

ABILENE REFLECTOR

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PESSIMISM.

"Is life worth living?—Well, to tell you true, it scarcely is, if all men were like you."

Bright-faced maiden, bright-souled maiden, What is this that I must hear? Is thy heart with sorrow laden? Can it be that life is drear? Roused to be kindly kissed, Could be twisted indirectly To that vile war between the sexes? Not for their own bliss thou weep'st; Softly feathered is thy nest; When thou weest, when thou sleep'st Thou art tortured with the best. But thy stern and sternest foe, Duty is a man with a woeful smart, Dying children, wailing mothers, Prey thy nerves, and break thy heart. In the country, in the city, Goddess dearest, a loveliest I see, Fairly dressed in the gay, And thou art a Pessimist. Storms and wars and tribulations, Dying parents, and ailing wife, With insane hallucinations, Mangled travel far and wide, Can there be an eye inspecting Things so tumbling in pell-mell, With a cool equanimity, Such a hobnob, such a cheer, Nay, sweet maid, but think more slowly, Through the thing and the fact, This a logic most unholly. That the gross of things is bad; That the heart with sorrow laden; That the life with death's alloy; Or in wisdom, in the end, Nature still delights in joy. Dost thou hear of starving sinners? Nine and ten war millions down up, Many thousands eat good dinners, Many hundreds quaff good wine, Hast thou seen a score of cripples? Equal legs are not uncommon; You know one or two in the street, Thousands drink not—man and woman; Tell me, if you know, how many Murders happen in the town? One a year, perhaps, if any; Should that weigh your heart quite down? No doubt, if you read the papers, You will find a strange hotch-potch—Dying dummies, delirious cases, Many a dreamer, many a doer, Eyes of windy swindlers, Habits of the most unclean, Cheating, swindling, peculation, Equilibrium of Church and State; Ministers known and unknown, Beaten wives, insulted brides, Having preachers, without teachers, Amateurs and amateurs, Drains and cesspools, faintings, fevers, Poisoned cats and poisoned dogs, Simple women, gay deceivers, Every sort and size of follies, Wandering M. P.'s, and their allies, Deputations, meetings, dinners, Tots of the lawless rabble, Turpitude and its accessories; Driving, driving, drinking, dancing, Spirit rapping, phony spirit, Bullish sciences, and doct' learning, When the shaves are blown enough, All this is true, when men cut capers That make the people stare, To-morrow, when you see the papers, You're surprised to find your name, But you and I, and all our neighbors, Meanwhile in pure and happy ways, With our own hands and feet, Draw out our chain of life's days, See things as they are; sober, Rarely well, rarely low, and plain; If to day be chill October, Hammer and anvil come again; Are bleak winds your sole delight? Do dark clouds for you ever loom? Are your friends and neighbors dying? All your sweetness turned to sour? Great men no doubt have sometimes small

her nose, and a twang in her shrill voice, that "makes her so bewitchingly beautiful and universally admired. Just be diligent in your own business, and wait in patience for the reward of your diligence. It may be a little slow in coming. The mills of the gods grind slowly, so does a hand-organ on the "Last Rose of Summer" stop, but it always gets there. And don't pay more for the reward than the reward is worth. A man who lives on twenty-nine cents a day will be apt to die wealthy, but he won't die very fat. It is the liberal soul that shall be made fat.

And have one to mind. Again, my hearers, you will observe that the exaltation is promised the man who is diligent in "business." Then man or woman who labors diligently for years, until the ability to write forty-four chapters of the Bible on a postal card does not stand before Kings because that sort of a thing isn't business. The man who spends all his life trying to invent a perpetual motion machine has nothing to do with business. The inventor who speaks of the Keely motor will not stand before Kings; he will not even stand before his own stockholders, although they have often tried to get behind him. The man who is diligent in constructing one hundred and nine sentences and three hundred and fourteen words out of "constitutions" will not stand anywhere save at the head of the spelling class, and even there he is in danger of denunciation and overthrow by the "spelling reform association." The man who diligently educates his feet until he can waltz an hour and seventy-eight minutes without stopping, does not stand before Kings because "as snow in summer, and as rain in harvest, so honor is not seemly for a man who wears his brains in his shoes."

It seems to me, beloved, that the success of the diligent people who stand before Kings of various degree, is in a measure due to their successful diligence, and furthermore, this successful diligence indicates the existence of certain qualities essential to success. True, therefore, captains who creep through the cabin windows and there are Generals until to be Sergeants, but these pampered pets of unjust favoritism do not "stand" before Kings; they bow and crutch before them. But when one stands successful in the eyes of criticism and sharp competition, I am inclined to think there must be some reason for his success. You ask me, for instance, what is the secret of Mrs. Langtry's success? Well, I think it is her success. But you say "There are twenty girls in Brooklyn more beautiful than she." I don't doubt it. I think there are twenty one. And "they are more gifted, and blessed with better education?" Yes, I know that. "And their social position is higher?" I should say so, my brother. "And they have greater histrionic talent?" Indeed they have. I agree with you. "They can act all around a room, and in a course, they can't." And they ought to have her place on the American stage? Well, then, why don't they have it?

Verily, beloved, when people talk like that, and often they do, I begin to believe that none but unsuccessful people succeed in this country. As I wander up and down the land I find about all the real talent and merit in the country, and I pick up a scanty crust of crumbs that fall from the granaries of successful pretenders, while the sad, voiceless spirit of justice sits on the front fence and broods with a tender mystery over the devious ways of man and the uncertain favors of fickle fortune and pitiless fate.

Unseen Blessings. Scarcely a village do I enter but the villagers proudly point out for my admiration a young man whose "funny" that ever Mark Twain dared to do. Many of Twain's best jokes, indeed, they assure me, were stolen bodily from young "Funniboy." Why, he keeps the debating society in a roar of laughter all the time he is on his feet. He is called the Artemus Ward of Gulliver's "Country," and the *Amusements Magazine* has predicted for him a future equal to none. I have been introduced in nearly every State in the Union, and usually, too, in the smaller towns, some distance from any railroad, to ministers of the gospel who could preach the boots of Mr. Beecher; who were more than a match for the most gifted and keener faculty of observation, and a happier vein of humor and more fertile and felicitous in illustration. And they resembled Mr. Beecher, too, their friends told me. And so they did. I could see that for myself. And you see I felt hats and long hair. 'Twas on one instance I learned that Mr. Beecher resembled and copied an evangelist. I have met many, very many eloquent lecturers, without audiences, who could teach John B. Gough the rudiments of temperance lecturing, and there they were, pegging away at grocery's shoes, or selling dry goods, crockery and hardware in a country store, while Gough, the "funny" and tender, usurped their rightful places on the rostrum. People have shown me women who could sing; more divine than Patti, and I know plenty of men who can walk right away from Fitzgerald.

Abundant, but hard to find. Now, I believe in hidden pearls. I have seen a young man, a fat-headed fellow, whose eyes are so full of tears, that their feet stick out of the dormer windows. I think some of them are rarer and finer and purer than any that have graced the diadem of an Empress up to the date of this writing. Down in the gloomy caverns of the earth, there are diamonds, I firmly believe, that would make the Kohinoor hide its diminished head and sell itself for a pibble. But, dearly beloved, we don't know where they are. If we did, we would dig and dig for them; we would bring them out, and by their gain wealth and glory and the envy of our neighbors. A workman is known by his chips; so, alas, is the faro banker. Do you be diligent in your own business and be content with its rewards. You may not walk so many miles in six days as Fitzgerald, but you can sleep a great deal more in that time; and if you do not get so much money for it, neither do you get so many blisters. On your little salary at the suspender company, you can not clean up \$800,000 on Wall Street this week. But, then, neither can you be cleaned out of \$450,000 next week. You may not be able to set the fashions in male attire, but you can fill your soul with nameless joy and an exaltation of celestial birth, and climb to the top of high Olympus, and lean back and pile your feet on the sofa and make yourself easy with the immortal gods, by paying your landlady every Saturday and keeping even with your tailor. You may never be the Washington correspondent of a society paper, but then your hair, worn in a turn white in the agonized effort to explain what it is about a snacker's wife, who has red hair, freckles, no upper teeth, a hair wart on

the national revenue whenever the same is needed to protect our citizens. We believe that every where the protection to a citizen of America should be secured to citizens of American adoption, and we favor the settlement of national differences by international arbitration. The Republican party, having its birth in a hatred of slave labor, and a desire that all men may be truly free and equal, is opposed to allowing our working men to be employed in any form of servile labor whether at home or abroad. In this spirit, we denounce the importation of contract labor, whether from Europe or Asia, as an offense against the spirit of American institutions, and we pledge ourselves to sustain the present law restricting Chinese immigration and to provide such further legislation as is necessary to carry out its purposes.

Civil Service Reform. The reform of the Civil Service, which has begun under a Republican administration, should be completed by the further extension of the reformed system already established by law to all the grades of the service to which it is applicable. The spirit and purpose of reform should be observed in all executive appointments, and all laws at variance with the objects of existing reform legislation should be repealed, to the end that the dangers to free institutions which lurk in the power of official patronage may be wisely and effectively avoided.

Public Lands. The public lands are the heritage of the people of the United States and should be reserved as a trust for the benefit of the people. We are opposed to the disposition of large tracts of these lands by corporations or individuals, especially when the lands are in the hands of non-resident aliens, and we will endeavor to obtain such legislation as will correct the abuses which have prevailed. We demand of Congress the speedy recovery of land-grants which have lapsed by reason of non-compliance with acts of incorporation in all cases where there has been no attempt in good faith to perform the conditions of such grants.

Foreign Relations. The Republican party favors a policy which shall keep us free from all entangling alliances with foreign nations, which gives us the right to expect that foreigners shall refrain from meddling in American affairs. The policy which seeks peace can trade with all powers, but especially with those of the Western Hemisphere.

The Navy. We demand that the navy of our country be maintained at a level of efficiency that it may in any sea protect the rights of American citizens and the interests of American commerce.

American Shipping. We call on Congress to remove the burdens which American shipping has been depressed, so that it may again be true that we have a commonwealth which is a law unto itself, and which takes no law from superior force.

Territorial Officers. We demand that appointments by the President to offices in the Territories, should be made from the bona fide citizens and residents of the Territories.

Polynesian. We call on Congress to remove the burdens which American shipping has been depressed, so that it may again be true that we have a commonwealth which is a law unto itself, and which takes no law from superior force.

State Rights. The National Government is supreme within the sphere of its constitutional duty, but the States have reserved rights which should be faithfully maintained. Each should be guarded jealously against the encroachments of the other system of government may be preserved and the Union kept inviolate.

REPUBLICANS IN CONVENTION.

The Eight National Republican Convention Assembled at Chicago and Present Candidates for President and Vice-President—The Platform—National Committee—James G. Blaine, of Maine, Nominating General John Sherman, of Ohio, for President, and General William McKinley, of Ohio, for Vice-President.

The Republican National Convention to place in nomination candidates for President and Vice-President, assembled at Chicago at noon on the 3d and was called to order by Hon. D. M. Sabin, Chairman of the National Committee. After a temporary organization by the election of John R. Lynch, of Mississippi, Chairman, and the appointment of the usual committees, the Convention adjourned until Wednesday morning.

Wednesday's Session. The Convention was called to order at eleven o'clock, when the Committee on Permanent Organization reported the names of General John B. Henderson, of Missouri, for Permanent Chairman. The report was adopted by a vote of the Convention, and General Henderson escorted to the chair. The "invocator" then presented, as reported by the committee for Secretary and elected by the Convention. A resolution to bind each delegate to support the nominee of the Convention called forth an animated debate. Among those who spoke strongly against its adoption was George W. Curtis. The resolution was finally withdrawn. Many resolutions were offered, among them one in regard to woman suffrage, all of which were referred to the Committee on Resolutions.

Thursday's Session. When the Convention assembled the Committee on Credentials reported that they had been in almost continuous session since their appointment, and as a result, reported the contested cases awarding seats as follows: First Alabama District, Slaughter and Threlkeld; Second Alabama District, Mosely and Bingham, sitting members; Third Alabama District, Mallory and Threlkeld; Fourth Alabama District, George and Threlkeld; Fifth Alabama District, Threlkeld and Threlkeld; Sixth Alabama District, O'Brien and Brady, sitting members; Ninth Alabama District, the recommendation that the sitting delegates and their alternates, and as a result, reported the contested cases awarding seats as follows: First Alabama District, Slaughter and Threlkeld; Second Alabama District, Mosely and Bingham, sitting members; Third Alabama District, Mallory and Threlkeld; Fourth Alabama District, George and Threlkeld; Fifth Alabama District, Threlkeld and Threlkeld; Sixth Alabama District, O'Brien and Brady, sitting members; 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