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SCOTLAND NECK, N. C., THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1897.

NO. 43

THE EDITOR'S LEISURE HOURS.

Points and Paragraphs of Things Present, Past and Future.

Tammany Hall seems to have been losing ground in its hold upon some of the strong men of New York. Colonel William L. Brown, publisher of the Daily News, has resigned as a member of the Tammany Hall executive committee. Other members of the organization have resigned, giving as their reasons that the organization has surrendered all claims to true democracy, is corrupt, and is the agent of certain greedy corporate interests.

We have recently read some of the essays of Benjamin Franklin. In one written in 1784 on "Luxury, Idleness and Industry," Franklin quoted some one else as saying that "if every man and woman would work four hours on each day on something useful, that labor would produce sufficient to procure all the necessaries and comforts of life; want and misery would be banished out of the world, and the rest of the twenty-four hours might be leisure and pleasure."

We are of the opinion that the estimate would hold good even now, with all our extravagance. The idlers in this land are truly legion.

A dispatch from Washington says: "The police have recovered what they believe to be the pistol with which Guiteau shot President Garfield, and have put it in the cabinet at Headquarters for safe keeping. It is an ordinary British bull dog revolver of 44 calibre and of cheap make, the handle being set with pieces of wood, instead of bone or ivory. Property Clerk Sylvester said that it had been obtained from a citizen, who had had it in his possession for a number of years. The pistol was taken from police headquarters July 2, 1881, the day President Garfield was shot, by Col. George B. Corbhill, then district attorney. Subsequently it disappeared, and trace of it was obtained only recently."

Mr. Robert Ransom who was private secretary to his father, Hon. M. W. Ransom, while he was minister to Mexico, made many interesting observations while he was in that country. We greatly enjoyed a conversation with him at Halifax a few days ago.

He said that the man who has to labor for his living will find a hundred chances to starve there to one here. It is a fine country for some things, but the laboring man has a better chance here. He says Mexico is not a great cotton country, as some have supposed and written. The country, he says, consumes annually only about 120,000 bales of cotton, and half of that amount is imported into the country.

Cotton is watered by irrigation, there being no rain at the proper season for it. The climate is all the time as an ideal October day here—cool in the shade and warm in the sun. People use very little wood, have no fires except for cooking, and wear light clothes all the year round.

The ordinary laborer gets about 18 cents a day for his work, and has a hard time to live on that.

There are many beggars, some honest and some professional beggars.

Mr. Ransom says he was especially struck by the attitude of the inhabitants towards the old and the very young. He says he has never seen people so universally kind to old people and children.

Mr. Ransom told us many other interesting things about that country, and it was all the more interesting from one who had been there and lived long enough to learn the facts about the country and the manners and customs of the people.

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THE TRUE CHART.

Individual Liberty the Cohesive Power of True Republican Government.

BY JNO. D. THORNE.

The strength and seminal principle of all true government lies in the unfettered individual conscience.

No government has ever long remained prosperous and progressive without this basal element, and it behooves us, my countrymen, to pause and ponder upon the rapid decadence of true republican government and the swiftly ebbing liberties we once enjoyed under the 'Magna Charter' of our early history. For fear of the cry of pessimism being injected right here I will give reasons for the portrayal of my unattractive, though truthful picture, my conclusions being reached from a strictly non-partisan standpoint.

None of us are so untutored as to be ignorant of the fact that we occupy a great country, a domain blest by Providence in all the exuberance of his kindness with every variety of soil, climate and production, and so expansive as to be able under just and equitable laws to shield and render comfortable and happy a ten-fold population of its present existence; yet, under the mercenary and venal domination of the iniquitous few, and the fostering spirit of concentrated capital, and financial brigandage, the masses are groaning under burthens so oppressive that two dangerous and antagonistic elements are in evolution—factors of certain destruction of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness—the errors and dogmatism of a combined plutocracy is forcing a socialistic element, either of which untraveled, will arrest, if not entirely subvert, the boasted civilization of this marvelous nineteenth century.

So stealthily has this painful situation crept into our national life that a knowledge of its existence is the property only of the observant and thoughtful minority.

It had its inception in our late foolish civil conflict, where the spirit of speculation was so rife, and the insane desire to ride rapidly into power was so strong that it submerged all patriotic impulse, and engendered an army of corrupt syndicates, who so arrogantly controlled the productive capacity of honest labor, that a painful paralysis of effort ensued.

Through its class legislation, and corrupt public life, inequalities of fortune are being venally created, and all outside the limits of this venal ring have been left to gaze with amazement at the fertility of our resources, and the rapidity with which its fruits are being garnered by the rapacious few.

To illustrate the extent of the perfidy, and the high sources affected by it, let us revert to a recent session of Congress wherein a few patriotic spirits viewing with dismay the crippled state of our finances, zealously labored to provide sufficient revenue for the existing needs of the government and saddled a large part of the taxation where it justly belonged, upon the wealth of the country, which the shysters fought day by day, with bitter invective and as a dernier resort fell back upon the Supreme Court—the 'lex suprema' of our system, who to court the favoring breezes of the autocratic plutocracy, unjustly reversed the righteous decree of Congress, thereby increasing the burthens of the poor and so clogging the machinery of the government that future progress is a matter of painful apprehension.

So sensitive are the plutocratic forces of the country, that the cry of impeachment was recently raised in Congress, because one of our Ambassadors under the noble and patriotic impulse of his nature saw fit to analyze, and forcibly express his views upon the effect which the decadence of individual liberty had upon American prosperity, and the advancing civilization of the age.

This would not have been so grievant, had it not so fully unmasked the errors and injustice of the protective policy of our system, and the venality engendered thereby.

All honor to this grand American Chevalier for his bold defence of truth and equity, upon the hill tops of Scotland, and in the classic city of Edinburgh, before the liberty loving Scotch—these primal truths which will live to the end of time in all bosoms who cherish justice and equality before the law—in amazing contrast to the ignoble and obscure individual, coveting an unenviable notoriety, and plutocratic favor, that suggested the impeachment of one of the grandest characters in modern history—thereby illustrating the degeneracy of the so-called American statesman.

It is a sad period in our republican system when freedom of expression is sought to be squelched; especially when it covers the ground work of

truth, and in the interests of the toiling millions, who should have some advocate, in their badly treated, moribund condition.

Had Mr. Bayard made the grand speech which he did, omitting the scathing exposition of protection, and its attendant evils, no hue and cry would have been raised against him, but this pet measure of the plutocratic autocracy must not be exposed, even by an Ambassador.

It is painfully apparent to the student of American history, that our freedom is being fettered in the halls of our national legislature, especially so in its lower branch, where, through the adroit finesse of the speaker, the will of the chamber is being guided by his dictum—he being 'per se' its force, and expression—its 'ipse facto'.

Should ever the chaffers succeed in their unholy crusade of fastening their pet policy of protection upon our national system, then adieu to the freedom, prosperity, and happiness of the masses—the will of the few being the curse of the many.

This ill-balanced policy has already destroyed our merchant-marine, depleted our treasury, and invited fraud and corruption.

Mr. Bayard very truthfully says, "It has perverted taxation from its only true justification and function—creating revenue for the support of the government of the whole people into an engine for the selfish and private profit of allied beneficiaries called 'trusts.' Under its detraction, individual enterprise and independence have been oppressed, energy and invention debilitated, and discouraged, and policies placed upon the low level of a mercenary scramble."

A condition running parallel with an ignoble paragraph of early Jewish history wherein the prophet, with righteous indignation declared, that "Judgment had been turned away backward, with Justice standing afar off; Truth fallen in the street; and Equity unable to enter."

Dating our appreciable decadence back to those fateful years 1871-72, wherein two of the strongest pillars in our financial fabric were torn asunder, the repeal of the income tax (a most radical departure from rectitude and equity) and the equally untenable policy of demonetization of silver; a metal recognizable in the coins past as being a twin companion of its richer brother gold, their mission of usefulness running in parallel lines, in the ratio of value, one to the other, as the wisdom of its users decreed, subject to slight variations, with the march of the ascending centuries.

Its entire elimination or divorcement was never a scheme, or dream, of our financial fathers, but the venal product of the one-sided brain of our maladroft, up-to-date Solons.

But for the unwisdom of those years' action in Congress, our country would have been spared the humiliating, and lamentable spectacle, of playing the role of supplicant to private enterprises, and 'running to cover' at the instance of every recurrent reserve depletion. It is the most anomalous, and strangely paradoxical condition of affairs that a country with the largest material resources, should be the weakest in its financial relations—destructive as it is, of the wealth of the masses, and confidence in her fiscal policy.

Admitting the premises as set forth, there can be but one conclusion: either, the imbecility, or venality of our fiscal, and law-making agencies.

The interminable and ill advised scramble for the adjustment of our metallic currency arises from the excessive cupidity of the few, and the uncompromising hostility of sectional diversity.

Let wisdom, patriotism, and true statesmanship, adjust the balance wheel, and matters will once more move smoothly in its orbit, as in the days of our ante-bellum history.

As illustrative of the defective and venal legislation of our latter day Solons look at the immensity of our resources—our productive, annual capacity.

As estimated the crop of 1895 aggregated the stupendous amount of twenty hundred million of dollars, (2 billions), yet through peculation, subsidies, and unnecessary appropriations, we are reduced to that strait the only propulsion given the wheels of Government is through the issuance of bonds, which fattens the plutocracy, pauperizes the masses, and saps the vitality of our system.

Bond issuance is an indefensible, and untenable policy under any republican system of government—admissible only in time of war as a military necessity, and salvation of the republic.

The last few years of bond management had well nigh engulfed the country, and but for the patriotic zeal manifested by our leading newspaper, and the searching investigations—analyzing men and measures, and throw-

ing the calcium light in every crevice, to expose the pervading rottenness, the coils of the anaconda would be past unfolding.

Disguise it as they may, under the mask of philanthropy, public necessity, or patriotic purpose, it is clearly apparent to the well informed, that the major part of the appropriations are made in and for the interest of the party urging the appropriation, and even our marvelous pension growth is but the outcome of politics and engendered in the interest of the party catching the soldier vote—its end mercenary selfishness and not patriotic impulse or sympathy for the soldier—so solicitous are both parties for this advantage they have allowed the pension system to be so expanded that it takes nearly one half of the annual revenue of the Government to satisfy them. What excellent marksmen those ill-fed and badly armed rebels must have been to kill and maim two-thirds of the Federal army!

The honest, deserving pensioners should be provided for; but it is sheer lunacy to assume, that the larger, and better equipped army, should lose over one half its forces, through the meagre facilities possessed by its weaker adversary.

But there is no appellate court to which it may be referred, and so long as there is money in it to the Congressional shyllock, the tax-payer must submit to his unhappy environment.

This invasion of personal liberty, which is so truly subverting the interests of enemies of true government, begins in the primaries, enlarged at the ballot box, and consummated in State, and National convalescence. A mercenary scramble from the primate, to the 'lex suprema' of our system.

The past freedom of the individual has brought our country to its present high standpoint—its waning liberties like the unfortunate Roman may be even more rapid in its declension than in its ascendancy. 'Facilis averno decensus.'

Dry as it is, permit me to glance at a few statistics.

It is the estimate that the aggregate real and perishable interests of the United States is 65 billion of dollars, that in the past three decades we have squandered one-eighth of this stupendous amount in war debts, unnecessary appropriations, pensions, subsidies and venality, and although our gold, silver, and copper, and iron mines have been yielding handsomely, and Providence having blest us with abundant harvests throughout this period, we still find our National treasury at the mercy of the money sharks, whose combined strength, could easily crush our financial system.

Allowing us only one half of the eight billions we have squandered in thirty years, on what a majestic base would our country now stand, had it been judiciously appropriated! Our merchant marine would have covered every sea, our invincible frowning battlements commanding the respect of alien systems, and our fleet of monitors, the envy and fear of British arrogance, we would be free from the insolence and aggression, which the poverty of the situation so temptingly invites.

On two occasions have we taught British insolence a salutary lesson, but she still growls, from a knowledge of the fact, that our financial system is deranged, and our seaports exposed. Still there will be no war, for the burned child seldom jumps into a fire from which it has been twice extricated.

The Monroe doctrine is a cardinal principle of our Republic, and will be enforced at all hazards by every government on this continent, against the combined powers of christianendom, a feature which our president in his wisdom and vigorous foreign policy, has recently enunciated, so that all whose sentiment runs counter to it, may know the Gibraltar of our system.

The leading idea in Mr. Cleveland's Venezuelan message, was to dissipate the error into which alien systems had fallen, that the Monroe doctrine was a mere sentiment with our people, and by way of removing any mist, obscurity, or further misconception about it, boldly enunciates that with his people it is a cardinal, inviolable principle; that although it is a 'lex nonscripta', it is no less cherished than the written code—that it is one of the bulwarks of our system—that it neither seeks, nor will it permit, any foreign interference with this inalienable, reserved, right of our American sovereignties—he seeks no war, but will receive all comers with mailed hand, and unyielding tenacity.

But to avoid war with its attendant horrors, our defenses should be strengthened, and our navy enlarged.

To perpetuate the privileges be-

To prevent the hardening of the subcutaneous tissues of the scalp and the obliteration of the hair follicles, which cause baldness, use Hall's Hair Renewer.

queathed us by our fathers, each citizen of our country should labor with intelligent zeal for the promotion of her best interest, both in social, and civil life—for the suppression of the venality which has furtively crept into our system; and lend aid and countenance to all who labor on the lines of social, civil, and moral reformation—thus only can individual liberty be preserved, and the assured inheritance of succeeding generations.

Another fatal raid is being made on individual freedom by the unjust system of taxation. No taxation is fair, and equitable, unless levied on the idea that each one should be assessed in the proportion of his holdings. Under our system the burthen rests heaviest upon those least able to bear it, but how can we expect any improvement, so long as jobbers and chaffers are taking the place of statesmen?

What chance does the great army of laborers have in the struggle for existence, where the combined wealth of the country is allied with the law power, to depress prices and minimize the fruits of their labor?

The natural alliance which should exist between capital and labor is becoming daily more divergent, which will ultimately produce a war of elements infinite, and bring to a shameful close, the boasted progress of the nineteenth century.

Great Britain has ever acted upon the assumption that whoever commands the sea commands the trade; whoever commands the trade of the world commands the riches of the world; and consequently the world itself—why have not we with our boasted intelligence, and infinite variety of resources, more tenaciously grasped this idea, and worked it out to a happy conclusion? With every advantage we have failed to embrace the situation, and been sadly left in the rear guard of the world's race for naval supremacy.

Without a proper appreciation of the advantages we enjoy, and a right application of them to existing circumstances, we can not keep step with the progressive improvement of other systems unless we allow the largest individual liberty consistent with public safety, enhancing as it will, that love of country, and zealous interest in her welfare, which will be to all an element of great strength.

It has been most truthfully affirmed, that the greatest bulwark of freedom is the doctrine of limitation upon human authority, and the essential personal rights which are beyond the jurisdiction of the community. Make any infraction upon these cardinal principles; invade this sacred realm—yea, cut but one thread of the cord that binds these inalienable birthrights of liberty, to that extent you weaken the faith of its possessors in its future lease, enlarge the margin of human incredulity as to the success of this hitherto untried experiment, resulting in monarchical glebe, and reversing the course of the progressive spirit of civilization—a civilization, which has been our boast, as being its successful pioneers, and defenders for over a century. Continue then, my countrymen, to guard with zealous interest the basic principles upon which our system rests, lest we all become involved in one common ruin and evoke the mock and derision of future ages.

Our fathers after appealing to heaven for the rectitude of their intentions, and risking their lives and fortunes to achieve what they believed to be the inalienable right which every one had to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness—through great tribulation did achieve and bequeathed to us this priceless heritage, coupled with a well devised, and carefully guarded fundamental law.

And in illustration of the fruits of their labors it may well be asked where in the aeons of the past can the chronicles of events show such marvelous results, as has been mapped out in American history?

With her short life-story, (a mere parenthesis in the cycle of time) she stands out to-day, pre-eminently, the richest, grandest, and most progressive of all.

Starting out a few decades back, with a little group of petty sovereignties, scattered along the Atlantic seaboard—bound together for mutual defence, in one organic Union, with Titanic effort, she has so expanded her legis that she has become the admiration, and wonder, of systems already

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hoary with age. The car of her progress rolled on with wonderful celerity, and was only arrested by the great natural boundaries of oceans, lakes, and gulfs. With an almost boundless continent for her domain, her future possibilities are unlimited it she be true and steadfast to the counsels and admonitions of that immortal band of 'Patriots' who initiated a new era in human government—a government by the consent of the governed, thereby assuring equity and justice.

Now, my fellow countrymen, standing as we are on the threshold of a new century, and glancing back with proud emotion at our past wonderful achievements, let us catch a new inspiration, and resolve to make the new century one of a still broader, brighter and higher type of civilization, and a more radiant christianity—or shall we basely turn crusader, and in our blind party zeal and inordinate thirst for wealth and power pull down the pillars of our edifice, and bury in indiscriminate ruin all future hope for all for which life is worth living—the unfettered conscience of the living soul?

The Christian to maintain a high spiritual standard must oft revert to the love and sufferings which achieved his liberty. And so the patriot to avoid shipwreck, must oft times consult the 'Chart' of the toils, privations, and sufferings of that band of heroes, of whose virtues past ages have furnished no trace or parallel.

Therefore, as one says, 'Evolution and not revolution is the quiet, masterful force now leading the progress of civilization, and the personal conscience and the living soul of the free individual are essential to the inevitable changes in its onward journey.

For what avail the plough or sail, Or land, or life, if freedom fail?

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