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The Lucinda Lenore Merriss Cornell Collection:
Ephemera

Lucinda Lenore Merriss Cornell Collection
(1855-1911)

1913

Two Newspaper Clippings

J. B. Galbraith

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creased gas bills, yet the weather was just about as mild as the preceding month. How come?

Short Stories of Ohio

By J. H. GALBRAITH.

BEN HANBY'S POETIC GENIUS AGAIN.

Dr. Otto B. Cornell, of Westerville, recently found among papers belonging to his mother, an old poem in manuscript, which is interesting for two reasons: it reflects the sentiment of the loyal Ohioans under the operation of the draft during the Civil war, and it bears marks of the poetic ability of Ben R. Hanby, author of "Darling Nellie Gray." Dr. Cornell says his mother wrote it with the help of Hanby, who was a neighbor and friend. At the bottom of the last page, written in the same hand as the poem itself, appear these words:

"Written by L. L. Merriss, July 9, '64. Composed by B. R. Hanby, Westerville, Ohio." Mrs. Cornell, then Miss Lucinda L. Merriss, was a sister of Abigail Merriss, who married Martin Rogers of Norwich township and became the mother of the late Judge C. M. Rogers. She herself married John B. Cornell, Dec. 27, 1864. At the time the poem was written he had already served one enlistment in the Union army and had arranged to be married to Miss Merriss, but found himself on the lists of a new draft. This situation is the motif of the poem. In the poem Cornell becomes "Timothy Huff," farmer, draftee and about-to-be bridegroom.

There are six verses with a chorus. The first verse runs thus:

"A farmer sat with his chin in his hands,
Looking composedly over his lands,
Counting his acres and laying his plans,
When an officer came that way.
'The governor calls for our company's men,
Timothy meet us tomorrow at ten.'
Timothy chanted a sorrowful strain,
And this was his pitiful lay:

'Oh, Governor Brough, it's terribly tough,
I declare you've treated us downright rough.
'Tis a very unfortunate call.
Why, hadn't the government soldiers enough
That you make a demand on Timothy Huff?
It's a goin' to ruin us all.

Succeeding verses veer toward the enduring vein with a spirit to make the best of it, culminating in the final chorus, which differs a little from the first, to bring out this effect, thus:

Oh Governor Brough, Enough, Enough!
I reckon I've spoken a little too bluff.
I see, old hero, you're just the stuff,
I'll follow your banner through smooth and rough,
Till we drive the foe to the wall.
Call out your men till you're sure you've enough
Come on, you're welcome to Timothy Huff.
Hurrah, Hurrah, Hurrah!"

This note by the author is added at the bottom of the last page:

"The chorus should be sung in chanting style, rather slow in mock pathetic manner, slightly approaching a whining tone. This tone should gradually disappear in the progress of the fifth verse and the final chorus should be sung with considerably quickened time, a crescendo extending from the beginning to the end, and a retardo at the last line—'hurrah, hurrah, etc.'"

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Getting Together.

There is a move afoot in Nebraska to bring the Republicans and Progressives under the same roof. It is also on in Michigan, headed by Governor Osborn. And Mr. Munsey, one of the most conspicuous supporters of Colonel Roosevelt, is out in a manifesto proposing a union of the two factions and a restoration of the G. O. P. This feeling is pretty strong everywhere, except at Oyster Bay.

Colonel Roosevelt gives no encouragement to these proposed affiliations. He holds that the Republican party is no more, is defunct, and it cannot be revived, and he doesn't want it revived if it could be. He is against the Republican party organization and will not come under its sway under any conditions. If the Republican party would adopt all the doctrines of the Progressive party, he would then not "come back." Absorption is his only process of affiliation, the absorption to be done by the Progressive party.

There is a growing tendency to break away from this "Come one, come all, this rock shall fly," attitude, to lay aside the sword, and parley a little. That is bound to be the situation sometime, and Colonel Roosevelt, who is a great power, will at length feel the unreasonableness of resisting the evolutionary process of getting together. The only difficulty then will be, if the Democrats act wisely, that it is likely to discourage all efforts at affiliation.