

Millstone

UNION, THE CONSTITUTION, AND THE LAWS—THE GUARDIANS OF OUR LIBERTY.

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For the Recorder.

It is a pity, said my friend Jameson, as we were conversing on a subject of seriousness, "it is a pity that people should have sometimes changed their course of life, and not have also changed their hearts." The subject of conversation was of a nature to excite an interest rather painful. He expatiated on it for a while with much sympathy. But the particulars soon were lost sight of, or seemed to become the foundation of a remark of wisdom. Out of the abundance of a heart that is sensible to whatever hinders the happiness of men or the appearance of the beauty of truth, my friend drew forth a reflection of the highest importance.

Though there was no want of sociability, I discovered from the turn of his remarks that there was sorrow at the heart of my companion. It was evident, and therefore I knew it must be considerable, because he is generally pleased in order to make those happy who are with him. I kept in mind the more carefully a sentiment which only the depth of his sorrow had elicited. "The tongue of the just is as choice silver." The truths it utters are of general application, and the consideration of them is always profitable.

He will be much exposed to grief, who is constantly liable to lose what he esteems greatly. Hence the depressions of a good man. The well-wisher of his kind, the man who delights in the happiness and virtue of others, has laid his bosom bare to the shafts of grief. Though there is a conscience in depraved man, sin is very common, and the cup of human sorrow is therefore nearly full. The heart of a truly benevolent man is wounded by even what the wicked do thoughtlessly, not to speak of intentional injustice. But the crushed flower will sometimes yield a rich perfume, and such frequently is the wisdom resulting from a christian's patience.

Many things confirm the remark of my friend. Whatever is virtuous and christian is concerned in the truth of it. And not only the calamities, but the successes of the Gospel, in human experience, will demonstrate that "it is a pity, if men ever change their course for the better, that they do not also change their hearts." Because otherwise they fall off showing forth the features of the way of truth, and whatever may be apparent, they really arrive not at the first boundary of duty.

When we behold a christian, therefore, like a child of the world, not applying his holy rules of life, nor striving after sanctity and virtue, we must believe he thinks but little of the displeasure he is bringing upon a holy cause. His own low estimate of the salvation in Christ is written very legibly. Many are emboldened in their mistakes, some of the observing are grieved, and perhaps not one is strengthened in a dutiful and holy course. It is, besides, a self-deception, likely to terminate in ruin. Is it not a pity? What danger would have been shunned, and how bright a path would have been followed to eternal life, if the heart had been changed when the course was?

When I see that there is difficulty in distinguishing the christian from his neighbor by his actually superior virtue, and that neighbor smiles at the christian's views, and prides himself in his own ways, I apply the remark of my friend: "It is a pity people will change their course and not change their hearts." But it is a painful thought.

When amicable benevolence is wanting, and estrangement seems to have entered within the walls of Zion, and the world cannot turn its eye of interest on the company of the faithful in Christ and say, "see how these Christians love one another!" I say there is something wrong; and it is a pity.

If whatever relates to self-advantage touches people, and they are awake to action, but as to the demands of the Church, if they move ever with unwillingness, it is a pity. If they have not a willing mind for sacrifices, as the world calls the exertions it makes for truth's sake, it is a pity. But if christians not only call duty to their Master's sacrifice of their interests, but also therefore complacently leave the solemn duty undone, it is a greater pity. How will they fare at the last? Do they

forget that they are sacrificing their eternal interests, by a dread to sacrifice the temporal? It is a pity if men see not glad to do, and suffer, and sacrifice, since by an Infinite Sacrifice they are the redeemed. It seems like an unwillingness to be cured of salvation. It is carelessness of their eternal security. Therefore it is a pity. "He that loseth his life for my sake shall find it."

May there not be some who have never thought they had need to change their hearts, in reality? "Make you a new heart, wash you, be clean," seems to be one of the plainest requisitions of the Bible.

There are sins which none but he whose course is changed can commit, and he whose heart is not changed is sure to commit them. There are dangers which none but the externally reformed can incur, and if their reformation be not in heart as well as in life, they are sure to incur them. These perilous sins of those whose outward course is changed, are what my friend, in his goodness of heart, lamented. Their influence reached, he thought, far beyond the undoing of them who fall into the errors.

For even the inadvertencies of wise men become the arguments of fools; and the slight deviations of a christian from his rectitude, the sinner will mark as the line of his own course. It is a pity. But since it is so, we must provide against supporting others, by our occasional errors, in their course of constant error. It is a little sin, it is a slight evil, perhaps; but when that little sin becomes a fair specimen of life, or that slight evil is of the same hue as a fellow-being's whole course, it is a serious thing. The evil, instead of being slight, is two-fold and great.

The life and the heart should therefore both be changed. The external reformation is ever imperfect in the proportion that the soul is not improved. So certainly is this true, that we might go further than my friend's observation teaches, and say, it is a pity that men should ever try to change their lives without changing their hearts. The attempt to accomplish external improvement by itself alone, must fail. It is not only a pity that the outward virtue be assumed without the heart be changed, but that it should be tried, or endeavored after. The inward deficiency will constantly manifest itself, to the deformity of the beauty of even the exterior of virtue. Soon the outward goodness, being by itself, is not only marred, and deficient, but wholly absent and lost. The body without the spirit is dead. Very brief is the time for which it can retain its symmetry, and keep itself from the power of decay.

From the New England Farmer.
Benevolence in Birds—Their Usefulness, &c.

The communication of H. C. in the Farmer of the 5th inst. relative to the canker-worm, in which he says the only effectual remedy against these insects known to him is "the encouragement of birds," brings fresh to my recollection some reminiscences respecting this persecuted, interesting and useful race, which we think will be pleasing to our readers, particularly to the younger ones. We can hardly say with the writer of the article, that "killing a small bird should be placed in the penal code next to killing a child;" but we do say that it ought to be met with a punishment sufficient to prevent the destruction which annually takes place, in mere wantonness or sport, among the innoxious songsters of our groves and orchards. We have been almost disappointed in times past to bring the boys before Judge Lynch, and might probably have done it could we have put our hands upon them.

While residing in Lancaster a few years since, we were located near the river which runs through the town, whose banks and intervals are ornamented with numerous fine elms and other trees, which add much to the beauty of this pleasant village; in these trees the birds, congregated in great numbers and rear their young. A gigantic elm, the admiration of travellers and the pride of the village, threw out its wide spreading branches over the cottage to which we dwelt, and while it shielded us from the scorching sun, afforded in its ample shade a forest almost in itself, a secure retreat for a great variety of birds, whose movements afforded

much amusement for the family. Among these birds were a pair of crow black-birds, who had selected the fork of a partly decayed limb very high in the tree, as a place to build their nest and rear their young. Having in my juvenile days some prejudice against this bird, as I was taught that with the crow it would dig up the newly sprouted corn, and commit sundry other depredations, I therefore viewed them with a suspicious eye as I saw them in company from day to day upon my newly planted grounds, busily engaged in helping themselves to what they liked best. I satisfied myself soon, however, that they had been vitally slandered, and that they were friends and not enemies; it was evident that they were clearing my grounds of grubs and worms at a great rate. They soon found that I was no enemy to them, and consequently became quite tame and familiar, following the plough or barrow with nearly as much confidence as the domestic fowls. It appeared that there was a good state of feeling among the numerous tribes that inhabited the tree, consisting as they did of many families, embracing the robin, the blue-bird, sparrow, golden robin, and a variety of others, and things seemed to prosper among them and go on well, until the night before old fashioned "flection," (a fatal day to the feathered tribe). During that night there was a very high wind; early in the morning I was awakened by an unusual clamor among the birds, and rose to ascertain the cause. I found that the decayed limb, on the fork of which was the crow black-bird's nest, had been broken off by the wind, and the nest and contents (five young ones) precipitated to the ground, and that four of them were dead or dying. The surviving one was nearly hatched, and could fly a little. I picked it up from the grass and placed it in a secure situation, supposing the distressed parents would take care of it. The old ones continued their clamor all the morning, which with the sympathizing cries of the other birds, formed a melancholy concert.

While the black birds had perched upon a neighboring tree near the road, still giving vent to their sorrow, a boy passed with his gun, fired and brought them both to the ground and carried them away in triumph; luckily for the boy, I did not witness the barbarous deed, but it was noted by one of the family and reported to me. As I had become somewhat interested in the unfortunate orphan, I proposed to my children that they should feed it with worms until it could take care of itself, and accordingly placed it in a pen under the tree, and returned to my work near by. It was not long before I heard from the young bird its peculiar note which it uttered when its parent brought food, and on looking up, saw that it had hopped up on to a joint to which the board fence was fastened, and to my delight and surprise, beheld a blue-bird in the act of feeding it. That beautiful passage of Scripture flashed upon my mind—"Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings? and not one of them is forgotten before God?" My curiosity was raised to see what would be the issue, and I soon found that my father care on my part would be superfluous, for the young chap had fallen into better hands. It was with the deepest interest I watched the movements of this devoted pair of blue-birds to their adopted one, for it appeared that both male and female had taken part in this work of disinterested benevolence, and devoted themselves with unremitting attention to its wants, until it was able to take care of itself. For a couple of days it remained near the spot where I first saw the birds feeding it, and being near a window, I had a good opportunity to see how things went on between them. It appeared that the young one kept his benefactors pretty busy; for their incessant labors could scarcely satisfy the young gormandizer, as upon an estimate after much attention, he received a portion of food every two and a half minutes during the day, which appeared to consist of worms and grubs. The black-bird probably weighed twice as much as both blue-birds, and when it opened its capacious mouth to receive the food, it seemed as though its kind friends were in imminent danger of being swallowed whole. The blue-birds appeared alternately with the food, and lit down a few feet in front of the bird on the fence, and viewed with apparent astonishment the ex-

tended mouth of the young one for a second, then hopping up, deposited the food, then a quick back to the first position, regarding for another second with marks of satisfaction, the object of charity, and then away for a new supply.

In a few days the young bird found the use of its wings, and was followed from tree to tree upon the premises by its faithful providers, for nearly a week: it had by that time learned to find its own food; and soon it fell in company with some of its own kind and kin, and I could recognize it no more. Whether it ever returned to express its gratitude to its foster parents, we have never learned.

Many of my neighbors could testify to the above facts, as some of them called daily to see for themselves.

EXTRACT FROM THE LETTER OF Hon. James Garland, of Va To his Constituents.

Another ground of objection to this notable scheme is, that it will endanger the safety of the public money. It would seem to me, fellow-citizens, that facts alone were sufficient to sustain the truth of this objection. The account of losses by individual and bank agency, stands thus:

Individual agency—by disbursing agents,	\$4,250,000
By Collectors and Receivers, to October, 1837,	2,178,022
	\$6,428,022
By Banks, as Depositories, about,	750,000

Excess of loss by individual over bank agency, \$5,678,022. To this may be added about \$300,000 for individual defalcations since October, 1837, and deducted about \$700,000 collected or secured, leaving a net balance of \$5,278,022 in favor of bank depositories. These are the simple amounts as gathered from the Treasury reports, unclassified and unsummarized by the modern system of magnifying and diminishing arithmetical statistics.

In reference to this subject, I find in the last annual message of the President the following descriptive and delicate statement: "It was evidently led by the one-sided report of the Secretary of the Treasury; not by a misstatement of fact, but by a suppression of fact—a suppression which leads to a false conclusion of fact. The message says: "The general results, (independent of the Post Office, which is kept separately, and will be stated by itself,) so far as they bear upon this subject, are, that the losses which have been and are likely to be sustained, by any class of agents, have been the greatest by banks, including, as required in the resolution, their depreciated paper received for public dues; that the next largest have been by disbursing officers, and the least by collectors and receivers."

In opposition to this statement of the message, I place the following extract from the report of the Secretary of the Treasury, made in reference to this identical question in 1834. It is:

"It is gratifying to reflect, however, that the credit given by government, whether to bank paper or bank agents, has been accompanied by smaller losses in the experience under the system of state banks, in this country at their worst periods, and under their severest calamities, than any other kind of credit the government has ever given in relation to its pecuniary transactions. Hence, unless the states and the United States should both deem it proper, gradually, and in the end entirely, to dispense with the paper system, and which event is not anticipated, the government cannot escape occasional losses from that quarter, and can never hope to escape all losses from banks as fiscal agents, except by the employment in their place of other and individual agents, who will probably be found less responsible, safe, convenient, and economical."

And, as a most conclusive and triumphant refutation of it, I quote the following extract of a letter from General Jackson to William J. Duane, late Secretary of the Treasury, dated Boston, June 26, 1833:

"It is unjust to the state banks" (says he) "to attribute to them the embarrassments of the government and country, which led to the suspension of specie payments, and a depreciated paper currency; all those evils are attributable to other causes."

In consequence of combinations among men of wealth, opposed to the war, the requisite loans of money could not be procured—disasters overtook our arms, for the want of necessary supplies of funds; and others were threatened. If patriotism ever actuated banks, it was felt in the operations of many of the local banks at that gloomy period. At the hazard of their existence, they furnished the means of raising armies and maintaining them in the field, and it was in

their efforts to sustain the government that they so far crippled themselves as to be obliged to suspend the payment of specie. If the Bank of the United States had then existed, it must have done as the state banks did, or it would have effected nothing in support of the government. If it had not joined the combination against the government, it could not have furnished the funds which the exigencies of the country required, without suspending the payment of specie. Instead of hostility and persecution, the government owed the state banks gratitude and support. Their credit during the whole war was as good as its own; and without their aid, the treasury must have stopped payment."

I might quote further from this celebrated correspondence, but it is unnecessary. Now what is the whole case? Why, the government being engaged in an arduous and bloody war with one of the most powerful nations on earth, had no money of its own, nor sufficient credit to obtain it. It tried treasury notes; but they depreciated to so great an extent that they had become unavailable. In this extremity the banks rushed to the aid of the government, and so expanded their issues as to compel them to resort to a suspension. With this suspension hanging over them, like a mass of dense clouds, their notes were worth more, and were more available to the government than its own notes. In proof of this I cite the following testimony of James Monroe:

"I will remember, however, that when I was called by the President to the Department of War, on the 31st of August, 1814, the certificates of the treasury were selling at \$80 in the \$100, by which \$20 were lost. It was evident that if a reliance was placed on the sale of certificates only, a still further decline would ensue, and that the worst consequences might be apprehended. The country was invaded through the whole inland and maritime frontiers, and powerful squadrons were at the mouth of every bay and river leading to our principal cities, which were threatened with attack and ruin. The metropolis of our Union had been forced, and our public buildings destroyed. Such was the state of the country and the funds, when I entered the Department of War. Under such circumstances, an appeal was made to the patriotism and interest of the cities, and the banks within them, by the Department of War, with the sanction of the President, for loans of money necessary for their own defence, for that of the maritime frontier, and the Union. For the first loan that was obtained, one million of dollars from the city of New York, which took place a few days after I entered the Department, no price was fixed. As treasury notes were selling for \$80 in the \$100, that was claimed, but not acceded to. It was left for subsequent adjustment, to be settled on fair principles. Several millions of dollars were obtained from the District of Columbia, and principal cities throughout the Union, and according to my recollection, at par."

Thus, that which is now seized hold of to charge as a loss to the government, by the use of depreciated bank notes, was in reality a saving; because, if the government had used its own notes, they were more depreciated and less availing than bank notes. Why is it that the accurate investigation and lynx-eyed sagacity of the Secretary of the Treasury did not discover this immense and notable loss to the government by the use of depreciated bank paper, when he made his celebrated report in 1834, when the whole truth was important? Why is it that he could then ascribe this bank depreciation to the calamities of war, but now, by innuendo at least, to the curses of the banking system? The object to be effected now is the reverse of what it was then. That's all.

The loss of \$750,000, which I have stated accrued to the government from bank depositories, arose entirely from those failures which were produced by the operations of the war, and the exertions of the banks to aid the government. Since that time, not one dollar has been lost. Of the \$28,000,000 on deposit in the banks at the suspension of 1837, every cent has been paid but \$805,000; and that is well secured. What becomes, then, of all the predictions of immense losses to the government by the insolvency of the banks—all vanished into thin air—all falsified.

The reliance upon fine and imprisonment, and bond and security, for the safety of the public money in the hands of individual agents, is too uncertain to be trusted. Human nature is so frail, and the seductions of temptation so strong, that I have no faith in these means of security. We have had too many melancholy proofs of their insufficiency immediately under our own eyes, to try it again, and I have no wish to see them multiplied. I agree in sentiment with the judge of whom the poet says:

"He sent the thief who stole the gold away, And punished him who put it in his way." I believe the government is only adding to the causes of demoralization which now so extensively prevail in the country, by opening so many new sources

of temptation to poor frail human nature, as this system will do. I believe that demoralization and defalcation will only be increased, and that what has been the history of the past, will only be corroborated by that of the future.

The advocates of the sub-treasury scheme, for the purpose of exciting public prejudice against the banking institutions of the country, and through that instrumentally, securing the adoption of their pet scheme, have uniformly ascribed the severe revulsion which overtook the country, to the overaction of the banks. A few simple facts will falsify this charge. General Jackson was inaugurated on the 4th of March, 1823. On the first of January, 1830, there were 330 state banks, with a capital of \$145,192,208, and a circulation of \$261,323,698. In 1832, General Jackson vetoed the bill for rechartering the Bank of the United States, and earnestly recommended the use of state banks as fiscal agents. The policy of General Jackson was to use state banks as auxiliaries in his operations against the Bank of the United States; and in September, 1833, he withdrew the deposits of the public money from that institution, and employed the state banks as public depositories. He also, for the purpose of avoiding the distress which the withdrawal of the circulation of that bank would produce, and the speedy collection of its loans, urged upon the state banks to expand their circulation. On the 1st of January, 1835, under the influence of this policy, the number of state banks had increased to 558, with a capital of \$331,250,337, and a circulation of \$168,692,493. Through the years 1835 and 1836, this system was in the full tide of successful experiment; and accordingly we find that on the 1st of January, 1837, the number of banks had increased to 709, with a capital of \$440,195,710, and a circulation of \$149,185,890. This increase of banks and banking capital, during General Jackson's administration, certainly grew out of the policy of the government in relation to the Bank of the United States. It was greatly stimulated, too, by the rapid increase of surplus revenue during the years 1834-'35-'36, which, on the 1st of January, 1837, amounted to the enormous sum of \$42,000,000, which the banks were authorized to discount upon, under the flattering prospect that it would not be speedily called for; the price of our staple commodities, particularly cotton, which constitutes the larger portion of our domestic exports, began to rise in value, and gave a new impulse to the spirit of speculation and enterprise which acted and reacted upon the banks and speculation, until all over-acted themselves, and produced the revulsion which followed. That revulsion, disastrous as it certainly was to the commerce and agriculture of the country, swept over all interests, and seriously affected the banks. The overtrade in foreign productions left an immense foreign debt hanging over us; the rapid and immense fall in the prices of cotton and other productions, rendered a resort to some other resource for payment necessary. This resource was specie. This heavy foreign demand for specie, the deposit act of 1836 distributing the \$40,000,000 of surplus revenue among the states, its injudicious execution, the embarrassments of the country, and the alarm of depositors, produced a sudden rush upon the banks for specie, which left them no alternative but to suspend or add hopeless ruin to the embarrassments which had overtaken the people and themselves. They wisely resolved upon suspension, for which the government changed its policy, withdrew its confidence, added to the protraction of the suspension, and increased the prevailing embarrassments. In 1838, specie-payments were generally but prematurely resumed. In 1839, growing out of this premature resumption, aided by the injudicious speculations of the Bank of the United States, in the great staple of the country and its consequent losses, a partial suspension took place in 1839. Of the 950 banks in the United States in 1839, 243 only suspended; 62 suspended in part; 498 continued payments in specie, and 56 broke or discontinued. Of those that suspended, 48 have resumed, and the balance will resume. I have no doubt, in the course of this year, unless the policy of the government prevents it. When we consider the extent of the revulsion, the immense losses which have been sustained, it is matter of surprise that all but 56 of these numerous institutions have weathered the storm, and will be so promptly ready to resume their business. Of the suspension of 1839, the President thus speaks in his last message:

"A large and highly respectable portion of our banking institutions are, it affords me unfeigned pleasure to state, exempted from all blame on account of this second delinquency. They have, to their great credit, not only continued to meet their engagements, but have even repudiated the grounds of suspension now resorted to. It is only by such a course that the confidence and good-will of the community can be preserved, and, in the sequel, the best interests of the institutions themselves promoted."