

## Miscellaneous.



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### ACROSTIC

Come thou hast, and almost gone thou art,  
Hail! farewell! you soon, too soon depart;  
Revolving time hurries thee swiftly on,  
In being to-day—to-morrow, thou art gone.  
So flies, alas! the world away—and thus  
The proud sons of earth all vanish must.  
Mighty God! how strange your works are  
—oh!

All, "all is vanity," sayeth the preacher so:  
Stop, stay, merry day—oh, stay, dont yet go.  
Gone—farewell!

### NIGHT THOUGHTS.

#### CLING NOT TO EARTH.

Cling not to earth—there's nothing there  
However lov'd—however fair,  
But on its features still must wear  
The impress of mortality.

The voyager on the boundless deep,  
Within his barque may smile or sleep,  
But bear him on—he will not weep  
To leave its wild uncertainty.

Cling not to earth—as well we may  
Trust Asia's serpent's wanton play,  
That glitters only to betray  
To death—or else to misery.

Dream not of Friendship—there may be  
A word, a smile, a grasp for thee—  
But wait the hour of need, and see—  
But wonder not—their fallacy.

Think not of Beauty—like the rest  
It bears a lustre on its crest—  
But short the time ere stands confest  
Its falsehood—or its frailty.

Then cling no more so fondly on  
The flowers of earth around thee strewn;  
They'll do awhile to sport upon,  
But not to love so fervently.

**Taxes.**—Mr. Benton, having obtained leave to introduce a bill in the Senate of the U. States, for the graduation of the price of the Public Lands, prefaced it with some remarks from which we extract the following:

"I believe, Mr. President, that by the operation of this bill, in conjunction with other measures, now in force, the public debt may now be paid off in five years and the people relieved from the annual levy of twelve or fifteen millions of taxes. The extinction of the debt would enable the Federal Government to dispense with more than half of its present revenue, and, of course, to abolish taxes, in the shape of duties upon comforts and necessities, to that amount. The blessings of such a dispensation would need no recommendation from arts of speech to render them acceptable to the people, at least to the people of the grain-growing and planting States of this Union, with whose condition I am best acquainted. Unhappily, they have at home, in the decaying condition of too many of their towns and villages—in the melancholy aspect of too many of their farms and country houses—a sufficient commentary upon the amount of their taxes, and the necessity of relief. But to gentlemen who dwell in more favored parts—to Senators who come from the East, where commerce collects her accumulated treasures, where multiplied Banks diffuse an abundant paper currency, and where the policy of the Federal Government causes to be expended the chief part of the revenue which is elsewhere collected—to such gentlemen it may not be an act of supererogation to in-

timiate, that the North American of the United States, is among the most heavily taxed animals of his species, and that he occupies in this respect, a middle position between the Englishman, who is taxed to the ultimate point of human endurance, and the Frenchman, who is not very far behind.

"I make this suggestion, Mr. President, upon the authority of one of the most acute and practiced statesmen of the age—one whom we have long known, and under various titles, but best and longest under his old republican and revolutionary appellation of *Citizen Talleyrand*. This veteran statesman, in a late debate in the French Chamber of Peers, took occasion to class the burthens of the English, French, and Americans, in the order in which I have stated them; and, strange as his classification appeared to me at first, I must confess that subsequent reflection and observation, much talking with the people, and two or three thousand miles of annual travelling through eight or ten different States, has brought me to acquiesce in its truth—at least so far as the aforesaid North American of the grain-growing and planting States of this Union is concerned. The secret of this heavy taxation, Mr. President, lies in the fact, that the citizens of the United States are subject to be taxed, at the same moment, by two separate and distinct governments, without having, what the people of Asia, under the like circumstances, once demanded from Mark Antony—a double set of seasons and of crops to answer the duplicate demand. They are taxed by the Federal Government, in duties upon imports, to the amount of twenty odd millions, which go into the Treasury, and eight or ten millions more, in the shape of mercantile profit, upon that sum, which go into the pockets of the retail dealers. By the State Governments they are taxed as nearly as can be ascertained, about twenty millions more; in all the different forms of State taxes, county taxes, city taxes, corporation taxes, poor taxes, taxes upon licenses, working upon roads, serving on juries, supporting churches and charitable institutions, and a long list of *et ceteras*.

"The aggregate of the whole annual levy, under the exactions of the duplicate governments, may well be, as supposed by *Citizen Talleyrand*, about fifty millions of dollars! An enormous sum, Mr. President, for a population of twelve millions to pay, even if they were all tax-paying people, which they are not; for some are paupers, and pay nothing; many are poor, and pay but little; and two millions are slaves, and are paid for by their owners. I repeat, Mr. President, that fifty millions would be an enormous tax for this population to pay; even if the burthen of it was equally diffused, which it is not; for, it is incontestible that an undue proportion of it is levied upon that quarter of the Union whose labor contributes most to the support of this Government, and whose citizens receive least from it—that quarter which is drained at once by the conjoint operations of Fe-

deral legislation, and the course of trade—that quarter, whose cotton, tobacco, and rice, constituting seven-eighths of the agricultural, and three-fifths of the total exports of the country, gives employment to numerous ships and mariners of the East, enriches many of their merchants, and builds up their cities, and brings back the chief part of the imports which pay the twenty odd millions of revenue into the Treasury, which are elsewhere expended. Still the fifty millions are paid, and must be paid. It is a levy which no force can resist, no art elude. The *Sheriff* is collector for one government, and *Necessity* for the other; and both agents are equally inexorable. One commits the body to prison for non-payment, and the other applies to it, not the old Roman interdiction of fire and water, but the Federal interdiction of food and clothes:

"It is in vain to say, that the duties are levied upon articles of consumption, and that it is optional with the citizens to use them or not. It is mockery to talk in that way; for the duties of which I speak are levied upon articles of prime necessity, or ordinary comfort, and such as no family can live without—upon sugar, teas, and coffee; upon salt and spices; upon blankets and linens; upon the working tools of the well man, and the physic of the sick one. It is in vain to speak of more economy and more retrenchment.—These negative aids of family revenue have long since been in requisition. Every family that lives upon its own means, has long since been reduced to its "*peace establishment*"—to its *minimum* of expenditure, and its *pessimum* of enjoyment. Still, every one has to yield its proportion of these thirty odd millions to the Federal Government, and twenty odd to the States. For every hundred dollars worth of foreign goods or groceries which a family buys, it pays, in addition to the value of the article, a tax of thirty-five or forty dollars to the Federal Government, besides another little tax of ten or twelve dollars upon that sum, in the shape of mercantile profit, to the retail dealer. The amount of this superincumbent, superstructive, and, I believe I might say, supererogational tax, in the shape of mercantile profit upon taxes, cannot be less than one-third per centum, or eight or ten millions upon our present custom house revenue—a sum in itself four times as great as that direct tax of the year '98, which overturned the second President of this Union, ruined his party, and marked an era in the history of this country, which is still referred to as one of oppression on the part of the Government, and of suffering on the part of the people.

"I hope the Senate will not misunderstand me. I do not draw this picture, for the purpose of exciting dissatisfaction with our present rate of duties. I am one of those who contributed to establish it, and am willing for it to remain unaltered until the occasions which called for it have passed away. But it is not to be dissembled that thirty millions upon articles of consumption, in addi-

tion to twenty millions upon property in possession, is an enormous load for our population to carry, and that the Congress which shall relieve them of one-half or two-thirds of it, will confer a national benefaction which will entitle it to the glorious appellation of "*blessed*." The Congress of 1832-3 may be that most enviable body—provided the Congress of 1827-3 shall make itself participator in its glory by laying the foundation of its work. To do that we must go to work at once, and in earnest, upon these public lands. We must rouse them from their dormant state. We must infuse new life and animation into the sales. We must force them to yield at least as much as will meet the interest of the debt for five years. In a word, Mr. President, *this Congress must pass my Bill*. Then may we hail the approach of that auspicious day when the National Debt shall *cease to exist*, and when the Tariff shall be taken up, not to alarm and distract the country, not to array one half of the Union against the other, but to reconcile all hearts, to excite all hopes, and to call forth universal benedictions.—Then shall we see the day when this subject, so pregnant with the seeds of bitter contention, shall be taken up with unanimous consent, and for the joyful purpose of expunging a long list of articles from its ample catalogue. What these articles shall be, is not for us to say, but for that most happy Congress which shall have the grateful task to perform, and which shall come fresh from the body of the people, instructed by their wishes, and amenable to their will."

**Important Decision.**—An important decision was lately been made in New-York, which will be of interest to the numerous legislative bodies, annually assembling in this country. The Senate of New-York has lately recognized the principle, we believe, for the first time in the Union, "that a Court has not the power under any circumstances, to compel the attendance of members of the Legislature as witnesses, during a session, but that in conformity to parliamentary usage, as abundantly established by the proceedings of the House of Commons, that they were secure against the operation of any civil process whatever." The principle we believe will generally be admitted to be correct, as securing to the people the labors of their representatives free from arrest, except in cases of treason, felony, or breach of peace.

**An Indian Surgeon.**—Dr. Jacob Jimison, a native of the Seneca tribe of Indians, has been appointed surgeon's mate in the U. States' Navy, and has received orders to report himself for service at the public station near Philadelphia. Dr. J. has received a collegiate education, and regularly graduated as a Doctor of Medicine.

When we live, let us live well; for be a man ever so rich when he lights his fire, death may enter his door before it be burnt out.