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THE TIMES,

BENJAMIN F. CORT,
PUBLISHER AND PROPRIETOR.

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What the Old House said to the Heart of Youth.

[From the Weekly Evening Post.]

Around her the purple hills lifted their altars up to Heaven, inviting all the earth—the sad and weary, the thoughtless and the heartless—to bring their griefs, their folly and indifference to lie there, and when its smoke had faded, to pass away, happier and better. Before her slept the little lake, whose quiet face had so many years reflected the changing skies and smiling earth, whispering in her ear, to leave the old and shattered house, beneath whose eaves she sat, the gray apple-trees, gnarled and many-scarred, and all those time worn things.

But few days since all was new: that house a marvel, so fresh and strong, and still so handsome. And now came loads of stout chairs and tables, with here and there a stand of lighter workmanship, or easy chair; and then the happy owners. Young they were, and just beginning a new chapter of life. With what pride and pleasure they looked about on these possessions: each tree and waving weed, the rough, unsightly fence, and even the ground they stood on had a charm—it was their own; there they were to live *together*. How different from any other spot on earth where they had lived apart? And as days grew into weeks and months into years, and "life's endless toil and endeavor" opened below them, the old homestead grew likewise, with many an added tree, and beauty-bringing flower.

This poor old orchard so bare, poured down its generous gifts; and those melancholy stumps then nourished most refreshing shade; where, at sunset, this primal pair forgot the cares of the present in plans for future. And now, where troops of golden-haired children filled the air with silver music, new roofs were added to the old, larger barns and richer stores sprung up, and the father and the mother sat in the door at evening and blessed the Heavenly father for his goodness. The happy years flew by, not cloudless years, but happy still, happy in many cares and many trials, borne in love by all, with true, unshrinking hearts.

And after standing in this door with thoughtful eyes, or musing by these very chamber windows, the daughter came; sometimes with singing and laughter on her lips, but often, as is the way of youth, with unbreathed sighs, and earnest glances toward the future. And then this little lake; the same as now—reproved her—"leave the future, and rejoice and labor in the present." The sons, too, walked up and down these breezy slopes, gazed into the sky, glorious in the noon of night, and vowed to win a name as fair. Until there came a knowledge, worth more than all it costs, "it is higher to be good than great."

And now the kind and silent moon peeping through these old trees, saw slowly wandering over the checkered grass, or stopping to catch the murmur of the ever present hills, the fair, meditative daughter; but she was not alone; the warm ideal of her youth was there: or when he was not, how easy to make him so. A new light shone in her eyes, a new life sprung up in her airy tread.

Gone were the vain miserable questionings of the future: enough is the bounding present. Here they sat, and looked into these very skies, and tho't, and hoped, and loved.

And here, in this old house, with many gathered friends, each with his own joys, and griefs, and hopes yet unrealized—the mother with a sorrowful joy—the father with grave affection—did she stand before the kind, gray haired old minister, and with a trusting heart, she gave herself away—to be her's no longer. And at the foot of this gently sloping hill, close to the childhood's home, up rose another tent for the Battle of Life.

And there came the realization of the future—with its many dreams of other scenes, and other far-off lands. And up and down this hill often came the young with her new experiences—new griefs—to listen to the old wife—and learn to "love through all things." And here in this old house—where the morning dawned so brightly—came the evening. Old—full of days—happy in each other to the last—with the soft clasp of little hands,—and firm grasp of true sons and daughters—these lover-parents closed their eyes a moment, and woke where there is no more night.—Then these brown old rooms felt the presence of unseen wings, and heard one instant the sweet murmur of the crystal river.

There came a holy benediction on the spot—for where Heaven has opened to take its children home—can never be utterly forsaken or desolate.

"Still stands the forest primeval."—And still stands the old—old house. But the vision passed away;—and the young girl vanished within its inner shade—the dimness of other years in her eyes—and the life of other lives in her heart.

The Late Fearful Railroad Accident.

The Rev. Mr. Fuller, of Manchester, N H., was in the car at the time of the accident, and furnishes the editor of the Mirror with the following interesting account of the late fearful railroad accident at Andover:

I was looking out of the window, when we felt a severe shock, and the car was dragged for a few seconds, the axle of the front wheel being broken. Perfectly conscious of our situation, I remember thinking what was the matter. I retained through the whole my consciousness. In another second, the coupling which joined our car with the other, broke, and our car was whirled violently around, so as to reverse the ends, and we were swung down the rocky ledge. For once I had no hope of escaping death. I shall never forget the breathless horror which came over us during our fall. There was not a shriek, nor an exclamation, till the progress of the car, after having turned over twice on the rocks, was arrested, and with a violent concussion, having parted in the middle, and being broken into many thousand fragments. I received personally a few bruises and flesh cuts, of no particular moment, and found myself amid a mass of broken glass and splintered wood, and groaning men and women, with no limbs broken, and with a heart to praise God for his sparing mercy. I had no need to get out at any door or window, for the car was a fragmentary ruin. The next moment a man covered with blood himself—a noble fellow—said, 'we are alive, let us help others.' I passed from one frightful part of the scene to another, and the whole is before me now as a fearful vision. Men came up on every side dripping with blood, and few escaped some cuts and bruises. Before all were rescued the top, covered with oil cloth, took fire from the stove, and added to the general horror and suffering.

The incidents, among the many terrible ones, are especially present to my memory. On the bank sat a mother. Mrs. Stokes of this city) clasping her little boy of some three or four years of age; he had been rescued from the rain which had strewn the rock with splintered fragments, and her own person was considerably burned by the fire, but she was shedding tears of gratitude over her rescued child, and rejoicing in his safety, unmindful of her own pain. But a few steps farther I saw the most appaling scene of all. There was another mother, whose agony passes beyond any discription. She could shed no tears, but overwhelmed with grief, uttered such affecting words as I never can forget. It was Mrs. Pierce, the wife of the President elect; and near her, in that ruin of shivered wood and iron, lay a more terrible ruin,—her only son—one minute before so beautiful, so full of life and hope. She was supported by her husband and Prof. Packard.

General Pierce was himself bruised in the back, but not severely, and the wounds of the spirit far exceeded any bodily suffering; yet, while deeply affected, he showed all the self-possession and nerve which only characterizes great-hearted and noble men, and which few would manifest under similar circumstances. He gave all needful directions about the recovery of his little boy, still entangled in the wreck about him, and then afforded all that comfort and sympathy to his partner in sorrow which was appropriate to the time. She was conveyed to a house near, and there she gave vent to the grief which rent her heart, while he consoled and comforted. I may not draw the veil from that picture. Sacred is the holy privacy of sorrow, and the hearts of those who have suffered can feel what my pen must not describe.

AREA AND POPULATION OF EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES.—The area of the United States is but one-seventh less than that of Europe, including the two islands. Its population however, is less than one-eleventh as large. The population of Europe averages seventy-one to the square mile, while that of the United States is but seven. Russia has eight times as much European territory as any other nation, and twenty millions more of population. Her population, however, is but thirty to the square mile, while that of Belgium is three hundred and eighty-one. Of the United States, Massachusetts is the most densely peopled, having one hundred and twenty-seven inhabitants to the square mile. Texas, the largest in area of the States, has twenty thousand square miles more territory than the empire of France, and nearly twice as much as the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. The population of the United States will surpass that of Great Britain within five years and probably overtake that of France by the next national census. if the whole territory of United States were equally distributed among the inhabitants, it would give every man, woman, and child, freeman and slave, a farm of ninety acres; while in Europe, each individual would receive but nine. If this country was as densely populated as Belgium, the number would make the enormous aggregate of 1,227,916,137—a sum equal to the present inhabitants of the whole world.

MEEKNESS.—How difficult it is to be of a meek and forgiving spirit, when despitefully used. To love an enemy, and forgive an evil speaker, is a higher attainment than is commonly believed. It is easy to talk of christian forbearance among neighbors, but to practice it ourselves requires the grace of a christian indeed.

A WISE CONCLUSION—The conclusion at which I have arrived, after years of observation and experience," said the late John McDonongh of New Orleans ,"is, that without temperance there is no health; without virtue, no order; without religion, no happiness; and that the sum of our being is, to live wisely, soberly, and righteously."

A new counterfeit $5 bill on the Union Bank of Sandusky City made its appearance yesterday. It is well executed.

IRON LACE.—It is stated that at Nottingham England, the great center of the lace manufacture, they are now manufacturing a most beautiful article of lace for window curtains bed curtains &c. of iron wire. Iron houses iron ships and now iron capes for the ladies!

Moonlight in the Tropics

There is something exceedingly romantic in the nights of the tropics. It is pleasant to sit on the landing place at the top of the flight of steps in front of Bluefield's House, after night has spread her "purple wings" over the sky, or even to lie at full length on the smooth stones; it is a hard bed, but not a cold one, for the thick flags, exposed to the burning sun during the day, become thoroughly heated and retain a considerable degree of warmth till morning nearly comes again. The warmth of the flat stones is particularly pleasant, as the cool night breezes play over the face. The scene is favorable for meditation; the moon, "walking in brightness," gradually climbing up to the very center of the deep blue sky, sheds on the grassy sward, the beasts lying down here and there, the fruit-trees, the surrounding forest, and the glistening sea spread out in front, a soft, but brilliant radiance, unknown to the duller regions of the North. The babbling of the little rivulet, winding its seaward way over the rocks and pebbles, comes like distant music upon the ear, of which the bass is supplied by the roll of the surf falling on the sea-beach at measured intervals—a low, hollow roar, protracted until it dies away along the sinuous shore, the memorial of a fierce but transitory sea-breeze.—But there are sweeter sounds than these. The mocking-bird takes his seat on the highest twig of the orange tree at my feet, and pours fourth his rich and solemn gushes of melody, with such an earnestness as if his soul were in his song A rival from a neighboring tree commences a similar strain, and now the two birds exert all their powers, each striving the utmost to outsing the other, until the silence of this lonely night rings with bursts and swells and tender cadences of melodious song. Here and there over the pasture, the intermittent green spark of the fire fly flits along, and at the edges of the boaning woods scores of twinkling lights are seen, appearing and disappearing in the most puzzling manner. Three or four bats are silently winging along through the air; now passing over the face of the verticle moon, like tiny black specks, now darting through the narrow arch beneath the steps, and now flitting so close overhead that one is tempted to essay their capture with an insect net. The light of the moon, however, though clearly revealing their course, is not powerful or precise enough for this, and the little nimble leather wings pursue their giddy play in security.—*Gosse's Naturalist Sojourn.*

MR. ALLING'S REPORT.

TO THE

LEGISLATURE OF NEW YORK.

ON THE SUBJECT OF

LAND REFORM.

Report of a majority of Committee on Memorials for a limitation of the quantity of land that any individual may hereafter acquire in this State; also for the Exemption of the Homestead of each family from Alienation for any future debt or liability.

Mr. Alling, from a majority of the select committee to which were referred the several memorials for a limitation of the quantity of land that any individual may hereafter acquire in this State, also for the exemption of the homestead of each family from alienation for any future debt or liability, &c., Reports:

A man is dependant on the productions of the earth for his daily subsistence. It is evident that regulations in regard to land are the most important which can engage the attention of a legislative body. A right to life implies a right to means whereby the necessaries of life can be obtained. The natural rights of one man cannot conflict with the natural rights of another, for the laws and rights of nature are in harmony. While, therefore, each person has a right to the free use of such a portion of the earth as is needful for his subsistence, no one can have a right to hold an unlimited quantity, to the exclusion of others.

It is contrary to justice, that a human being should be born without having the right to a free home somewhere on the earth. According to the theories of political economy, a man who is born in a world already occupied, if his family have not the means of supporting him, and society have no need of his labor, has not the right to claim any portion of nourishment, and he is really one too many on earth. At the great banquet of nature, there is no room for him. Whether in a true state of society and a rightful apportionment of the soil, the earth will ever be over-peopled, is a problem yet to be solved, and which only time can answer.

The all-wise and powerful Architect has probably so pre-ordained his government, that in a just condition of society overspreading our world, there shall be a natural law of equilibrium between the resources of the earth and the entire population, so that no famine and misery shall then arise. But if it were destined that at any time the earth should be over-peopled, we ought not artificially to produce the horrors of such an event now in the infancy of society, by land monopoly. Yet, in fact, nations have done and are doing so. Under the present system of land monopoly, as every landless person destitute of property is compelled to seek some one to buy him or the labor of his hands, that he may have bread to eat, or a house to shelter him; it soon happens that in all countries there is a surplus labor population unemployed, who are driven to starvation, or to the poor house and prisons. Thus is the capitalist armed with fearful power over the destinies of the working people and their families. Wages, the reward of labor, does not depend alone on the profit which the employer can make yearly in his line of business, but mainly on the proportion which exist between the *demand* for, and the supply of labor to answer that *demand*. If the *demand* at any time exceeds the *supply*, then wages are high, and the workmen can limit reasonably the hours of toil for a days work; but on the contrary, if the *supply* of laborers soliciting employment exceeds the demand for their services, then wages are low and the hours of labor prolonged. In the latter case the workmen are compelled to underbid each other, and to be willing to work for a mere living or at starving wages, and for a longer time, to satisfy the avarice of capital. This it is which gives capital a tyrannic power over labor. The laborer has nothing to fall back upon; no sure homestead upon which he may become his own employer if others do not choose to employ him. He must therefore sell the labor of his hands for mere daily bread and shelter, or perish.

To this cause may be traced a very large proportion of the crime that calls for new prison-houses and more officers of justice, and causes on the face of our infant society, unmistakeable traces of premature decrepitude. The landless laborer must pay rent for a shelter for his family, if not for ground to till, and the price of his rent depends not on the amount of labor which the landlord has expended upon the ground or the house that he lets, but almost wholly upon the aggregation of landless persons in the vicinity. Thus a congregation of industrious artisans in any given locality, for the purpose of exchanging the fruits of the earth for the comforts of life, such as a civilized people should enjoy, are made to pay the monopolist of the land the increased value which they themselves have given to the settlement. The farmer's rent is increased, because he has made his farm more productive; the mechanic must pay more rent, because by acting as a pioneer he has formed a society for the artist and man of science; the merchant or agent for the exchange of products has, by industry and enterprise, established a well-known and convenient mart, and therefore he must make a large annual contribution to the landlord, and add as much of it as he can to the expenses of his agency or the price of his goods. All this, while the landlord lives in idleness and luxury, producing nothing, yet consuming the best of every thing that is produced; or, with the disposition of a miser, he takes the rents he has collected from one class of toilers, and with it employs other landless men to add house to house, which, when completed, belong to him who looked on, and not to those who built them.

There is no incident of land monopoly so productive of intemperance, pauperism, and crime, as that of rent. The tenant whether of a farm, a workshop, a store, or a dwelling, being subject to a continually increasing competition in his labor, not only through the natural increase of population, but through the increase of the comparatively new elements of machinery, is rarely able to provide a fund to sustain his family in case of sickness, a failure of crops, or the want of a market for his labor or its products, but in any case, his rent is accumulating and must be paid. If he has put by anything for old age, it melts away in the form of rent, whenever from any casualty he cannot labor or cannot sell his productions. If he has no surplus for a rainy day, when the storm comes, debt, interest, and law expenses are added to the rent and visions of the poor house float before his eyes. Is it surprising that in these situations he should become disheartened, and be led into the excesses of intemperance or the temptations to commit crime? Our criminal statistics afford abundant evidence that most of the petty offences against property are occasioned by hopeless poverty, caused by the uncertainty of profitable employment and unceasing requirements of rent. The desire to escape the miseries and degradation of servitude, and to be relieved of the burden of rent, induces many who have accumulated a little property, to purchase farms or lots, and give mortgages for part of the price thereof; and such is the strong natural desire for a free home, that in in their anxiety to obtain one, persons frequently over estimate their means and capabilities, and after struggling for years to redeem their homestead, paying an interest almost equivalent to rent, are at last turned homeless upon the world, with the loss of their original investment, by a forced sale. It is rarely that one, whose prospects have been thus blighted, again rises by honest means above the condition of the landless laborer. It is desirable that circumstances productive of so much misery should be avoided, if it can be done consistently with the requirements of justice and natural rights. Under our present system, in proportion as population advances, and cities and villages become stocked with factories and machinery, the results which have been mentioned are sure to follow.

In our country, yet in its infancy, although we have immense regions of unsettled lands which are held for sale, the excess of poor and unemployed labor is already so great, that if an advertisement be put in any largely circulated journal, stating that the services of a man, woman, or child be wanted, a multitude of applications will, in general, be made, far more than sufficient for the demand. This excessive and ruinous competition is felt in all occupations but is especially destructive to the millions who live by their daily labor.

The census of this State for 1840, compared with that of 1845, shows that our city populations, with few exceptions, are increasing in great disproportion to the agricultural population. While your committee are aware that this result is produced in some measure by other causes, they are apprehensive that one great cause is the monopoly of the soil thro' the operation of the mortgage system. Many farmers sell out and go to other states or territories where they can procure land for their children, which they are unable to do in consequence of the existing system of monopoly in their native State. Many others can neither buy land here for their children or remove. Their children, consequently, are forced into the already over-stocked trades, or into some other department of labor or service; and it is an indisputable fact, that the condition of the landless toilers is gradually growing worse. Although under this state of things the relative aggregate wealth of the cities, or even of the State, may be increasing, your committee cannot perceive that this advantage is a compensation for the increasing inequality and injustice of the distribution of labor products.

We may remark here, that under the present system of land monopoly, while wages are reducing, rents are increasing. The rise of rent depends on the same principle as the fall of wages, namely, an undue competition. The excessive competition of workingmen for employment, brings down wages and lengthens hours of labor. But the excessive competition of workingmen for a room or rooms, a basement, a garret, or a cellar, to live in with their families, causes rents to advance, until the most miserable and filthy tenements in dark and pestilential alleys in our crowded cities, rents for such enormous profits, that the proceeds in a few years more than repay the whole value of the property; and by living in such unhealthy locations, the unhappy tenants are cut off from existence before the half the natural life of man is completed.

In order to remove these oppressive evils, it is absolutely necessary that monopoly in land should be forbidden and prevented. Secure to every citizen a sufficient homestead, a village or city lot if he chooses to locate himself in a village or city, or a farm of limited quantity if he prefers the country, and then, as every man would possess a home which could not be wrested from him, he would always by the application of his own industry, on his own possession, be sure of the necessaries and comforts of life for himself and family, with ample opportunity for mental and moral culture.

Under such a system, wages could never be brought down to the starving point, as in Great Britain, nor could such a horrid state of things ever happen as now exists in Ireland. For each individual would, to a certain extent, be a capitalist, and if others did not choose to employ him, he could employ himself. Under such a system there would grow up and be perpetuated a just proportion between the demand for labor and the supply, and the working people could always regulate wages and the time of work within proper limits. In the lapse of a very brief time, wages, slavery, as well as chattel slavery, would be extinct, and, every man, woman, and child in existence would be amply guaranteed the natural and inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

How, then, shall such a system be established, and such beneficial results as have been described be provided for, without interference with what are now deemed vested rights in monopolies of the land, but which, if our premises be correct, are vested *wrongs!* The memorialists, your committee believe, have briefly but clearly pointed out the means by which this may be done; not at once, it is true, but by a gradual process, running through one generation, without interference even with the vested rights of any living land monopolist. They propose,

First,—"A limitation of the quantity of land that an individual may hereafter acquire in this State; say to one hundred and sixty acres.

Secondly,—"The exemption of the homestead of each family, not to exceed one hundred and sixty acres, from alienation for any future debt or liability, or in any manner, except by the joint consent of husband and wife, where such relation may exist.

And *Thirdly,*—"That by every constitutional means you will endeavor to prevent all further traffic in the public lands of this State and of the U. States, and cause them to be laid out in farms and lots for the free and exclusive use of actual settlers; and that you instruct the Senators and request the Representatives in Congress from this State, to advocate these measures, with respect to the land now under control of the General Government."

To none of these propositions can your committee find a valid objection.

As it would be difficult, if not impossible, to draw a line of distinction between the improvements which any landholder has put upon the soil, and the soil itself, the limitation principle, as proposed, does not interfere with any man's present possessions, but merely proposes that no one now landless shall become a monopolist, and that no monopolist shall increase his monopoly. Under the operation of this principle, when a large landholder should die, his heirs would each be entitled to a homestead, and the surplus, above their limited portions would pass into the possession of landless persons, to whom the heirs should be allowed to dispose of it within a given time to their best advantage. Thus would the State be fulfilling its parental duty to its children, by securing homes to them, instead of compelling them, as now, to become city tenants, or to leave their native soil, and seek homes in the western wilds. Thus would population be more conveniently compact in the country, and less unhealthy and otherwise injuriously dense in the city. Thus would education and internal improvement be greatly promoted, and thus, it seems to your committee would a Republic be established, durable as our native hills.

In one generation, all the citizens of New York would be freeholders, or might be if they chose; for although there is not in the State 160 acres for each family, so many would prefer lots to farms, that there would be homesteads for all, and to spare.

The second proposition, the exemption of the homestead from debt or other liability, and from compulsory alienation, is an extension of the wise and humane principle of the exemption of the body of the debtor from imprisonment: for debt, and the exemption of certain articles of household furniture and the tools of a man's trade from execution. Such exemptions, it is found by experience, are beneficial. Credit will then be given to character, and not to the mere accident of wealth, and debts will be better paid than they now are, because the debtor will have more means of fulfilling his engagements, and a more virtuous and moral tone of public sentiment will be created under the redeeming influences of free and well-rewarded industry.

Respecting the third proposition of the memorialists, but little need be said. If land monopoly be an evil, if the use of the earth be an inalienable right, and if it be the first duty of government to secure to every citizen a place for a home, and room for the sustenance of his family and the development of all the faculties of his nature consistently with the well being of his fellow citizens; if these principles be correct, as your committee have endeavored to show them to be in a former part of this report, then it follows that the landless citizens of our State and Nation should have secured to them the right of free occupancy of our public lands, both State and National. For this purpose, these lands should, from time to time, be surveyed and laid out into limited portions; and to accommodate the economical division of labor of the present stage of civilization, and prevent the monopoly of city or village sites, which result from a division of the soil into unequal portions, the lands should be divided into farm allotments, with a reservation in each township of village lots proportioned to the number of farms; and each settler should be permitted to choose a village or a farm lot. Thus would facilities be provided for an equilibrium between the various industrial occupations, and Homesteads se-