

THOS. W. ATKIN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

TERMS OF THE MESSENGER: Two Dollars and Fifty Cents per annum...

POETRY

I Love the Ladies, Every One.

BY JAMES STILLMAN.

I love the ladies, every one— The laughing, ripe brunette— Those dark-eyed daughters of the sun...

MISCELLANEOUS.

From the Philadelphia Saturday Courier.

Benedict Arnold.

A Scene from the Lecture of George Lippard, Esq., on the Life, Treason and Death of Benedict Arnold.

There was a night when an awful agony was passing in the breast of Arnold; the struggle between Arnold's revenge and Arnold's pride.

You have all seen that old house, in Second near Walnut streets, which once the late William Penn, once the Palace of Benedict Arnold, is now used as a storehouse.

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That handsome cavalier, dressed in the costume of fashion, with combed hair, red-lined shoes and powdered hair, is a nobleman of France, the Ambassador of the French King, the Chevalier De Lozorne.

The third look! A silent and manly red man of the forest; an Indian chief, wrapped up in his blanket, standing there, proud as a king on his throne.

He has come from the wilds of the forest in the far northwest, to hearken to the answer of Arnold (the Death Eagle, as the Indians call him) to their proposition, by which they agree to make him chief of their tribes.

Now look; the door opens; the three noble Arnold turns and beholds them.

Then occurs a hurried and terrible scene. While the wife of Arnold sits trembling there by the fire, he advances, and greets the Chevalier De Lozorne.

"Look ye," he utters in quick tones, "Your king can have my sword, but mark! I am in debt, the mob boot me in the streets, my creditors are clamorous. I must have money!"

This bold tone of one used to command, little suits the polite Ambassador.

"My King never buys soldiers!" he whispers with a sneer, and then bowing, politely retires.

Stung to the quick with this cool insult, Arnold—turning his eyes away from the British spy—glances the Indian chief—mark! They converse in the wild, musical Indian tongue.

"My brothers are willing to own the Death Eagle as their chief," exclaims the Indian. "Yet are they afraid that he loves the pale faces too well!"

"Try my love for the pale faces!" mutters Arnold, with a look and a sneer that makes even the red Indian start.

The chief replies: "My brothers who are many—their numbers are as the leaves of the forest—my brothers who sharpen their war-bow for the souls of the pale face, will not let the Death Eagle to lead them on the town of the pale face; to turn, to kill, till not a single pale face is left in the land."

"Try me!" was the hoarse response of Arnold, given with knit brows and clenched hands.

"Then shall the Death Eagle become the chief of the red men!" said the Indian. "But his pale face shall never dwell in the tents of the red men!"

Then it was that Arnold—who had embraced with a gleam of savage delight, the proposition to become the chief of a numerous tribe of wild Indians—felt his heart grow cold!

Ah! how he loved that wife! Arnold, who in his mad revenge was willing to sweep the towns of the whites with torch and knife, quailed with the idea of leaving that fair young wife.

"The Death Eagle cannot be your chief!" he said as he turned from the Indian. The red man went from the room with a sneer on his dark face, for the man who could not sacrifice his wife—the loved one of his heart—to that revenge which was about to stamp his name with eternal scorn.

"Now take this letter to Sir Henry Clinton," said Arnold, placing the fatal letter in the hand of the British spy. And then Arnold and his wife were alone.

Then that wife—gazing on the noble countenance of her husband, now livid as ashes, and gazing in that dark eye, now wild and rolling in its glance—gazing on that white lip, that quivered like a dry leaf—then that wife of Arnold trembled as she felt that the dread Rubicon was passed; that Arnold, the Patriot, dead, she sat in the presence of ARNOLD, THE TRAITOR.

BENEDICT.—We learn from the Message of Gov. Owsly that the affairs of the State are in a good condition. The amount of the State debt, instead of being increased, is reduced by the fiscal operations of last year; the resources of the sinking fund have been ample to pay promptly and punctually the interest on the debt without anticipating means; the affairs of the Treasury have been abundant to meet the ordinary expenses of the Government, and leave an expected surplus on hand at the end of the next fiscal year; the receipts from taxes, from turnpike roads, from bank dividends, and from the rivers, have all been greater this year than in any year since the late war.

The quarrel which has been going on for some years between Gov. Francis Thomas and his wife, has at last been settled by a divorce, granted by the Legislature of Virginia, on the application of Mrs. Thomas, she having proved her husband's charges unfounded, before a court of justice.

The property held by Trinity Church N. Y., is estimated to be worth one hundred millions of dollars. Real Estate \$50,000,000, other property \$50,000,000.

Remarks on the Penitentiary Question.

The Penitentiary not a Preventive of Crime. Crime not an appropriate object of Revenue.

Some benevolent-minded men may say, "Try the prevention of crime as an object greatly to be desired; and this is one reason why we favor the Penitentiary system. We have always understood this mode of punishment as a preventive of crime."

Now this is one of the delusions from which the public mind should be freed. No doubt that while the whole system was a theory, when the attempt was first made to impress men's minds with the idea of a new mode of punishing crimes, the prevention of crime had a conspicuous place in the catalogue of advantages which the proposed scheme possessed; and undoubtedly, when an attempt is made to introduce the system into another State, the old hypothetical dialogue is brought forth, and a flourish is made, in the face of facts, about the efficiency of the Penitentiary in preventing crime.

It looks well upon paper, but it was a very essential ingredient of good government to influence a community to introduce a great change, that is, to be proved to be certainly true in practice.

It is the opinion of many intelligent men in the States which have adopted the system, that the Penitentiary is not a preventive of crime. Attention to passing events for many years in succession, tends greatly to the conclusion. The Reports of the Penitentiary Committees, are one-sided things, and entitled to but little respect. In the absence of positive proof, a comparative view will approximate to the truth. If we ascertain that the annual profits of a Prison are great, we ought to infer that there are many laborers for the profits of Prison labour are not in inverse ratio to the number of laborers. Unreformed Penitentiaries do not yield profits. If we ascertain that the profits annually increase, the rational inference is that the number of convicts also increases; or if there has been deficit and it annually decreases, the conclusion will be the same. This, in general rules, will be found true, though other circumstances may affect the result for a time. Judging by the above rules, our state of information will go to show conclusively that Penitentiaries are not preventives of crime.

In the absence of affirmative proof, we have a negative proof that may convince every impartial mind. The system has been now a long time in operation, and if it were essentially a preventive of crime, its friends would make a triumphant flourish of this evidence of success. And yet it has not been shown that crimes have gradually decreased in several of the States that have Penitentiaries. It has not been shown that they are on the decrease in any one of these States; neither has it been shown that crimes are at a stand, checked, in several of these States.

If these things could be shown, they would be; if they cannot be shown, they do not exist. Under this view of the case, would a man feel at liberty to assert or believe that the Penitentiary system is a preventive of crime?

Long ago, in Massachusetts, an application to the General Government for some remote place to send criminals to, was spoken of, and the answer given was, that the Penitentiary had signally failed to meet the purpose for which it was created. But a Yankee ingenuity at length discovered, that if crime could not be repressed by the Penitentiary, it could, at least, be so managed as to yield an income to the State; which leads us in the next place to consider the Penitentiary system as a source of revenue.

Crimes "Touched by the Midas finger of the State, bleed gold for Ministers to sport away." The great argument now used and relied on, in defence of the Penitentiary system, is, that a profit may arise from it, for the benefit of the State. This places the great expenditure to be incurred on the basis of an investment for profit; and it is gravely urged, that the investment will be a lucrative one. The grossness of the idea, is sometimes attempted to be concealed, under the garb of economy in punishing crimes. But under whatever guise the thought of deriving a revenue from crime may have the appearance to present itself, it appears to me to be both inadequate and demoralizing. The punishment of crimes should ever be a burden on the community; then every incentive to prevent them will be in force. But the community should never derive benefit from crimes, because that makes it directly interested in their continuance and increase; and their cessation, or total prevention, would have the appearance of a public loss—the destruction of revenue. Then, if this view of the subject be correct, there should be no investment, or outlay of money, made on the basis of crime, which can, by any contingency, become profitable.

The people of North Carolina should be well advised before they vote for a Penitentiary. I would invite particular attention to what I am now about to say. Should the expenditure be made, and the establishment

prove a burden to the people, they would demand relief. The Prison could not be suffered to go down for, in that case, the money would be sunk. But a remedy must be sought. The Legislature would be compelled to make a long list of offenders Penitentiary crimes, and lengthen the shortest period for which a criminal could be confined, for a given offence—the latter portion of a criminal's time being most valuable. Thus punishment might be greatly disproportioned to offences and great injustice done. Judges and juries, having a discretionary power in awarding penalties, would be tempted to protract the term of confinements, merely for the relief of the people, and without just regard to the atrocity of the felony. It has often been alleged, that juries have failed to convict the guilty, because their conviction would impose a burden upon the community including themselves. Change the circumstances, let the danger of the forbidden be attached to non-conviction, and it would be but the exercise of the same veal principle to convict the accused upon too slight grounds—a more deplorable evil. From the same cause, the executive would be deterred from exercising the clemency of the pardoning power, even in cases where the rigour of the penalty was evidently disproportionate to the offence. Moreover, if the prison should be profitable, the same evils would probably happen, for the sake of increasing the gain.

So much for the profits of a Penitentiary, as a speculation on crime—a thing preposterous and odious in its conception, and injurious in its progress. Men begin by attempting to exonerate themselves from the burden of punishing crimes, expend a large sum of money in a measure that only adds to their burden, go on to desire the increase of criminals, and end in over-punishing what victims they have. Moreover, a man of correct taste may be excused for asking, "To what purpose would you apply an income derived from crime? What interest in the State might properly owe its advancement, and be under an obligation, to crime? And might with great propriety deny that 'Literature' in general, or the 'Common Schools' in particular, should be clogged and stigmatized by a debt of gratitude to crimes and felons."

STYLIANUS.

North Carolina.—The Washington correspondent of the Richmond Enquirer, noticing the fact that the present Governor of New Hampshire is a North Carolinian, says there are more native born sons of North Carolina in either branch of Congress, than of any other State. We have frequently been reminded that our good old State furnishes an unusual proportion of great and successful men to other States and to the nation. Not the least of our honors in this connection, is the fact, not perhaps generally known, that Mrs. Madison, widow of the late illustrious President, was a native of Guilford county, in this State.—Greensborough Patriot.

Annexation of Ireland. On Tuesday week, Mr. McConnell of Alabama introduced the following resolutions: Resolved, That we hail the elevated feeling which now universally prevails in our glorious Confederacy to strengthen and consolidate the principles of republican freedom, and extend the blessings of our free institutions in every practicable quarter of the universe, in the spirit of Christian love and peaceful brotherhood.

Resolved, That while we hail the admission of Texas (which fought its way to independence) as a sister State into our Union, and view with unalloyed pride and satisfaction the patriotic resolution of the Executive Government and Congress of the United States to uphold our title to Oregon; and also observe the growing desire to incorporate Mexico, Yucatan, California, &c., in the Confederacy, that Ireland is fully entitled to share the blessings of our free institutions.

Resolved, That the Irish people, as a nation, have long been ground down by the tyranny of British misrule and misgovernment; and while her people for centuries have groaned under a foreign monarchical yoke, they have always cherished the democratic principle of republican government—the only civilized institution that has insured freedom to man.

Resolved, That this house receive with the attention and consideration any communication that may be forwarded from that high-minded and liberty-loving people with the view to effect such an object.

The reading of these resolutions excited much excitement, when read— Mr. McConnell rose and said, gravely, I hope no member will object to the introduction of the resolutions.

Several members, however, did object, and so the matter passed off.

Wm. Murray has been sentenced to the Ala. penitentiary for 30 years for enticing slaves away to a free State.

Why is a pretty young lady like the hob of a wagon? Because she is surrounded by fellers.

State Motions.—Florida has for its State motto, "Let us alone." Texas, now a State, will probably adopt "Dend us a loan!"

Dreadful Event.—We learn, from the St. Louis Register, of the 6th inst., that on Saturday, the 23d ult., the prairie about nine miles north of Monticello, in Clark county, Missouri, was set on fire, and the wind being high, the flames spread with great rapidity. The family of Mr. Kyle, residing on the prairie, on perceiving the rapid approach of the flames, Mrs. Kyle, on the lady, the mother-in-law of the Hon. Anna Kendall, accompanied by her son, endeavored to save the fence surrounding the farm from impending destruction. The old lady was soon enveloped in the flames, and the son in endeavoring to save her, perished with her. There was no negro on the premises.

The Saginaw (Illinois) Journal contains the statement of the N. Y. Tribune's correspondent, respecting the Mormons. The coin counterfeited by them consisted principally of imitation Mexican dollars and dimes, skillfully executed. The quantity issued is said to be immense, \$1500 having been paid out at a mill owned by a Mormon in one week for wheat.—Three qualities of the spurious money were manufactured, which were sold for 75, 50, and 25 cents for the dollar. That for which the highest price was asked, is said to be so perfect as to escape the most rigid scrutiny of the eye—the outer coat being of pure silver, and the alloy as completely covered as to prevent detection in any other way than by cutting. Revelations have also made which lead to the belief that a number of persons have been murdered by them in the most horrible manner.

The Indiana Democrat of the 12th ultimo contains an account of a recent tragedy in Decatur, in that state. John Muldoon was anxious to marry a daughter of Mr. N. Fetick, but her parents forbade the union. Muldoon subsequently broke into the house, and being opposed by the young lady's mother, assailed her violently. Young Fetick, hearing the disturbance, rushed into the room, and after repeated efforts to remove Muldoon from the premises without success, shot him through the breast. M. died in a few minutes, and Fetick was arrested.

Congressional Adjournments.—The mere per diem of members of Congress, 275 in number, amounts to \$2224 every day. Six days have already been lost by adjournments, the cost of which was \$13,344, exclusive of the pay of the numerous officers, pages, &c., which would swell the sum to \$15,000.

Vultures and residence, the Chateau of Forney was purchased for \$100,000 by M. Grignolet, a retired Parisian shawl merchant.

From the National Intelligencer. "The New Books."

This is the title of an article in the official paper of Monday last, (the 29th December), the object of which is to show that the public debt of the U. States was increased during the Administration of Mr. Tyler, which it pleases the official editor to consider as a Whig Administration, by the amount of \$10,363,717.87. This increase the editor charges upon Whig deficiency and Whig extravagance, stating that "Whig promises of retrenchment and economy end in millions of debt," and that "this is the manner in which the Democracy predicted they would fulfil their boastful undertakings."

We might perhaps have permitted this misstatement of Whig deeds to pass, as we do many others, without notice, had not the government paper accompanied it with the intimation that its title was comprised in the records of the Treasury Department, and can be relied upon.

To show how far the statement is to be "relied upon," we will not go further back than our investigation than the commencement of Mr. Van Buren's Administration in 1837, because we shall be enabled to show by a reference to public documents, that whatever increase took place in the public debt during the "Whig" Administration, as the government paper calls it, from 1841 to 1845, was owing to the excessive expenditures of the "Democratic" Administration of Mr. Van Buren, from March, 1837, to March, 1841, when the people placed the reins of Government in other hands.

By consulting page 5, public document No. 2, of the first session of the Twenty-seventh Congress, it will be found that, "from the year 1816 to 1837, a period of twenty-one years, the revenues constantly exceeded the expenditures. The average annual surplus during that time was \$11,464,226.87, making an aggregate excess of \$240,745,764.27. Within that time there was applied to the extinction of the national debt \$205,792,127.44, and there was deposited with the States \$28,101,644.81, and there remained, on the 1st of January, 1837, in the Treasury of the U. S. including the fourth instalment due to the States, a surplus of \$17,109,473.26."

"These were also outstanding debts due to the Treasury from other sources than those of ordinary revenue, and which were paid between 1st Jan., 1837, and 4th March, 1841, 5,124,747 00. There were also issued:

and within that period, and outstanding on the 4th of March, 1841, Treasury notes to the amount of 5,649,219 40

Adding the aggregate available means which were in the Treasury on the 1st of January, 1837, and which came into it prior to the 4th March, 1841, over and above the current receipts, 31,982,732 69

The amount left in the Treasury on the 4th March, 1841, when the Whig Administration of Gen. Harrison commenced, was 572,738 40

showing that the Democratic Administration of Mr. Van Buren expended during its continuance 31,310,014 80 or \$7,827,903.55, annually over and above the ordinary revenue of the country. A pretty commentary, this, upon Democratic economy! Here is a Democratic President commencing his official duties with a surplus of seventeen millions of dollars in the Treasury, receiving during his continuance in office nine millions more from other than ordinary sources; borrowing by issuing Treasury notes, over five and a half millions besides; and leaving in the Treasury, as means wherewith his Whig successor was to carry on the Government, little more than half a million of dollars!

"Thus," in the language of the document to which we have referred, "were the expenditures pushed beyond the amount of the revenue. They were made to absorb the surplus in the Treasury and the outstanding debts due to the United States, so that the Treasury was, on the 4th March, 1841, exhausted of its means, and subject to heavy and immediate liabilities. It was already burdened with a debt incurred in time of peace, and without any adequate resources except the authority granted by law to augment that debt."

Such was the position of affairs when the Administration of the Whig President, Gen. Harrison, commenced. Here was no seventeen millions of dollars to commence operations with. Here no prospective receipt of nine millions of dollars more from extra sources. No; these two amounts had been expended, a debt of \$5,648,000 contracted, and a public debt of millions of dollars left in the Treasury! Was it not time that a "set of new books" should be opened in the Departments at Washington, and that confusion and extravagance should give place to regularity and economy? If the Whigs did "proclaim" that "new books" ought to be opened at the Treasury, had they not good reason to do so?

The official editor says, however, that these new books having been opened, an inspection of them shows that the public debt increased during the late Administration in the sum of \$10,363,717.87. Now it will be found that, in June, 1841, the Secretary of the Treasury reported (see Senate document of that Session, No. 10), that there was then an aggregate of debts and deficits (created by the preceding Administration) to be provided for, in this and the ensuing year, of \$12,085,215.78. This was a legacy of debt and liabilities bequeathed to the Whig Administration by Mr. Van Buren's Democratic Administration. Now, if this has been paid off, and the national debt (taking the "Union's" figures) has been increased only \$10,363,717.87, then certainly the Whigs, of adding anything to the public debt instead of 1845, contrived, though the (from 1841 to 1845) sum passed out of their control of the Government into them, to hands almost as soon as it was paid off, reduce the public debt (notwithstanding a deficiency of the revenue in 1841 and 1842) nearly two millions below the amount of the debt and liabilities which they found in existence on the 4th March, 1841. Yes, such is the simple fact. If Mr. Van Buren's Administration had provided for all the debts which it contracted, as it ought to have done, or had left any revenue out of which they could have been paid, then the Whigs (under all their disadvantages, and taking the "Union's" calculations) would have left the public debt two millions of dollars less than they found it; and this, too, without having had the advantage of a single dollar of extra revenue, whilst the Democratic Van Buren Administration managed to get rid of nearly thirty-two millions of dollars of funds of this description.

Besides, at the close of the last Administration the Whig policy left nearly eight millions of dollars in the Treasury, while the Democrats left only \$472,718, making a difference of over six millions of dollars between the economy of the Democratic and the Whig Administrations, in favor of the latter and against the former.

Truly, the official editor deserves the thanks of his party for having opened this discussion.

Arrangements are making to fight the city of Richmond, Va., with gas.

A Sentinel chief is proaching in Pittsburg, Pa., and a Chinese in St. Louis, Mo.