

"Down the smooth stream of life the stripling darts, Gay as the morn' bright glows the vernal sky, Hope swells his sails, and Passion steers his course." Agassian being asked what things he thought most proper for boys to learn, replied, "Those which they ought to practice when they come to be men." At first setting out in life, while yet unacquainted with the world and its snares, while every pleasure enchants with its smiles, and every object shines with the gloss of novelty, young men should beware of the seducing appearances which generally afford the first introduction to vice; and recollect what others have suffered from the power of headstrong desire. The waywardness of youth causes many young men to indulge some darling passion, though with scrupulousness and reserve, until it has acquired an absolute ascendancy over their actions. Unhappy young man, from that very moment you may date your ruin. For when one vice has once got a foothold, it brings others to its aid, and by a sort of natural affinity they connect and entwine themselves together, until their roots become firmly fixed and deep in the very soul.

How many thousands of examples have we recorded in the world's history, of young men who commenced their career in life with the brightest prospects of becoming useful in their day and generation. And yet, "how often have we seen all those fair appearances unhappily blasted in the progress of life, merely through the influence of loose and corrupting pleasures; and those very persons, who promised once to be blessings to the world, sunk down, in the end, to be the burden and nuisance of society!" When the desires and passions of youth become corrupted, they soon obtain an unlimited sway, and convert him who was created for noble purposes, into a vicious and despicable being. They render his soul the receptacle of many repugnant and jarring dispositions, and sharpen the darts which vice would otherwise point in vain at the young and unsuspecting.

Intemperance is one of those vices to which young men are peculiarly prone. At first they indulge with cautious timidity. But ere long they find themselves within the iron grasp of the unrelenting, unyielding tyrant. "Tis then the admonitory voice of conscience is heard. They struggle to extricate themselves, but they totter—they fall—they are gone! This is the sad history of almost every drunkard in the land. They will tell us that in the halcyon days of their youth they commenced the practice of drinking, with a full determination never to indulge in it beyond the most scrupulous moderation, but by frequent indulgence, a desire had stolen upon them which habit soon rendered irresistible, and yielding to its influence and its demands, they soon became lost to all sense of duty, callous to the earnest entreaties of their friends, and turned deaf ears to the warning voice of conscience. The vortex of their ruin lay open to them, but that insatiable desire, "like the staunch oak, steady to his purpose, pushes on pursuing them close through every lane of life," till they find themselves confirmed sots, wallowing in their own pollution.

Young men, if you would avoid such a fate, touch not the intoxicating bowl. You are now unencumbered with the cares and the responsibilities which will soon be yours to share. Now is the time to lay the foundation of your future life—upon your action now depends your happiness, prosperity, and usefulness. Upon you will soon rest the fearful responsibility of controlling and preserving this government, with all its complicated machinery; upon you will soon descend the sacred charge of instructing that generation who will be your successors, in religion, morals, and laws. When a few more years at farthest, shall have rolled away, according to the common course of nature, your fathers will have passed to that land from whose oblivious bourn no traveller returns, leaving you to supply their places—leaving you as the guardians of those blessings which are intended for all future generations. With what assiduity and zeal, then, ought you to apply yourselves to the formation of strictly temperate habits! You should form a firm, unalterable determination to abstain from the use of all intoxicating liquors. Upon your fidelity is pending the future permanency of our government. But if you should be intemperate, rest assured that you will be disqualified for the discharge of those sacred duties which await you.

If you are laboring for the amelioration of your fellow-men we bid you God speed, but if you are sleeping on your posts we would warn you to beware. Around you the spiritlessness of youth, the vigor of manhood, and the mellow ripeness of age are withering beneath the blighting influence of intemperance. Such scenes as these warn you with a voice that might penetrate even hearts of stone. Shall their admonitions go unheeded? We conjure you to breast the desolating evil that it may not pass by you to future generations. We conjure you by the love you have for yourselves, for your fellow-men, and for your God; by the love of truth, of peace, and of good order; by the most hallowed ties; by all you hold dear and dear on earth, or sacred in heaven, to touch not, taste not, handle not that which, after having killed the body, kills the soul.

Leap Year—Ladies' Privilege.—Many of our fair readers may not be aware of the fact that the sole privilege of making love during the continuance of leap year, has been conceded to them of ancient time. Such is the fact; and we have no proof that this power has ever been abrogated. Unfortunately, though, for the more bashful of the sterner sex, at the present day, the prerogative is seldom exercised. We are aware that the whole bachelor tribe, who have made up their minds to constantly enjoy the sweets (or sour, as the case may be,) of single blessedness, (being generally crusty fellows,) will execrate this "part of the common Law" with a hearty good will. To show that the ladies have this right, we make an extract from a volume printed in the year of Grace, 1606, entitled "COURTESY, LOVE AND MATRIMONY," and we hope our lady readers will preserve it, and hold it as a rod over the heads of the ungallant cavaliers who may manifest a disposition to dispute their privilege:

"Albeit, it is now become a part of the common Law, in regard to the social relations of life, that as often as privilege during the time in continuance of making love looks, as unto them somewhat proper; and moreover, no man will be entitled to the benefit of clergy, who doth refuse to accept the offer of a lady, or who doth in any wise treat her proposals with slight or contumely."

THE MESSENGER.

Friday Morning, February 16, 1844.

FOR GOVERNOR WILLIAM A. GRAHAM.

The Clay Club—Wonder if any body knows that there is to be a meeting of the Asheville Clay Club to-morrow evening, at 2 o'clock?

Temperance Meeting.—There is to be a meeting of the Asheville Total Abstinence Society, at the Methodist Church, on Thursday evening, the 22nd inst., at 6 o'clock. An address may be expected. It is to be hoped that the citizens will not forget this appointment, and that they will attend.

The Controversy.—The author of the article in our paper of week before last, signed "A Friend to Youth," has sent us another communication. He does not reply to "A Youth," nor discuss any of the points at issue—his object being conciliation. We would willingly publish the communication, but at and near the close there are some remarks that would be certain to elicit a reply, and as the gentleman approves our course to avoid a controversy, we think he will appreciate our motive for simply stating the purport of his communication. We sincerely regret that what has already been published should have caused the unpleasant feelings we are informed it has. And here our respected friend will see the propriety of our declining to publish any thing calculated to fan the already too highly excited flame.

A WORD TO THE WISE.

It is very natural that a man should want to know when he is about to build a house what it will cost him; and a free people about to elect a President should be equally ready to inquire what his administration will cost the country. Mr. Van Buren may now be considered the Democratic candidate for the Presidency. It becomes the people, then, to make some inquiries as to what will be the cost of his administration, in the event he should be elected. They have the means of coming to a tolerable accurate conclusion on this subject. The total expenditures of Mr. Van Buren's administration, during the four years he was in office, amounted to \$140,000,000! This is the amount expended in only four years, by the man who came into office pledged to "retrenchment and reform!" Here now, is a criterion for the people to go by in their choice of a President at the coming election.

John Quincy Adams' administration has been denounced by the Democratic party as outrageously extravagant, yet Mr. Van Buren who came into office pledged to "retrenchment and reform," spent NINETY MILLION OF DOLLARS more than Mr. Adams did. This sort of consistency is characteristic of modern Democracy. Now the people are modestly asked to reinstate to power this retrenchment-and-reform-loving Locofoco.—Can and will they so far forget the interests of their country as to do it? We have too much confidence in the honesty and virtue of the free people of this nation to suppose that they will do so absurd and ridiculous even to suppose that the most extravagant President this nation has ever had, and who has once been condemned and ejected from office for it, will again be placed in the responsible station he so ingloriously abused.

Let us look at some of the precedents we have upon this subject. Mr. Madison's administration of eight years, when the nation was taxed with the expenses of three years of war, cost the country only \$144,000,000; Mr. Monroe's administration of eight years cost \$104,000,000; Mr. J. Q. Adams' administration of four years cost only \$50,000,000; and Mr. Van Buren's administration of only four years, cost the country the moderate sum of ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY MILLION OF DOLLARS!! Mr. Van Buren's four years cost the nation THIRTY-SIX MILLION OF DOLLARS more than Mr. Monroe's eight years, and only lacked four million of dollars of costing the nation as much as Mr. Madison's eight years, including the expenses of three years of war, which caused a considerable increase in the expenditures. These are facts worthy the consideration of freemen. They are facts which call upon every man to ponder and reflect well upon the consequences of re-electing Mr. Van Buren.

The extravagance of the present administration, although controlled by Democratic influence, has been charged to the Whigs, from which we dissent in toto; for Mr. Tyler claims to be a Democrat, and has, previous to the assembling of the present Congress, acted with the Locofoco party. But let us see what the Locofocos will gain by the charge, when the "extravagance" of the present administration is compared with that of Mr. Van Buren's. The expenditures of the present administration so far, average \$32,000,000 per year. Assuming this data, the expenditures for the four years will be \$128,000,000. Here then, the expenditures of the government have been curtailed TWELVE MILLION OF DOLLARS! But this is not all. When Mr. Van Buren came into office, he found an available balance in the treasury of \$16,000,000, and when he went out of office he left a debt to be discharged by the present administration, of between seven and fourteen million of dollars! The country has saved \$12,000,000, by the change, bad as the present administration is. Now what have the Locofocos gained by the charge? It shows conclusively that they are bringing forward the very worst leader they have, (for Mr. Tyler is a Democrat,)—one who, Tamerlane-like, would ruin the country, and then exult at what he had done.

When Gen. Jackson went out of office, he told us that he left the country prosperous and happy, and an overflowing treasury. Mr. Van Buren succeeded him, and what was the state of affairs

to make foreign nations believe that such a thing exists. His tone and temper are entirely judicial. The writer deals with legal questions in a manner that shows him to be far from the habit of mingling in their discussion any popular pretenses whatsoever. He has brought the various defences of the repudiating states to the test of law and equity and common sense—such tests as they will have to undergo, if they ever come up in judgment before the supreme judicature of the nation. He closes with the following views of the interest which every citizen has in this question:

"We have now presented our views of this important subject. We fear that intelligent men throughout the country have hitherto scarcely done their duty in regard to it. They have looked upon it as interesting only those states who are embarrassed by debts, and those which have taken false steps to escape from them. They have thought it a matter of national concern, only because it affects our character as a people. But they must no longer forget that the rights of every honest man are violated by an unjust act of the government under which he lives. It has been thought to be one of the advantages of a free government, that the individual is not merged in the state; that each citizen is regarded and cared for, not merely because important to the state, but for the sake of his own welfare and happiness. For him, as for a man, laws are enacted; for him rights exist; for him redress is provided. He stands, before all tribunals, capable of claiming whatever is just. He means not to identify himself with any class, or community, or corporation. As a citizen, he has all the rights which can be had; and among those rights, he has eminently that of requiring the government, of which he is a constituent part, to do nothing which shall stain his honor, or shock his sense of justice, or lessen his patriotism, or deprive him of his share of the glory of his country; and, if any public act does this, he has as much right to feel aggrieved, as if his personal liberty were infringed. It is true, he walks abroad unharmed in his person; but a violent constraint has been put upon his love of justice. It is true, his house and land are untouched; but his country's glory, for which he would at any time have sacrificed them, has been squandered and lost. He still has a country; but that which made it lovely in his eyes has been defaced and destroyed.

"Let every honest man, then, take care to do what in him lies to protect himself from this great wrong, and never rest, until the faith of his country has been redeemed, and his honor secured from reproach."

Massachusetts.

The message of George N. Briggs, Governor of Massachusetts, was delivered to the Legislature on the 10th ult. It is well and forcibly written. He speaks plainly on the subject of slavery, and thinks that Massachusetts, by her people at home, and their representative in the Federal Government, should feel bound, by every consideration of justice and humanity, to oppose the least extension of an institution which they believe to be morally and politically wrong, and to exert every power, consistent with their constitutional obligations to the Union, to hasten the time when every human being in this republic shall enjoy "the inalienable right of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

The increase of population of the state from 1830 to 1840, was nearly equal to all the other New England states together. She has also at this time more people to the square mile than any other furnished 60,000 out of the 220,000 soldiers that fought during the revolution.

Massachusetts lies at this time a capital invested in manufactures of \$42,000,000. The annual value of her manufactures is more than \$80,000,000. Her agricultural productions amount to \$15,000,000. The entire tonnage of the United States in 1841, was 2,230,744. Of this Massachusetts had 45,901. Her citizens have nearly \$12,000,000 invested in the fisheries, which is more than twice as much as all the rest of the Union, and 16,000 men engaged in their ships. She receives annually from the other states of the confederacy, their products to the amount of \$40,000,000. Leaving out the value of domestic manufactures which are exported, and this equals one-half of the products of this country, sold to all the rest of the world. This single fact, he thinks, speaks volumes in favor of that system which protects the labor of our own people, promotes a free interchange of commodities between the different states, and creates a market for their productions abroad.

There are in the state 4 colleges, with 769 students; 251 academies, with 16,746 students; and 3,362 common schools, with 160,258 scholars, of whom 158,351 are educated at the public expense. The state pays \$1,000,000 annually for education. The debt of the state is a trifle over \$6,000,000, incurred by the interest she has taken in works of improvement. She owns \$1,000,000 of stock, and as for her debt she is both able and willing to pay it. Mr. Briggs thinks that the frequent discussion of strictly national subjects in the state legislatures has a tendency to disturb local legislation, and that legislators should confine themselves more directly to the interests of the states they represent. The blow aimed at the Judiciary by the Locofoco legislature last year in reducing salaries, he thinks unconstitutional, and tending to defeat the great purposes of the Judiciary, by taking away its independence.

New Jersey.—The Governor of the state of New Jersey delivered his message on the 10th ult. It has one excellent quality—it is the shortest we have seen.

The revenue of the state will be increased this year, and it is hoped that the expenditures will be so diminished as to supercede the necessity of taxation for the ordinary purposes of the state. The amendment of the constitution of the state he thinks belongs not to the Legislature, but to a convention created by the voice of the people. He recommends a change in the election law, and especially that part of it which requires the payment of a tax previous to election.

The receipts of the school fund during the last year, were \$45,638 14; the expenditures, \$30,227 17; leaving a surplus of \$15,410 96.

On the subject of the Tariff he quotes the views of the Governor of Connecticut and adopts them as his own, which are in effect that a Tariff act should be passed which, with the other means of government, should secure a revenue sufficient to pay its debts and meet its expenditures.

The public lands, he thinks, should remain under the control of Congress, and as the property of the Union.

A modest child, when covered with beef-gravy, is too saucy to be pleasant.

of the popular will. If the doctrine it involves is ever carried into effect, it must be because a majority of the people have adopted it. Can that evil day come without first corrupting the people? What will then have become of that loyalty, which attaches us to our country with the bonds of strong affection; of that love of national glory, and that quick sense of national disgrace, without which no people ever were, or ought to be great; of that regard for justice, upon which alone rest our laws and all our social order and internal peace; of that attachment to property, out of which spring our habits of industry, our untiring energies, our progress in the arts, and comforts, and securities, and charities of life? What will have become of all these, when a majority of this people come to look upon a particular body of men, embracing citizens as well as foreigners, as their lawful prey, to be pursued across the barriers of the constitution, and over every safeguard which national honor and good faith can raise up, and to be seized and destroyed in the sight of the civilized world?

"Let us not think, if we do this wrong, that we are no worse than others, for we are bound by more and stronger obligations than ever rested on any other people. The reverence of the Pilgrims for duty and conscience; the lofty love of justice of Penn and his associates; the pure equity, and constant regard for the rights of all, of Lord Baltimore and his colony; the high honor and chivalric spirit of Smith, and Ogilby, and the southern colonists—all call out to us, not to bring disgrace upon the children of such fathers. The providence of God, which has led us through a feeble infancy, and supported our steps in times of great trial, and raised up mighty men to supply our needs, and stand as examples in time to come; which has made us millions from a handful, and poured upon us a tide of prosperity such as never blessed any other people—persuades us not to repay this kindness by breaking His law of justice. The hopes of mankind, that the great experiment of self-government may succeed, and its influences go forth all over the earth, till all men are raised to freedom and established in its secure enjoyment, beseech us not to violate that principle of justice, which is the corner stone of every free government. They warn us, that we are extinguishing the light which had begun to enlighten the world; that we are putting into the mouths of kings and nobles, the bitter words of contempt against all republics; that we are enabling them to say, not without an appearance of truth, that, because we have no hereditary nobility, we have no nobleness of soul; that, because we have abolished the rights of primogeniture, we can no longer inherit the manly virtues of our fathers; that in a republic nothing is fixed; that it is not too much for such a government to attempt by its will to displace God's eternal laws for the sake of a base, pecuniary advantage; and that, if a people so descended, so taught by experience, so educated by schools and churches, so prosperous and proud, will descend so low, how little can be expected of any other people who should attempt self-government! Such is the language to which the friends of free government abroad are forced to listen, and to the truth of which they begin to assent."

As to the probability that the wrong path will not be chosen, the writer says—

"We cannot bring ourselves to fear that the American people, or any considerable part of them, will ever stand fairly before the world in judgment for this great crime. We know that their dangers and difficulties are not small; but we believe they will be met and overcome by the means which have hitherto conquered all difficulties, and met all dangers undismayed. It is, however, the part of wisdom to look steadily at these dangers and difficulties, and it may aid us to do so, if we consider the effects already produced by repudiation.

"The fine and most obvious effect of even the small favor with which this doctrine has been received is, that it has seriously impaired the pecuniary credit and assurances of the country. The conduct of a few states has not only destroyed their own credit, and left their sister states very little to boast of, but has so materially affected the credit of the whole Union, that it was found impossible to negotiate in Europe any part of the loan authorized by Congress in 1842. It was offered on terms most advantageous to the creditor; terms which, in former times, would have been eagerly accepted; and, after going a begging through all the exchanges of Europe, the agent gave up the attempt to obtain the money, in despair. It is impossible to believe that any capitalist refused to lend his money because he doubted the ability of the United States to pay their debts. Nor is it creditable that the mere failure of a few of the state governments to meet their engagements would have produced this extraordinary effect. It is the truth, and it should sink into the heart of every American, that this loan was refused because Europe doubted the honor of this country. We say it should sink into the hearts of our countrymen, but it should stir no anger there. We know that the honor of this country is, and we firmly believe it ever will be, unimpaired. We know the distinction between the states and the national government, and the hardship of the most of the cases in which states have failed to perform their promises; and we know, too, how little progress the odious and infamous doctrine of repudiation has made. But the word repudiation has been sounded in the ears of men in Europe, till they have begun to fear it is the settled doctrine of a majority of our people. Every failure to meet an engagement by a state is looked upon as a practical result of this theory. And it is, therefore, not at all wonderful that the pecuniary credit of the country should first be brought into doubt, and then speedily destroyed. We have no right to be angry; but we cannot help feeling a deep concern both for the cause and the effect."

The truth is—and we are glad to see it thus boldly announced, with a moral weight that will impress it upon the consciences of individuals—that intelligent men have too long suffered this momentous question to be dealt with chiefly by demagogues at home, and by the injured but often injudicious and indiscriminating creditor abroad. But the time has now come, when upon this question, the demagogue must make room for the citizen, whose love of country is greater than his love of the people; whose regard for the great principles of truth and justice is greater than his regard for expediences; who will not consent to be disgraced and ruined in the eyes of the civilized world and in the judgment of Heaven, in order that rogues may gain the affections of a deluded people, by helping them to a base pecuniary advantage. The article to which we have called the attention of our readers is written with great candor, great force of language and argument, but it will irritate no one. It seems to have been designed for a double purpose, to arouse the virtues of our own people, and