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POLITENESS.

True politeness is a very rare thing, gentle reader, stare though you may.

Of the gentlemen, young and old, whiskered and unwhiskered, that may be seen in Washington street any sunny day, there is not one who does not think himself a polite man, and who would not very much resent any insinuation to the contrary. Their opinion is grounded on reasons something like the following: When they go to a party they make a low bow to the mistress of the house, and then look round after somebody that is young and pretty to make themselves agreeable to. At ball they will do their utmost to entertain their partner, unless the fates have given them some one who is ugly and awkward, and they will listen to her remarks with their most bland expression. If they are invited to a dinner party, they go in their best coats, praise their entertainer's wine, and tell the lady they hope her children are all well. If they tread on the toes of a well-dressed person they will beg his pardon. They never spit on a carpet; and, in walking with a lady, they always give her the inside, and, if the practice be allowable, they offer her their arm. So far, very good; but I must always see a man in certain situations before I decide whether he be polite or no.

I would like to see how he would act, at dinner, between an ancient maiden lady and a country clergyman with small salary and a rusty coat, and with some distinguished person opposite to him. I want to see him on a hot and dusty day, sitting on the back seat of a stage coach, when the driver takes in some poor lone woman, with may be, a child in her arms, and tells the gentlemen that one of them must ride outside and make room for her. I want to see him when his washer-woman makes some very good excuse to him for not bringing home his clothes at the usual time, or not doing up an article in exactly the style which he wished. I want to hear the tone and emphasis with which he gives orders to servants in steamboats and taverns. I mark his conduct when he is walking with an umbrella on a rainy day, and overtakes an old decent looking woman, who is exposed without protection to the violence of the storm. If he be in company with those whom he thinks his inferiors, I listen to hear if his conversation be entirely about himself. If some of the number be very distinguished, and some quite unknown, observe whether he acts as if he were unconscious of the presence of these last.

There are a great many little offences committed against good manners, of which people are hardly aware at the time. It is not polite for instance to tease a person to do what he has once declined; and it is equally impolite to refuse a request or an invitation in order to be urged, and accept afterwards. Comply at once; if your friend be sincere, you will gratify him, if not, punish him, as he deserves to be. It is not polite, when asked what part of a dish you will have, to say, "Any part—it is quite indifferent to me;" it is hard enough to carve for one's friends, without choosing for them. It is not polite to entertain our visitors with our own family history, and the events of our own household. It is not polite for married ladies to talk in the presence of gentlemen of the difficulty they have in procuring domestics, and how good for nothing they are when procured. It is not polite to put food on the plate of your guest without asking his leave, nor to press him to eat more than he wants. It is not polite to stare under ladies' bonnets, as if you suspected they had stolen the linings from you. It is—but let me remember—it is not polite to be a bore, especially in print.

Let no man imagine that his rank, station, or talents can excuse him from attention to these rules of good breeding which cost nothing but a little care, and which form the sum total of happiness. They are as imperative as rules of morality; and there is none however great or high, that does not owe to society a liberal recompense for what he receives from it. There is now and then a man so weak as to

affect to be rough, or forgetful, or absent, from a notion that his deficiencies in these little things will be ascribed to the largeness of the objects with which he is habitually conversant, and that his mind will be supposed unable to come down from the airy regions of contemplation to such low matters. But such aloof should be put into the same stateroom of the great Ship of Fools, with those who twisted their necks to look like Alexander, or spoke thick to resemble Kotspur. A man that can do great things and not little ones is an imperfect man, and there is no more inconsistency between the two than there is in a great poet's being able to write a promissory note, or a great orator's having the power to talk about the weather.

I will only remark, in conclusion, that good breeding should form a part of every system of education. Not that children should be made to bart^o their native simplicity for a set of artificial airs and graces; but that they should be early impressed with the deformity of selfishness, and the necessity of thinking of others as well as themselves. Care should be taken that their intercourse with each other be in a spirit of courtesy and mildness. He who has been reared in a brawling and ill-mannered nursery can hardly be expected to ripen into a polite man. The elder members of a family should bear in mind that the influence of their own conduct will encircle the children like an atmosphere. There can be little happiness in that household in which the minutest offices are not dictated by a spirit of thoughtful courtesy and delicate consideration for others. Many marriages are made wrecked by neglecting those mutual attentions so scrupulously paid in the days of courtship. Let it be borne in mind that the cords of love, which bind hearts so closely together that neither Life, nor Death, nor Time, nor Eternity can sever them are woven of threads no bigger than a spider's web.

EXEMPTION OF STATE OFFICERS.

A resolution proposing a joint committee of the two Houses of Congress respecting the exemption of State officers from the military service of the Confederate States, having passed the House, came up for consideration in the Senate on Thursday the 1st instant, and after some remarks from Mr. Graham, was, on his motion, laid on the table. We quote the following from the Examiner:

Mr. Graham, of North Carolina, said he regarded this as an unnecessary resolution, and thought that it ought not to be passed. It came to the Senate unaccompanied with any statistics relative to the number of officers exempted by the States. He had seen in the newspapers a tabular statement of the troops furnished by the States and the number of those exempted, but he had learned, on inquiry, that that statement was not relied upon by the Military Committee of the House of Representatives, and that steps were being taken to have it corrected. It was a novel thing for Congress to open a communication with the States upon any subject, especially upon this. The proposition embraced in this resolution was that Congress should correspond with the States and ascertain whether they could spare any more troops for the Confederate armies. Such correspondence should, if necessary, be had by the Executive, by the Secretary of War. For Congress to address the States on this subject would imply an insinuation that the States had been delinquent. North Carolina and Georgia were represented, in the statement just alluded to, to have a larger number of exempts than any of the other States. This was either a mistake, or, if a fact, could be easily explained, so far as regarded the State of North Carolina. The Governor of North Carolina in 1861 undertook, it being the only condition upon which the President could receive the number of troops that the State was furnishing, to clothe the North Carolina troops. This arrangement was still in force, and by it the Governor of North Carolina is the Grand Commissary of fifty thousand troops. To clothe these troops

the Governor found it necessary to make importations and to keep up manufactories, both of which required the exemption of a number of men. Besides, the State kept up in its own service a brigade of infantry and a battalion of artillery. These men, though in the State service, had been under the control of Confederate commanders and had supplied the places, within their State, of Confederate troops, who were needed elsewhere. The Governor of North Carolina, it must also be mentioned, had been made by the Legislature the grand almoner of thousands and thousands of women and children, whose protectors were absent in the Confederate service. To distribute subsistence to this multitude required the exemption of a number of men. But besides all these there were a number of State officers, clerks of courts, justices of the peace, &c. These could not be reached by any law that Congress could pass. But they had, by an act of the Legislature, been made home guards, and were at this time doing duty, arresting deserters, maintaining order and performing other duties. The resolution, he repeated, was supererogatory, and would, he feared, be taken offensively by the States. The people of North Carolina were proud of having furnished one hundred and eighteen thousand troops to the Confederate Government, besides having three thousand in the State service. The resolution would not be considered respectful. It would be considered that Congress had appointed a committee to reason with them upon their delinquency. If such a letter, as proposed by the resolution, was to be written to the States, they would reply: "Search your own departments and see if there are not many men there who should be in the field; look at your commissioners about the courts, the persons employed in the confiscation of property, the hangers on about post quartermasters' offices, &c. &c." He hoped these questions would not be raised between the States and the Confederate States. For the reasons he had stated, he did not think the matter commended itself to the favor of the Senate, and he would, therefore, move that it be laid on the table.

Mr. Barnwell, of South Carolina, agreed perfectly with what had been said by the Senator from N. C., (Mr. Graham.) He had been opposed to the resolution from the first, not liking to see questions raised between the States and the Confederate States. Whatever the States did in this matter must be done of their own motion.

Mr. Graham's motion to lay on the table was adopted, and the resolutions were thus disposed of.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Tuesday, December 6.

The special order for eleven, which had been postponed to the consideration of the military bill, then came before the House, being certain resolutions introduced a few days since by Mr. Phillips, as follows:

WHEREAS, it is a plain principle of justice that all the expenses caused by the present war should be borne by the various citizens in due proportion to their property; and whereas the prices occasioned by the depreciation of the currency are fairly to be reckoned among such expenses; whereas, further, it is equally unjust and unconstitutional for the Confederate Government to appropriate the property of private citizens without just compensation to the owners: Therefore,

Resolved, That this General Assembly, in the name of the good people of North Carolina, doth solemnly protest against the system now in force throughout the Confederacy which claims and exercises the power of impressing private property at certain nominal rates, arbitrarily established, and known as schedule prices.

Resolved, That this General Assembly takes occasion in this connection to express the opinion that much of the machinery by which the Confederate government gives effect to the extraordinary measures connected with this war is galling and ominous, and is well calculated to agitate

a people reflecting upon their lineage and former freedom.

Resolved, further, That such experiments upon the temper of this commonwealth have increased, are increasing, and ought to be diminished.

Resolved, That His Excellency Governor Vance be requested to transmit copies of these Resolutions to His Excellency the President of the Confederate States; and also to our Senators and Representatives, in Congress, to be by them laid before that honorable body.

Mr. Phillips said recent occurrences in his county had prompted him to offer these resolutions. He did not deny the right of impressment, and no State had acquiesced more cheerfully in it than North Carolina, but he did protest against taking private property without paying a just compensation. If the grievances complained of were the fault of mere officials, or had arisen from an imperfect organization of government, they might have been borne, but they had been suffered everywhere in the Confederacy, and for year after year. He then proceeded to a discussion *seriatim* of his resolutions, and said the only question was whether the Confederate government had violated the principles of right. In support of his position that they had, he instanced the impressment of 160 mules and horses in his county, for which the schedule price—\$700—had been paid, when the animals would have brought, in open market, the sum of \$2,100 each.

This was called impressment, but it was taxation, and taxation without the constitutional requirement of being uniform. One-third of an article's value was not just compensation. Complaints had become frequent on this subject, and in a collection of General orders, issued from the A. & I. G.'s office, reference was made several times to these remonstrances, so that the authorities could not plead ignorance of these evils. He had no hesitation in stamping this conduct as deliberate, and in saying that these violations of right were increasing in magnitude. He then proceeded to review the legislation on this subject, arguing that the laws provided no redress, and stating that it was a significant fact that the people never appealed to the law—feeling that to do so would afford them no relief, and only serve to bring down a heavier punishment upon them.

The people were succumbing to these encroachments, and it was time to speak and arouse them to an assertion of their rights. If it were not done, all would be lost. It was so in all great struggles, had been so in England and would be so here. A warning should be given, for remonstrance, memorial, complaint had been in vain. It must be made known that the people were not satisfied to endure everything. No man could love a power that wronged him, and no people love a government that persistently and deliberately robbed its citizens.

It was a point of honor, too, that these wrongs should not be borne. John Hampden had refused to pay even twenty shillings ship money on principle, and for himself, he would say it was not so much the amount taken as the right to take, against which he employed thus the language of protest and indignation. North Carolina had a double interest in the matter. Her substance was taken without just compensation, and how could she then pay her taxes—how meet this \$0,000,000 the State Treasurer required? He struck not at men—a quartermaster was nothing—but he did strike at the system and the government that carried it on. This impressment injustice was the precursor of a general advance on all our liberties. Was not this advance—were not these successive inroads, to be met? And if not now, when was it to be done? He was disposed in the exercise of all its constitutional privileges to sustain the Confederate government, but he was opposed to any encroachments.

Mr. Shepherd, of Cumberland, said there were some grounds taken by the gentleman from Orange, on which he took no issue with him. He was prepared, too, to