

THE STAR OF THE NORTH.

R. W. Weaver Proprietor.

Truth and Right—God and our Country

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CHOICE POETRY.

THE ROBIN'S NEST.

BY JULIAN CRAMER.

Beside a stream, whose limpid breast
Revealed the shining sand below,
A simple robin built her nest,
And waited for her young to grow.
Her artless song was often heard,
As homeward to her brood she flew,
And when the rosy daylight shined
Her music filled the welkin blue.

A reckless boy at last espied
The nest, and made the prize his own:
And when the mother homeward hied
'Twas but to find herself alone.
'Twas pitiful to see her grief,
And listen to her mournful cry,
She sought in vain to find relief,
And folded up her wings to die.

I marked that boy. He grew apace,
And was at last in years a man;
Yet ever covered with disgrace
That followed some discovered plan.
I watched him with a curious eye,
Expecting some sad fate to see;
I saw it as he passed to die
A wretch upon a gallows tree.

Oh, sinner! heed the lesson taught—
Hast thou e'er spoiled a robin's nest?
Hast not thy reckless act been fraught
With anguish to a mother's breast?
God help thee! for I know no deed
So merciless as thine has been,
And much I fear thy heart must bleed,
Forever for thy dreadful sin.

Oh, if there be a doom more dread
Than others on the judgment day,
It were but for him who led
A pure and loving girl astray.
There may be pardon for the knave,
And mercy for the wretch who stole,
But Heaven, I fear, ne'er forgave
The murdered of a human soul!

The Lord's Prayer.

A friend tells us an anecdote of Booth, the great tragedian, which we do not recollect having seen in print. It occurred in the palmy days of his fame, before the sparkle of his great black eye had been dimmed by that bane of genius, strong drink. Booth and several friends had been invited to dine with an old gentleman in Baltimore, of distinguished kindness, urbanity and piety. The host, though disapproving of theatres and theatre-going, had heard so much of Booth's remarkable powers, that curiosity to see the man had, in this instance, overcome all his scruples and prejudice. After the entertainment was over, lamps lighted and the company seated in the drawing room, some one requested Booth, as a particular favor, and one which all present would doubtless appreciate, to read the Lord's Prayer. Booth expressed his willingness to afford them this gratification; and all eyes were turned expectantly upon him. Booth rose slowly and reverently from his chair. It was wonderful to watch the play of emotions that convulsed his countenance. He became deathly pale, and his eyes turned tremblingly upwards, were wet with tears. As yet he had not spoken. The silence could be felt. It became absolutely painful, until at last the spell was broken as if by an electric shock, as his rich-toned voice, from white lips, syllabled forth, "Our Father, who art in Heaven," &c., with a pathos and fervid solemnity that thrilled all hearts. He finished. The silence continued. Not a voice was heard or a muscle moved in his vast audience, until, from a remote corner of the room, a subdued sob was heard, and the old gentleman (their host) stepped forward with streaming eyes and tottering frame, and seized Booth by the hand. "Sir," said he in broken accents, "you have afforded me a pleasure to which my whole future life will feel grateful. I am an old man, and every day, from my boyhood to the present time I thought I had repeated the Lord's Prayer, but I have never heard it before, never." "You are right," replied Booth; "no prayer as it should be read, has read that prayer—study and labor for come the anniversary of being satisfied thirty years, and I am far from production. Hardly one person in ten thousand comprehends how much beauty, tenderness and grandeur can be condensed in a space so small and in words so simple. That Prayer of itself sufficiently illustrates the truth of the Bible, and stamps upon it the seal of Divinity."

So great was the effect produced (says our informant, who was present,) that conversation was sustained but a short time longer in subdued monosyllables, and almost entirely ceased; and soon after, at an early hour, the company broke up and retired to their several homes, with sad faces and full hearts.

MINISTERS ARRESTED.—Chicago is a 'great' city. Two Ministers of the Gospel were arrested there last week—ones for drunkenness and the other for stealing a horse and

poisoning a dog, no farther than the city limits, at only twenty-five cents

ADDRESS

OF THE

Democratic State Central Committee.

To the People of Pennsylvania:

FELLOW CITIZENS:—In the performance of our duty, we lately addressed you on the subject of Know-Nothingism. We warned you against the insidious appeals of a party, one principle of which establishes a religious test for office, a thing expressly prohibited by the Constitution of the United States, and by that of Pennsylvania. A party, which seeks to practically disfranchise one class of American citizens, because of their religious creed; another class, because of the place of their birth, and to proscribe a still more numerous class, because they will not deny to others the rights which they claim for themselves. We reminded you that these States had been founded by immigrants who fled hither for self-protection from the same persecuting spirit. That by mutual toleration in matters of religion, and by an equal participation in the common concerns of social life and government, these rights of each were guaranteed by all; that to wrest them from any citizen, however weak or humble, was to substitute might for right, and thus subvert the great principle of political equality, on which alone rests our common security and general welfare.

That to do this in secret, and under mutual pledges and oaths, and above all, to do it under the name of Americanism, was to destroy all confidence in the capability of men for self-government, to confound local prejudice with the virtue of patriotism, to exalt the profession of a creed above the practice of genuine Christianity, to bring Democratic institutions into contempt, and to cover their founders with reproach.

If the rankling hatreds and fierce feuds, the social wranglings and lawless outrages, which have characterized this secret party, had been in like manner occasioned by all others, society itself could not have existed. Brief, therefore, as has been its career, it has convinced every reflecting man that its tendencies are counter to the genius of our government and opposed to the teaching of their founders. We have, therefore, seen it overthrown by the Democracy in the South, and disorganized and broken—blended with Abolitionism in the North. Such has been the secession from its ranks by the deceived and erring men who joined it, that notwithstanding its abated pretensions and the attempts made to liberalize its principles, its possession of local offices and the fulcrum hope of political places and rewards in 1856, alone, keep it from utter annihilation as a National party.

At the present, therefore, there is more occasion to call your attention to another and purely sectional party, which threatens to subvert the Federal Constitution, and to destroy the Union of these States. The Know-Nothing party—miscalled American—tends to occasion civil discord among neighbors, and between citizens of the same State, but this self-styled Republican party, tends to add to this the horrors of a negro insurrection in the States of the South, and a civil war between the several States of this Union.

We do not say that this is the design of all or even the majority of its members, but we do charge that to be the only avowed design of some, and those not a few of its leaders; and we further charge that such is the clear tendency, and would be the inevitable result, of its success. It is in vain for its partisans to say that they intend no ill; the question is not one of intention, it is one of practical conduct; and the principles of American government and of Constitutional law are the sole tests by which it must be tried. We have already seen the Legislature of one State openly and designedly pass an act in defiance of the Constitution of the United States and the laws made in pursuance thereof, and when the Governor of that State—and a partisan of this very party—vetoed, and attempted to arrest the course of the Legislature, we saw them defy him also, and repeat this act. We have seen the same State openly remove an upright and learned Judge because he dared to keep his oath and support the Constitution of the United States. In our own State, we have since heard a deliberative body of the same party, vehemently applaud a motion to mob and beat a Judge; and still later in this State, and in the Convention of this whole party, a Reverend member of it publicly advocated the destruction of a public Prison, and the rescue of a prisoner, because they had considered and adjudged him to be wrongfully imprisoned. If these things are now done and advocated, and by such men and in such places, both under color of law and in avowed defiance of it, who will or can assure the public that the most fatal—violations of the law would not be committed by other men and mobs, and in other places? When men thus disregard the Constitution and laws of their country, and seek to organize together one section of the Union, that they may the more successfully overawe or subdue the other, they reduce the whole question to one between force and law, Union or disunion, domestic tranquility or civil war.

It is absurd for men to prate about liberty, while at the very same time they are encouraging resistance to law. There can be no liberty without law, and there is not and cannot be any law higher than the Constitution of the United States. Whatever, therefore, may be the pretences put forward by the abolitionists, or whatever more deceptive name they may choose to assume, and array themselves under, the real and sole issue will be the same; it will be that party—a violated Constitution and disunion on the one side,

and the Democratic party and the Constitution and Union as they are on the other side: choose ye between them! Even if you would, yet you cannot now but choose between these two. While the Whig party existed, whatever may have been its follies or its faults, yet neither Clay nor Webster, nor its other great leaders, nor the true men of its rank and file, would have tolerated a sentiment hostile to the Constitution or the Union. But these great men and true patriots have passed away, and the old Whig party no longer exists. The weak, the venal and the selfish in its ranks have gone into a secret and sectarian organization, or have gone over and arrayed themselves with Abolitionists, infidels and fanatics, against their brethren of the South. One party alone remains firm and defiant. Over every foot of the soil of this Union, and wherever its Constitution extends, there too extends the all protecting arm of the Democracy, bearing aloft the broad flag of Civil and Religious Liberty, the Constitution and the Union.

Fellow Citizens, our duty in the premises is plain. However much party leaders may hesitate or hang back, fearful of losing their own position, or of yielding to an old political opponent, there is but one course left, and that is a general rally of all patriotic citizens upon the platform of the Democratic party. There is no mistaking the tone of the Democracy in this crisis. It unhesitatingly accepts the issue tendered to it by the adversaries of the Federal Constitution, and proclaims its high purpose to sink or swim, survive or perish, with the American Union—Refusing to make terms with traitors of any shade, it has not only without regret but with undissembled joy, seen then them desert its ranks for those of an unprincipled coalition. Purged and relieved from their baleful influences, and enabled to act unfettered in its high duty, it invites to its standard every patriotic Pennsylvanian. It has no concealment of its principles, or secrecy in its organization, but shielded, helmed and weaponed with the truth, it advances against the combined fanaticisms. It accepts the whole responsibility of opposing those who oppose the Constitution. It fully enters into the contest against the Abolitionists and their allies. In such a cause, even defeat would be honorable, but victory is certain to crown our efforts if only those who are conscious that we are right, will set up to their honest convictions.

We are no alarmists. It is not our purpose to exaggerate the dangerous tendencies of the political action of our opponents. You can see for yourselves not alone the obliteration of a great party, but the bold and flagrant declarations of those who have taken its place. There is indeed no alternative left us but opposition, as there is manifestly no party left to make that opposition but the Democratic party.

The inconceivable evils of a dissolution of our beloved Union, do not deter the arrogant factions which now make headway against the rights of the States. The guilt is not greater on the part of such fanatics as Garrison and Phillips, than on that of the demagogues here and elsewhere, who support them. They are all working to the same end, and some of them with the consciousness—and others thoughtless or reckless—of the misery their success would entail upon the country.

But how is it with you, people of Pennsylvania? Are you willing to yield in the mandates of these men? Has the Union lost its sacred and inestimable value in your eyes? Are you ready to regard your countrymen of the South as so many alien enemies? We disdain appealing to your interests, we invoke your patriotism; we appeal to the glorious memories of the past and to the unparalleled blessings ever present; and we point in proof of the peril that besets the near future, not merely to the overthrown Whig organization, nor to the fanaticisms springing from its ruins and coalescing in our midst, but to the alarm and dismay that have spread over the South like a funeral pall, in view of the aggressive purposes of Northern Abolitionists.

And mark the miserable delusions with which Abolitionism tries to abuse the indignation because the Missouri restriction, never approved, and for thirty-five years disregarded by the Abolitionists, and spit upon and reviled by them, with every epithet of scorn and indignation, has been repealed! It denounces the Nebraska act which declares "It being the true intent and meaning of this act not to legislate slavery into any State or Territory, nor to exclude it therefrom, but to leave the people thereof perfectly free to form and regulate their domestic institutions in their own way, subject only to the Constitution of the United States." These fanatics refuse, therefore, to allow the people to regulate their domestic institutions; yet as early as October 1774, these United Colonies assembled in Congress, solemnly Resolved, "That the foundation of English liberty, and of all free government, is a right in the people to participate in their legislative Council, * * * that the colonists are entitled to the free and exclusive power of legislation in their several provincial legislatures, where their right of representation can alone be preserved, in all cases of taxation and internal polity"—and at the same time they further declared that these rights existed "by the inalienable laws of nature, the principles of the English Constitution, and the several charters and compacts." The Declaration of Independence charged it as an act of usurpation by the King of Great Britain, that "he refused to pass laws for the accommodation of large districts of people unless these people would relinquish the right of representation

in the Legislature, * * * a right inestimable to them, and formidable to tyrants only."

Nor was our own State behind her sister States in asserting this right; for by the third article of the declaration of rights, made in July, 1776, it was declared "that the people of this State have the sole, exclusive and inherent right of governing and regulating the internal policy of the same;" and when the Deputies of the people of Pennsylvania assembled in full Provincial Conference, to suppress all authority of the King of Great Britain and for establishing a government upon the authority of the people only, they declared their willingness to concur in a vote declaring the United Colonies free and independent States, "Provided, that the forming the government and the regulating the internal policy of this Colony be always reserved to the people of the Colony."

And yet, against this self-evident and immutable principle of American liberty and of all free governments, men have the audacity to array themselves under the name of Republicans! maintaining, too, that their fellow countrymen, who inhabit the territories most act otherwise than of their own free choice, and that Congress should compel them to select between dictated submission and threatened punishment!

But, fellow citizens, even while indulging in these expressions, this party is scarcely attemping to conceal the fearful ultimatum of despoiling which it is now seeking to participate by means of an exclusive sectional Northern organization—the first organization of the kind ever known in this republic, and the success of which is certain to end in the perpetual alienation of the South from the North.

And by political agitation, what good can they even pretend to accomplish? What man, in the free States of this Union, would be benefited by the success of the Abolitionists? Not one; nor could they give freedom to a single slave; they would but more firmly rivet the fetters. As early as 1828, the late Rev. William E. Channing, of Boston, said: "My fear in regard to our efforts against slavery is, that we shall make the case worse by rousing sectional pride and passion for its support, and that we shall only break the country into two great parties, which may shake the foundation of government."

So late as 1850, Mr. Webster said in the Senate: "Then, Sir, there are the Abolition Societies, of which I am unwilling to speak, but in regard to which I have very clear notions and opinions. I do not think them useful. I think their operations for the last twenty years have produced nothing good or valuable. * * * They attempted to arouse, and did arouse, a very strong feeling; in other words, they created great agitation in the North against Southern slavery. Well, what was the result? The bonds of the slaves were bound more firmly than before; their rivets were more strongly fastened."

"Public opinion, which in Virginia had begun to be exhibited against slavery, and was opening out for the discussion of the question, drew back and shut itself up in its castle. * * * We all know the fact, and we all know the cause; and everything that these agitating people have done, has been, not to bind, but to restrain; not to set free, but to enlarge the slave population of the South."

The whole effort of these agitators seems to be to make a sectional issue in every Congressional district of the thirty-one States of the Union, and turn to the halls of Congress into an arena in which the delegates from the North may denounce the domestic institutions of the South.

Not only does all reason forbid us to discontinue sectional parties, but we have the solemnly recorded opinion of Jefferson, who on this very question said: "But this momentous question, like a fire-bell in the night, awakened and filled me with terror. I considered it at once as the knell of the Union. It is hushed, indeed, for the moment. But this is a reprieve only, not a final sentence. A geographical line coinciding with a marked principle, moral and political, once conceived and held up to the angry passions of men, will never be obliterated, and every new irritation will mark it deeper and deeper."

Let the true Whigs who have not ceased to treasure up the counsels of their great statesmen, now apply to the memorable warning of HENRY CLAY: "The Abolitionists, let me suppose, succeed in the present aim of uniting the inhabitants of the free States as one man against the inhabitants of the slave States, union on the one side will beget union on the other. And this process of reciprocal consolidation will be attended with all the violent prejudices, embittered passions and implacable animosities which ever degraded or deformed human nature. One section will stand in menacing and hostile array against the other. The collision of opinion will quickly be followed by the clash of arms. I will not attempt to describe scenes which now happily lie concealed from our view."

Let them weigh well the following words of the conservative WEBSTER: "If we might regard our country as personated in the spirit of Washington; if we might consider him as representing her, in her past renown, in her present prosperity

and her future career, and as in that character demanding of us all to account for our conduct as political men or as private citizens, how should he answer him who has ventured to talk of disunion or dismemberment? or how should he answer him who dwells perpetually on local interests, and fans every kindling flame of local prejudice? How should he answer him who would array State against State, interest against interest, and party against party, careless of the continuance of that unity of Government which constitutes us one people?"

And finally, let all men within the bounds of this State, and no matter to what party they belong, lay to their hearts the farewell advice of WASHINGTON: "The unity of Government, which constitutes you one people, is also now dear to you. It is justly so; for it is a main pillar in the edifice of your real independence—the support of your tranquility at home; your peace abroad; of your safety; of your prosperity; of that very liberty which you so highly prize. But as it is easy to foresee that, from different causes and from different quarters, many pains will be taken, many artifices employed, to weaken in your minds the conviction of this truth: as this is the point in your political fortress against which the batteries of internal and external enemies will be most constantly and actively—though often covertly and insidiously—directed, it is of infinite moment that you should precisely estimate the immense value of your NATIONAL UNION to your collective and individual happiness; that you should cherish a cordial, habitual and immovable attachment to it; accustoming yourselves to think and speak of it as of the palladium of your political safety and prosperity; watching for its preservation with jealous anxiety; discountenancing whatever may suggest even a suspicion that it can, in any event, be abandoned; and indignantly frowning upon the first dawning of every attempt to alienate any portion of our country from the rest, or to ensue the sacred ties which now link together the various parts."

For this you have every inducement of sympathy and interest. CITIZENS BY BIRTH on choice, of a common country—that country has a right to concentrate your affection. The name of American which belongs to you in your national capacity, must always exalt the just pride of patriotism, more than any appellation derived from local discriminations. With slight shades of difference, you have the same religion, manners, habits, and political principles. You have, in a common cause, fought and triumphed together; the independence and liberty you possess are the work of joint counsel and joint efforts, of common origins, sufferings and successes."

"This Government—the offspring of our choice, uninfluenced and unawed, adopted upon full investigation and mature deliberation, completely free in its principles, in the distribution of its powers, uniting security with energy, and containing within itself a provision for its own amendment—has a just claim to your confidence and your support. Respect for its authority, compliance with its laws, acquiescence in its measures, are duties enjoined by the fundamental maxims of true liberty. The basis of our political systems, is the right of the people to make and alter their Constitutions of Government: but the Constitution which at any time exists, till changed by an explicit and authentic act of the whole people, is sacredly obligatory upon all. The very idea of the power and the right of the people to establish Government, presupposes the duty of every individual to obey the established Government."

If, in addition to these words, we need others more directly and solemnly applicable to the present times, they will be found in the following from the same immortal production: "In contemplating the causes which may disturb our Union, it occurs as a matter of serious concern, that any grounds should have been furnished for characterizing parties by geographical discriminations, Northern and Southern, Atlantic and Western, whence designing men may endeavor to excite a belief that there is a real difference of local interests and views. YOU CANNOT SEELED YOURSELVES TOO MUCH AGAINST THE JEALOUSIES AND HEART-BURNINGS WHICH SPRING FROM THESE MISREPRESENTATIONS; they tend to render alien to each other those who ought to be bound together by fraternal affection."

Follow citizens: We have thus submitted to you the present condition and tendency of political parties, and the issue about to be made between them, in this State and Union. As the best and only safe guide for your conduct, we have reminded you of the counsel and warnings of the wisest and most patriotic of our Statesmen. Your choice must now be made between a sectional party under the black banner of Abolitionism and the National Democracy, bearing aloft the gorgeous ensign of the Republic "with that sentiment dear to every true American heart—Liberty and Union now and forever, one and inseparable."

JAMES F. JOHNSTON,
Chairman.
H. A. GILDEA,
JACOB ZIEGLER, Secy., Sept. 18, 1855.

A negro baby show is one of the latest Boston notions. It is got up in opposition to Barnum's white baby show. The "little innocents" enjoy the attention they attract as much as the white folks.

A stranger in Mexico is struck with the appearance of the Milliner's shops, where twenty or thirty stout men with moustaches are employed in making muslin gowns, caps and artificial flowers.

looking northward for markets for the production of their mines. In view of these considerations, a resolution was introduced in the Senate, in 1854, calling upon the Canal Board for their judgment of the act of 1850 as a revenue measure, and subsequently a bill was passed repealing that act and placing the North Branch upon an equality with the other Canals of the State. This reduced toll one half, upon rates then existing, and was, in my opinion, a salutary and just exercise of the legislative power.

Complaints have long been made of the management of that work. There has been great delay in bringing it into use. Parts of it have been badly constructed. Its cost has gone greatly beyond the estimates upon which appropriations were based. It is not strange, therefore, that representatives of other sections became restive and reluctant to vote further sums to the enterprise, and that business interests in this quarter uttered complaints in view of repeated disappointments and a suspected management. "For remedy whereof," legislation was had at the late Session of an unusual character. The line was put in charge of a Superintendent and Engineer, believed to be competent and faithful, for a term of five years, at an adequate salary; with control over subordinates, and with power to adopt and prosecute (upon approval of the Canal Commissioners,) all necessary measures for bringing the Canal into successful operation.

Peculiar difficulties have appeared on the line, arising from the material through which it is, in parts, constructed; the long suspension of work upon it, and other causes; but it is believed these difficulties will be speedily mastered and further vexation avoided. At all events the Legislature has done what it could toward such result, and in fact, gone out of its usual course to meet the necessities of the case.

The arrangement made was opposed, and was the result of a contest. It was a novel proposition. It confided large powers, and gave a long term of office to an individual, not chosen by, or directly responsible to the people. It narrowed the duties of the Canal Commissioners, and was viewed by some as an imputation upon them: And it established diversity of management among the public improvements. But it stands on sufficient ground, when, in addition to the mischiefs of shifting management and the inconvenience of partisan obligations in appointments, we consider the peculiar situation and condition of the work. For, there is required the most careful, skillful and energetic superintendence; for several years, before the line is brought into complete use, and into a condition to be compared with old and established lines, whose experience has laid the foundation of routine and practice. And besides, no other public improvement is so remote from the State authorities and so difficult of frequent visitation. The idea of censure upon the Canal Commissioners was carefully disavowed, and certainly not intended; nor will a fair examination of the act give rise to reflections to their prejudice. An effective control is retained to the Commissioners, and the Superintendent, named in the act, is the same person previously selected by them for the place.

The success of the plan, adopted by the Legislature, will mainly depend upon Mr. Moffit himself. As to that, his qualifications were endorsed by the highest authority, and his appointment solicited by those having the deepest interest in the improvement; and if an error has been committed, neither the Legislature, nor those representing this section, are in fault. What was done was upon strong evidence from those qualified to judge in the case, and in compliance with apparent public opinion.

[We omit so much of the speech as relates to the new county question, and also the subject of amending the Constitution.]
(CONTINUED ON SECOND PAGE.)

Mothers and Daughters.

It is a most painful spectacle in families where the mother is the drudge, to see the daughter elegantly dressed, reclining at her ease, with her music, their fancy work, and their reading—beguiling themselves to the lapse of hours, days, and weeks, and never dreaming of their responsibilities; but, as a necessary consequence of a neglected duty, growing weary of their useless lives, laying hold of every newly invented stimulant to rouse their drooping energies, and blaming their fate when they dare not blame their God for having placed them where they are. These individuals will often tell you, with an air of affronted compassion, that "poor mamma is working herself to death;" yet no sooner do you propose that they should assist her, than they declare she is quite in her element—in short, that she would never be happy if she had only half as much to do.

Health is Wealth.

A strong and sound body—a body capable of not only endurance, but capable of resisting external influences so disease—a capital for life, the value of which cannot be computed in money. It is perpetual wealth—it is perpetual ability to aid others in the kind offices of friendship and love—a perpetual source of contentment and happiness. This I say is the first object of school education—of any education fit to be called education; while the fact that it is made neither the first nor the least, in our present system proves that the present system is (also)

SPEECH OF

CHARLES R. BUCKALEW,

Delivered at Kingston, Luzerne County, Friday Evening, Sept. 14th, 1855.

GENTLEMEN:—It has for some time been my intention to address the citizens of this County upon several subjects of local and general interest. And, in particular, I have desired to submit to them some words of personal explanation upon the New County question, in vindication of the course pursued by me at the last Session, which has been made the subject of criticism and complaint. Having an invincible repugnance to newspaper disputes and believing in the good sense of Dr. Johnson's saying, that "no man was ever written down except by himself," I have paid no attention to editorial abuse upon this subject, (which I am informed has been abundant and pertinacious in a particular quarter,) and have willingly awaited the vindication of time and of such an opportunity as the present. But, as the good opinion of just men is valuable above wealth or office, it is right that the explanations necessary to a fair judgment of public conduct should at some proper time be furnished to the public.

The occasion also invites remark on other questions that have arisen in the Legislature, or been connected with its proceedings. Although some years of service in the Senate have rendered pleasant to me by evidences of approval and confidence from the district I have represented; there have been many occasions when it would have been highly gratifying that the reasons for my action could have been fully and generally known among you. Mutual explanations are occasionally indispensable to the maintenance of just relations between constituent and Representative; for the absent are liable to be misunderstood, and the expression of your approval or disapproval in particular cases, is valuable to your Representative as the reward or corrective of his public conduct.

Gentlemen—A man enlisting in the public service, takes his life in his hand. The chances are against his surviving the contests of many years; if he escape many dangers, he is still liable to sudden and fatal overthrow. The system of rapid rotation established amongst us; the constant rush of new questions upon the scene, and the frequent changes of parties,—are rocks of destruction which very few are fortunate enough to escape. Look over the history of elections which you have observed, and how much of reputation and influence have worn out, or been otherwise destroyed; how rapid the changes of actors, and how certain the adverse fortunes of the honored and powerful! A reflecting man may well assume the duties of a political office with fear and trembling, rather than with that boastful exultation and unhesitating confidence, which we often see. His voyage is among rocks and shoals that render courage and sagacity continually necessary to his safety, and these are not always sufficient.

I owe the people of Luzerne gratitude for generous and continued support and confidence, constituting as they do the delightful and abundant reward of all exertions and sacrifices involved in Legislative service.—That this support and confidence have not been misplaced or mistaken, I sincerely hope may be your future as well as present conviction.

Gentlemen: since 1850 great changes have taken place in your local affairs, intimately connected with the Legislation of the Commonwealth. A railroad has been completed and brought into use from Scranton northward, in the direction of central New York. Another, (an extension of the former), is being thrown from the same point to the Delaware, in the direction of the sea-board. And still, another has been projected extending through the centre of this county, and finding its western connections in the iron region, with improvements to go to Baltimore, Philadelphia and Buffalo. Many mining companies have been organized, and plank roads built. Your population, meantime, has greatly increased; capital from abroad has sought investment in your borders, and the organization of a city, and of boroughs and townships, has been found necessary to the wants and convenience of the people. Villages have grown into towns, lands gone up in price and an impetus given in all directions to a spirit of industry and enterprise. In short, the passing years constitute for Luzerne a period of growth and development unexampled in her history, and cheering to her inhabitants and to all interested in her welfare.

Legislation, when required, has come in aid of your efforts in carrying on this career of improvement: Without being prostituted, it has been the handmaid of your advancement. But I will not dwell upon this topic, but pass to others more particularly embraced in the purpose of this discourse, and upon which I have thought that explanation would be timely; commencing with the water highway from your valley toward western New York and the Lakes.

[THE NORTH BRANCH CANAL.]
In 1850, when an appropriation was made to the North Branch Extension, the condition was imposed that coal carried upon it, after its completion, should be charged with a toll of one cent per ton per mile, which would amount to ninety five cents for the whole distance from Pittston to the New York State line. This provision was burdensome and unwise, because it tended to discourage shipments of coal and probably to lessen the public revenue, while it discriminated harshly against business men and property holders in this county who were

looking northward for markets for the production of their mines. In view of these considerations, a resolution was introduced in the Senate, in 1854, calling upon the Canal Board for their judgment of the act of 1850 as a revenue measure, and subsequently a bill was passed repealing that act and placing the North Branch upon an equality with the other Canals of the State. This reduced toll one half, upon rates then existing, and was, in my opinion, a salutary and just exercise of the legislative power.

Complaints have long been made of the management of that work. There has been great delay in bringing it into use. Parts of it have been badly constructed. Its cost has gone greatly beyond the estimates upon which appropriations were based. It is not strange, therefore, that representatives of other sections became restive and reluctant to vote further sums to the enterprise, and that business interests in this quarter uttered complaints in view of repeated disappointments and a suspected management. "For remedy whereof," legislation was had at the late Session of an unusual character. The line was put in charge of a Superintendent and Engineer, believed to be competent and faithful, for a term of five years, at an adequate salary; with control over subordinates, and with power to adopt and prosecute (upon approval of the Canal Commissioners,) all necessary measures for bringing the Canal into successful operation.

Peculiar difficulties have appeared on the line, arising from the material through which it is, in parts, constructed; the long suspension of work upon it, and other causes; but it is believed these difficulties will be speedily mastered and further vexation avoided. At all events the Legislature has done what it could toward such result, and in fact, gone out of its usual course to meet the necessities of the case.

The arrangement made was opposed, and was the result of a contest. It was a novel proposition. It confided large powers, and gave a long term of office to an individual, not chosen by, or directly responsible to the people. It narrowed the duties of the Canal Commissioners, and was viewed by some as an imputation upon them: And it established diversity of management among the public improvements. But it stands on sufficient ground, when, in addition to the mischiefs of shifting management and the inconvenience of partisan obligations in appointments, we consider the peculiar situation and condition of the work. For, there is required the most careful, skillful and energetic superintendence; for several years, before the line is brought into complete use, and into a condition to be compared with old and established lines, whose experience has laid the foundation of routine and practice. And besides, no other public improvement is so remote from the State authorities and so difficult of frequent visitation. The idea of censure upon the Canal Commissioners was carefully disavowed, and certainly not intended; nor will a fair examination of the act give rise to reflections to their prejudice. An effective control is retained to the Commissioners, and the Superintendent, named in the act, is the same person previously selected by them for the place.

The success of the plan, adopted by the Legislature, will mainly depend upon Mr. Moffit himself. As to that, his qualifications were endorsed by the highest authority, and his appointment solicited by those having the deepest interest in the improvement; and if an error has been committed, neither the Legislature, nor those representing this section, are in fault. What was done was upon strong evidence from those qualified to judge in the case, and in compliance with apparent public opinion.

[We omit so much of the speech as relates to the new county question, and also the subject of amending the Constitution.]
(CONTINUED ON SECOND PAGE.)

Mothers and Daughters.

It is a most painful spectacle in families where the mother is the drudge, to see the daughter elegantly dressed, reclining at her ease, with her music, their fancy work, and their reading—beguiling themselves to the lapse of hours, days, and weeks, and never dreaming of their responsibilities; but, as a necessary consequence of a neglected duty, growing weary of their useless lives, laying hold of every newly invented stimulant to rouse their drooping energies, and blaming their fate when they dare not blame their God for having placed them where they are. These individuals will often tell you, with an air of affronted compassion, that "poor mamma is working herself to death;" yet no sooner do you propose that they should assist her, than they declare she is quite in her element—in short, that she would never be happy if she had only half as much to do.

Health is Wealth.

A strong and sound body—a body capable of not only endurance, but capable of resisting external influences so disease—a capital for life, the value of which cannot be computed in money. It is perpetual wealth—it is perpetual ability to aid others in the kind offices of friendship and love—a perpetual source of contentment and happiness. This I say is the first object of school education—of any education fit to be called education; while the fact that it is made neither the first nor the least, in our present system proves that the present system is (also)

looking northward for markets for the production of their mines. In view of these considerations, a resolution was introduced in the Senate, in 1854, calling upon the Canal Board for their judgment of the act of 1850 as a revenue measure, and subsequently a bill was passed repealing that act and placing the North Branch upon an equality with the other Canals of the State. This reduced toll one half, upon rates then existing, and was, in my opinion, a salutary and just exercise of the legislative power.

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