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## THE TEA ROSE.

BY MRS. H. C. BECKER STOWE.

### PART I.

There it stood, in its little green vase, on a light ebony stand, in the window of the drawing room. The rich satin curtains with their costly fringes, swept down on either side of it, and around it glittered every rare and fanciful trifle which wealth can afford to luxuriate, and yet that simple rose was the fairest of them all. So pure it looked—its white leaves just touched with that delicious creamy tint, peculiar to its kind, its cup so full, so perfect, its leaf bending as if it were sinking and melting away in its own luxuriance—oh, when did man ever make anything like the living perfect flower!

But the sunlight that streamed through the window revealed something fairer than the rose. Reclined on an ottoman, in a deep reverie, and intently engaged with a book, lay what seemed the living counterpart of that lovely flower. That cheek so pale, so spiritual, the face so full of high thought, the fair forehead, the long, down cast lashes, and the expression of the beautiful mouth, so sorrowful, yet so subdued and sweet—it seemed like the picture of a dream.

"Florence!" echoed a merry and musical voice in a sweet impatient tone. Turn your head, reader, and you will see a dark and sparkling maid—the very model of some little wild elf, born of mischief and merriment, with a dancing eye, that so sweetly seemed to touch the carpet, and a smile so multiplied by dimples, that it seemed like a thousand smiles at once. "Come, Florence, Issy," said the little fairy, "put down that wise, good, excellent volume, and talk with a poor little mortal—come, descend from your cloud, my dear."

The fair apparition thus adjured, obeyed, and looking up, revealed just the eyes you expected to see beneath such lids; eyes deep, pathetic and rich, as a strain of sad music.

"I say, cousin," said the "dark lady," "I've been thinking what you are to do with your pet rose, when you go to New York—as to our great consolation—you are going to do; you know it would be a sad pity to leave it with such a scatterbrain as I am. I do love flowers, that's a fact; that is, I like a regular bouquet, cut off and tied up to carry to a party; but as to all this tending and fussing that is necessary to keep them growing, I've no gifts for that line."

"Make yourself quite easy as to that, Kate," said Florence, with a smile. "I've of no intention calling upon your talents; I have an asylum for my favorite."

"Oh, then, you know just what I was going to say; Mrs. Marshall I presume has been speaking to you; she was here yesterday, and I was very pathetic upon the subject, telling her the loss your favorite would sustain, and so forth, and she said how delighted she should be to have it in her greenhouse, it is in such a fine state now, so full of buds. I told her I knew you would like of all things to give it to her; you were always so fond of Mrs. Marshall, you know."

"Nay, Kate, I'm sorry, but I have otherwise engaged it."

"Who can it be to? you have so few intimates here."

"Oh, only one of my old fancies."

"But do tell me, Florence."

"Well, cousin, you know the little pale girl to whom we give sewing."

"What, little Mary Stephens? How absurd! This is just of a piece, Florence, with your other motherly, old maidish ways—dressing dolls for poor children, making caps and knitting socks for all the dirty babies in the region round about. I do believe that you have made more calls in those vile ill-smelling alleys back of our house than ever you have in Chesnut street, though you know every body has been half dying to see you; and now, to crown all, you must give this bit to a little seamstress girl, when one of your most intimate friends, in your ownness, would value it so highly. What in the world can people in their circumstanced want of flowers?"

"Just the same that I do," replied Florence, calmly. "Have you never noticed that the little girl never comes here without looking wishfully at the opening bud? and don't you remember the morning when she asked me so prettily if I would let her mother come and see it, she was so fond of flowers?"

"But, Florence, only think of this rare flower standing on a table with ham, and eggs, and cheese, and fish, stuffed in the close little room where Mrs. Stephens and her daughter manage to wash, iron, cook, and nobody knows what besides."

"Oh, as to that, a flower never inquires whether its owner be rich or poor; and Mrs. Stephens, whatever class she has not, has sunshine of as good a quality as that that streams through our window. The beautiful things that God makes are the gift of all alike. You will see that my little rose will be as well and merry in Mrs. Stephens' room as in ours."

"Well, after all, how odd! When one gives to poor people one wants to give them something useful—a basket of potatoes, or a ham, for example."

"Why, certainly, potatoes and ham must be had; but, having ministered to the first and most craving wants, why not add any little pleasures or gratifications that we may have in our power to give? I know that there are many of the poor who have fine feeling and a keen sense of the beautiful, which rusts out and dries because they are too hard pressed to procure it one gratification. Poor Mrs. Stephens, for example; I know she would enjoy birds, flowers, and music as much as I do. I have seen her eye kindle as she has looked on these things in our drawing-room, and yet not one beautiful thing can she command. From necessity, her room, her clothing, and all that she has, must be coarse and plain. You should have seen the almost rapture that she and Mary felt when I offered them my rose."

"Dear me! all this may be true, but I never thought of it before. I never thought that these hard-working people had any idea of taste!"

"Then why do you see so often the geranium or rose carefully nursed in an old cracked teapot in the poorest room, or the morning glories planted in a box, and made to twine around the window. Do not all these show how every human heart yearns after the beautiful? You remember how Mary, our washerwoman, set up a whole night after a hard day's work, that she might make her first baby a pretty frock to be baptized in."

"Yes, I remember, and how I laughed at you for making such a tasty little cap for it."

"Well, Katy, I think that the look of perfect delight and satisfaction with which the poor girl regarded her baby in its new dress and cap, was something quite worth creating; I do believe she could not have thanked me more, if I had sent her a barrel of flour."

"Well, I never before thought of giving to the poor any thing but what they really needed, and I have always been willing to do that, when I could without going far out of my way."

"Well, cousin, if our Heavenly Father gave to us as we often give, we should have only coarse shapeless piles of provision, lying about the world, instead of all the beautiful variety of trees, fruits and flowers which now delight us."

"Well, well, cousin, I suppose you are right, but pray have mercy on my poor head; it is too small to hold so many new ideas at once; even go on your own way;" and the little lady began practicing a walking step before the glass with great satisfaction.

### PART II.

It was a very small room, and lighted by only one window. There was no carpet on the floor; there was a clean but coarsely covered bed in one corner; a cupboard with a few plates and dishes in the other; a chest of drawers; and before the window stood a small cherry stand, quite new, and indeed the only article in the room that seemed so. A pale sickly looking woman of forty was leaning back in her rocking chair, her eyes closed, and her lips compressed as if in pain. She rocked backward and forward a few moments, pressed her hands upon her eyes, and then languidly resumed the busy stitching on which she had been busy since morning. The door opened, and a slender little girl of about twelve years of age entered, her large blue eyes dilated, and absolutely radiant with delight, as she held up the small vase with the rose tree in it.

"Oh see! mother, see! there's one in full bloom, two more half out, beautiful buds!" The poor woman's face brightened, as she looked on the rose, and then on her sickly girl, on whose face she had not seen so bright a color for months.

"God bless her!" said she involuntarily.

"Miss Florence! I know you would feel so; mother, don't it make your headache better to see this flower? Now you won't look so wishful at the gardener's stands in the market, will you? We have a rose handsomer than any of their's. Why it seems to me, that it is worth as much to us as our whole little garden would be. See how many more buds there are on it, just count, and only smell the flower! Where shall we put it?" and Mary skipped about the room, placing the treasure first in one position, and then in another, and walking off to see the effect, till her mother's remembrance that the rose tree could not preserve its beauty without sun light.

"Oh yes, truly!" said Mary, "well, then, it must stand here on this new stand. How glad I am that we have such a hand-some new stand for it, it will look so much better!" And Mrs. Stephens laid down her work, and folded a piece of a

newspaper on which the treasure was duly deposited.

"There," said Mary, watching the arrangement eagerly, "that will do; no though, it does not show both the buds—turn it further round—a little more—there, it's right!" and Mary walked round the room to view the rose in various positions, after which she insisted that her mother should go around with her to the outside to see how it looked there. "How kind it was in Miss Florence to think of giving this to us," said Mary; "though she had done so much for us, and given us so many things, yet this present seems the best of all, because it seemed as if she thought of us, and knew just how we felt, and so few do that."

"Yes, indeed," said Mrs. Stephens, sighing.

What a bright afternoon that small gift made in that little room. How much faster Mary's tongue and fingers flew the long day; and Mrs. Stephens, in the happiness of her child, almost forgot that she had a headache, and thought, as she sipped her evening cup of tea, that she felt much stronger than she had done for some time.

The rose! its sweet influence died not with that first day. Through all the long cold winter that followed, the watching, tending and cherishing of that flower, awakened a thousand pleasant trains of thought that beguiled the sameness and weariness of their life. Every day the fair growing flower put forth some fresh beauty; a bud—a leaf—or a new shoot, constantly excited fresh delight in its possessors. As it stood in the window, the passer-by would stop and gaze, attracted by its beauty, and then how proud was Mary, nor did even the careless widow notice with indifference when she saw the eye of a chance visitor rest admiringly on their favorite.

But little did Florence know when she gave that gift, that there was twined around it an invisible thread, that reached far as brightly into the web of her destiny.

One cold afternoon in the early spring, a tall, graceful young man called at the lowly room to receive and pay for some linen which the widow had been making up. He was a wayfarer and stranger in the place, recommended through the charity of some of Mrs. Stephens' patrons. His eyes, as he was going out, rested admiringly upon the rose; he stopped and looked earnestly at it.

"It was given to us," said little Mary quickly, "by a young lady as sweet and as beautiful as that is."

"Ah!" said the stranger, turning and fixing upon her a pair of very bright eyes, pleased and rather struck with the simplicity of the communication, "and how came she to give it to you, my little girl?"

"Oh, because we are poor, and mother is sick, and we never have any thing pretty. We used to have a garden once, and we loved flowers so much, and Miss Florence found all this out, and she gave us this."

"Florence!" echoed the stranger.

"Yes, Miss Florence's strange, a beautiful young lady—they say she speaks from foreign parts, though she speaks English just like any other lady, only sweeter."

"Is she here now? is she in the city?" said the gentleman eagerly.

"No, she left some months ago," said the widow; but noticing the sudden shade of disappointment on his face, she added, "but you can find all about her by inquiring at her aunt, Mrs. Carlisle's, No. 10 — street."

As the result of all this, Florence received from the office in the next mail, a letter, in a hand-writing that made her tremble. During the many early years of her life spent in France, she had well learned that writing; had loved as a woman like her loves, only once; but these had been obstacles of parents and friends, separation, and long suspense, till at length, for many bitter years, she had believed that the relentless sea had closed forever over that hand and heart; and it was this belief that had touched, with such sweet calm sorrow, every line in her lovely face. But this letter told her that he was living, that he had traced her, even as a hidden streamlet may be traced, by the freshness, the greenness of heart, which her deeds of kindness had left wherever she had passed.

And thus much said, do our fair readers need any help in finishing this story for themselves? Of course not.

### Speech of Mr. Simmons, OF RHODE ISLAND.

On Mr. Clay's Resolutions, and in reply to Messrs. Wright, Woodbury, and Cabot, delivered in the Senate of the United States, Friday, March 11, 1842.

Mr. President: I propose to say a few words upon the questions now before the Senate, but shall confine my remarks to such of them as are contained in the five first resolutions of the series, and to the amendments proposed, because they relate to matters now under consideration to a committee of which I am a member. The purpose of these five first resolutions, is to have the Senate declare what shall be the annual amount of revenue, and how it shall be levied and collected. Other and subsequent resolutions pro-

pose modes of retrenchment. In these the result is stated; and they assume that, with proper retrenchment and economy, it will be requisite that an annual amount of twenty-six millions of dollars be raised to meet all the engagements of the Government, viz: twenty-two millions for ordinary annual expenditures; two millions for the gradual payment of the existing debt; and two millions for contingencies, and for a reserved fund.

They propose to raise these twenty-six millions by such a modification of existing laws as will prevent those reductions of the rates of duties to twenty per cent. which are contemplated by those laws, but which reductions cannot be made consistently with the public interest. They propose other direct and distinct changes from the practices of the Government under the late administration: such as that we shall stop running in debt, and also, cease to apply the land fund to the payment of ordinary daily expenses in time peace.

All these propositions appear to me to be recommended by every consideration of sound policy and justice; and yet they are opposed. Hence, we have the amendments proposed by the honorable Senator from New York (Mr. Wright), which I suppose should be first considered, although, as I construe the rules, they bring the original resolutions also within the range of the debate.

The first resolution agrees with the views of all sides. The amendments to the other four, and which I propose first to examine, seem to have two objects: one is to complain of what was done at the extra session, and the other to prevent any declaration by the Senate of what is proper to be done at this; and thus defeat the whole purpose of the original resolutions, which was to make such a declaration, upon the subject embraced, as would form the basis of present legislation. The amendments propose no such thing; and make no declaration of the amount to be raised for revenue. As this appears upon the face of the amendments, it might seem to be sufficient to dispose of them at once; but the argument of the honorable mover seems to be in support of them, or, I should rather say, in defence or excuse of the expenditures of the late administration. The amendment has indeed very little, and the argument less, to do with the real question presented in the resolutions, viz: the annual amount of revenue necessary for the Government for years to come.

This argument, as a defence or excuse of the late administration and its friends in Congress, for the appropriation and expenditure of immensely larger sums of money than was ever before known in our Government, in any Presidential term, in time of peace, I am free to admit was, as the arguments of the distinguished Senator usually are, ingenious, able, and fearless. It remains to be seen whether it has sufficient warrant in the facts it refers to, and upon which it entirely depends, to prevent the public judgment from determining that it was also a reckless one. I will not say what may be expected from the public judgment, but propose to examine and present the facts upon which the argument rests. These are drawn from the same source, by the mover of the original resolutions, and also by the mover of the amendments, viz: the tables showing the expenditures of former years.

The honorable Senator from Kentucky (Mr. Clay) gave the aggregate expenditure for each of the four years of the last administration, from 1837 to 1840 inclusive, amounting, in all, to over one hundred and forty-one millions of dollars, making an average of over thirty-five millions per annum; and from this he deducted his own estimate of what ought to be the annual amount of ordinary expenses (viz: twenty-two millions), and thereby showed an excess of thirteen millions a year over the expenditure proposed by himself. He declined to go into the details of the expenditures of the late administration, to show how this excess was caused.

The honorable Senator from New York went into the detail, in his reply to the Senator from Kentucky, and complained of the liability of such general statements to mislead the public. He admitted that the expenditures for the whole four years were \$141,584,321, but alleges that a large amount (\$30,597,845) was for other than the ordinary expenses of Government, and that the balance of about one hundred and eleven millions was the actual amount of the ordinary expenses of the Government for the four years; making, in round numbers, an average expenditure of about twenty eight millions per year for ordinary expenses, and of about seven millions per year for debts, contingencies, &c.

This detailed statement, I think, gives a plainer, if not a more correct, view of the actual expenditures of the late administration, and enables us more clearly to see the difference between them and the proposed estimate for the revenue and expenditures of the Government. It shows that the amount for actual expenses of the late administration (of twenty eight millions a year) greatly exceeds the proposed estimate of twenty-two millions

for the same objects in future, exhibiting a clear saving of six millions a year, by the present estimate, and puts in strong contrast their seven millions and a half per year for debts and contingencies, compared with the four millions now proposed, for the gradual payment of the debt thrown upon us, unpaid by the late administration, and for contingencies.

[The Senator from New York here interposed. "But two millions of this is now proposed for the payment of the debt."]

Mr. Simmons continued. I agree it is proposed that two millions a year shall be, but more of it may be, applied to that object—if it can be, and a sufficient amount be retained in a course of years to meet contingencies. It is in part for contingencies; and whether more than two millions may be regarded as an improvement of our condition, by lessening our debts, cannot now be told. All will agree, however, that the contrast afforded by the detailed mode of stating the accounts, adopted by the Senator, is highly favorable, whether the actual saving be six millions or eight millions a year.

The honorable Senator contends that the six millions a year, as proposed for the reduction of ordinary expenses, is not sufficient, and those expenses, should be cut down to a greater extent.

It is proper to examine his reasons for this. He says these very large appropriations and expenditures of the late administration were pressed up to an unwarrantable and extravagant point, by the fact that they then had an immense surplus; and were driven to an extravagant expenditure to prevent a greater evil, which they regarded such a surplus to be. No defence is pretended, and no other excuse offered for their immense outlays, which the Senator himself characterizes as extravagant and unwarrantable, but this actual or apprehended surplus. But he says things are now different; that we are out of money, obliged to borrow, and should immediately make a great reduction; and, without naming any amount, insists that it should be more than six millions a year, and that twenty-two millions a year is too much for the expenditures.

The honorable Senator from New York was at the head of the committee in this body, having charge of the expenditures of the late administration. None so well as himself, therefore, can give explanation or excuse for those expenditures, which I suppose he reported and recommended. But I wish to state the facts as they appear on the record; and the ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer will hardly deny them. The late administration borrowed money upon Treasury notes, every year during its existence, and also borrowed to pay these very extravagant appropriations.

The very first bill reported by the honorable Senator, under Mr. Van Buren's administration, (Senate bill No. 1.) was one authorizing the administration to stop payments. I mean the payment of the fourth and last instalment to the States, ordered to be made by a former and then existing law.

The second bill of the House of Representatives, (House bill No. 2.) also reported to the Senate by the same Senator without amendment, was a bill to borrow money, upon Treasury notes. These are the facts. This was done at Mr. Van Buren's extra session, called, as we believed, for this very purpose. And yet, in a year after the administration is turned out, the excuse for an extravagant expenditure of an average of twenty eight millions annually (the amount was over thirty-one millions, the very year and the year after they began to borrow) is, that they were pushed up to it by a surplus—a redundant treasury.

[Mr. Wright interposed and said, "that what he intended was, to say that during the administration of General Jackson, as well as Mr. Van Buren, they were driven to make extravagant appropriations—he meant to speak of the whole twelve years."]

Mr. Simmons re-joined. I did not so understand the honorable Senator. He was replying to the honorable Senator from Kentucky, (Mr. Clay,) and attempting to show that the Senator had made an over-estimate of the expenses of the late administration. Those during General Jackson's time had not, to my recollection been stated in the debate. And besides, so far as I recollect, during the first term of General Jackson's administration, the expenses were not very high. [Mr. Wright said, "look at the appropriations and expenditures for the last year."] Mr. S. I perceive that they were both high; but the Senate will also recollect that this was after the surplus money had been disposed of by law.

They were certainly very high, and also extraordinary. On looking at the estimates of the Secretary for appropriations for that year, I find they amount to sixteen millions; but actual appropriations were made to the amount of thirty seven millions—twenty-one millions more than the estimate. It was, in fact, believed that this was done on purpose to defeat the intentions of the law of Congress for depositing the surplus money with the States—a law which received, as was said

by him, "the reluctant assent" of the Executive. Twenty-nine millions were actually expended that year.

But the high expenditures which have been stated in the debate on these resolutions, were those made during the late administration, in every year of which they borrowed money upon Treasury notes. Should the present administration continue to borrow throughout the term, their opponents here, the friends of the law, will have nothing to boast of in that respect, much as we, who support the Government, may regret it. In regard to being obliged to borrow money, the two administrations are alike.

Having thus shown that there is no foundation in fact for the argument of the honorable Senator, I suppose the argument itself is disposed of, and that their admitted extravagance is without pretext or excuse.

The question now to settle is, whether six millions a year, the amount estimated in the resolutions, is enough to deduct for the extravagance on an average of the entire four years of Mr. Van Buren.

The honorable Senator from New York says it is not. If his friends here who voted the appropriations, and those who spent them, agree with him in this, let them show how much more than six millions a year should be deducted from their expenditures, as unless and wasteful. Let them take up their expenditures under each head, and confess that so much more was spent than was necessary on one branch, and so much on another, until they get through; and if they make out that, in the aggregate, they spent eight millions a year wastefully, and if we should consider the estimate correct and the confession a sincere and an honest one, I will agree to make it the basis of legislation, set down just two millions more to the score of their extravagance, and write twenty instead of twenty-two millions against their twenty eight, for ordinary expenses.

Let them state this openly and above-board, so that the people can understand that it is for the purpose of economy, and not done under a cloak to deprive them of a fair protection for their labor, as there seems to be too much reason to fear is the object of the estimates and excuses now presented.

When I speak of estimates for the future revenue, I do not allude to any offered by the Senator from New York. He offered none. It was peculiar that he did not. An honorable Senator, a political friend of his, was remarking to me when he was speaking, that it was unsafe for any Senator to contend with the Senator from New York where calculations and figures were concerned. At the very moment the Senator himself disclaimed all knowledge of such calculations, and therefore declined presenting any estimate whatever on the subject of the future revenue. But this part of the subject was taken up by the honorable Senator from New Hampshire, who declared at the outset that he had spent nearly half his life in what he called the drudgery of figures and calculations. Such an experience entitles his productions to consideration.

He has submitted so many and so various estimates for reducing the expenditures, that I cannot recollect their details; but the result of the whole seems to be, that the government can be administered at an annual expense of from seventeen to twenty millions of dollars; thus showing that, in his opinion, from eight to ten millions a year, certainly, were spent by the late administration more than was necessary! His account of the cause of this extravagance is different from the one given by the Senator from New York; although he took care to include the only which that Senator relied upon—that of a surplus in the Treasury. The Senator from New Hampshire says that the Executive Department, at the other end of the avenue, was in no wise responsible for these appropriations and expenditures, and read from his own reports to Congress, to show how sharply he had rebuked his friends here for making them.

Congress alone was responsible, he says, and acted against the wishes and in despite of his Executive rebuke. He certainly exhibits the Hon. Senator from New York (then the head of the financial department in this body) in a new attitude, and in a very different position from that which he was supposed to occupy, in the quarter of the country from which I come. No one there, ever suspected the honorable Senator from New York of being ignorant of, or indisposed to carry out, the wishes of the Executive, or of his party. We looked upon what he said or did as "by authority," when it happened not to agree with what was written in the report of the Secretary. And it must have been very different under that administration, from what it has been since I have had a seat in this body, if the party could not count upon its friends in Congress to carry out its views. I have seldom seen the time when they could not be counted to a man upon the eyes and noses in such a case. They had the majority in both houses of Congress during the whole of Mr. Van Buren's term, although I grant it was not always so in Gen. Jackson's time. Whatever may be said about the administration at