

VIRGINIA FREE PRESS AND FAMILY JOURNAL.

United States Troops.

Sixty odd of "Uncle Sam's" troops arrived at Harper's Ferry Monday night last. They are under the command of Major Hunt, son-in-law of Col. Craig, of the Ordnance Department. They are stationed there for the purpose of protecting the public property. The stories of excitement at that place are greatly exaggerated. As is usual upon the arrival of the case—being the middle of the day, or when the operatives have suspended work—many persons may be seen at the Depot. We can assert with confidence that plus-lethal of the citizens of that vicinity are for the Union as it is, and that all the "secession" articles which may be seen about town are purely *Confederate*.

Gold Watch and Chain.

Music and Case.

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POETICAL.

Twenty Years Ago.

By J. W. JONES.
How wondrous are the changes, Jim,
Since twenty years ago;
What girls were then, and what are Jim,
And what were boys now?
When shoes were made of calfskin,
And children did a half-day's work,
Before the long of school.
The girls took music lessons, Jim,
Upon the spinning wheel,
And the boys were mighty, Jim,
As spades a swift and red.
The boys would ride "bareback" to mill,
And hurry off before two day.
Some twenty years ago.

The people rode to meeting, Jim,
In sleds instead of cars;
And the roads were as easy, Jim,
As bridges now-a-days.
And now there is no one too old,
For people live not half so fast,
Since twenty years ago.

Oh, well! I remember, Jim,
That you were a poor Pagan then;
That father bought and paid for Jim,
In cloth all his old wives had woven.
When we got the thing to see;
They said "would just look all ill,"
Some twenty years ago.

You every thing I thought, Jim,
From the time you was;
For men always tampering, Jim,
With God's great natural laws—
And the world is going to ending to,
Does any body know?

For every thing has changed so much,
Since twenty years ago.

VARIETY.

Lodging under Difficulties.

Knowing that you wish to keep posted on all matters of vital importance, I transmit to you the following rich experience in the life of one of our so-called "sample men."

Arriving late one night, during the last summer, at the goodly city of Albany, tired and exhausted, he hastened to his hotel, and, as a particular favor, he requested good, comfortable, and convenient quarters, which he was told he should have. The polite clerk, after attending to the wants of the numerous guests, started our friend, with six attendants, in search of his room, which proved to be up many flights of stairs, through long and winding passageways, going from floor to another, from right to left, till our hero arrived at No. 107. He occupied but little time over his evening devotions. He retired at once; but not to sleep. Not for him was

"Tired Nature's sweet restorer, hallow sleep." The truth must be told, starting as it is—the bugs were too numerous, too strong and voracious to permit him to rest in peace. So, removing his garments, he made for the office in no very amiable frame of mind, and addressing the clerk, the following conversation ensued:

"Stranger—Say! have you a good strong porter at the house?

Clerk (eagerly)—Yes; we have the strong-eat in the State.

Stranger—Is he intelligent?

Clerk—Oh yes—quite intelligent for a porter, we think.

Stranger—One point more. Do you consider him fearless—that is, bold, courageous.

Clerk—As for that matter, I know he is; he would not be afraid of the d—l himself.

Stranger—Now, Mr. Clerk, if your porter is intelligent enough to find 107; fearless enough to enter, and is strong enough to get my trunk away from the bed-bugs, I would like to have him bring it down.

Drawing.

"Can you draw, young man? I'm inquired Quill of an applicant for a private tutorship."

"Certainly," replied the candidate: "At ten years of age, I could draw easier; at twelve, a picture; at fifteen, a handcart loaded with cabbages; at sixteen, an inference; at twenty, a bill of exchange. If I were an actor I believe I could draw the largest kind of a house; but, being a teacher, I am content to draw a salary, and the bigger the better."

"You'll do," said Quill.

"The steamer Dug-out was about starting for Salt River, and the cabin boy had just returned, after spending \$25 for stores, when this conversation occurred:

"Boy—Well, captain, I've come on board with the small stores."

Captain—"What have you bought?"

"Boy—I spent forty-four dollars for whiskey and one for brandy."

Captain—"Thunder! what are we going to do with so much brandy?"

"My dear Amelia," said Mr. O. D. Coplestone to the young lady whose smile he was seeking, "I have long wished for this sweet opportunity; but I hardly dare trust myself now to speak the deep emotions of my palpitating heart; but I declare to you, my Amelia, that I love you most tenderly; your smiles would melt me if I say your smiles would melt me."

"Never mind the woodshed," says a dame. "Amelia, go on with the pretty talk."

PLAIN PRAYERS.—Thomas Stockton, the venerable chaplain of the House of Representatives, in his prayer at the opening of the session, occasioned an irreverent grin on the faces of members by the following invocation to the Almighty Power:

"O Lord, consider our President and our advisers. They lack wisdom, but if they ask Thee, Thou will give them liberally and upbraid them not."

MAKING A QUICK TAPE.—At a trial before a Squine the following queer colloquy occurred:

"Counsel—Didn't you tell P. to go to the devil?"

"Witness—I rather think I did."

"Witness—Well, did you?"

"Witness—I guess so; but if he did, he made a quick trip of it, for I met him the next day."

"A sensitive young lady, warn't all girls in the South and West to look out for her runaway husband, Sam. Thinks he may be easily discovered, for she says—Sam has a red scar on his nose, where I scratched him."

"What makes you look so grumpy, Tom?" "Oh, I have had a sad trial to my feelings." "What on earth was it?" "Why, I had to tie on a pretty girl's bosom while her ma was looking on."

"Will you marry me, miss?" "Sir, you know very well I have often declared I would never marry." "Oh yes, if I hadn't known it, I shouldn't have asked you."

"You want nothing, do you?" said Pat. "Blast, an' if it's nothing you want, you'll find it in the jug where the whisky was."

A MISERABLE MARK.—A tall ladder leaning against a chair; a negro, at the top and a hog scratching himself against the bottom. "G'way, g'way day! You're makin' mischief!"

Young folks tell what they do; old ones what they have done; and fools what they will do."

MEDICAL HOUSE.

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Hats, Caps, &c., &c.

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made by best manufacturers, for Planters, with soles nearly an inch thick, of heavy waxed leather, which we warrant to give entire satisfaction.

DR. RUTH, THE ONLY AUTHORITY ENCEVER PHYSICIAN ADVERTISING, has for many years voted his whole attention to the treatment of Private Diseases, and has won a very considerable fame. His great success in those long standing and difficult cases, such as were formerly considered incurable, is due to the extensive patronage which he receives. Dr. Ruth is not afraid to take on the most difficult of Private Diseases, and in their different forms and stages, a practice which no doubt exceeds that of all other physicians now living. His skill and knowledge are known where his directions were strictly followed, and medicines taken at reasonable prices.

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