

UTOBIOGRAPHY OF A GREEN-BACK.

I was born in a paper mill and sent naked to the government printer. When this functionary received me I was an embodiment of purity, without speck or blemish. I was poor, a child of rags. My value was some fraction of a farthing, but by direction of the sovereign power the deftest artisans were set to work to clothe me with robes of such ingenious design as to defy imitation. This was done. Afterward there was printed across my face a bold super-scription,

ONE DOLLAR,

and there was added a pledge that whoever should bring me back to the public treasury should be paid one dollar on demand. In company with millions of other pieces of paper like myself I was then sent out into the world a representative creature. My maker pledged his sovereign word that I was worth a hundred cents, and issued his precept making me a legal tender for one hundred cents throughout his territory.

I first fell into the hands of a soldier, who, full of patriotic desire to serve his country, had volunteered to carry a gun in its defense for thirteen dollars a month. He had quit an occupation to assume this duty in which he turned twice that amount of money, and there seemed to be a grim sense of an unfair advantage taken of him in the way he examined me in his pocket. But the next day, when he smoothed me out, I sent me, bright crisp and new, to his wife, in a letter filled with precious loves and longings which I shall never disclose, I began to feel the importance of my mission in the world.

This feeling was nothing abated when the soldier's wife paid me to her landlord, who received me by virtue of my legal tender character, but with under duress. It was a pleasant task now that I had stood the good woman instead of a dollar in spite of the prejudice of her creditor. I was evidently destined for an active life. My new owner was slow to take me. He paid me to his butcher, the butcher handed me to a farmer. The farmer kept me for months as a matter of curiosity.

He told his wife I was a government bill. Finally he exchanged me for merchandise. The merchant who received me took me to a bank. The bank made a very face about it. The merchant owed the bank a thousand dollars and he paid his debt with a thousand legal tenders. As the merchant had only given the farmer sixty cents worth of muslin in exchange for me I could not understand the fairness of this transaction. A short time afterward I understood it.

There was a ship at Calcutta, in India, which had taken on board a cargo of merchandise to be delivered at New York. The captain being a cautious man, and informed of the terrible war raging in the United States, and of the paper tokens which had usurped the place of gold and silver in that unfortunate country, stipulated in his charter that the consignees should pay him his freight in gold dollars, and made his voyage nothing doubting. I was one of the dollars the poor captain was obliged to take instead of gold after going to law about it.

He received me on the check of his consignee, and sold me again over the counter of the bank that paid me out to him for less than one-half of my apparent value. The obligations of that weather-beaten skipper as he received his coins convinced me that I was circulating fraud, and that the promise across my face was a lie. No "government," said he, "can make a bit of paper equivalent to a dollar's worth of silver, or gold, or wheat or pork, unless it is ready to redeem the paper at all times in silver, gold, wheat or pork, according to promise." He went his way an angry and a ruined man.

The banker sent me westward to pay for corn. The farmers paid me to the merchants, and when the merchants began to get in debt for goods I was sent eastward again to pay the merchant's debt. I became a noted traveler. Sometimes in a single week I had a dozen different owners. Having, as I said at the outset, no intrinsic value, my extrinsic worth was the sport of circumstance. A winning battle added to my purchasing power, a losing battle lowered it.

None of my owners, except such as had debts to pay, could place any certain faith in me. I fluctuated in their pockets. I went in at one place and was pulled out at another. All business was conducted with wide margins of distrust caused by the hazard of my capricious caperings. I was the life of speculation. Prices swelled to answer the diffusion of the medium of exchange, and all the fools were rich.

Sometimes when a railroad company paid a widow the gold interests on her bonds in paper dollars, I pitied the trembling widow and absorbed her indignant tears with a cold sympathy. Sometimes when sovereign States took advantage of my lying promise to cheat their honest creditors, I have felt the accumulated disgrace which comes from an act in which a million men partici-

pate. I have been compelled to simulate a dead man's good-follars in the hands of his thieving executor and hold my peace. I have redeemed debts of honor with the dishonest option of the law. I have robbed all helpless people who are held to losing contracts.

But in all my wanderings my greatest grief has been to know that the heaviest weight of loss which my fictitious character entails must come at last to be borne by laboring men and women. Other men who are rather exchangers of commodities than producers manage shrewdly to levy their immediate tribute on the shifting values of the things in which they deal. But the man who has nothing but his labor for exchange, and is a consumer almost or quite to the extent of his earnings, has a commodity to sell the price of which he cannot control.

The exigencies of hunger and nakedness stand upon one side of him and the exigencies of his fellow-men upon the other. If wise government and stable laws have enabled other men to profit by the skill and industry of labor, it will be in demand and will be required. If unwise laws and unthrifty government have rendered enterprise unsafe and business unproductive labor must pay the penalty or suffer.

Let me illustrate. In my wanderings I have frequently returned to the hands of my maker in payment of taxes. I was one of many millions, which, in a system of virtue, were devoted by law to destruction. But so terrible is the fatality of wickedness that I was again thrust in circulation. Chance directed me to the pockets of a statesman. He received me with placidity, having taken precaution to double his salary, thereby recompensing himself in quantity for the bad quality of his pay.

He was engaged at a leisure time to build himself a brick structure for his horses and to give an oversight to the mixing of the mortar, the rearing of the walls and all the curious detail of the toiled me close to his capacious person work. He was a man of brains, and but in the sultry heat of June our communication was the closest. I was thrust forth and withdrawn with every breath he drew, and to some degree with his intellectual sperm.

He agreed with the mason not to lay his bricks at the inflation rate of wages which endure until prices had advanced to correspond with a cheapened currency, but for the wages which are paid when labor begins the great task of construction and redemption. The statesman was, if anything, more quick to see his own advantage than the country's advantage which was what he was paid for. He hired his mason for two dollars per day, and paid him one dollar and fifty cents, or two paper dollars worth seventy-five cents apiece.

When the last brick was laid and I was placed in the honest mason's hand he exchanged me for a Sunday shirt. The shirt dealer handed me to a seamstress. This poor creature owned a tread mill of her own—a sewing machine. She got seven cents apiece—the famine wages of the city—for making shirts. Surely I was a cursed invention which enabled any man to take the price of three shirts out of every fourteen this woman made at seventy cents apiece. Yet out of every dollar she earned so much went to increase "the aggregate wealth of the country." When, with misgivings, the poor creature parted with me, as if I were her last friend instead of her arch enemy, I wished I had been burned at Chicago or sunk in the salt sea, never to renew the acquaintance of a buyer or seller.

My course is now highly run. I am ragged and dirty. The promise that "the United States will pay" is a legend of my youth no longer translatable upon my face except by the eye of faith. Some good I have done. I have had my share in those one-sided exchanges which heaven is to repay fourfold. I leave the question, whether my actual or nominal value will be quadrupled, to the metaphysicians. I was the first dollar a journeyman blacksmith had earned after he had learned his trade, and handed me to his waiting sweet-heart.

I have been the "bottom dollar" of many a jolly dog. I have spread sudden sunshine in young eyes and brought grateful tears to older ones. I have been bread to the hungry and tracts to the heathen. Beggars and beauties have flown from the hospital to the home, distributing undetected pestilence. I have sped from wicked haunts and hands, carrying messages of untold happiness.

I write this autobiography now, which I have long had in contemplation, because I consider my financial career as ended. I have come into the possession of an owner who is too wise to be deceived by a government promise, and puts my true and original value upon me. He will never offer me in exchange for anything. He found me in the street where a careless clerk had given me and judged I would make a capital lining for his nest. He doesn't know that he might soon get silver for me. He doesn't care, my robin—Harrisburg Pa. not.

RECEPTION OF THE JACKSON STATUE.

RICHMOND, Va., September 23.—Foley's statue of General Thomas J. (stone-wall) Jackson, presented to Virginia by Beresford Hope, M. P. and another English gentleman, which arrived here last evening from Baltimore, was formally received to-day by the Governor. The people turned out en masse to witness the reception, the streets presenting a holiday appearance. At 3.30 p. m. the First Regiment Virginia Volunteers and the Veterans of the old First Virginia and the Richmond Howitzers, proceeded to the wharf of the Powhatan Steamboat Company, where the case, containing the statue, awaited transportation to the Capitol. It had been placed upon a wagon and covered with flags of Great Britain and Virginia. Long ropes were attached to the wagon, and, at the word of command, the veterans of the old First Regiment, together with a large number of citizens, took hold and, with a portion of the present First Regiment at the head of the column took up the line of march, the remainder of the regiment and the Howitzers bringing up the rear. Upon reaching Capitol square the wagon was drawn to the foot of the steps of the Capitol where Colonel Bradley T. Johnson, Commandant of the First, formally delivered the statue to Governor Kemper in a brief speech, referring in feeling terms to the time, twelve years ago, when he commanded the funeral of the true and gallant soldier who was now being honored by gentlemen of Great Britain.

Governor Kemper responded, receiving the statue in the name of the people of Virginia and thanking the soldiers and citizens for the spontaneous honor which had been done the memory of as true a hero as ever trod the earth. In doing this they had done much also to testify to the gratitude of Virginians to the noble friends on the other side of the Atlantic who had sent this great tribute of admiration and sympathy from the Old World to the New—from Great Britain to Virginia. Governor Kemper then in the name of Virginia took possession of the gift, receiving it not more as a great sculptor's work of art than a work of English affection for Virginia and her immortal son.

In response to loud calls from the immense throng present Mayor Keilly also made a speech. The case was then placed in the basement of the Capitol, where it will remain until the pedestal in Capitol square is ready. The statue will be unveiled the latter part of October during the State Fair week.

PERILOUS BALLOONING

Professor Stone gave his promised balloon ascension at Syracuse before a large crowd of people. The work of inflation was commenced soon after dinner, and by half-past two (no aerial ship "Jupiter" was ready for the sail. The course taken was directly over the Erie canal till the buildings were cleared when the balloon took a northeasterly current, and everybody considered it a good ascension. After reaching an altitude of about one and a half miles the balloon seemed to come to a dead halt, in which it remained several seconds, after which a still further rise was made. Soon, however, there was a commotion and the balloon was seen to descend rapidly. We understand that just before the inflation began a hole of some eight inches in length was accidentally made in the balloon, which was promptly patched and sewed up. But when the balloon had risen to its highest—something between two and three miles—it burst the threads, and a hole as big as a barrel was instantly made. The professor immediately opened both valves to have the balloon turn parachute so as to let him down easily, but in this it failed, and came down with great velocity. He happened to alight in a corn-field, about four miles out, and his only casualty is a scratched wrist and a pretty severe jarring of his body. He went up with only sixty pounds of ballast and eighteen thousand feet of gas.

Another anecdote about the late Judge Grover: Once when practicing before a petty judge, he declared that he would not give a peck of potatoes for his honor's law. Upon being called to account for his language, Mr. Grover humbly apologized, but seriously weakened the force of his retraction by declaring that it he had said a half bushel he never would have taken it back.

Boast Butler has been giving renewed expression to his views on politics. He says he will take no part in the Massachusetts campaign, and does not care who is nominated for Governor. He predicts the triumph of the inflationists in Congress.

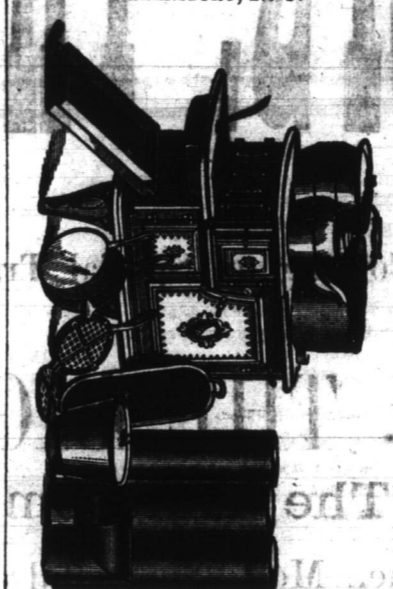
The three richest men in the British House of Commons are self-made men, with no family name. One is Sir George Elliott, who made \$2,250,000 last year; the others are Messrs. Fielden and Harman, worth about \$1,500,000 a year each.

Why is a newspaper like a toothbrush? Because every one should have one of his own, and not be borrowing his neighbor's.

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