THE JOURNAL

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THE ATTITUDE OF THE RAILROADS

However, if it should be proved that the railway companies have endeavored to secure delay by the reference of this whole question to the tax commission, by the use of bribes, or in any currupt and indefensible way, then the Times favors, earnestly, the passage of the Jacobson bill at the earliest possible moment. If the railways have sought to postpone the decision, then it may be presumed they have knowledge of inherent weakness in their case and the state should take advantage, at once, of such implied confession.—The Times.

Has the Times any doubt as to the attitude of the railroads toward this bill? Does it not know that the railroads have fought the passage of an increased gross earnings tax not only at this session of the legislature but at two previous sessions? Is it ignorant of the fact that they have used every proper means, to say nothing of improper ones, to stave off the passage of a bill providing for this increase? The Times can hardly be ignorant of these facts, and knowing them it must be convinced by its own argument that this opposition and stubborn resistance is of itself evidence of the belief of the railroad companies that the state has a right to, and can increase the gross earnings tax.

If this is not so how are we to account for the vigorous opposition which this measure encounters at every session?

It is not worth while to worry about the railroads abandoning the gross earnings system of taxation. The figures in Mr. Jacobson's argument, which have not been refuted so far as we know, show that at even the rate which he proposes the railroads will save $400,000 to $500,000 a year by paying a gross earnings tax instead of a direct tax; and if they do not pay a gross earnings tax they must pay a direct tax, not only upon the property used in operating the road but upon their lands, which the supreme court of the United States has just said are exempt under the gross earnings plan.

No, it is not worth while to question the attitude of the railroads; they are opposed to this law. They are resisting its passage by every means in their power, and have done it every time this proposition has appeared in the legislature. They no doubt, have reasons for doing so; the natural conclusion is that they believe the state can justly collect more taxes if it is disposed to do so, and that the only way they can prevent it is to defeat every effort in that direction in the legislature.

The Tribune thinks it would be "so manifestly improper for a newspaper to express any opinion as to the truth or falsity of the accusation" of bribery in the legislature "until the evidence is made public" that it calls particular attention to the "general rule of presumption of innocence" until the contrary has been established.

That's well enough as a general proposition, applying both to the members and to the "controlling officials" of the railroad companies, to whom the Tribune refers. The Tribune is probably not innocent enough, however, not to know that while the "controlling officials" of railroads are usually very admirable men, it is not uncommon for railroad companies and other large corporations who deal with state legislatures and city councils, to have connected with them men who are not so particular as to how the results they accomplish are brought about, nor are their methods inquired into too closely at all times. It often happens that those above them do not care to know how certain results are produced, so it is hardly worth while to try to establish in the public mind the idea that the railroads in this state could not be induced to influence legislation in their favor if they thought it necessary to serve their interests. Nor is the willingness of some legislators to accept inducements influencing their legislative action so exceedingly rare and unusual as to make it impossible to conceive of anything of this kind having been done at some time or other in the history of Minnesota.

By some mistake—a case of "unconscious cerebration" probably—The Journal referred to a communication from J. L. Smith of Faribault as having been written by the superintendent of the schools for the deaf, notwithstanding its knowledge of the fact that Mr. James N. Tate is the superintendent of that institution. The mistake as to the identity of the correspondent makes the remark of The Journal with regard to the apprehension of superintendents concerning the effect of the board of control bill upon them and their institutions inapplicable.

REGISTRATION OF LAND TITLES

If the state regulates the manner of transferring lands, and acquiring interests in lands, and recording the transactions by which such transfers have been made, and such interests have been acquired, why should not the state take one step farther, and provide for a simple mode of registering the results of such transactions?

To acomplish this is the object of the reform attempted by the Torrens system of land transfers. Senator Snyder's bill, now before the legislature, presents a form of that system, adapted, as he believes, to the general policy of the Minnesota statutes.

An examination of this bill shows that great care has been taken in its preparation, and discloses much in it of merit.

In the attempt to introduce this Torrens system into some of the states, serious mistakes have been made. The plan of enforcing the adoption of the new system at once, by the entire body of land-owners, was faulty. The large proportion of persons interested, who demurred to having the new scheme forced upon them, easily found constitutional and other objections, fatal to the plan. In fact, the surest way to commend the new system is to allow it to come into use voluntarily. Mr. Snyder's bill wisely does this. Any owner who chooses many have his land registered, and thereby transfer it from the old class of unregistered land, to the new class of registered land. Once thus transferred, the particular land is always thereafter destined to remain "registered," and to be dealt with as such. There seem to be so many advantages in having one's land "registered," so that it may be transferred by transferring the registrar's certificate of title, we feel sure the fashion of so dealing with land will experience a rapid growth, after it is once introduced.

Another obstacle to the success of the Torrens system in some states has been the mode adopted of entrusting its enforcement to administrative offices appointed for the purpose. By giving to such officers powers which are more or less judicial in their character, the new law has brought itself squarely up against the constitutional provision which keeps the functions of the two departments separate. The Snyder bill obviates this difficulty, by making the determination of the question whether the applicant shall have a certificate of title, one to be settled by the court. Every new declaration of the right of a party, either to have or to be denied a certificate, is to be made by the court. The new system may thus be put in operation, in entire conformity to the principles of the existing constitution and system of laws in Minnesota.

No new public officials will be required under this bill, except examiners of titles to be appointed by the district court. The present register of deeds will continue, as now, to record all deeds and other instruments relating to unregistered lands. He will also be the "registrar of titles" for his county, and will take charge of the registration of all titles of registered land. His formal or ordinary office duties will be assigned to him by the new law, and as to the results of the proceedings in court, including the final registration of titles and issuance of certificates, his duties will be regulated by the decrees made in court. Thus we shall have all matters of land titles kept of record in one public office, by one officer, who will act as "registrar of titles" for registered lands, and as "register of deeds" for all other lands. The district court will stand in the same attitude as now, in respect to land matters, but with a jurisdiction enlarged to include all the functions necessary to introduce the new system.

The Journal desires to bring to the attention of the people all the important features of this proposed legislation, in order to elicit general discussion of the plan. It seems to be well worthy of trial, and at as early a day as the legislature shall fix.

W. D. Washburn, Jr., is entitled to credit for having the moral courage to do a disagreeable thing as a matter of public duty. It was certainly not a very pleasant task for him to state to the legislature that he had information bearing upon the gross earnings bill which might reflect seriously upon the action of other members of the house, but it most certainly was his duty to let the house have what information he possessed bearing upon a matter of so much importance. Mr. Washburn has made an admirable record in his first legislative session, and such statements as he makes will undoubtedly be received with great consideration both by members of the house and by all outside who know him personally.

LIBERTY IN FRANCE

In the French chamber of deputies, yesterday, Comte De Mun made a very strong speech against the government measure known as the law of associations, which has been under discussion for some time. He dwelt upon the right of parents to bring up their children as they wish, notably in the matter of religious instruction, which he thought should be given by the religious orders.

This bill is aimed at the suppression of the religious orders. It declares that any association having any object that is illicit, immoral, contrary to the unity of the country or to the government of the republic is illegal. It requires that the statutes of every association shall be made public by the promoters and if they infringe on the law the courts may declare the association illegal and dissolve it. Severe penalties are laid upon the directors and managers and upon persons who rent premises to such associations.

The law strikes at the Jesuits by prohibiting associations of Frenchmen whose directors live in other countries or who are foreigners, and, as associations whose members live in common are also prohibited, the monastic orders come under the scope of the law. All associations must be approved by the French parliament and a lenient clause permits members to recover the real and personal property they have in an association declared illegal, and other assets go to the state.

Count De Mun very plausibly enlarged upon the blow to liberty embodied in this measure, but the action of the French government is not without some justification. The religious orders have been the enemies of the republic. They have backed every movement looking to the overthrow of the republic and the restoration of a Bourbon monarchy or a Napoleonic empire. But it is questionable if the restrictions embodied in the bill now before the French chamber will accomplish the extinction of the internal conspiracies. The French republic ought to be strong enough by this time to make the actualization of a monarchical plot impossible. The monarchists lost their chance under Macmahon and they have not since had such an opportunity to carry out their designs.

The real danger for France is in the growth of fanatical and irrational radicalism.

The Tagal leaders seem to be quite busy these days getting themselves captured. It begins to look as if the insurgents in Luzon regarded the opposition to Uncle Sam as something like the children's game—"the last one in is a 'nigger.'"

"Never Touched Me" A man who was Buffaloed at Des Moines felt that unpleasant feeling as he saw his $5 bill going over the bar at the wallow and put up the first serious "bunt" so far recorded in the United States. He also backed it up with a gun and much untoward and painful language. So strong was his play that the initiation fee was returned and the Des Moines man from that moment ceased to be a good fellow and a buffalo.

The buffalo josh has gone so far now that there are few victims left except on the fringes of civilization. The joke is essentially a Yankee one. You would never think of going to England and trying to initiate the beadle, the lord high chancellor, Andrew Lang or the bishop of London. The humor of it would not penetrate. In France the first initiation would be the sign for bloodshed, while in Spain—carramba!! The Latin mind is too serious.

There is a certain lightness in the Yankee that refuses to think that the universe is out of gear when things do not go just to suit him. It is a happy disposition to have. When he is bowled over financially or otherwise he can get up again and remark, "Never touched me." A little thing like highway robbery of the buffalo kind does not move him.

Not an ounce of "confidence" is left at Niles, Mich. The town had two banks. The one managed by a Sunday school superintendent, went to the wall, and then the people transferred their business to the other bank, which was managed by a "good fellow" who played poker. But the poker player stole $100,000, more than the superintendent got. Hence the general wreckage of faith.

A scientific gentleman proposes to stop the eternal war between dog and cat by inoculating the animals with serums from one another's blood. In this way the hostile dog principle will neutralize the hostile cat principle and there will be peace in the two families.

The Samoan natives are leaving the German islands and flocking to the American island of Tutuila because they are better treated there. When will the Filipino know when he is well off?

The Ohio producers have formed a maple sugar combine. But you will see the hogsheads labeled "New Orleans" in its factories just as they are in the factories of the separate concerns.

When Wu Ting-Fang looked at the depot windows in Chicago his question was, "Why don't you wash the windows?" Chicago, like China, has traditions that she does not want to violate.

If Morgan, Rockefeller and the Vanderbilts should combine we would be in the fix in which the canary found herself. In the kitty!

Some fears have been felt for the prune crop and we may have to put up with strawberries this year.

The baking powder bill has showed up in the Indiana legislature. Solons getting hard up again?

J. Pierpont Morgan gave a paltry $100,000 to the New York Y. M. C. A. Such sums do not count now.

It takes 21 cents to get into the Association of Hyenas.

The Order of Wolves is now under way. It is their "night to howl."

St. Petersburg students are hazing the government.

Winter just blew himself Tuesday. We foresee a tragic end for him.

The old geyser David B. Hill is now spouting every forty-eight hours.

The "best Russians," i. e., the cream of Tartar, are said to be opposed to war.

AMUSEMENTS

Foyer Chat.

At the Metropolitan to-night Collamarini will appear as Mignon. The comic opera company will repeat "Wang" at the matinee to-morrow and will present "The Fencing Master" in the evening. The bill for the closing performance of the engagement Sunday night will be "Said Pasha."

That charming musical comedy, "Papa's Wife," which played for over 200 nights in New York at the Manhattan theater last season and has been playing to extended engagements in all the large cities this season, comes to the Metropolitan for one week, commencing Monday evening. "Papa's Wife" is a collaboration by Harry B. Smith and Reginald De Koven, who are responsible for many well known operas, including "Robin Hood." Miss Held possesses a youthful charm and radiant beauty. Her creation of Anna, is one that not only requires versatility but brings tast and delicacy in its delineation. As the convent pupil on her bridal tour she has proved herself a most artful and artistic comedienne.

The change in the program of Wm. H. West's Minstrel Jubilee at the Bijou last evening drew out an audience of increased size. Richard J. Jose's singing of "With All Her Faults I Love Her Still," was superb. Manuel Romain rendered in his incomparable style one of George K. Harris' latest efforts, "Just for Old Time's Sake." John P. Rodgers, the basso, sang "The Song of the Sword" and "At the Bottom of the Deep Blue Sea." To-night, to-morrow afternoon and night will offer the three concluding performances.

"Lost in the Desert," Owen Davis' latest melodramatic effort, will be the attraction at the Bijou the coming week. The cast engaged is said to be a strong one and the scenic equipment one of the largest and most elaborate ever provided for a melodrama. Several novel features call for special comment, among them a very remarkable acrobatic specialty by sixteen Toogooian Arabs, a thrilling racing effect by two full blooded Arabian horses, an explosion in an underground prison, the burning of a ship at sea, a raft in mid-ocean, and a picturesque storm on the desert.

No Great Loss.

Brooklyn Standard Union.

J. Edward Addicks' ultimatum was "Addicks or nobody." Well, it is nobody, and Addicks is defeated. But even if Addicks had been chosen by subterranean methods, it would still have been nobody.

Not All Unselfish.

Atchison Globe.

An Atchison girl, who works herself to death for the church, makes her mother pay her 10 cents every time she washes the dishes.

Only a Feeble Imitation.

Philadelphia Ledger.

The Conkling-Platt "me too" alliance appears to be repeating itself in the Platt-Depew combination.

Roosevelting for Home Consumption

Washington Post.

Bob Fitzsimmons has purchased a mountain lion, and will do his own Roosevelting right at home.

New York Daily Letter.

BUREAU OF THE JOURNAL, No. 21 Park Row.

Hurrying the News.

March 22.—News agencies and ticker companies which furnish financial news and information likely to affect trading in securities are mysteries to the general public. Their modus operandi in obtaining information and so quickly disseminating it to the expectant habitues of brokerage houses is frequently wondered at. Probably one of the most remarkable pieces of work ever accomplished by these news agencies occurred last week, when the increase in dividend on the common stock of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul road was announced. In exactly thirty seconds from the time the board of directors passed upon the increase in dividends the announcement was known in every brokerage house in the financial district. Reporters descending into Broad street from the eighth floor of the building where the directors met, arriving only one minute after the official announcement, found their "news" to be an "old story" in the banking and brokerage offices. Each of the ticker companies sent four men to the meeting. Three sets of bulletins were prepared, one announcing a 3 per cent semiannual dividend, another a 3½ per cent semiannual dividend, while the third had it 2½ semiannual and ½ per cent extra. One reporter from each concern got a telephone and held it constantly open, connecting with his office. Then the other three men were so stationed that they could signal from one another and convey the news instantly from the door of the directors' room to the man at the 'phone. As soon as the official announcement came from the directors' room handkerchiefs flashed along the line from man to man, the reporter on the 'phone informed his office, and in the twinkling of an eye the proper set of bulletins was flashed over the ticker and telegraph wires.

Theater Prices Go Down.

At last metropolitan theater prices are tumbling. Within the week two announcements of sweeping reduction in the prices of admission to important houses have been made. Oscar Hammerstein starts off the new week with a 50-cent price for the best chairs in the Victoria theater, while Mr. Litt has made a price of $1.50 for the opening of "The Price of Peace" at the Broadway theater. Only a few of the choicest seats in the house will be held at $1.50 at that. Most of the orchestra seats will be sold at the box office for $1 and the rest of the seats in the house at 50 cents each, save the first few rows of the balcony, which will be held at $1. Corresponding reductions will be made in all other prices at both the Victoria and the Broadway, and there is no telling where the trend of lowering the scale will end. To a large extent this reduction of prices, which has long been agitated, is due to May Irwin. A couple of years ago, when that weighty comedienne returned to the Bijou with her company, she found that the house was selling tickets at the rate of $2 for the best orchestra seats. This was the price charged for the attraction that preceded her. Miss Irwin came out flat-footed and announced that a performance of her company was not worth more than $1.50 a seat, and followed it up by saying that there wasn't a play in town that was worth over $1.50 a seat. She reduced her own prices, and now, after time for consideration, other houses are following suit.

Pigheaded Aldermen.

Contractor McDonald, who is constructing the rapid transit road, is having a very unpleasant time with the municipal assembly. This body has held up action on certain sections of the route, to the great inconvenience and delay of those in charge of the work. This has been done contrary to law, which provides that the location of sections of the route shall be settled by the council within four weeks after the submission of the plans. There is a piece of road to be built at the northern end of the line above Fort George which must yet be passed on. Despairing of getting proper action from the council, Contractor McDonald has been obliged to threaten mandamus proceedings and have the councilmen declared in contempt. This is not such a remarkable condition of affairs as it might seem to be to a person unfamiliar with the general pigheadedness of our municipal lawmakers. They have had to be mandamused by the courts in order to accomplish anything of value which they have done since they came into office.

Rushing the Work.

Every one connected with the rapid transit work is greatly pleased with the progress that has been made, and there seems no doubt but that the contract for the work will be completed in ample time so that trains may be running by Christmas of 1903. Laborers are engaged on 100 different blocks in the city, and the work already completed has amounted in cash to over $3,000,000, or about one-tenth of the entire undertaking. Warrants for work done in the month of February amounted to nearly $600,000, while with the coming good weather the number of workmen will be trebled.

Some Small Earthquakes.

Obstacles of the usual sort and number are constantly cropping up to perplex those in charge of constructing the rapid transit system. An objection of a rather serious sort has been encountered, coming from many citizens who say their houses are considerably shaken by the concussions from blasting all along the line. Windows and crockery have been shattered and nerves racked to such an extent that the residents of Central Park West and the cross streets in the vicinity of One-hundred-and-fourth street have taken up the matter in earnest, charging recklessness in blasting. Chief Engineer Parsons of the road admits that the complaints are by no means without foundation; yet he says he don't see how this can be well helped, as in many instances ledges of rock are encountered with extend so far in various directions that when a charge of dynamite is exploded the concussion passes through the length and breadth of the strata and shakes every house having its foundation on these ledges. —N. N. A.

HIGH EXPLOSIVES

Hudson Maxim is pretty good authority, and he says in the March Popular Science that the batteries of pneumatic torpedo guns at Sandy Hook and at San Francisco, which, with a caliber of fifteen inches, can throw a maximum charge of 500 pounds of nitrogelatin a mile, are not of much account because of the limited range, which would prevent them from damaging battleships unless the latter ran in so close that a hit could be scored. These guns are meant to drop dynamite on a vessel's deck. Maxim thinks the gun of the future will be the large-bored cannon for throwing high explosives at high velocity, propelled by smokeless gunpowder. He is the inventor of such gunpowder, by which higher velocities with lower pressures are secured than by any other means and our government has adopted it. He has planned a torpedo gun which would weigh no more and cost no more than a twelve-inch seacoast rifle, but, with a caliber twice as great and a chamber constructed to stand the pressure, can throw a projectile carrying a ton of high explosive at as great velocity as that imparted to the usual 1,000-pound shell thrown from the twelve-inch gun and which carries only thirty-seven pounds of black rifle powder. A gun of this kind, recently tested, showed a propelling velocity of more than 2,000 feet per second. Maximite is the most effective high explosive for use as a bursting charge for shells. The tests of these shells showed that they explode into 7,000 or 8,000 thousand fragments and will pierce twelve-inch armor. Maximite does not explode by ignition in any form. To detonate it effectively it must be confined in a very strong steel shell and set off with not less than 100 grains of fulminate of mercury, reinforced by not less than 1,000 grains of some form of picrate, dry guncotton or similar substance.

One That He Can't Replace.

Kansas City Star.

It might be well to call Mr. Carnegie's attention to the fact that the ancient library of Peking was destroyed during the Boxer disturbance last summer.

Sick-Bed Diplomacy.

Indianapolis Press.

Whenever there is a crisis in Chinese affairs Li Hung Chang takes to his bed and threatens to die. Hitherto this coup d'etat has never failed to work.

No Chance for Ennui.

Washington Star.

Mr. Gorman can be depended on to keep the political situation in his state from being quiet and lonely when his ambition begins to bestir itself.

BATT CARR'S EDICT

BY C. M. STEVANS.

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Batt Carr was noted in Texas as a killer of bad men. For that reason, he was brought north and made marshal of Caldwell, which town had been running wild since the death of George Platt.

The toughs smiled when they heard the report that the imported marshal used a brush on his head and a whisk broom on his coat. He did not weigh more than 120 pounds. It was all so ridiculous that in sheer disgust Big Jim, proprietor of the Red Light, proceeded to get wild on the worst stuff he had. In that state he undertook to show some newly arrived cowboys the sights of the town.

Carr had been around enough to know that his first night was likely to be the most exciting one in his term of office. It was therefore no surprise when he heard Big Jim's voice ordering the citizens off the sidewalk, as they were interfering with the procession.

The marshal followed the parade back to the Red Light and showed his badge. At this sign of rival authority Big Jim began to talk. His remarks sounded like a cyclone and were intended to have a cyclonic effect on Batt Carr. The officer crossed the room and looked the windmill over at close range.

"'Pears to me," said the marshal, as soon as Big Jim stopped for breath, "that the bolts of this machine needs tightening up a bit. It's ramshackle, 'sides, I think the slats are ketchen too much wind. Guess it's too rattletrap and needs takin' down."

Big Jim was mightily surprised at this uncivil talk. Such things had never been mentioned before in his presence. He roared like a lassoed bull and reached out for Batt Carr's collar, but his reach fell short. He just clutched at the air as the butt of the marshal's gun landed between his eyes. The big bartender went to sleep on the floor, and Carr turned to view the crowd over the sights of two revolvers.

"Just as soon as I get to forty, countin' mentally," said he, "these dogs will begin to snap, and every snap means a dead fool."

The screen was jammed into the double door during the first quarter of the count, and most of the boys reached fresh air through the windows before the end of the first half of Carr's mental figuring.

When Big Jim came to he found a large placard pinned to his coat with his hunting knife. It contained the words: "Notis this windmill is tuck down and not to be set up only by offishal orders."

On the outside of the door was another larger placard, with these words: "Notis this farmicy is gone out if biznes. The opener or openers of this or these doors without offishal permishen will be sent to the court beyant the skeys."

It took a month to restore Big Jim's countenance to its normal condition, and his system received such a shock that he promised to confine his talents to 'tending bar if the marshal would only give him a show.

This was granted and all went well until the B-X boys came in. They were Jim's favorites, for they parted with their wages more easily and rapidly than any other gang that showed up in the town. It was Saturday night when the B-X boys came, and it was Sunday school time in the town before they knew it. In the progress of this festive occasion, they treated so often that Big Jim became irresponsible and in this condition started out to lead another parade.

Batt Carr met them at the corner and gave them the first intimation that it was Sunday school time. He told Big Jim that they could deposit their armament on the sidewalk and then wend their way like good children to the church, where the Sunday school superintendent would be glad to elucidate a lesson on a suitable Scripture text.

Some of the boys demurred, and as a result, one of them had to be taken out of the parade and planted. The rest followed Jim to Sunday school. The superintendent was always looking for recruits from the highways and hedges, but this was almost too much. However, he furnished a teacher and appointed Batt Carr as assistant. It was amazing to see the B-X boys trying to outdo Jim in getting marks for answers to the Scripture questions.

They thought the ordeal was over when the parents, to the extent of the entire town, came casually in after their children. But Batt Carr said the preacher was a good man and they ought to show their respect by staying for the sermon, which was to follow, and they stayed.

Owing to the jam it took the good man an unusual time to make his way from his carriage to the pulpit. It was said that as high as a quart of whisky was offered for mere standing-room on the doorstep or on a box at one of the windows, but there were no takers. The crowd that could not get in was a record-breaker.

Batt Carr gave the paraders a tip that after the service there would be a "private catechise" down at the Red Light, and the man that couldn't answer questions would be up against a pile of trouble. They didn't take their eyes off the preacher's face for an hour.

The "catechise" was held at the Red Light, behind closed doors, with the hundred-foot street pretty well blocked with persons anxious to eavesdrop on the process. It is said that the paraders showed great proficiency and Big Jim won the honors.

Then Batt Carr opened the door, and, standing on a beer keg, so he could be seen, made a speech.

"Ladies and gentlemen," he began, "I say ladies, for I see two, bless their souls, peekin' through the outskirts. I hev to go ter church Sunday mornin' and night. Can't get out of it, fer my wife, she says, I must set an example, and I hev to set it. Now, I'm no hypnotist, so how kin I take ker of the disorders onless I take 'em to church? So I lay down this law, ef any cuss cuts up any didoes anywhere in this town to the disturbance of the gospel, I'll round up the whole town and take 'em to church with me for four Sundays after each and every one of said didoes. Amen. Now git.' And the crowd got.

A REMARKABLE EX-SLAVE

There is an interesting sketch of the life of Sojourner Truth in the March New England Magazine. This distinguished negro woman was born a slave in New York state, her father being the child of a negro and an Indian woman. She had no name but Isabella, and "Sojourner Truth" was assumed by her after she grew to maturity. Sojourner became deeply religious and was an eloquent preacher or evangelist, but she never learned to read. She was a strong anti-slavery orator and was quick and witty in her sallies. The leading abolitionists called upon her to help them and Mrs. Stowe once said she never knew anyone who had more of the silent and subtle power which we call personal presence than this woman. Sojourner, when the civil war came, traveled all over the north speaking for union and freedom. She composed a battle song for the First Michigan regiment. Lincoln knew and honored her and the National Freedmen's Relief association commissioned her to teach freedwomen good household and personal habits at Arlington Heights. When she was a nurse in the Freedmen's hospital at Washington, a law was passed giving colored people a right to ride in all the street cars. The conductors at first ignored the law and would not stop for negroes. Sojourner was determined to have a ride and held up her hand to several cars, but they rolled on. A crowd finally collected and blocked a car and Sojourner got on. The conductor furiously declared he would throw her out, but she told him she knew the law and sat down and rode as far as she wanted, leaving the car with the exclamation, "Bless God! I have had a ride." For some time the conductors refused to stop and made Sojourner run after the cars, but she and the negroes generally held to their rights and finally won. Sojourner did a good work for friendless negro children and adults, finding places for them in the northern states. This remarkable unlettered philanthropist died at Battle Creek, Mich., in 1883. She was over 100 years old.

Plenty, Such as It Is.

Chicago Inter Ocean.

In contributing papers on the "Needs of Democracy," Mr. Cleveland and Mr. Hill appear to have arrived simultaneously at the conclusion that democracy needs nothing that it has at present.

An Error of Judgment.

New York Press.

We believe that Mr. Bryan has been guilty of grossly misjudging the public to which his Commoner appeals. It would not show the resentment he fears at seeing a soap advertisement.

MINNEAPOLIS JOURNAL'S CURRENT TOPICS SERIES

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PAPERS BY EXPERTS AND SPECIALISTS OF NATIONAL REPUTATION.

AMERICAN LIFE A CENTURY AGO.

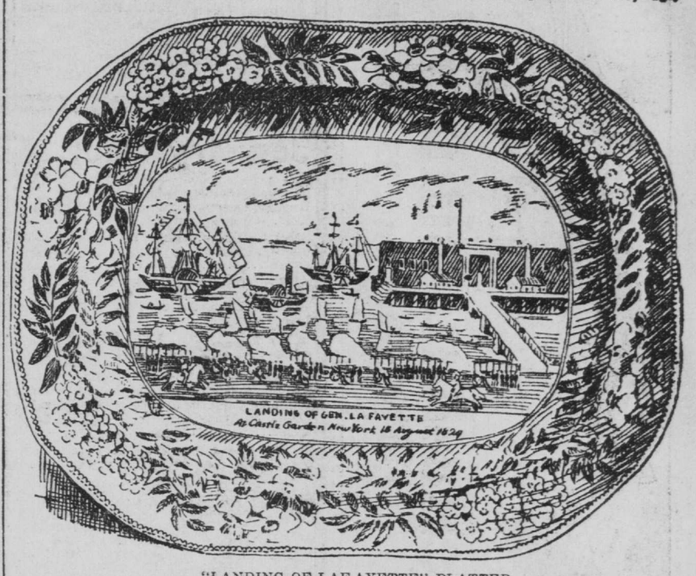
V.—PITCHERS OF OUR GREAT-GRANDMOTHERS

(By Alice Morse Earle, Author of "China Collecting in America," "Home Life in Colonial Days," "Costume in Colonial Times," etc.)

One of the curious and incomprehensible side issues in our history is the immediate subservience made after the revolution by the English of patriotism to commercialism. The victories of the American colonies had hardly taken place when English potters set to work to supply the American market with pottery and porcelain, decorated with designs relating to the glories of Washington, Franklin, Lafayette and other revolutionary heroes. These potters had none of that patriotic pride which would prevent them from celebrating and perpetuating the virtues and victories of their late enemies, or even hinder them from printing inscriptions and verses insulting to their native land and their fellow countrymen; they were plainly mercenary; the United States made a vast and lucrative market.

The great American who was "first in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen" was also first on the pitchers of the English potters. There are over twenty designs relating to General Washington now known, printed on Staffordshire and Liverpool wares. There are also thirty or forty more designs in the form of medallions, statuettes and other costly forms of ceramic art, on which we will not now dwell. The Liverpool pitchers and mugs, decorated with transfer prints in black, blue or red, bear the earliest Washington designs.

TOMB OF FRANKLIN TEAPOT.



"LANDING OF LAFAYETTE" PLATTER.

The "Map Pitcher."

The oldest dated pitcher which I have seen with a Washington design bears the date 1796, and is known as the "Map Pitcher." It has a medallion inclosing a very curious map of the United States, showing thirteen states. On this map Louisiana is called the "Country of Mines," and stretches up to Lake Superior. Washington and Franklin are gazing at this map, while two fair dames—Liberty and History—are gazing with equal intentness at the heroes. In the sky a winged Fame, a favorite emblem of the day, is blowing a trumpet and flourishing her heels in close proximity to the august head of Washington. This print is seen on bowls and pitchers, and is sometimes accompanied by a key giving the names of the figures. The pitchers are always of what is known as the watermelon shape, once so popular in Liverpool ware, now practically obsolete.

MAP PITCHER.

A design which would appear to be earlier in manufacture, but which has no definite date, bears a portrait of Washington mounted on horseback, with an inscription, "His Excellency General George Washington, Marshal of France and Commander-in-Chief of the North American Continental Forces." Washington, in a letter to the poet Lamont (who had addressed him by the French title of marechal), wrote in 1875: "I am not a marshal of France nor do I hold any commission or fill any office whatever under that government." Still, it is universally stated that the French at Yorktown addressed Washington as "Monsieur le Marechal."

APOTHEOSIS PITCHER.

Two Other Washington Pitchers.

Perhaps the two most popular Washington designs are what are now known as the "Monument" design and the "Apotheosis" design. Both commemorate the death of Washington; one with conventional monuments, inscriptions, urns, weeping willows and mourning figures; the other with Time lifting Washington, robed in a shroud, from his open tomb, while an angel holds the patriot's hand and points upward to rays of glory. This is from an old engraving advertised in Philadelphia newspapers in 1801 and some times still seen in Philadelphia homes; and hideous enough it is, and absurd also. The various decorations owned by Washington, including the Order of the Cincinnati, hang conspicuously over the open door of the tomb.

The long residence and great popularity abroad of Benjamin Franklin account for the many ceramic relics relating to him which are now in existence. They are richer and more varied even than those of Washington, yet few appear on articles in daily use, such as Staffordshire table services. The design known as the "Tomb of Franklin" is common enough; it is a rich, dark-blue print of a pedestal inscribed "Franklin," surmounted by an urn bearing an illegible inscription. By the side of the monument sits the figure of a man reading, which is popularly believed to be intended for Lafayette. This design is seen on dinner, tea and toilet services. Occasionally the "fur cap portrait" is found on Liverpool bowls and pitchers; and a set of dark-blue plates with illustrations of Franklin's prowess is entitled "Franklin's Morals."

Designs Relating to Lafayette.

I have never seen any pieces of English pottery bearing the name or portrait of Lafayette or any reference to him that could be assigned to an earlier date than 1824, the time of the marquis' triumphal visit to America. There are ten or a dozen views and portraits of this date that are well known to all china collectors. The great veneration felt for Lafayette's character, his universal popularity, and the enthusiasm over his visit, contributed to produce the great numbers of these commemorative pieces which were brought to America, and also to their safe preservation to this day. The two superb views of La Grange, the home of Lafayette, were manufactured by Enoch Wood of Burslem, and the fascinating "Landing of Lafayette at Castle Garden," made by Clews, are among the best examples of the art of the British potter of that day.

The portraits of Lafayette which are shown on some of the other pieces are very ugly and mean. Indeed, he was not beautiful; I have been told by persons who remember him that he had a small head, staring eyes, a retreating forehead and a bad complexion—redeemed, however, by a benignant expression and smile. The inscriptions with his portraits are usually: "Welcome, Lafayette, the Nation's Guest and Our Country's Glory," or, "In Commemoration of the Visit of Lafayette to the United States of America in 1824," or, "Republics Are Not Always Ungrateful."

Designs From the Erie Canal.

The Erie canal was opened during his visit, and many of the plates printed to commemorate that opening bear medallion portraits of Lafayette. Those Erie canal plates, of which seven designs are known, are among the most interesting of our historical plates. The canal was, to quote from one of these plates: "A splendid monument of the enterprise and resources of the state of New York. Indebted for its early commencement and rapid completion to the active energies, pre-eminent talents and enlightened policy of De Witt Clinton, late governor of the state." On these various canal plates may be seen a view of the capitol grounds at Albany, of the canal at Buffalo, of the aqueduct bridge at Little Falls, of the canal at Albany; also various smaller views of canal locks, portraits of Governor Clinton, Jefferson and Washington.

HOME OF LAFAYETTE PLATE.

Pitcher of the War 1812.

During the tour of Lafayette there was given to him, on Sept. 8, 1824, a reception in Troy, N. Y., at which was used a very remarkable pitcher, now owned by Horace Jones Richards of Troy, and known as the "Historical pitcher of the war of 1812." It States"; another with a portrait of John Hancock; one with Samuel Adams; one entitled "Death of Montgomery," and one "Death of Warren." A design known as the "Proscribed Patriots" is rare. It has portrait medallions of Samuel Adams and John Hancock, and the motto: "The Memory of Washington and the Proscribed Patriots of America. Liberty, Virtue, Peace, Justice and Equity to All Mankind. Columbia's Sons Inspired by Freedom's Flame. Live in the Annals of Immortal Fame." On the front of the pitcher is the American eagle and shield, with the inscription: "Peace, Commerce and Honest Friendship with All Nations. Entangling Alliances with None. Jefferson, Anno Domini 1804."

PROSCRIBED PATRIOTS PITCHER.

Other Rare Old Pitchers.

I have seen a pitcher with a portrait of "John Adams, President of the United States"; another with ap ortrait of John Hancock; one with Samuel Adams; one entitled "Death of Montgomery," and one "Death of Warren." A design known as the "Proscribed Patriots" is rare. It has portrait medallions of Samuel Adams and John Hancock, and the motto: "The Memory of Washington and the Proscribed Patriots of America. Liberty, Virtue, Peace, Justice and Equity to All Mankind. Columbia's Sons Inspired by Freedom's Flame. Live in the Annals of Immortal Fame." On the front of the pitcher is the American eagle and shield, with the inscription: "Peace, Commerce and Honest Friendship with All Nations. Entangling Alliances with None. Jefferson, Anno Domini 1804."

Alice Morse Earle