

The Louisiana Democrat.

"The World is Governed Too Much."

HEURY L. BLOSSAT, Business Manager.

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A WISH FOR A LITTLE MAID.

KINDLY nature, take this child,
Train her in thy forest wild,
Lead her by thy laughing brooks,
Till their lips be tinged with red,
Make her lithe in form and mien,
As the white birch, draped in green.

Let her voice be mellow now,
As the thrush song's silvery flow,
Filling all this leafy wood
With sweet prophetic of good.
Let each breeze a message bear,
Of an unseen love and care.

Bring her from thy fountains bright,
Draughts of crystal, all thy living light,
Feed her, lowly through her guise,
With thy strength to make her wise.
Let her sacred maidenhood
Grow in sweetest solitude.

Let the fragrance of all flowers,
And the hush of twilight hours,
And the glowing sky's deep blue,
And the rainbow's varied hue,
Fill her soul with loveliest grace,
And shine outward in her face!

Tenderly her impart,
O great nature, all thy heart!
Teach her much of Love, so she
Time Interpreter may be,
A Reflection, clear and fine
Of thy loveliness divine!

—Mrs. Merrill E. Gates, in N. Y. Independent.

LOVE AND TOBACCO.

The Gentle Passion Proves to Be Mightier Than the Weed.

[Written for This Paper.]
NCE there was a man and his wife, and their daughter and the daughter's fellow.

The wife and the fellow were addicted to the use of tobacco. The wife smoked and the fellow chewed, much to the disgust of both husband and daughter.

The man did not know at the time of their marriage that the wife smoked. He learned that some time later. He tried hard to get her to give up the habit, and she made a number of attempts and as many failures. The habit was too strong.

The fellow had learned to chew when a boy. The daughter had intended to speak to him on the subject and use her influence to get him to quit, but it was a case of love almost at first sight, and before a favorable opportunity offered itself she found herself engaged to him. But she could not bear the idea of marrying a man with such a filthy habit, and, not being able to hit upon a better plan, decided to lay the matter before her father, who had already shown that he would not be averse to the match.

The man was fat and funny, and delighted greatly in a good joke. He at once approved the daughter's plan, thinking only at first he would have some fun out of the fellow. Then another, a serious, idea seemed to flit across his brain. The daughter noticed this, but as he at once went on talking she asked no questions.

A short time after when the fellow called and asked for the daughter's hand, the man replied: "Yes, sir, you can have her, and I'll give you a quarter section of land to boot, provided two things: first, you are to quit the use of tobacco, and bind yourself never to use it again, in any way, shape or manner; and, second, you are to induce my wife also to quit its use."

The fellow replied that he had long seen the evil of the habit, and had often thought he would quit, but had simply neglected to do so. Now was a most excellent time, and he would quit "forthwith and forever." But the man was pledged to secrecy to all except the daughter, who in turn was to tell no one.

When the daughter learned of the second provision she was greatly incensed, and proposed to her lover that they simply elope, but this the young man did not like to do. He counseled patience, and said that they should at least make an effort.

A few days later the fellow proposed to the wife that he would quit using tobacco if she would. This was rejected so promptly and with so much dignity that he did not have the courage

to try again, although numerous other plans were discussed by himself and the daughter.

The young couple now felt very dejected. The prospects of an early consummation of their hopes were certainly very discouraging. "The course of true love never did run smooth," and apparently was not going to do so in their case.

About this time the man, who had been watching the proceedings with the keenest interest, came to the rescue, to the great joy of the young people. He had a plan, and they proceeded at once to put it to the test.

A few days later the young couple eloped and were quietly married.

The man was furious. He stormed and raged without rest; condemned the young couple in the strongest terms; declared they should never enter his house again; he wouldn't so much as look at them again; he said he would

THOUGHT HE HAD THEM.

A Broker Almost Frightened Into Delirium by Papier Mache Serpents.

A young artist of some ability, who possesses through the business qualifications of a deceased parent more wealth than he can ever hope to acquire by means of his profession, occupies a handsome suite of bachelor apartments in a house not far from Broadway.

He has a peculiar taste, which he has taken ample pains to gratify, for hanging and placing around his rooms about every horrible object a distorted Japanese conception is capable of inventing. A sea-serpent of alarming proportions is coiled around a column at one end of the studio, while horned toads, small snakes, fishes, turtles, a queer-looking object with the body of an animal about the size of a small dog and the head of an alligator, and numerous other nightmares are scattered profusely about in prominent places.

The young artist has an acquaintance, a broker, who, while an all-around good fellow, drinks to excess. He was very intimate with the artist, but had never up to a few days ago visited the latter in his studio. He made the visit while recovering from an extended spree, and he has hardly recovered from the effects of the visit.

The artist was engaged on a landscape when the door was opened and the broker entered, somewhat under the influence of liquor. He took a seat, and after telling his host to go ahead with his work lit a cigar, and for the first time looked around the room. His glance lit on the candelabra, where a huge yellow and brown snake was about to swallow a small green and red one.

The broker started and turned pale. He looked at the mantelpiece. There an undersized dragon gazed in awful anger at an exaggerated crab. The broker shifted in his seat and began to perspire. He trembled and dropped his cigar, and in stooping to recover the weed he caught sight of a purple and Van Dyck brown boa constrictor coiled around an unused easel in a corner.

That settled it. The broker leaped up, and in doing so attracted the attention of the artist, who had been painting in silence.

"W—w—w—what's—do you see anything on the easel?" he tremulously inquired of the artist, at the same time pointing at the boa constrictor.

"Yes," replied the artist, "a picture."

The broker shook worse than ever.

"Nothing else?"

"There is nothing else to see," answered the artist, who had perceived the cause of the broker's fright and in a spirit of fun decided to prolong his misery, "except the wooden frame. You look sick. Anything the matter?"

The broker failed to give any coherent answer. He uttered an inarticulate yell, grabbed his hat and rushed out of the room and down the stairs, two steps at a time. The artist followed, but his cries only tended to increase the broker's speed. He learned after that the broker did not slacken his pace until he entered the office of a physician.

The two men met later in a cafe and peace was patched up, but the broker and artist are not quite so friendly now as they were.—N. Y. World.

SHE SPARED HIM.

The Sad Mistake of a Soft-Hearted Spinster.

She was the most ancient maiden of a New England village. He was the young minister. He had been very attentive to her. He thought, poor fellow, that it was his duty to be kind to the unfortunate. She regarded it in an entirely different light.

"Hiram," she said, "it is about time that you spoke."

"About time that I spoke, Miss Tabitha? Really, I do not think that I understand you."

"But I understand you, Hiram, perfectly. You love me madly."

"Oh! but—"

"Never mind. I know you are bashful, Hiram, and I know it is my duty to help you along. Nay, more, it is my duty to myself. Heaven knows what might be said of our actions."

"You certainly don't think—"

"That is precisely what I do think, Hiram. You love me. I may as well confess that you are the only being in the world that I have an affection for. Therefore we need say no more. It is the privilege of my sex to name the day. I will say the first Monday in June."

"Tabitha, it can not be."

"It must be, Hiram. It is your only salvation. You need some one to darn your stockings and sew buttons on your shirts. You need the soft hand of a loved one to smooth out the wrinkles from your fevered brow after your day's work. All this I shall do."

"Spare me, Tabitha."

"I am saving you, Hiram."

"Well, if you will not spare me, Tabitha, spare, oh, spare my wife and children."

It is unnecessary to say that she did.—Munsey's Weekly.

The proportions of the human figure are six times the length of the right foot. Whether the form is slender or plump, the rule holds good; on an average. Any deviation from the rule is a departure from the beauty of proportion. It is claimed that the Greeks made all their statues according to this rule. The face, from the highest point of the forehead, where the hair begins, to the end of the chin, is one-tenth of the whole stature; the hand, from the wrist to the middle finger, is also one-tenth of the total height. From the crown to the nape of the neck is one-twelfth of the stature.

An original mode of sounding a fire alarm is adopted in a town in Colorado. In that region the revolver is considered an indispensable article of daily wear, and affords the quickest way of announcing to the rest of the community the impending danger. Whenever a fire is discovered a rapid and promiscuous discharge of this firearm spreads the news throughout the town. This method, though crude, is found to work fairly well.

—What experience as an electrical expert have you had? "I've been struck by lightning."

ABOUT EARRINGS.

The History of These Familiar Ornaments Briefly Narrated.

Earrings have been worn from time immemorial. While excavating the ruins of ancient Thebes archaeologists brought to light sculptured remains bearing representations of these articles. Ancient writers make frequent mention of these decorations, and state that in early days they were worn by both sexes. From the very earliest times the male Asiatics wore them. The Bible tells us that Abraham presented his son's wife with a pair of earrings, and historians relate that Alexander the Great, when he invaded India, found them suspended in the ears of the Babylonians.

Among the ancient oriental nations, with the exception of the Hebrews, men and women wore them, the latter considering that they should be reserved for the sole use of the gentler sex. Homer makes mention of this method of adornment in his descriptions of statues representing several of the mythological deities, and the great Juvenal is authority for the statement that they were worn by all the males residing in the Euphrates provinces.

Ladies and waiting-maids among the ancient Greeks and Romans wore plain hoops of gold or silver in their ears, and as time progressed these became more elaborate, precious gems being set in them. Many Roman matrons possessed earrings of the most costly and gorgeous description, the settings being worth thousands of dollars. One of the most fashionable patterns affected by those of rank and wealth were modeled in the form of an asp, with a golden body shaded with gems of the first water. Earrings that bore the miniatures of the dear friends or relatives of the wearers were quite fashionable at an early day, and in many cases they were attached in the form of pendants.

In ancient Egypt and India those made in imitation of the lotus and Bengal rose were sought after in preference to all other designs.

Among civilized nations the wearing of earrings by men has been by no means uncommon, and it has been shown that in early English days some of the most distinguished courtiers bedecked their ears with very costly specimens. The immortal Shakespeare is said to have worn them, and Charles I. is reputed to have been the owner of a magnificent pair of pearl earrings, which he bequeathed to his daughter the day before he was executed.

In the South sea islands the females and males alike adopt this style of personal adornment, and even in the wilds of Africa they are worn by the untutored savages of both sexes.

At the present day the only civilized persons of the male sex who ornament their ears in this manner are the gypsies, the Italians, the French, a few sailors of other foreign nations, and occasionally a German, but as a matter of course precious few females the world over will be found without them.—Detroit Free Press.

PITH AND POINT.

—Tom—"It pays to buy a good watch." Jack—"Yes, you can get all the more on it when you come to pawn it."—Yankee Blade.

—Fussy (savagely)—"I ordered a ham sandwich twenty minutes ago!" Waiter—"Well, boss, it takes some time to cook a ham."—Harper's Bazar.

—"What's the matter with that man?" "He fell in a fit." "Where?" "In Fitter's tailor shop." "That's strange. I could never get a fit there."—Yankee Blade.

—Even in Florida.—Henry—"Don't you think Stella has a beautiful complexion?" May—"Yes; I selected it for her myself before we left New York."—Bostonian.

—Sarcasm is an effective weapon, but it acts like a boomerang when it is applied to his landlady by the young man who is two weeks behind in paying his board.—Somerville Journal.

—Malicious.—Professor—"As I see you have written this poem under an assumed name, was your name too good for the poem, or the poem too good for your name?"—Elegiac Blatter.

—"See here, doctor, you told me to avoid any sudden excitement." "So I did; it's likely to be fatal to you." "Then why, sir, did you send your bill to me yesterday?"—Elegiac Blatter.

—There is a deaf and dumb woman in New York who has no mother. At least we infer that to be the case from the fact that she has had six husbands, and is only thirty-six years old.—Texas Sittings.

—An Implied Refusal.—Harry—"Did she positively refuse you?" Jack (dejectedly)—"Not exactly. When I asked her if she ever thought of marrying, she said she had never yet had a man ask her about it."—Epoch.

—Tommy—"Can we play at keeping a store in here, mamma?" Mamma (who has a headache)—"Certainly, but you must be very quiet." Tommy—"Well, we'll pretend we don't advertise."—Art in Advertising.

—Smithly—"Here, Sticker, what is the reason you do not 'tend to your business?" Sticker—"Why, I do strictly." "But it seems that you are always nosing around into other people's business." "Well, that is my business."—Light.

—Her One Charm.—Mr. Blight—"At least one thing can be said of Miss Hoanleigh. She is very considerate of other people's feelings." Miss Spight—"That is very true. She always wears a thick veil when she goes out."—Chicago Times.

—What was Terrible?—Mrs. Hicks—"I had a terrible dream last night, John." Hicks—"What was it, my dear?" Mrs. Hicks—"I dreamed that you were dead. Then I woke up and found it was only a dream. Oh, it was terrible!"—Yankee Blade.

—On the Improve.—Fond Grandmother—"Understand Spanish? Speak French and German? What a talented little lady you are, to be sure!" The Little Lady (grandly)—"Yes; and my governess says that after awhile I may speak English correctly."—Puck.

—Dedbrooke—"It's no use denying that times are hard. I tested the matter thoroughly this morning." Jackson—"How?" Dedbrooke—"I accosted a dozen prominent citizens whom I met on the street and asked each one for the loan of five dollars for a short time only. Would you believe that not one of the twelve had that paltry sum in his pocket?"—Harper's Bazar.

PEASANT AND SHEEP.

A Fable Which Contains a Useful Lesson

One day a Peasant drove his Flock of Sheep into an Inclosure, and was preparing to Denude them of their long and Heavy Fleeces, when a Ewe, which was the oldest of the lot, suddenly Objected and said:

"I have long thought this an Outrage on our Rights, and I now Demand to be taken before the Cadi, who will give a Decision."

The Peasant, nothing loth, led the Ewe to the Village, where the Cadi (who invented the Cadi hat) was then receiving the Complaints of his Subjects. After hearing both Sides of the Story he Stroked his long Beard, scratched his right Shin with his left Foot, and replied:

"My Decision is that the Peasant shall not rob you of your Wool."

"Good! I Knew I was Right!" chuckled the Ewe.

"But I further Decide," continued the Cadi as he relieved the Tickling in his Throat with a Cough-Drop, "that the Peasant neither Feed, Lodge nor longer care for you. In Fact, that he turn you out to Shift for yourself. If you are not willing to make him any Return he will be a wise man to get rid of you."

FOOD COMBINATIONS.

Why Fruits and Vegetables Should Not Be Eaten at the Same Meal.

The reason why fruits and vegetables taken at the same meal do not agree is that fruits are easily digested, while it takes some time for vegetables to become thoroughly disintegrated. The fruits are soon ready to leave the stomach, but must be retained till the vegetables are also ready, and in the time of waiting, the fruits set up a fermentation which is communicated to the vegetables, and the whole contents of the stomach are thus spoiled. All kinds of food, fluids or solids, are retained in the stomach from two to four hours. At the end of that time the contents are so strongly acted through the action of the gastric juice, that violent contractions are set up by which the pylorus is opened, and the food is dumped into the small intestines. However, a person with strong digestion, need not pay much attention to food combinations, while one with feeble digestion will find it greatly to his advantage to eat at a single meal, only such foods as are digested alike and which require about the same length of time.—Dr. J. H. Kellogg.

SINGLE TAX DEPARTMENT.

SINGLE TAX AND SOCIALISM.

Commenting on Mr. Shearman's article on "The Coming Billionaire," the Galveston Daily News thinks that the inevitable corruption and inefficiency that would attend an attempt to raise all public revenues by a single tax on incomes would cause general disgust. After that, if the people still adhered to direct taxation, the News says they would necessarily be confronted "with the alternative plan of a single tax on land values." We can not quite make out whether or not the News thinks that such a consummation would be alarming to Mr. Shearman. It apparently would alarm our Galveston contemporary, for it thus continues:

"And here, if the tax problem is to wax to this shape and complexion, the final struggle must come between the party of individualism and the party of socialism over the issue of taxation. The individualists will insist that taxation on any kind of value shall be for no other purpose than to supply the fiscal needs of government, limited to its primary and necessary functions of police authority. The socialists will insist on using the single land tax, if that is adopted, for the purpose of an all-round social readjustment. They will propose to tax away for the benefit of the community all value accruing from social wants, social congregations and industrial concentrations."

If the News will familiarize itself with the theory and programme of the single tax movement it will dismiss all such fears. The single taxers are individualists, not socialists. They are utterly opposed to the assumption by government of the conduct of private business. Most of them, however, protest against the continuance of the practice that transfers to private individuals and corporations the transaction of public business and the performance of public functions, and they demand that the government shall resume its proper functions and cease to farm out the taxing and other powers to private individuals to be used for their personal advantage and profit. On this general principle they are all agreed, though there may be differences as to detail. For instance, they are all agreed that the maintenance of public highways is a function of the state, but many insist that highways thus maintained shall be operated by private enterprise, while some, (mistakenly, we think,) regarding this as impracticable, insist that the state shall not only own the road bed, but that it shall operate its own rolling stock on railways. All are, however, agreed that the principle involved is that private parties shall not own and monopolize public highways. If the Galveston News calls this socialism it ought to insist on the sale of the Mississippi and other rivers to private parties, who would doubtless pay the federal government an enormous sum for the privilege of exacting tribute from all craft sailing on their rivers.—The Standard.

The Law of Rent.

This is the law of rent: As individuals come together in communities, and society grows, integrating more and more its individual members, and making general interests and general conditions of more and more relative importance, there arises, over and above the value which individuals can create for themselves, a value which is created by the community as a whole, and which, attaching to land, becomes tangible, definite and capable of computation and appropriation. As society grows, so grows this value, which springs from and represents in tangible form what society as a whole contributes to production, as distinguished from what is contributed by individual exertion. By virtue of natural law in those aspects which it is the purpose of the science we call political economy to discover, as it is the purpose of the sciences which we call chemistry and astronomy to cover other aspects of natural law—all social advance necessarily contributes to the increase of this common value; to the growth of this common fund.

Here is a provision made by natural law for the increasing needs of social growth; here is an adaptation of nature by virtue of which the natural progress of society is a progress toward equality, not toward inequality; a centripetal force tending to unity, growing out of and ever balancing a centrifugal force tending to diversity. Here is a fund belonging to society as a whole from which, without the degradation of alms, private or public, provision can be made for the weak, the helpless, the aged; from which provision can be made for the common wants of all as a matter of common right to each, and by the utilization of which society, as it advances, may pass, by natural methods and easy stages from a rude association for purposes of defense and police, into a co-operative association, in which combined power guided by combined intelligence can give to each more than his own exertions multiplied many fold could produce.

By making land private property, by permitting individuals to appropriate this fund which nature plainly intended for the use of all, we throw the children's bread to the dogs of greed and lust; we produce a primary inequality which gives rise in every direction to other tendencies to inequality; and from this perversion of the good gifts of the Creator, from this ignoring and defying of his social laws, there arise in the very heart of our civilization those horrible and monstrous things that betoken social putrefaction.

The Cincinnati Commercial Gazette tells the story of a corner lot in that city that is more than unusually interesting. The lot is at the corner of Fourth and Home streets, and it was bought by The Methodist Book Concern two weeks ago for \$90,000, or over \$2,500 per front foot. The records show that this same lot was sold in 1799 for \$4; in 1801 for \$80; in 1804 for \$800; in 1807 for \$11,000; in 1891 for \$90,000. There is a story between the lines of this paragraph that our single tax friends can read to the uninitiated.

Why the Farmer Should Favor the Single Tax.

The farmer is apt to cry out against what he calls the injustice of exempting the magnificent buildings, sometimes erected in cities, from all taxation, forgetting that such buildings always stand upon land of the most expensive land, while his own farm house and barns stand upon land of utterly insignificant value. In adjusting taxation, the only question of importance is as to the relative proportion which will be borne by different classes; and it is of no importance whatever that any single piece of property should pay much or little, provided all other properties of the same kind pay in exact proportion with it. A farm house, costing \$1,500 to build, will stand upon a piece of land which, including the surrounding garden, on an ample scale, would not be worth more than \$15. But an average city house, costing \$10,000 to build, will stand upon a lot worth at least \$5,000; while a warehouse, costing \$30,000 to build, will frequently stand upon a lot worth \$50,000. So far, therefore, as the mere value of the land which is required for the purpose of supporting the house or building of any kind is concerned, the farmer would gain largely by concentrating taxes upon that and exempting all buildings. But he holds, in addition to the land upon which his house stands, a number of acres, which he uses for farming purposes; and he assumes that these will be heavily taxed under a system of taxation upon land values alone, and that thus a larger proportion of the burden will be thrown upon him. This is an entire mistake. When buildings are exempt from taxation, all other improvements on the land must also be exempted; and the result of this would be to assess improved farm lands at no higher value than perfectly wild, uncultivated land, in the same immediate vicinity. All fences, all growing crops, all improvements of every kind would be left out of account; and his land would be assessed only at the value which it would bring if it had been just swept clean by a prairie fire. Very little consideration is required to enable any one to see that, under such a rule of assessment, the taxes levied upon farms would be much less, in proportion to those levied upon town lots, than they are to-day, and that such a change in the methods of assessment and taxation would result in lessening the burden of farms and increasing that of the large towns.

Taxing Vacant Lots in Burlington, Iowa.

Frank S. Churchill, of Burlington, Iowa, writes: Our morning paper is reporting the proceedings of the city council at their regular meeting, contains the following:

A resolution was introduced which will warm the hearts of the single tax advocates, and shows the effect of the published arguments of the local adherents of the theory. It was introduced by Alderman Mercer, and reads as follows: "Resolved, That the assessor of the city of Burlington, Iowa, be and is hereby directed and instructed to mark his books before presented to the city council, so as to indicate which lots have improvements and which are vacant, so that the council, when acting as a board of equalization, may act intelligently and place upon vacant lots held for speculative purpose their share of municipal taxation." The ordinance was adopted without dissent.

Our single tax men feel that they have not labored in vain, and we will now do our best to drive home the wedge and aid the city council in placing upon vacant lots "their share of municipal taxation."

The Indians and the Land.

With the Indians, land was the property of all. It was one of the original elementary gifts of the Creator to man, and hence the birth-right of every child born. It was grouped by them with air, sunshine, wind and rain. It was a wealth, a right, a property that no power could alienate from them. The earth under their feet on which they were born, in which were the graves of their sires and in which their dust would finally repose, was God's gift to them and loved with a passionate devotion. Even war could not obliterate this primal right. No victorious tribe ever took the land from the conquered hand. They might not take what the Great Spirit had bestowed. "Sell a country!" indignantly exclaimed Tecumseh, when protesting against the sale of land to the whites: "Why not sell the air, the clouds, the sea as well as the earth? Did not the Great Spirit make them for all his children?"—Mr. Murray, in New York World.

THE Ohio senate, last Wednesday, passed the Rawling's (assembly) bill, with amendments. As it passed the senate, the bill provides that manufacturers shall pay taxes on raw material and manufactured goods which are on hand on the first Monday in April, except those articles which have been manufactured subsequently to the first of January preceding. The bill was passed as a concession to the Farmers' Alliance, who claimed that the manufacturers did not pay their share of taxation; but if the manufacturers are sharp they will see that the bill gives them an opportunity to get off with even less taxes than they pay now, for they can run on full time and force during the winter and avoid paying taxes on the goods manufactured during that time. "Cute manufacturer! Poor farmer!"

THERE is a way of securing the equal rights to all, not by dividing land up into equal pieces, but by taking for the use of all that value which attaches to land, not as the result of individual labor upon it, but as the result of the increase of population, and the improvement of society.

"The greatest glory of America," said Carlyle, "is that there every peasant can have turkey in his pot." Alas, that glory is passing away and we are rapidly tending toward conditions in which the lot of the masses will be harder than it is in Europe.



"I WILL NEVER SMOKE AGAIN."



SHE REFUSED WITH DIGNITY.