An Unknown Whitman Parody

W. T. Bandy

ISSN 0737-0679 (Print)
ISSN 2153-3695 (Online)

Copyright © 1985 W. T Bandy

Recommended Citation

This Note is brought to you for free and open access by Iowa Research Online. It has been accepted for inclusion in Walt Whitman Quarterly Review by an authorized administrator of Iowa Research Online. For more information, please contact lib-in@uiowa.edu.
AN UNKNOWN WHITMAN PARODY

Under the heading "Rhymes of the Day," *Puck* published the following piece of atrocious verse in Vol. 8, No. 280, p. 434, 2 March 1881, signed "Walt Whitman":

LEKT.

Mrs. Garfield.
The wife of the President of the United States!
Think of that, you women!
I am going to celebrate her entrance into the
White House; over the sacred sill of the
nation's tenement.
I am going to tell you what she found there, in
the cellar, by a tallow candle illumin'd,
things left there by the Hayeses, departed,
retir'd, into oblivion fir'd out:
Two pickle-jars, empty, of one of them the
bottom crack'd.
Four clothes-pins.
One chest-protector, red flannel, R. B. H.
thereon embroider'd.
Of insect-powder one pound, the strength of it evaporated.

[Page 45]
One odd ear-muff, a card inside, “Rogers” mark’d on the card.
One demijohn, label’d “Mineral Water, Bourbon Co., Ky.”
You hear my horn!
Yawp!

Walt Whitman.


Vanderbilt University

W. T. Bandy