your request that he would contribute to it.

"I am, sir, your obedient servant,  
"HERBERT FISHER,  
"Secretary Prince of Wales."

GOV. YATES AT THE FAIR.

Among the many distinguished visitors to the Fair is Hon. Richard Yates, late Governor, and now U. S. Senator. Gov. Yates feels interested in all movements for the aid and comfort of our soldiers, and therefore is greatly pleased at the success of our great Fair.

JOHN BROWN'S GRAVE.—Our popular Chicago artist, Mr. H. C. Ford, has donated a fine picture of John Brown's Grave taken upon the spot last summer while sketching in the Adirondacks. This interesting and beautiful picture is for sale at the Art Gallery, east of Bryan Hall.

—FUNERAL FURNISHERS—DOCTORS.