



A TOAST TO WATER

by Col. H.C.F.

On the occasion of having his

"Pattern" taken

In the room of the "Thigum Thu Club"

May 1, 1837

(no ladies present)

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"Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen," said the Colonel, "I am asked to respond to the toast, 'Water, the purest creation of Providence.' My friends, I have seen water glisten in tiny teardrops on the sleeping lids of infancy. I have seen it trickle down the dimples of youth when soft lips yield to love's caress, and on the whitened cheeks of age. I have seen it drip like a shower of gems from the blades of grass on the resplendent dawn of a new day. I have seen it tumble down mountain sides in cascades as fleecy as a bridal veil. I have seen the seven seas on whose bosoms float the fleets of all nations, and the commerce of the world.

I could dilate more in extenso" But as time waits for no man" and pressing importunities of the present occasion pretermits, my friends, I must hasten to say to you that water as a beverage isn't worth a D-----.