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BY DAVID OVER.

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Poetry.



YE CAN CONQUER, IF YE WILL.

BY ANANIAS M. SAWYER.

Rugged toils—son of labor—
Stoutly battling every day
For existence—Oh, my brother,
Thou shalt triumph in the fray.
On life's changeful field of action,
Though defeat may oft appear,
Thou shalt win the victor's laurels,
If thou wilt but persevere.

Though thou art obscure and lowly,
Ye may reach the wished-for goal,
Grasp the prizes, wealth and station,
If thou hast a dauntless soul;
If thou hast a resolution
That misfortune cannot shake;
Thou shalt win the victor's laurels,
One on which the angry surges
An impression fail to make.

Act thou sobered and decided
By the self-styled deity born;
Need ye not the fool's contemner,
Or the weak mind's harmless scorn,
Act thou friendless—friends will gather,
As do courtiers, kings around,
When thou hast achieved distinction,
When thou hast position found.

Strong in faith, let naught repel thee;
Thou shalt in the end prevail;
In life's trials, and its battles,
None but dauntless warriors fail;
Noble natures prove ascendant,
In earth's mighty contest rang;
To renown from dark oblivion,
Rebeld in glory in thy spring.

What if years of fierce endeavor
Have been spent by thee in vain?
What if thou hast met disaster?
Up and take the field again,
Wreck and ruin all about thee,
Give not up but struggle still,
Staunch courage is a restless,
Ye can conquer if ye will.

Reduction of the State Taxes.

Mr. Patterson, from the select committee, to whom was referred the bill entitled "An act to reduce the State tax," made a report setting forth that a reduction of the State tax might easily be made at once to two mills on the dollar. The report was read as follows:

To the Hon. W. C. A. Lawrence, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Mr. Patterson, from the select committee to whom was referred House bill No. 882, entitled "An Act to reduce the State tax on real and personal estate to two mills on the dollar," most respectfully begs leave to submit the following report:

The question of taxation immediately concerns every citizen of the Commonwealth; and any legislation thereon requires the greatest caution and scrutiny. While the necessity of increasing the taxes would be seriously felt and lamented by all, the ability to reduce the present burden of the people, and the fact that such a reduction can be made with safety to the future and justice to the creditors of the State, will, no doubt, be hailed with joyful satisfaction by the willing and patient taxpayers, as a forerunner of the "good time coming," when the ordinary resources of the Commonwealth will be amply sufficient to defray all its current annual expenditures, without a dollar of direct taxation.

The history of taxes is, that they are constantly increasing; and it is the plain and imperative duty of every legislator to direct his energy and influence to an actual and substantial reduction, if within his power.

In our inquiry into this subject, while we desire to relieve the taxpayer of a portion of his burdens, we are compelled to keep in view the honor and credit of our noble old Commonwealth, pledged for the redemption of her debt. The constitution requires the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund to annually redeem one quarter of a million of dollars of the State debt; it is a wise provision. The present prosperous condition of the Treasury fully justifies the assertion that, by prudence, economy and financial skill, we can in future pay annually one million of dollars of the State debt, provided there should be no falling off in the revenue from other sources than the direct tax on real and personal estate; and upon careful examination of the different items of revenue we can find no one which can, or will, be cut off, or be decreased in amount; but the experience of the Treasury goes to prove that the revenue is gradually but certainly increasing every year from its present sources.

The whole amount of receipts at the State Treasury for the fiscal year ending 30th November, 1858, was \$1,708,916 82; deduct the whole amount of State tax on real and personal estate, \$1,610,229 10, and we have the sum of \$98,687 63 as the receipts of the Treasury from sources besides the direct State tax.

Now, a comparison for the year ending 30th November, 1859, will be still more striking as going to prove the assertion that the condition

of the Treasury will justify a gradual reduction of the State tax until it is entirely removed, and yet the resources will be ample to meet the ordinary expenses of the Government, and annually redeem a large amount of the State debt, and secure its final extinguishment.

The State Treasurer estimates the receipts for the year 1859—and we are informed the figures have been more than realized since the year commenced (30th November, 1858), at \$4,980,827 76, deduct whole amount received from State tax for 1859, \$1,650,000, and we have the sum of \$3,330,827 76 as the receipts of the State outside the State tax; yet this sum is sufficient to pay the expenses of 1859, and redeem the amount of the State debt required by the constitution. The appropriation bill for 1859 is in round numbers, \$2,900,000; redemption of State debt, \$250,000, added together, \$3,150,000, showing a balance of \$180,827 76, after paying expense and debt, without collecting one dollar of State tax. These figures most convince the most incredulous of the fact that the State tax can be gradually reduced, and in a few years entirely removed.

Your Committee doubt the policy of continuing the present heavy rate of taxation for the purpose of a rapid liquidation of the State debt. The creditors of the State receive their interest promptly and will be satisfied to receive so much of the principal as the figures show can be readily paid. A more rapid liquidation would soon place the funded debt not due, at a premium, to pay which we think is a waste of money, and gross injustice to the taxpayers. In 1857 the United States Government brought in its loans at a heavy premium, and three months thereafter was in the market as a borrower of money. The taxpayers of the Commonwealth have borne the burdens imposed patiently for years, and now when it is in our power it should be our pleasure, as it is our duty, to relieve them, at least to the extent contemplated by the present bill. The policy of accumulating a large sum in the Treasury, and having at the end of each year an unexpended balance of near, if not altogether, millions of dollars, is dangerous, of being inducements to extravagance on the part of the Legislature, and if the experience of States can be taken as a guide, affording irresistible temptation to speculation and loss on the part of those having charge of the public funds. Far better and safer would it be to leave the care of so large a surplus in the hands of the rightful owners, the people, and not draw it from them in the shape of taxes, unless absolutely required. The present debt of the Commonwealth, as stated by the Auditor General, after deducting the amount which will be cancelled by the bonds received from the sale of the Canals and Railroads of the State, which are provisions good and responsible for the amount they represent, is \$28,087,111 16, one million of which it is proposed to pay this year, and in the opinion of those conversant with the subject, and after careful examination, we are clearly of the opinion that the sum of one million of dollars can be paid annually until the whole debt is extinguished, which will be a period of about twenty-five years, unless some unforeseen and unexpected public contingency should arise to interfere with the regular operation of the Treasury.

While your Committee consider that the consideration that the condition of the Treasury would justify a greater reduction than one half a mill on the dollar of State tax, and while in the present embarrassed and stagnant condition of business throughout the State, and the serious losses sustained by the farmers by failure of the crops for the last few years, we would take pleasure in recommending such a course, yet prudence and a proper regard for the faith of the Commonwealth forbid us from recommending at this time a further reduction in the State tax than one half a mill on the dollar. We present the following figures, based upon the official returns and estimates of the Auditor General and State Treasurer, which we confident will satisfy any one of the correctness of the position we assume, and sustain the policy of the proposed reduction.

The State Treasurer estimates the entire receipts at the State Treasury up to 30th November, 1859, at \$4,988,800 00
Add balance in Treasury 30th November, 1859, 892,027 76

Entire receipts for 1859, \$4,980,827 76
The appropriation bill for 1859, amounts in round numbers, to 2,900,000 00

Balance in Treasury 30th November, 1859, \$2,080,827 76
But deduct the payment on State debt as we propose, and which we are informed the State Treasurer will pay this year, 1,000,000 00

\$1,080,827 76

And we have the balance of \$1,080,827 76 in the Treasury on 30th November, 1859, after defraying all the expenses of the State, and redeeming one million dollars of the State debt.

Now estimate the receipts from all sources the same for 1860 as for 1859, except from State tax, which item we will deduct from the estimate, and we have the following sum as the resources, except from State tax, \$2,603,803 77.

The whole amount of State tax on real and personal estate at 2 1/2 mills on the dollar, as fixed by the Board of Revenue Commissioners at their last triennial assessment, amounts to (see report of Auditor General) \$1,484,816 23.

Now deduct one-half mill on the dollar or five tenths the above sum as proposed by the present bill, and we have the sum of \$296,

963 24 as the entire amount of State tax to be raised for the year 1860 at two mills on the dollar, and which we will add to the receipts of 1860, \$1,187,952 99—and we have the sum of \$4,872,664 52 as the entire receipts for 1860, which will be greatly increased from other sources.

Now estimate the appropriation bill for 1860 at the same as for 1859, and it should be less, as the item of interest will be some \$80,000 less—2,900,000—and we have the sum of \$1,972,664 54 as the balance in the Treasury on the 30th November, 1860. But if we deduct the sum of 1,000,000, which could be applied to the redemption of the State debt, in 1860, we have the sum of \$972,664 52 as the balance in the Treasury on 30th November, 1860, after defraying the expenses of the government and redeeming the year 1859 and 1860 two millions of dollars of the State debt, and reducing the State tax to two mills on the dollar.

These figures can be relied upon as the sources of the Treasury are positive and sure, and cannot be diminished unless by carelessness on the part of the agents of the State, or recklessness of the Legislature, which we hope will be guarded against. The expenditures of the State must decrease every year, as there are no avenues through which the funds can be squandered, since the State has entirely relieved itself from the control and expenses of public improvements, and in future the operations of the Treasury can be strictly confined to the ordinary expenses of the State, and the reduction of the debt. The reduction proposed will not take place until next year, and can in no measure effect the revenue for this year.

In view of all these facts, your committee report, with an affirmative recommendation, House bill No. 882, entitled "An act to reduce the State tax on personal and real estate to two mills on the dollar."

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN J. PATTERSON,
JOS. H. WILSON,
WILSON LAIRD,
JOSEPH BARNESLEY,
SAM'L OAKS.

Mr. Patterson moved that, for the purpose of considering House bill No. 882, entitled "An act for the further reduction of the State tax on real and personal estate to two mills on the dollar," the rules be suspended, and that the bill be read three times, and the bill was agreed to, and the bill was considered in committee of the whole, Mr. Walker in the chair.

After the first section had been read,
Mr. Walker moved to strike out "and" and insert "and a half," but subsequently withdrew his amendment. The bill then passed committee of the whole, second and final reading, as follows, viz:

Sec. 1. Be it enacted, &c. That hereafter the tax imposed upon real and personal estate for State purposes, by the thirty-second and thirty-fourth sections of the Act of Assembly approved the twenty-ninth day of April, 1844, entitled "an act to reduce the State debt and to incorporate the Pennsylvania canal and railroad company," be and is hereby further reduced to two mills on the dollar; provided, that the reduction shall not be made upon the taxes levied for the present year.

On the final passage of the bill the yeas and nays were called, and resulted as follows:—Yeas, 77. Nays, none.

FOUR MEN HUNG AT BALTIMORE.

Terrible Expiation of Crime.

BALTIMORE, April 8.—At eleven o'clock this morning, the four men who have been under sentence of death in our County Prison, expiated their crimes by death on the gallows, in due course of law. The execution was witnessed by at least thirty thousand people, from city and country.

THE MURDERERS AND THEIR VICTIMS.

Their names and the names of their victims are as follows:

Henry Gambrell, the murderer of Policeman Benton.
Marion Cropps, the murderer of Policeman Rigdon.
Peter Corrie, his accomplice, and
Stephen alias Cyphus, (colored), the murderer of a negro named King.

Gambrell killed Policeman Benton in the street, in which Gambrell's friends were wrangling with another party of "roughs." He is quite a young man, and maintained his intrepidity all through the trial and since the reprieve.

Cropps or Cropps was to have been hung on the 15th ult., with Gambrell, but by the clemency of the Governor he was allowed time for preparation. He was about 24 years old and was said to have been quite handsome. He murdered Rigdon for daring to testify against his comrade, Gambrell.

Corrie was the accomplice of Marion Cropps, in the murder of officer Rigdon. Corrie was a butcher by trade, and has worked at that business, but for sometime before the murder of Rigdon, had given himself up to hard drinking, and associating with members of the Plug Ugly and Rip Rap Clubs. Corrie was about twenty-six or twenty-seven years of age, dark hair and eyes, about five feet six inches in height, and about 160 lbs. in weight; his face, though not good looking, was not repulsive, but had something interesting in the expression.

Stephen alias Cyphus, was convicted of the murder of another negro, on account of a female whom Cyphus had picked up in the streets, and taken to a house of assignation, when he was interrupted by the man, and Cyphus stabbed him. He has constantly declared his innocence, but his conviction would be more certain than before, if granted a new trial. He was a fine-looking man, pleasant expression of face, about five feet eight inches in height, and weighed about 170 lbs. He was engaged as a drayman about the wharf.

SCENES IN JAIL YESTERDAY AND LAST NIGHT.

The entrance to the city jail was crowded all of yesterday by persons, male and female, whose curiosity and interest in the fate of the persons condemned to die to-day seemed to outweigh all other considerations. So numerous were the applications for admissions that the attentive and gentlemanly warden, Capt. James, was compelled to refuse an entrance to all whose relations, official or otherwise, did not justify it. The clergyman who has interested themselves with praiseworthy zeal in the fate of the unhappy men were early in attendance upon them.

The relatives of the condemned visited them yesterday as is supposed, for the last time, and upon the sacred privacy of their last interview upon earth, no others desired to intrude. At 2 P. M. Wm. P. Preston, Esq., counsel of Peter Corrie, visited his cell. On entering, Peter who was engaged in his devotions, and surrounded by his relations, brothers, sisters, and friends spring forward and affectionately embraced his counsel. His first ejaculation was, "Oh, Mr. Preston, I am very glad to see you. I am prepared, sir, but before I die I wish to express to you my thanks for your exertions in my behalf. Oh, sir, do you not think I deserve to be forgiven? Have I ever been in heart a murderer?"

Mr. Preston paused, and in the midst of breathless silence said: "Peter, I have known you from a small boy; I knew your father, and I know your mother; I know all your family, and I feel deeply for their affliction and your fate. I have defended you, and I have defended you upon principle. In my judgment you are not a murderer. To-morrow you must die; die an ignominious death; may God have mercy on you. I have come to die you farewell!"

Corrie replied: "Sir, I never conspired or consented to take the life of Rigdon. He was a stranger to me. I had no malice against him whatever; my mistake it was the result of drunken excitement. I was drawn into it, others pushed us on; I hope God will forgive us, will forgive all. Sir, I have asked for pardon, and through the blessed influence of religion I hope I may be pardoned. In the death of the unfortunate man I had nothing to gain; I never consented to his death, never, but, sir, perhaps it is better I should die. My agony is that my kind mother and sisters should suffer on my account. May God comfort them." The prisoner wept bitterly, and all within the cell joined in his grief.

Mr. Preston responded, "Peter I must die you farewell—at this time to-morrow, your spirit shall have fled to the world of which we know so little. May God, in His infinite mercy, pardon our offenses in this world. I again say I do not think you are a murderer. Carry with you to the place of execution my expressed opinion that you are the victim of that bewildering excitement too often produced by intoxication. The kindness and tenderness of your heart, I have never doubted. May God pardon you, and give consolation to your unhappy mother and family. In this world we shall never meet again—farewell!"

The counsel again embraced his client, and amidst the sabbid sobs of all present, took his final adieu.

Long before the time fixed for the execution of the wretched criminals, a line of men and women poured towards the prison. Notwithstanding the positive rule that no persons ex-

AN AXE TO GRIND.

When I was a little boy says Dr. Franklin, I remember, one cold winter morning, I was accosted by a smiling man with an axe on his shoulder. "My pretty boy," said he "has your father a grindstone?"

"Yes, sir," said I.

"You are a fine little fellow," said he, will you let me grind my axe on it?"

Pleased with the compliment of "fine little fellow," I answered, "O, yes; it is down in the shop."

"And will you, my little fellow," said he, putting me on the head, "get me a little hot water?"

"Could I refuse? I ran and soon brought a kettle full."

"How old are you, and what's your name?"

"And without waiting for a reply, he continued, "I am sure you are one of the finest little fellows that I ever saw. Will you just turn a few minutes for me?"

Tied to the flattery, like a fool, I went to work, and bitterly did I rue the day. It was a new axe, and I toiled and tugged till I was almost tired to death. The scabbard bell rang and I could not get away. My hands were blistered, the axe was sharpened, and the man turned to me with, "Now, you little rascal, you've played truant; send for school, or you'll rue it."

Alas, thought I it is hard enough to turn a grindstone this cold day, but to be called a little rascal was too much. It sunk deep in my mind, and often have I thought of it since.—When I see a merchant under polite to his customers, begging them to take a little brandy, and throwing his goods on the counter, thinks I that man has an axe to grind. When I see a man flattering the people, making a great profession of attachment to liberty, who in private life a tyrant, methinks look out good people, that fellow would set you turning a grindstone. When I see a man hoisted into office by party spirit, without a single qualification to render him respectable or useful, alas, deluded people you are doomed for a season to turn a grindstone for a body.

THE EFFECT IN EUROPE.

The retrograde European journals all quote with great delight the recent exposure of the corruption practised in our Navy Department by Messrs. Buchanan and Toucy. The famous letter of "J. B." in particular, encouraging Mr. Toucy to pay several thousand more for votes for Mr. Thomas B. Florence, M. C., in the form of an excessive compensation for steam machinery, is especially welcome to these enemies of universal suffrage and popular institutions. See, they exclaim, to what results the republican system must surely lead! Bribery and corruption from the very head of the Executive, who puts his own sign manual to the most revolting transaction, down to the most official agent. Of course, with such a bugbear, the English conservative can successfully resist every effort to popularize the subject in that kingdom. The Pro-Slavery Democratic party in this country thus exert a fatal influence abroad as well as at home. Mr. Buchanan and his consorts not only inflict a deep disgrace on their own country, but add strength and weight to the shackles of the people in Europe. Instead of an example of Liberty to other nations, America is now the scarecrow of despots and aristocracies.—A. Y. Tribune.

What President Buchanan has done in defiance of the will of the people, as expressed through their accredited representatives is forcibly put in the following extract from a Hartford paper:

"When Connecticut repudiated Isaac Toucy, Mr. Buchanan took him into the Cabinet.
"When Michigan repudiated Lewis Cass Mr. Buchanan took him into the Cabinet.
"When old Berks repudiated Jehu Glanoy Jones, Mr. Buchanan rewarded him with a mission to Austria.
"When Indiana repudiated John Potit, Mr. Buchanan made him Chief Justice of Kansas.
"When Iowa repudiated George W. Jones, Mr. Buchanan offered him a mission to Bogota.
"When Iowa repudiated Augustus Caesar Dodge, he was made Minister to Spain.
"When the pro-slavery party failed to establish Slavery in Oregon, Mr. Buchanan made its leader the U. S. District Judge."

Mr. Pullup coming home late, 'pretty full, finds the walking slippery, and exclaims: 'V-very-slippery; whenever water freezes it alius fr-freezes with the slip-slippery side up; dem'd singular.

A pretty woman is like a great truth, or a great happiness; and has no more right to bundle herself up under a green veil, or any similar abomination, than the sun has a right to put green spectacles on.

Servant: "What kind of sauce will you have, Mr. Blitkins?"
Blitkins: "I don't allow a servant to give me any kind of sauce!"

An editor down east thinks children's games are becoming popular with older persons now-a-days as he has seen several gentlemen chasing "hoops" in the streets.

Jerry Diggs remembered his miserly uncle in his will, for he bequeathed "to my mother's brother a gun-flint, and a knife to skin it with."

Of all earthly music that which reaches the farthest into heaven, is the hearing of a loving heart.

"My dear wife, I wish you would try to keep your temper"—"My dear husband I wish you would try and get rid of yours."

Questions for Debating Societies.

If the traveler who took the course of human events has in any event ever heard of since.

If brass will make a candlestick, what will make one let loose?

If the hollow of a log can be heard?

If tin will make a can, what will make a can?

If twelve inches make one foot, how many will make a leg?

If five and a half yards make one pole, how many will it take to make a log.

Do potatoes ever wear out, as we often hear of potato patches.

If pig pens will do to write with?

Will the Cape of Good Hope fit a lady?

If a good act benefits no one else it benefits the one who does it.

PIKE'S PEAK.

A Steamboat, filled with gold seekers bound to Pike's Peak and the region roundabout, was sunk, on Monday night in the Ohio, by a collision, and a score or two of the passengers were drowned. Thus ends the golden dream of one party of enthusiasts. Hundreds of others will probably perish by disease or accident, and all will suffer more or less from fatigue, privation and exposure. But it is with such trials as these, that waste places are filled and commonwealths are formed. A great sacrifice must be offered to the goddess Fortune, before her favor is vouchsafed to her votaries.

The number of emigrants, adventurers, pilgrims, of whatever they may be called, is enormous this spring. Every steamboat and railroad train bound to the West is filled with them, and vehicles and animals of all kinds are brought into the service. A private letter, dated St. Joseph, Mo., March 25th, is before us, which says:

"Our city is a perfect jam, crowded with Pike's Peakers. Some are going with hand carts, some with wheelbarrows, and some with knapsacks. Two express leave every week filled with passengers. The ox-trains have not yet started. The rail road cars bring in daily from two hundred to five hundred people."

All other places on the route present the same extraordinary spectacle, and it is believed by some that the wilderness of Western Kansas will contain before the summer is over, at least one hundred thousand inhabitants. This may be the case, unless the promise of the richness of the mines should be unfulfilled. Of this there is some danger; for occasional reports reach us of returning miners, broken in health, spirits and fortune, who report the gold mines a humbug. Some have spent the winter in the most praiseworthy manner, and have left disgusted. There must be a large per centage of such failures and disappointments in an emigrating population, and Pike's Peak, with its contiguous gold-bearing country, may not altogether satisfy the expectations of any. Still many active and energetic people will be transferred to a good country, and even if the gold fails, will become permanent settlers. This population and civilization will be trust further westward, to meet the returning wave from the Pacific States, and thus the whole Union will be benefited.