

CENTRAL EXPRESS



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A HOME NEWS PAPER THROUGHLY IDENTIFIED WITH THE SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND INTELLECTUAL ADVANCEMENT OF THE SECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THE NOBLE OLD ROMAN.

A PLAIN COMMON SENSE TALK.

From Thurman's Speech at Toledo.

Now the few remarks that I shall make to you will be confined to a single topic—not that there is but one thing that might attract your attention in this campaign or that might not be well spoken of, but there is one transcendent theme, about which so much is said, so much is written, so much is printed, that people are eager to learn exactly what is the truth.

I refer to the tariff question, as it is commonly called. Now I presume there is no man in this vast audience who does not know what is meant by the word "tariff," or the term "tariff law." And yet it can do us no harm, and may lead to precision of speech and comprehension of what I have to say, if I begin by a definition of what is the tariff.

Tariff, my friends, is nothing else in this world than a tax levied by the General Government upon imports brought into the United States for sale, the effect of which is to raise the price of every commodity thus imported, and also the price of all domestic commodities of the same nature made within the United States.

This tax is paid by the consumer of the article. When your State tax is levied it is levied on property; it is paid by property. A man of much property pays much more than a man of little property; and a man of no property pays none at all.

But the tariff is a tax that is paid by the consumer of so-called protected articles. He pays it, not to the tax-gatherer, not to any officer of the government, but he pays it in the price he gives for every protected article that he buys. Let me suppose, for instance, by way of illustration, that an importer purchases in England a thousand dollars worth. No, I won't take so much as that. I will say enough cloth to make a suit of clothes for a man.

He pays for it, then, say \$10. He brings it to the United States. Before he can even get it out of the custom house at the place where he lands, he must pay on that a tax called a tariff, and the probability is, among the enormous rates in the schedule on woolen goods, that he will pay a tax of not less than 60 cents on the dollar. That is, that he will pay six dollars tax on ten dollars' worth of cloth that he has bought. Then it cost \$10—that cloth has.

Now if any man who imports that cloth sells it to a wholesale merchant he must, of course, put the tax that he pays on to it in price, otherwise he would lose money by the operation, and so when the importer sells to the wholesale merchant he charges him \$16 for that cloth which cost him originally but \$10. Nay more, he charges him \$16 and his mercantile profit on the \$6 tax as well as the \$10, the original cost of the goods. The wholesale merchant sells it to the retail merchant, and the retail merchant sells it to his customers.

Of course this price with each merchant's profit continues in the goods when they are sold to the consumer. So that by the time one of you buys that cloth you will find you have to pay for it from \$15 to \$20, perhaps, not less than \$20. So there has been a tax imposed on the consumer which amounts in effect to nearly or quite as much as the original cost of the goods.

Now, my friends, this is so true that there is scarcely a thing that you wear the price of which is not increased by this tariff tax. There are men audacious enough to say—men who are advocating high protective duties of tariff—there are men audacious enough to say that a high protective tariff is for the benefit of the laboring man. Why, in the name of all that is common sense and reason, how can

a laboring man be aided by a tax that begins with the crown of his head and extends to the shoes of his feet, and taxes everything that is between them, [applause and laughter;] that taxes him on his hat, taxes him on his shirt, taxes his coat, taxes him on his vest, taxes him on his pants, taxes him on his underclothing, taxes him on his stockings, and taxes him on his shoes, and even to the little necktie that is around his neck, it levies a tax upon it. How in the name of heaven can it be that a laboring man is benefited by such a tax?

No, my friends, of all humbugs by which men ever were attempted to be deceived, this humbug of the laboring man being benefited by a high protective tariff is the greatest ever I heard of.

Ah, but, says some one, it enables the manufacturers in this country to pay higher wages to their hired men, and therefore is a benefit to them? My friends, did you ever know any manufacturer that paid higher wages to his hands on account of increase of tariff? If you did you have met with something I have never seen.

There is a man named Barnum in this country, a great showman, a man who has gathered together in his show more curious things than perhaps can be found in any other single place on the face of the earth, but among all his curiosities he has never found such a curiosity as a manufacturer who paid higher wages to his hands because of the raise in the tariff. [Laughter and applause.]

Nay, that is not so at all. I do not want to speak harshly of manufacturers, but they are human beings. But I must pass on.

Another one of the deceptions of the tariff orators, or high protection theorists, is to say that the consumer does not pay the tax. I have shown you how he did pay it in the price that he gives for the articles, but I want to ask any man who tells me or tells you that the consumer does not pay it, in God's name, who does, who does pay it?

How comes it that the goods that cost but \$10 before there was any tax upon them, after that sells for \$10 and the tax added, and merchants' profit upon that, if that is not ultimately paid by the consumer? But my friends, that is not all. A man who stands fair in your community and has a face, that would license him as a preacher of the Gospel just upon his looks, such a man will get up before his fellow citizens and tell them that high tariff lessens instead of increases the price of commodities.

Why, my friends, if that is the case, if a high tariff reduces prices, please tell me why it is that all manufacturers are in favor of a high tariff? Do they want to reduce the price of their own goods? Do they want to make less money? Why do they work so hard to increase the tariff, if to increase it would reduce the price of goods?

That is another one of the absurdities of these men who are going around trying to persuade the people of this country that a high tariff is for the benefit of the people.

Now, my friends, there is another thing that these people say. They come before you and they draw a glowing picture of the wealth and prosperity of our country. That is all very well, indeed, although it would be a little fairer if they would give the other side of the picture, and show how the agricultural interests and value of agricultural property has so wonderfully decreased since they had this high tariff in operation.

But let that pass. I want you to ask any of them who talks to you about the country being made rich by a high protective tariff by what kind of hocus pocus is it, by what kind of operation unknown to science, unknown to reason, unknown to experience, that a country can be made rich by this Government taxing its people far beyond any necessity that Government has for taxation?

NOTES OF TRAVEL.

SOME INTERESTING SIGHTS.

More About Cambridge and Its Colleges—How the Students Live.

(T. H. Pritchard in Wilmington Star.)

These are numerous, extensive, handsome and costly. The college buildings are of stone, three and four stories high, quadrangular in shape the courts within containing beautiful grass plots. These blocks are called courts. St. John's has four such courts and Trinity five. Here are the rooms of the students, dining and combination halls, chapels, &c. The beauty and magnificence of some of these structures may be imagined when we estimate their cost. The chapel of St. John's college cost \$265,000; that of Jesus' college perhaps as much, while the chapel of King's college, begun by Henry VI. in 1446, and finished by Henry VIII. and Cardinal Wolsey in 1575, probably cost three times as much. Its extreme length is 316 feet, and it is pronounced by a competent authority "one of the finest and most interesting buildings in Christendom." Some of the libraries and halls are fine specimens of architecture. The strange name of combination room is given to a large hall in which the Dons, as the students call them, that is the Masters and Fellows smoke, drink wine and socialize together after dinner.

There is a University Library, consisting of 400,000 volumes. To this library, as well as to that of the British Museum in London, a copy of every book published in England is sent. Each college has a library of its own; some of them running up as high as 20,000 volumes—in addition to these, there is a library of 9,000 volumes in the splendid Fitzwilliam Museum, an institution named after its founder, who gave \$500,000 for its establishment. A library also in the Union, which is a superb Club House, and altogether there are over 1,000,000 of volumes accessible to the professors and students. In mentioning the public buildings I must not forget the Pitt Press of the University Printing Office, and the Senate House, which cost \$100,000.

STYLE OF LIVING OF THE STUDENTS.

Instead of two students occupying a room, as in America, each man has three rooms to himself—a room to sleep in, another larger and handsomely furnished to study and eat in as well as to entertain company in, and a third smaller one called the "Gyp room," which contains crockery enough for a small family, some cooking utensils, his wine box and coal box, etc. His dinner he takes in the hall at 5:30 p. m. or at 7:15 p. m. and pays two shillings (50 cts) for it, while his breakfast and lunch and tea, if he wishes it, are taken in his room. His servant is called his "Gyp," or "Vulture." The Gyp and his wife attend to his rooms, get his meals for him, etc., for which they receive good pay. The University has a coat of arms, and so has each college, and the students of each college wear a different gown, though all wear the same kind of fan crown caps. The graduate is distinguished from the under-graduate by wearing ribbons on his gown. When they go to Chapel they wear a white gown called a surplice, I believe. Each student is required to attend prayers five times each week, though prayers are read fourteen times a week. No names are called in the Chapel, but an officer stands at the door and sticks a pin at the name of every student as he enters, though they don't call them students there, but "men," and they are not said to study, but to "read."

HOW DEGREES ARE CONFERRED.

The third Tuesday in June is Degree Day. At 10 a. m. all the men who get a first-class in their trips, or examination papers, receive the B. A. degree, and in the afternoon the same degree is conferred upon those who get a second and third class. The manner in which the degree is conferred seems very

strange to us. The candidate is required to wear, in addition to his gown, a hood made of silk and trimmed with white rabbit skin. The students of King's College come first, then Trinity, then St. John's, etc. The Vice-Chancellor sits in his scarlet robes, when five candidates taken hold of the five fingers of the college professor, and by him are led up to the Vice-Chancellor. He tells them in Latin that they have been deemed worthy to receive the B. A. degree. They then kneel before him, and he takes the hands of each between his extended palms, and in the name of the Trinity confers on them the degree. While all this is going on the students in the galleries are uproarious. They say all manner of funny things, throw pennies on the floor of the Chapel, and cut up all sorts of didos. The man who graduates with the "court honor" gets the wooden spoon. This spoon is five feet long, is ornamented with the college arms of the student who gets it, and also with ribbons, and is set down by cords from the gallery by the students. The proctors rush at it and try to catch it, but it is drawn up again and again out of their reach, till at last the right man gets it, as was understood would be the case from the first.

The students make no speeches on this occasion, nor, indeed, on any other occasion at a college exercise, nor are distinguished men from a distance invited to address them, as with us.

Negro Suffrage.

(From New York Evening Post.)

Some time since the Evening Post showed how completely Mr. Thurman's position regarding the Civil Rights Act, when that measure was before the Senate, was sustained by the decision of the Republican Supreme Court annulling the act on the ground of its unconstitutionality. The Republican organs have reviewed an old speech of his on the subject of negro suffrage, when that question was before the country twenty years ago, which is remarkably verified by the recent professions of leading Southern Republicans, like Poker Jack McCure Chief Justice of the Arkansas Supreme Court in reconstruction days, and Judge D. L. Russell, the nominee for Associate Justice of the recent Republican State Convention in North Carolina. It is interesting to place side by side the prediction of the Ohio Democrat in 1868 and the confession of the North Carolina Republican in 1888:

MR. THURMAN IN '68 JUDGE RUSSELL IN '88

For more than 4,000 years the South does not treat its colored people with the same liberality and justice which they receive in the North there is yet a civilized negro government; there is not one instance of political equality between the two races that has not proved injurious to both; and the South are largely violent and savage. We wish to confer upon an inferior race the sanction, kidnaped them, enslaved them, and by monstrous wrong make it a balanced power that they are not times out of number fit to govern; for that reason, brethren in Africa the whole continent can swamps or so dry. There can be but one end to this scheme, if it is from pagan Asia. In South Carolina most of the population there is negro rule, which was such a parody upon civilized institutions as is the present Bourbon domination in South Carolina a travesty upon free government.

THE MILLS BILL.

THE WAY THE PEOPLE ARE TAXED.

What the Bill Proposes to do to Reduce Taxation.

On 2d April, 1888, Mr. Mills of Texas (a Democrat), Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, reported a new tariff bill, entitled a bill to reduce tariff taxation and repeal certain parts of the internal revenue laws, and modify others. It is now known as the Mills bill.

The Radicals fought it from that time till 21st July, near four months, when it passed the House by a vote of 162 146, only three Radicals and one Independent with Radical leanings (Nelson, of Minnesota) voting for it. Among the Radicals voting against the bill was Mr. Nichols, of North Carolina, and among those voting for it was Mr. Brower, of North Carolina. For this patriotic act on the part of Mr. Brower he has been repudiated by his party in his district and his name taken down from the mast-head of the Radical paper there, which had hitherto put him forward as a saint of the first water.

The following tabulated statement will show the operation of the Mills bill, if it shall pass the Radical Senate, upon certain articles of daily use in every family and on every plantation. The first column contains the value of the article, the second the duty on the article, under the tariff as it now is, and the third the gain that will accrue if the Mills bill shall become a law:

Table with columns for item, Val. Pr. et Duty, Gain, and Mills Bill. Items include crockery, carpets, sugar, molasses, salt, suits, blouses, hats, and medicines.

OUTRAGE IN MITCHELL.

The Republicans Make an Assault Upon the Stars and Stripes.

(Asheville Citizen.)

The Knoxville Tribune says: The following letter was written by a Knoxville drummer who is travelling in North Carolina to a member of the firm in this city: BAKERSVILLE, N. C., Aug. 19, 1888.

DEAR SIR:—I drove in here yesterday evening between four and five o'clock, and the Democrats were hoisting the American flag with a banner attached, bearing the inscription, "Grover Cleveland for President" and "Fowle for Governor." While they were at work the Republicans were muttering among themselves like distant thunder before a storm, but did not try to prevent the hoisting of the flag. I met with Mr. J. E. Burleson, about this time and had just finished selling him the enclosed order, when the Republican crowd was increased by a party of a few men on horse-back, who, when they saw Cleveland's name alongside the stars and stripes, became madly enraged, and swore they would cut that flag down or die in their tracks, and then commenced such a scene of riot, blasphemy and confusion as beggars description. Some were hunting axes, and one man more enthusiastic (or more drunk) than the rest attempted to climb the flag pole, but could not quite make it. In the meantime the Democrats who had hoisted the flag were perfectly cool and quiet, and each one wore a determined look that boded ill to the one that struck the first blow with an axe, but the Republicans did not find an axe. About this time I heard a pistol shot, and then I moved myself to the hotel and watched the fray from a safe distance.

The Third Party Secretary.

(From Greensboro Patriot.)

In the Leaksville Gazette of the 9th of August appears an article headed "A Reminiscence," from which we make the following extracts, omitting only that portion of the article, the elision of which is marked by the asterisks, which is not essential to the thread of the narrative:

"The people of Leaksville will remember that several years ago it was announced that there would be a lecture on temperance delivered in the town on a certain night, and the public were invited to attend. Well, the evening came preceding the appointed night, and just before sunset a baggy containing a strange man and woman rolled into our village.

It is possible that a score of our best families, anticipating the rare honor of entertaining distinguished guests had daintily spread their hospitable boards and covered them with a profusion of viands as rich and as tempting as ever tickled human palate or appeased the cravings of the innerman.

Where would the distinguished pair now design to stop? Would it be with Squire the parson, the Colonel, or with our far-famed dignitary, the Professor of Lost arts, forgotten sciences and antediluvian antiquity? Leaksville held its breath for answer; but with the coolness of one fully acquainted with his surroundings, the lecturer turned his vehicle to the left!

That he had made a mistake was the universal opinion, because the way in which he was proceeding would soon lead him to an entirely colored settlement. But no one had the temerity to approach the august presence and venture a suggestion, naturally supposing that the mistake would soon impress itself. Up the street, past the tobacco factory and the ancient hotel building, the gallant steed stepped in stately pride, then through a vacant square, until, without question or direction, and as if by instinct, the driver drew rein at the gate of Bob Cutler! There, there, to the disappointment and chagrin of the expectant portion of our community, he found congenial company.

Now, we make no reflection upon the memory of the lamented Cutler. Peace to his ashes. He was a colored man, respected by his race, and no doubt as good as any white man or woman who would from choice claim a night's lodging between his roof. But his guest was that same Secretary Steele, a prominent leader of the Third party movement in this State. The upshot of it was that the said Steele did not have a white audience to hear his address that night.

Now, we have no complaint to make of Mr. Steele's selection of the hospitable board of Bob Cutler. If the negro's society and the negro's food and lodging were congenial to his tastes, we are not to say where he shall eat or what he shall eat—although he has come down from North to prescribe to us what we shall drink. But the Third Party in this section of North Carolina is composed of many good men, but that's a matter of opinion. We know that they are lovers of their country and their State, patriots and good citizens; we believe that they will say—that they must say—to Mr. Steele: "If these be the idols to which you are joined, go your way; we can affiliate with no such man; we can permit no such man to lead us in politics or nothing else."

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The Republicans, through fear or some other cause, did not take down but shortly after midnight they riddled the "Stars and Stripes," the "Great American Flag," with pistol bullets. There must have been at least 100 shots fired, but fortunately no one was hurt. In their mad rage they were more uncontrollable than beasts, but in justice to some of the parties I must say that a few sober Republicans tried to stop the occurrence, but failed.

I understand this morning that they say they will certainly take the flag down tomorrow, and if they do there will be one funeral if not more in this mountain town, for there are some resolute Democrats who will not see it done.

If I do not sell anything here tomorrow I will think it is because of the excitement, and I may leave the town a little more hurriedly than I would ordinarily.

LATER:—Since the above was received we learn that a night or two after the Republicans did cut down the pole and tear up and otherwise insult the flag. The feeling there is exceedingly bitter, and serious trouble is anticipated. We are informed that the Republicans go so far as to declare that Democrats shall not vote in Mitchell. When they attempt this they will have a lively time sure enough. We also learn that Mr. Rowson, a Republican, but a gentleman, has publicly proclaimed since this occurrence that he is done with Southern Republicanism. Such conduct as this will make all decent white men in that country vote down such a party.

Maj. Atkinson, chief engineer of the C. F. & Y. V. is at the mountains looking for the best route to extend the C. F. & Y. V. westward. He intends, on Monday week, to put his corps of engineers on the route to survey and locate the best line; at the same time the Norfolk and Western Railroad starts its corps in the field for the purpose of locating its line to meet the C. F. & Y. V. The two corps will meet, compare notes and locate the line.—Fayetteville Journal.

There are sixty-four cases of yellow fever in Jacksonville.