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.

Company, 1973), p. 364. (All further references to the poem will be to this edition and line numbers will be given within the text.)


7 Emerson, "Education," p. 143.


11 Slattery, 114.

12 Slattery, 114.

13 Slattery, 114.
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.

Obviously a parody of Whitman, it does not appear in Henry S. Saunders's
Parodies on Whitman (New York: American Library Service, 1923), nor is it listed in

Vanderbilt University

W. T. Bandy