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Daily Appeal

THE CONTROLLER'S REPORT.

From the Nashville Union:

The biennial report of the Controller to the Legislature is the exhibit of the State, and is looked to by the people as the ledger from which they learn the financial administration of affairs. It is also looked to by the creditors of the State as the showing by which they judge of the solvency of their debtor, and its ability to meet its engagements.

The report lately laid before the Legislature by Controller Dunlap is very full and satisfactory. Making, as it does, eighty-eight pages, and much of it heavy table-work, we cannot print it entire in our columns; but we purpose, from time to time, to give such extracts of its most important statements as will place our readers in possession of its conclusions.

The receipts and disbursements for 1858 are thus reflected:

A marked difference will be observed, upon examination of the receipts for 1858 and 1859—those for the first year being $669,141.41, while those for the latter are $1,178,952.47, making $509,812.06 in favor of 1859. This heavy increase is more accidental than the result of any fixed law bringing about such a progression. In 1858 the Bank of Tennessee paid no profits into the treasury. In 1859 it paid $420,402 32. This sum divided between the two years would make the receipts for 1858 $879,241.07, and those for 1859, $968,751.81—a difference of but $89,410.64. This balance will be further reduced when the enrolled receipts for the present year from the sinking fund is taken from it, an increase of $24,289.70, which would leave in favor of 1859 only $65,121.14—about the State tax upon the $37,000,000 more of taxable property this year than last.

The disbursements for 1859 exceed those of 1858, $202,766.09. The payments of one single item in 1859, without reference to the temporary and special disbursements for the same year, will account for this. There were paid for the present $320,843.51 more interest upon the State than was paid last year; $116,329 of which sum for arrearages of interest due in 1857. If the interest due in 1857 had been paid in 1858, the expenditures in that year would have been greater than for 1859; but if half the excess paid for this year had been paid, the disbursements would have been for 1858, $945,185.51 to $789,102.10 for 1859—the former year's expenditures usually and naturally being the greater, as the legislative expenses are included in it. But it is not important in which of the two years the greater disbursements were made, if they were proper of themselves and made in conformity to law.

The aggregate expenditures for the two years ending the 1st October, 1859, were $991,788.57 more than those for the two preceding years. The receipts and expenditures almost necessarily grow with the increase of population—there are more purchasers of wealth to be taxed to bring in revenue, there is more necessity for Government to pay it out, more crimes to be punished, and more misfortunes to be alleviated by State charities. But if the debt due for 1857 (the $116,329 arrearages of interest due in that year) had then been paid, the expenditures for the last two years would have been $21,289.43 less than for the two years preceding. In addition to this there are many items of a temporary, incidental or special character, not included, except $5,000 of them, in the preceding two years, and but a small portion of them to remain as permanent expenditures, which ought to be prorated for the two years, and but a small portion of them to remain as permanent expenditure, which ought to be credited to temporary expenditures on account of the Legislature of 1857-8 respons ble for most of them.

There were paid in the last two years $295,306.06, which the Legislature of 1857-8 appropriated, contracted the debts for which that amount was paid—the $116,329 of interest due for the year 1857—$83,036.60 of the sinking fund which goes into and out of the treasury under the control of the governor, controller and president of the Bank of Tennessee, without affecting it in any wise, except to swell the receipts and expenditures, which will continue to do so to a larger extent each succeeding year—$42,000 of capital bonds that fell due and were paid the present year—the $43,000 of the bonds of the Bank that was paid into the treasury by mistake and paid out again, being subject under the act of 1854 alone to the check of the governor and controller in payment for State bonds—and the $3300 interest on 45 capital bonds appropriated by a succeeding Legislature, but issued since the 1st October, 1857. Excluding these items making up the $497,336.68, as having accidentally fallen in the last two years, it will be seen that the ordinary expenditures of 1858 and 1859, including all the appropriations of the last Legislature, are less than those for the years 1856 and 1857.

ADDRESS OF HONORABLE JACOB THOMPSON.

The Maryland Agricultural College was inaugurated on the 8th instant, and Jacob, the Secretary of the Interior was present among other invited guests. We copy below the eloquent and appropriate address delivered by him on the occasion:

Mr. Thompson said:

He came forward, at the urgent solicitation of the gentlemen interested with the management of this infant institution, with reluctance, because he had neither prepared notes nor arranged thoughts, and he knew full well little honor would be do him upon the occasion he would make. But he did not wish to seem indifferent either to the wishes of others or to the great cause of agriculture. The condition in accident on which he made this visit was that he was not to be called upon for any speech. He came to hear the address of the learned professor, to be a spectator, to be entertained and instructed, with no expectation of making an attempt to entertain and instruct others; and so absorbed had he been by the very able remarks of the distinguished professor that he found the whole current of his thoughts running along with him, and now he felt it impossible to disentangle or disembarrass himself from his chain, and call back his mind from action or train of thought. But the subject of agriculture was an interesting one to him. On a subject which embraces so wide a field, and with which he had been so intimately connected, (because all he possessed on earth was invested in property directly connected with agriculture,) he had strong opinions and feelings which he would gladly express, were he able to do so in any connected manner.

The life of the farmer, rightly understood, is the most dignified and independent of all other pursuits in our country. The distinction between him and all other persons is, that he is directly dependent for his prosperity and success upon the favor and smile of Providence, while all others are dependent on the favor and patronage of man; the farmer, therefore, has a more constant and recurring appeal made to him, to lean on the great God of Heaven, who rules and controls all things than others. Never for a moment to the beginning of this high vocation. When God created this great world, and all the things that are in it and upon it, and pronounced them good, he created man and woman, male and female, and gave to them power over all the earth. He made them to multiply and replenish the earth and to subdue it. He created man upright, and while he was required to dress the garden in which he was placed, yet the earth spontaneously produced every fruit which was necessary for his comfortable and happy existence. This Adam, our great ancestor, in his days of purity and innocence, was a gardener. In that condition there was no death, and, consequently, no disease and no sorrow. Adam in this State, as a gardener, looked up through nature and nature's God with admiration and praise. We are taught that he was able to name all the beasts of the field. He was guilty of disobedience, and that disobedience brought death into the world and all our woes. It was then decreed by his creator that in the sweat of his face he should henceforth eat bread. This great primeval curse is the penalty which we suffer for the alleviation of which this institution has been established.

The ancient fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, were farmers. Christ, during his secular life, was a carpenter. Peter and his brethren were fishermen. Paul was a scholar, and Luke was a doctor. In turning to the ancient men whose lives have been distinguished in different ages and countries, it will be found that they were engaged in every innocuous occupation; and we are driven to the conclusion that—

"We are not chosen from on condition view;
Act well your part: there all the honor lies."

But to make the complete farmer or planter, he must be possessed of the largest share of human knowledge. This institution is intended to instruct young men not so much in the practical as in the theoretical part of how to do, but how to direct that work should be done. And in that view he was most forcibly struck with the remarks of the learned Professor. He says, why should a boy, who was started by some zealous Eastern educators that children should be taught to think, but be differed from them, and thought they ought to be taught how to do, and after having been learned how to act, then they might be taught how to think, and concluded that practical life might be said to be in the concrete, as once it thinking in the abstract. He thought this might be well applied to the pupils of this institution. A farmer's life must be in the concrete state; the life and the studies of agriculture must be in the abstract state. Knowledge, to be valuable, must be such as, when reduced to practice, will be productive and profitable. The farmer or planter who produces most with a given amount of labor must be said to be the most skilled. His knowledge is best because it is most practical and productive.

The young men who are to be educated at this institution are look for gratified were expected to direct the labor of others, not to perform it themselves. Suppose your young man to have completed his college studies, and goes out to reduce his knowledge to practice, what is the first thing he does? Sets about what he requires done? The tract of land is selected and the purchase is made. Is his title good? Here he must understand the principles of law and those rules which have been recognized by society and government a dividing mean and fence—this far he must be a lawyer, and will justify his having read at least the preface of Blackstone. He must have houses to shelter himself and those dependent upon him. Here he must have a knowledge of architecture, which is a science; workmen must be employed to carry out his architectural designs; and to insure a faithful performance of his contracts he must possess knowledge of practical mechanics—this must be a skilled to be understood. He goes to his field—here he must understand soils; and to do so he must know something of their component elements; he must be a chemist; he must do review the earth from barrenness, and what is the best method of applying fertilizers; he is the chemistry of all the kingdoms, and if liable to agriculture, must be studied and understood. Here is a large field for the man in the abstract to give facts to the man in the concrete of practical utility. But the national position of his ground requires drainage, so that it may be dried on the land and prevented from washing away. This whether to perform this work well and effectively, the science of engineering must be understood and its principles applied. He returns home by his houses and examines his stock of horses and mules, and here he may be called upon for all his knowledge of farriery. In fact a thorough acquaintance with all diseases which visit animals, and how to treat them, is essential to any man who controls a farm.

He prepares his ground to receive the seed; to do this properly, he must be familiar with the best implements; and to cultivate his crop in the best mode, he must understand plants and their peculiar habitudes. This involves an acquaintance with botany, an interesting branch of study.

He returns to his home. He finds sickness and disease have laid hold of some one who looks to him for relief. Here he will find a field for the exercise of all his knowledge of medicine; and to be equal to his position in life, and to his responsibility, he must acquaint himself with the nature of disease and the action of medicines; in short, the perf ct farmer or planter should have an acquaintance with the whole circle of practical knowledge known among men.

We are here in a slaveholding community, and, in his estimation, there was no situation in life so desirable as that of a southern planter. His farm makes a kind of independent community of which he is the center. His will controls the movements and operations of all around him. He must, therefore, preserve a cool head and a kind will, because, being responsible for everything which is done, his judgment must be sound and the directions he gives must be clear. His manner, too, must be upright, and his life must be virtuous, for those around him will follow his example. With a full knowledge of his position and his responsibility to those who have been intrusted to his charge, and independent of all except the smiles of him from whom proceeds every good and perfect gift, the planter who loves and virtue and walks not uprightly, deserves to be cast off as worse than an infidel. He wished to keep men in the pursuit of science—the thinking man in the abstract—they were useful; give him the man in the concrete who knew his duties to his God and to his fellowman, and performed them.

The Professor told us of the wonderful powers of man to track the movements of the heavenly bodies. And it is wonderful. It is now known, that on the 8th day of December, 1875, a dark body will pass directly across the disk of the sun, that the comet which but lately cheered us with its presence, and had now disappeared, in one hundred and fifty years would come again and lighten up the heavens with its flaming train. This science of astronomy is grand, but it is exact and certain, and in but glancing at it he had not been ashamed of the exclamation of one of its greatest devotees that an undevout astronomer is mad. But turn to the planter's life; there no such certainty is attained; no man can tell what a day or an hour may bring forth. God rules the seasons. Man is required to use the means, and he is told if he sows not, neither shall he reap. But if he sows and reaps, and the rains, he must ward off the storms, he must cut off the invading and destroying insects, or he will not reap. What was said in a spiritual sense, applied in a temporal sense. Paul may plant and Apollos may water, but God alone gives the increase. But if he has been vouchsafed to man to know what will be the pleasure of Providence. The wind will blow whence it listeth, but no one is allowed to know whence it cometh and whither it goeth, and the ex-tamation of the philosopher might be adopted by him in saying that the undevout planter, living in constant and daily dependence and trembling for his bread, is mad.

The learned Professor shows us a map on which is delineated a vast tract of country on this continent from which Providence withholds his rains, and which is now, and forever must remain, sterile and barren. He thus limits our ideas of the capacity of our country to maintain an ever-increasing population. This may be admitted, and, if admitted, how much greater the necessity for you to persevere in your laudable effort to advance the science of agriculture, and thereby increase production.

He longed to see the day when our country should become the granary of the world, and when our people can both clothe and feed the world. We then lovely will be the greatest people in the world.

Mr. Thompson closed with an earnest and eloquent appeal for the support of the State in favor of all those branches of science and art which are eminently practical, and, when in possession of the farmer, lead to important results.

"NICE GIRLS."

To my mind, there is nothing in all the world half so beautiful, half so delightful, or half so lovable as "a nice girl." I don't mean a pert girl, or a dashing girl, or an elegant girl, but "a nice girl;" one of those lively, good tempered, good hearted, sweet faced, amiable, neat, natty, domestic creatures, who we see in the sphere of "Home," diffusing around the domestic hearth the influence of her goodness, like the sweet perfume of a flower.

What we all know by a "nice girl" is not the languishing beauty who dawdles on a sofa and talks of the last new novel, or the last new opera; or the great Leviathan Swell, who creates an effect by sweeping majestically through the drawing room. The "nice girl" does not even dance well, or play well, and she knows a little too much to sing well, because, being responsible for everything which is done, his judgment must be sound and the directions he gives must be clear. His manner, too, must be upright, and his life must be virtuous, for those around him will follow his example. With a full knowledge of his position and his responsibility to those who have been intrusted to his charge, and independent of all except the smiles of him from whom proceeds every good and perfect gift, the planter who loves and virtue and walks not uprightly, deserves to be cast off as worse than an infidel. He wished to keep men in the pursuit of science—the thinking man in the abstract—they were useful; give him the man in the concrete who knew his duties to his God and to his fellowman, and performed them.

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