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NO. 23.

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BASE BALLS.

BALL I. THE MOUNTAIN.

And it came to pass in the reign of a king, base ball they call him and of him I will sing;
In the year twenty-three of the reign aforesaid,
That an orange-tainted mountain took to her bed.

The throes of child-birth this mountain did afflict,
And caused her to dread the approach of the night;
Nonsense and unreason and the mother—all three,
Were the parents of the child, or ought to be.

And groans and grunts came out from the house,
When this mother brought forth an IMPORTED LITTLE MOUSE;
He was SICKLY and WEAKLY as a mouse could well be,
And if you don't believe it just go and see.

This CATACLYSM engendered useless CONCATENATION,
And an abortive attempt at RATIONIZATION;
Melancholia and hysteria beset the mother-mountain,
Arousing her wrath and excruciating pain

The name of her first son was Young Earthquake,
She yerked up a tree and caused him to shake,
The new one they dubbed "Wee Harry-cane"—
An unforeseen cause of excruciating pain

Then goes the said dame, with a becoming mien,
To that dreary place where Father Rocky was last seen,
And her hands they were palsied, and her limbs they did quake,
As her lips she wide opened and thus she did spake:—

"Father, how can I surcease obtain?
Nothing will appease my pain,
My only food is bats and balls,
And I can eat nothing else at all."

A cavernous aperture then her eyes beheld,
As the big gray mountain his sides unfold;
And in thunderous tones—heard far away,
He snaps his teeth and has his say:—

"Go, my daughter and with thee take,
The words I give thee, also the cake:
His eyes were flashing and his face was red,
As he gave a roar and quickly said:—

The more you stir a stinkpot the more stinking it becomes.
Out on the first!

BALL II. THE JACKASS.
The jackass dressed in lion's breeches,
Pricks up his ears and gives some screeches;
But feeling that he is out of place,
He screeches again and breaks his lace.

Now am I right when the ass I compare,
With the king of beasts so brave and rar?
If I have digressed—wait—just go slow,
And I assinity to you will show.

Chock full of plunder, plenary with conceit,
Even more plethoric than an egg with meat;
In leonine ermine—so tawny and neat,
The ass, full of himself, struts down the street.

The lion one day strolling aimlessly around,
Spied the gaudy hybrid taking in the town,
And admonished him mildly in a modulated tone,
To stop this cavorting and his identity make known.

The asinine quadruped—such a dude and a swell,
Then wished the mentioned breeches were in—ah well!
He turns quickly around and becomes very pale,
And lo and behold! there appears

a tail.

The buzzards would come and over him would pick,
But his carcass they fear would make them all sick;
For where the carrion is in any kind of weather,
There will the buzzards be gathered together.

Misstatements and inconsistencies characterize the JACKASS,
But we believe and we think that this is his last;
He tells you of many rights and practising ball,
He should put his under a bushel and not talk at all.

Prevarication is a disease some people possess,
And dignified silence answers it the best;
"A" stands for Ass as you need not be told,
But to imitate a lion even an ass must be bold.

His hair should be cropped—for he is a great brayer,
His ears should be cut—yet he is no player;
His position, always, is in a field of fools,
With worn out donkeys and emaculate mules.

Out on the second!

BALL III. THE KANGAROO.
The kangaroo is an "amoosin cuss,"
And when monkeyed with becomes "wuss and wuss;"
He raises up and sits right still,
Then sends forth a bitter pill.

From natural history comes the wail,
That he is strongest in his tail;
But other animals—great and small,
Show their tails—then take a fall.

He is very funny—his name implies,
He easily catches all the saved off flies;
Say! Mister, say! I've not hollered at all,
May I do so now at your last ball?

Some people fuss if others give a cheer,
Because, they say, the ball they can't hear;
The others sit still and their laughter contain,
At the dapper captain's most silly refrain:—

"No other game will be played here today,
If the yelling men are not taken away;
For my men are hacked and that's deuced queer,
And to catch the good ball they can't even hear."

The Masons, you know, gave a dinner one day,
And ball players were invited their prowess to display;
One of the clubs, I've been told, to the bat never went,
For missing and muffed and not catching what was sent.

Rain falls from above, besprinkling the dry earth,
And of it the 27th there seemed a great dearth;
At last the marble clouds the skies fully paved,
Then a certain man sung out: "Thank heaven we are saved!"

Now, one and all, we will cease this argumentation,
And live as friendly people composing one nation;
Let us visit one another—then give and take,
For the kangaroo says: "Come boys! let's shake."

Three out!
Man to the bat!

UNOHOO.
Lewiston, N. C. July 19, 1888.

REMARKS OF HON. F. M. SIMMONS
Tuesday, July 17, 1888

Mr. Simmons said: Mr. Chairman, my absence when the amendment offered by my colleague, Mr. Johnston, for repeal of the internal revenue system was under consideration, is my excuse for now troubling the House with some general remarks upon the subject of that amend-

ment.

I am, as I said in the course of my remarks submitted to this House during the month of May, in favor of the total repeal of every part and parcel of that odious system, and so are the people of the State which I in part represent here. But anxious as I am for the repeal of this system and the removal of the restrictions it which imposes upon the liberty of the individual citizen and upon the commerce of the country, I recognize the fact, as do many other gentlemen upon this side of the House, who agree with me in wishing its abrogation, that under present financial conditions its repeal at this time is not only impracticable, but out of the question.

It must be manifest to every mind should the Government surrender the \$120,000,000 annually derived from this source, with an annual surplus of less than \$70,000,000, there would be a deficit in the Treasury as the end of the present fiscal year of fully \$50,000,000.

Of course no party responsible for the legislation of the country can be expected deliberately to provide for a deficit of such proportions, or by cold legal enactment to invite financial disaster. But worse than this, if this system should be totally abolished there would be no room, even to the extent of a penny for the reduction of the extravagantly high and unjust taxes now imposed by vicious and inequitable tariff laws upon the necessities of life consumed in every household in the land. When it comes to me, as has now come to me, to choose between cheap whiskey and cheaper food and clothes for the masses of the people (which also means larger comforts and better education), do not morality, humanity and sound policy require that I should make choice in favor of the latter? (Applause on the Democratic side.)

In so choosing, the Democratic party does not abate one iota its opposition to the internal revenue system nor its fixed determination to release the people from its operation at the earliest possible moment.

I am satisfied when the people have come to understand that this bill removes \$24,000,000 of the \$30,000,000 of taxes now levied upon tobacco, that it repeals the license taxes, and that it greatly modifies the machinery of the system, effectually providing against many of the vexations and annoyances which have heretofore marked its enforcement, they will accept, if not with satisfaction, at least good grace, the step which it makes in the direction of the repeal of the whole system. (Applause on the Democratic side.) They will accept it as an earnest on the part of the Democratic party that they will repeal the whole system when the opportunity offers.

From the Republican party we have nothing to expect: That party not only inaugurated this system of taxation, after a disuse of more than forty years, but has during the entire period of its supremacy in this country maintained it, with certain exceptions, in favor of capital, banks, manufacturers and insurance companies.

If the platform of that party, recently adopted at Chicago, upon this subject is stripped of its disguise and subjected to a fair and honest interpretation it will be found to be a declaration against the repeal of this system, as well as a declaration in favor of high tariff taxation. Fairly interpreted that platform means that the tax upon whiskey will never be surrendered so long as that party can prevent it, and then only as a last resort to preserve its unholy system of protective taxes. [Here the hammer fell.]

On motion of Mr. McMillin, Mr. Simmons was allowed to proceed five minutes longer.

Mr. Simmons. The reasons which exist and which have been urged with such overpowering force by the Ways and Means Committee against the total repeal of the internal revenue system cannot, I think, with justice, be urged against the amendment of the gentleman from Virginia, Mr. Wise, to remove the tax

from cigars, cigarettes and cheroots, nor against the amendment of the gentleman from Pennsylvania, Mr. Snowden, for the repeal of the tax upon fruit brandy.

The revenue at present received by the Government from the taxes imposed upon the articles covered by these amendments amounts to but little over \$7,000,000 per annum. This is a comparatively small amount, and I believe it can be surrendered without inconvenience to the Government or perceptibly interfering with the Democratic policy of reducing taxes upon necessities.

I have been surprised at some of the arguments advanced on both sides of this House against these two amendments. Certain gentlemen of the Ways and Means Committee tell us that there is no way of distinguishing between whiskey and brandy, and if the tax is retained upon the one and removed from the other frauds will be rife, and the whole system demoralized. I think the gentlemen underrate the delicate taste of our deputy internal-revenue collectors. With the system of detectives, espionage and surveillance which the Government employs in this system, I cannot believe that the fraud of substituting whiskey and brandy one which will prove too formidable for the Government. If there is no scientific test (and my friend from Tennessee says there is none) for detecting the adulteration of whiskey with brandy we may with good reason hope, if the amendment of my friend from Pennsylvania prevails, inventive genius will be stimulated, and one will in due time be discovered.

The position of our Republican friends to the repeal of the tax on cigars and cigarettes is the same old argument which we are accustomed to hear from them during the last two months.

The gentleman from New York, Mr. Farquar, informs the House if these taxes are repealed it will ruin certain large factories in his State, and throw their employees out of work. How much sameness there is in the arguments of these gentlemen. If we propose to reduce direct taxes we are again threatened with calamities. Do the gentlemen mean to say that high taxes beget prosperity? Do they mean to say that every industry must be fostered by taxing its product?

I have no doubt the larger manufacturers of cigars and cigarettes are benefited by this tax and that they are loath to give up this advantage. The great whiskey rings are likewise, no doubt, benefited by keeping the tax upon the poor man's orchard and suppressing the competition which would be the result of distillation of the fruits of those orchards, but neither the small manufacturers of cigars and cigarettes nor the producers of the weed out of which they are made, nor the poor man who owns an orchard in the districts of my colleagues and myself are benefited by these taxes.

Let us be done with arguing in favor of these millionaire manufacturers and these great whiskey rings and combinations, and let us do for once some sort of justice to the small dealers, who are neither able nor disposed to combine into unlawful trusts or to influence legislation for the advancement of their selfish interests.

I hope both the amendment for the repeal of the tax on cigars, etc., and the amendment for the removal of taxes on fruit brandies will prevail.

[Here the hammer fell.]

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