

# THE WILSON ADVANCE.

Daniel, Ed's and Prop's

LET ALL THE ENDS THOU AIMST AT, BE THY COUNTRY'S, THY GOD'S, AND TRUTH'S.

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## BILL ARP'S LETTER

THE TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS WE ENCOUNTER.

They Tend to Purify and Refine a Man. He talks about the Ups and Downs in this Life.

"Good morning friend—How are you all at your house?" He looked rather languid and tired as he said, "Only tolerable at my house. The baby was sick last night and I had to walk here and sing to her about half the night and I don't feel so amiable this morning." I expressed my sympathy for I have been along that line and said, "Well, you are fighting the great battle of life, and it is a good battle. It has its ups and downs, its trials and tribulations, its losses and crosses, but all these refine and purify a man. I used to be proud of my youth and manhood, but care and anxiety and affliction came along and humbled me. I have seen the time when I doubted the propriety of my existence, and I don't tell whether it was best to be a young man, or an old man, or a bachelor, or a dog, but I can tell now." My friend looked at me inquiringly and said, "Victory," said I, "has its rewards, but they never come until the battle is over. If a farmer has laid by his crop, and it is a good crop, and there is something else to do but let it mature, he is happy in the prospect. If a family man has laid by the crop, and it is a good harvest crop, he ought to be happy, for he has fought the great battle of life and whittled it. I don't care what Count Tolstoi says, or any other count—the highest duty of man is marriage. It is the law of nature, and perhaps of all animal and vegetable life. An unhappy marriage is a bad thing, but that is not the fault of the institution. It is the fault of one or both of the parties, and they would have been just as unhappy if they hadn't got married at all. You are engaged in a good work and you must stand up to the rack, fodder or no fodder."

My friend opened wide his mouth and yawned and remark ed, "Oh, yes, that's all very fine if a man's children are healthy and good, but when they are all mixed up with colic and paragonic and sore heads and earache and musquitos and original sin and total depravity and you are up half the night and have to go to your business soon in the morning, and things don't work right all day and your taxes are to pay, and some other little just debts, a man don't care much what happens. He can't work up an interest in Sam Jones nor Culpepper nor the tabernacle, and he don't care a cent whether Feltou or Everett is elected. Old Hicks may predict a cyclone or an earthquake and he says, 'let it come—lay on McDuff,' or has thought to that effect. But I know very well that after the storm comes the sunshine, and so I am hopeful. I'm getting as hard as I can. About how long did your battle last?" "Just forty years," said I, "it takes about that long to raise a full crop—an honest crop of ten or a dozen—not one of your Massachusetts crops, where they raise only one or two children, just enough to inherit the estate, but a crop big enough to keep a man fighting all the time for meat and bread and clothing and schooling and doctor's bills and taxes, and something for the preacher, and the missionary and the poor and something for wedding presents as the children marry off and leave you. My wife was one of ten, and we have got ten of our own, and it is impossible for a man to get rich on that line. There is no surplus to accumulate in his treasury. He lives on a strain, and right there the law of compensation comes in, for if an old man hasn't got but a small pile of filthy lucre his children are willing for him to live on them. The most selfish will divide with him. If a man has but two or three children and is worth a \$100,000 and holds on to it pretty tight, they get awfully tired of waiting. A man who is neither good nor rich has the most comfort with his children. He works hard and lives comfortably and divides out his little surplus among them according to their needs, and they are stimulated to go to work and earn their own living for they have no great expectations from the old man's death. The true idea of the family should be that the parents should maintain the children as long as they are young and helpless, and the

children should maintain the parents when they get old and unable to work. I wouldn't trust a man with my pocket knife who would neglect his parents in their old age. A thankless child will never get to heaven.

But the old folks never get free from care and anxiety. If they lay by their own crop, there is a crop of grandchildren coming on who have to be looked after and cherished and petted, and all that is a comfort to both. Solomon says that the glory of a man is his children's children. The other night one of my children was about to whip one of her children, and I came in as a mediator, and the mother and her child were glad of it. They are awful bad sometimes, but they inherited some of that from their paternal ancestor and some original sin, and are not altogether responsible. The stock raisers say that a bad trait in a horse will skip over two or three generations and crop out in the fourth. And so, when we remember that a child has two grandmothers and two grandfathers and eight great grandparents, and a thousand away back and has a small streak of all their blood in its veins is it a wonder they can behave at all. The other evening I came home and missed my dog, and nobody had seen him all the day long. I went down to the barn and heard a whine in the buggy house, and there I found the dog on the floor and the cat on top of the buggy. Some of the chaps of the third generation were on hand and I enquired very solemnly who shut the dog up in the buggy house. The nearest explanation I got was that they saw the dog running the cat that way. "Who opened the crib door and let the cow get in and stuff herself to death?" said I. They said they heard a hen cackling in the crib and thought she had laid and couldn't get out, but they were sure they shut the door again. Reckoned the cow must have hopped it open.

"Who left the back gate open and let Molly get out? Who turned the well-rope the wrong way on the windlass? Who has been boring with my augur bit and bett it? Where is my horse-shoe hammer?"

When I raise a rumpus among these chaps they put on a look of innocent surprise, and remind me of a member of the legislature who had his feelings hurt, and says, "Mr. Speaker, I rise, sir to a question of privilege." These grandchildren, and nephews and nieces are privileged, and they know it. Their idea of our home is, that it is a place of privilege, and it is. But the school has begun again and all of these little chaps have got to fall into line. There is no mediator there—no cat, no dog, no grandmas. The school is a machine—a tread-mill, and if a boy learns nothing else he learns restraint. He learns submission, and that is a lesson for life. No man can ever make a good successful husband unless he learns submission in his early youth.

Politics is still lively in these parts. I am waiting for it to settle down before I join a party. I see that nearly all the alliances up north have got a plank in favor of the Conger bill. It is a hog against cotton seed and I'm afraid the hog will whip the fight, and our cotton seed go down to ten cents a bushel. I see that Texas is against the sutresary, but Georgia is for it. I see that Texas and Kansas are for the government taking charge of the railroads and telegraphs. I see that Macune is against General Gordon, because the general is against the sutresary. I see that North Carolina and South Carolina are all tangled up on these questions, and so I shan't join the alliance until they harmonize. Mark Hardin belongs to two alliances, and he says I can join as an honorary member because I farmed for over ten years, and labored hard and sweat much, and never quit until I was superannuated. He says that all such will be put on the retired list and will draw a pension and a land warrant. Mark is a good friend to the unfortunate. But I believe I will wait until the alliance settles down on a common platform. Some of our alliances are for General Gordon, and some against him. The county alliances must do as the state alliance says, and the state alliance says, and I want to know what about the cotton seed and the tariff plank and I want to know what counties are to have warehouses, and all that. I've got a little stock in our national bank, and I want to know whether to sell it or not. In the meantime I'm studying up on democracy—Jeffersonian democracy in particular. My father was a

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He began by stating that he was just from the conflict at Washington, where he had been giving his best efforts to opposing the adoption of the iniquitous tariff bill, and watching the legislation and endeavoring to secure such as would not be unjust to our people.

He complimented the people of the State on their adherence to Democratic principles and urged them that no consideration should divert them from their steady support to the Democratic party, which was the conservatism of their peace and safety. The safety and welfare of the South was identical with the triumph and permanence of Democratic principles.

THE FORCE BILL. Sectional feeling has been revived in the North and the force bill now pending in the Senate will surely pass unless the Democrats can prevent it by dilatory motions.

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