An Unknown Whitman Parody

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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":

LEFT.

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.
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.


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