

The Abbeville Press.

BY W. A. LEE AND HUGH WILSON.

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THE ABBEVILLE PRESS.

W. A. LEE, EDITOR.

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A WORD IN SEASON.

The annexed article, from the New York Mercantile Mirror, is so pregnant with wholesome truth and advice, that we will not submit it to the "boiling down process," but present it in full, and ask all of our readers to give it a careful, thoughtful perusal:

There is nothing more distressing to the thoughtful gaze of a good citizen than the spectacle of wasted health and time which the life of our American youth presents. Notwithstanding the fact that four millions of young people, of both sexes, are every day gathered into our free schools and places of juvenile instruction provided by enlightened charity, while nearly a million more are receiving the benefit of our numberless colleges, high schools, academies, and private classes; the amount of idleness, dissipation and misdirected energy that deforms the scene is positively alarming. Yet, where on earth do young men enjoy such advantages, or behold before them such high incentives to exertion and industry as in this favored land? Born under the freest institutions in the world, they are immediately on the attainment of their majority made welcome to all the rights and franchises of a glorious system which humanity struggled in vain, elsewhere, during thousands of years, to reach, and for which other nations are at this moment preparing, with but little present hope. They commence life at once, politically and socially, the equals of the highest functionaries and nabobs of the land. No invidious distinctions of birth or title hold them back, or bar the way to fame. On every side innumerable channels of wealth, distinction and happiness are open to them, stretching away over a blooming continent free from polar ices to the tropic gulf, and full of every precious mineral deposit and superficial growth. Their own country, now first in liberty, majesty and power among the nations, exacts the admiration and respect of all mankind outside her limits, while at home, her beauty, her abundance and her liberality command the love of all her native or adopted children.

With such inducements, then, our young men, particularly those engaged in mercantile pursuits, have every conceivable reason to rejoice in the prospect that opens before them. But all these priceless benefits are of little avail unless those to whom they are offered have sufficient wisdom to appreciate and apply them. "Paul may plant, and Apollous may water," yet, if the spirit of honesty, sobriety, thrift and industry be not there, the harvest will not come. It is for the young men in our warehouses and counting rooms, themselves, to say what is to be their destiny. The vicissitudes of life are, indeed, many; our temptations great; our trials continual, and weakness is an inherent part of our mortality; but, oh! there is still a strength in the fervent devoted heart, the pure mind and the manly will that can move away the mountains of trouble, and strew the wilderness of disappointment with golden sheaves. Let us depict a scene of frequent occurrence in our city. Look at the tall warehouses yonder, towering above the busy street! See how it is packed with precious products from far off climes, and how busy men hasten to and fro through its passages and doorways. Every eye is bright with thought; every hand is occupied with honest and cheerful toil. Within at some quiet desk, sits the head of the prosperous establishment. He is still in the prime of youthful manhood, yet, to-day, his voice and name are influential among the merchant princes of the land; his judgment is respected, his opinion sought for, and his example cited among the most substantial honorable, and eminent on 'Change. The commerce he controls and guides is recognized in the great mart around him far away in distant commonwealths. The business of his firm is immense, and at any time good for thousands. Yet, this very man was, but a few years ago, a poor clerk like hosts of others who will read this article. What, then, was the secret of his progress? What the magic touchstone by which he has converted the commodities he deals with into pearls and diamonds of honor to decorate his name? The secret lies in a nut shell. Diligence, perseverance, uprightiness, steadiness were the stepping-stones of his progress. Reasonable economy and perfect honesty went hand in hand with him as chosen companions. Frivolous expectations, idle comrades, extravagant amusements, he eschewed from the beginning. Fleeting desires, change of place, jealous pretensions, procreations, he shunned as he did the more visible, but not more deadly vices. In fine, he had an aim, exalted it in his own mind, high before him, and kept it shining there, like a

bright and morning star. One thing at a time, and a time for every thing; duty first and simple pleasure afterwards. Politeness, cordiality, respect for God and man, which is the highest self respect, neatness and promptitude in the discharge of business; becoming deference to the opinions of older and more experienced men, yet a modest confidence in his own until fairly convinced of error; firmness and decision in hours of crisis, mingled with judicious caution in his plans; docility and fidelity to all the requirements of his employers, up to the verge of justice and honor, and instant withdrawal from any post, no matter how lucrative, the moment that boundary was crossed, and above all, a total disbelief in mere chance, and a sincere reliance upon the goodness of an overruling Providence. These, these, young men! were the qualities and principles that built up and cemented the foundations of stability for your successful merchant and useful member of society. This path is open to you all; the germs that he has won are within your reach, and if you will but walk in the same road, wisdom will teach you that "all her ways are pleasantness, and all her paths are peace."

Far, very far from being the dry and joyless career that you may fancy it, this course of life is full of the choicest spiritual as well as tangible rewards. A conscience at ease, the sense of duty faithfully performed, and the smiles of the dear ones at home, as well as the cordial greeting and the respectful appreciation of even your rivals outside, will fill your soul with sunshine. How precious, then, the hours of relaxation; how delightful the joys of the family circle; how blessed the dreams that come to you in your repose. The honest pride of a position acquired by your own merits; the power you will grasp as your store fills with merchandise, and your ledger balances more and more upon the winning side; the influence you will wield as your name becomes a shining mark, and your example stands out like a beacon to light your feebler brethren on the way—these are more than hollow ambition and empty rank can yield. And then the rapture of doing good, when, with the means thus nobly acquired, you retire from the din of bustling streets, and devote some portion of your later days to works of private charity and kindness and public improvement.

Young men, have we not pictured here objects worthy of all your efforts? Look around you, and you will see still living instances of their beauty and their grandeur among us. The Peter Coopers the Grinnells, the Stewarts, and the Vanderbilts have not only acquired for themselves all that man can desire to adore his own existence, but they have shed lustre on the great city and the land in which they live, and when the names of the noblest who have troubled the peace of the world shall have ceased to thrill men's hearts, theirs will still "point the moral" of human excellence.

But, in justly entertaining these high hopes as you may do, if your feet turn in the right direction do not be unprepared for the long delays, the heavy toils that may, nay, must intervene. Face them boldly, and battle with them bravely asking no odds of fate, and neither retarded by the agonies of the day that is gone, nor too much flattered into diminution of your efforts by the gorgeous promises of some fanciful tomorrow. Now, is the opportunity accorded you? Form these good resolutions, fix these solid plans, do this substantial labor now.

"Trust no future, how'er pleasant,
Let the dead Past bury its dead.
Act! Act in the glorious Present,
Heart within and God o'erhead!"

CONFISCATED LANDS IN VIRGINIA.

The first session since the war, of the United States district court, Judge Underwood, presiding, convened to-day in Alexandria, Va. The district attorney, L. H. Chandley, made a very eloquent and forcible speech, urging upon the court a liberal policy in treating the large number of confiscation cases upon the docket. The Judge, before adjournment, made the following decision, and ordered that in all cases where pardons have been granted and where the amnesty oath has been taken, save as those under the President's proclamation, suits for property under the confiscation law be dismissed upon payment of costs. A large number of citizens interested under this ruling were present in court, and many came forward and paid the costs that had accrued upon suits begun against them.

The best stock a man can invest in is the stock of a farm; the best shares are plow-shares; and the best banks are the fertile banks of the rural streams; the more these are broken the better dividends they pay.

Spy Soldiers—"Hot, fiery fellows are our soldiers—peppered while in the service, and mustered out of it."

GEN. LEE'S INSTALLATION AS PRESIDENT OF WASHINGTON COLLEGE.

A correspondent of the New York Herald, writing to that journal upon the 7th inst., gives a most interesting account of the ceremonies which accompanied the recent installation of Gen. Lee as President of Washington College. Some important information is added as to the views of this illustrious man upon the present aspect of our national affairs. We condense the article, which is rather too long for our columns, at this busy season of the year: General Robert E. Lee was to-day installed President of the Washington College. There was no pomp or parade. The exercises of installation was the simplest possible—an exact, and barren compliance with the required formula of taking the oath by the new President, and nothing more. This was in accordance with the special request of General Lee. It was proposed to have the installation take place in the college chapel, to send invitations far and wide, to have a band of music to play enlivening airs, to have young girls robed in white bearing chaplets of flowers, to sing songs of welcome, to have congratulatory speeches, to make it a grand holiday. That this proposed programme was not carried out was a source of severe disappointment to many. But General Lee had expressed his wishes contrary to the choice and determination of the college trustees and the multitude, and his wishes were complied with.

THE INSTALLATION CEREMONIES.

The installation took place at 9 a. m., in a recitation room of the college. In this room were seated the faculty and the students, the ministers of the town churches, a magistrate and the county clerk, the last two officials being necessary to the ceremonial. General Lee was introduced into the room by the Board of Trustees. At his entrance and introduction all in the room rose, bowed and became seated: Prayer by the Rev. Dr. White, pastor of the Presbyterian Church, directly followed. To me it was a noticeable fact, and perhaps worthy of record, that he prayed for the President of the United States. Altogether it was a most fitting and impressive prayer.

JUDGE BROCKENBROUGH'S SPEECH.

The prayer added, Judge Brockenbrough, chairman of the Board of Trustees, stated the object of their coming together, to install General Lee as President of Washington College. He felt the serious dignity of the occasion, but it was a seriousness and a dignity that should be mingled with beautiful joy and gladness. Passing a brief eulogy upon General Lee, and congratulating the board and the college, and its present and future students, on having obtained one so loved and great and worthy to preside over the college, he said he could say a great deal more, had it not been voted against speech making. During the delivery of these few words—and they came, despite the prohibitory voting very near culminating to the dignity of a set as well as eloquent speech.

GENERAL LEE'S APPEARANCE.

General Lee remained standing, his arms quietly folded and calmly and steadfastly looking into the eyes of the speaker. Justice William White, at the instance of Judge Brockenbrough, then administered the oath of office to General Lee. For the benefit of those curious to know the nature of the new oath, which General Lee has just subscribed, and as it is brief we give it entire. It is as follows:

I do swear that I will, to the best of my skill and judgment, faithfully and truly discharge the duties required of me by an act entitled "An act for incorporating the rector and trustees of Liberty Hall Academy," without favor, affection or partiality. So help me God.

THE GENERAL ON NATIONAL AFFAIRS.

A gentleman with whom I have conversed, and who saw General Lee and heard him talk and express freely his opinions about national affairs nearly every day of his sojourn at Rock Ridge Springs, spoke of him as the most modest and unassuming man he ever encountered, and yet, while frank, most firm in giving his views. He counsels cheerful submission to the Government and earnest striving to bring about the old state of peace, industry, thrift and content. He has the greatest confidence in President Johnson and the good and equitable wishes and intentions of the government and the Northern people, in carrying out the scheme of reconstruction.

FUTURE RESIDENCE OF GEN. LEE.

A fine two story brick house, with massive portico and pillars in front, and having two wings, and on the same row with the college buildings, is to be the future residence of General Lee. It has a capacious yard, beautifully shaded with oak, elm and locust trees, and a fine hedge row of cedars. It is a fitting place for scholarly ease and philosophic content. At present the General is stopping at the Lexington hotel, in town. It is expected that he will move with his family to his new

residence about the last of this month. And here we leave him in his new home that is to be, secluded and shaded and hedged about by imposing mountains, and miles away from railroads, and with never a longing thought, doubtless, for the great outer world and the more enticing and splendid prizes.

PAY YOUR MINISTERS.

1. Pay him, because it is the ordination of God, "that those who minister at the altar should live of the altar." When God sent you your pastor, He laid you under obligation to support him. The Head of the Church is too just to call a man from secular labor for his service, without giving a precept for his sustentance.

2. Pay your minister because you owe him and the precept is, "owe no man." Having had the time and service of your minister, you can no more deprive him of his wages without sin, than you could "the reaper of your fields." The money you subscribe is not a charity, but a debt.

3. Pay your minister, that he may be worth paying. How can he give instruction, if poverty drive him out of his study to dabble in worldly business. How can he buy books and periodicals without means? How can he think and reason closely, if you allow his mind to be tortured with fears of debts and insolvency, and keep him running from neighbor to neighbor borrowing money? How can he go before the Church as a pioneer in Godliness if you compel him to be continually struggling with pecuniary embarrassments?

4. Pay your ministers so that he can pay his debts. The world expects ministers to pay their debts punctually. Not to do this is to bring reproach upon religion. Can the minister be punctual, if his people withhold the means? The shoemaker, tailor, merchant &c., want their money, and will you compel your minister to defraud them?

5. Pay your minister, if you would keep him, or ever get another as good. It is a bad thing for a church to get the name of "starving their ministers." We know some Churches who do this! The curse of God seems to be upon them worse and worse. They will soon become "like the mountains of Gibeon, without dew or rain!"

6. Pay your minister, because you promised to pay him. Not to do this is to forfeit your word. It is a debt of honor as well as of law. Your pastor has trusted to your word, thrown himself and family into your keeping. Will you prove unworthy of this confidence?

7. Pay your minister, because you are able to pay him. How small is the pittance which falls to your share! With a little extra labor or unusual economy, how easily could you pay your pastor promptly! Will you think of these things?

The War Between Brazil and Paraguay.

The Paraguayans, who provoked a war with Brazil and other South American powers, are having the worst of the blows. Some time ago their fleet was annihilated by the Brazilian iron-clads. Now a portion of their army seems to have shared the same fate. At Yatay, 3,000 Paraguayans, under Major Duarte, fortified, were attacked by the allied vanguard, under General Flores, and completely routed. It is said 1,700 were left dead on the field, and 1,200 more captured. The grand army of the Paraguayans, under Robles, is moving forward to attack the allied forces.

MILLEDGEVILLE, Oct. 30th.

The Provisional Governor sent in a message to morning session, transmitting two telegrams from Washington. The first identical except name, State and date, with the Presidential telegram to Governor Holden, dated October 18th, 1865. The second, received on the 29th, is as follows:

WASHINGTON, Oct. 28, 1865.—To His Excellency, Gov. Johnson: Your several telegrams have been received. The President of the United States cannot recognize the people of any State as having resumed the relations of loyalty to the Union that admits as legal obligations, contracts or debts created by them to promote the cause of the rebellion.

Wm. H. Seward.

HOW AN EDITOR DIED.

A San Francisco correspondent furnishes this account of a remarkable case of coolness and courage. The gentleman alluded to was James Nisbet, of the San Francisco Bulletin who was lost on the steamship Brother Jonathan, and his body was found floating in the ocean seven miles from land. When it was taken ashore and examined there was found in the deceased's vest pocket a will, which was written after the ship struck the fatal rock. Contemplating calmly the terrible scene about him, and calculating his chances for life, he had the cool courage to make such a disposition of his property as would be most beneficial to those who would be left behind him. That old man writing a will, amid the howling of the tempest that was lashing the ocean into foaming billows, and surrounded by drowning men, women and children waiting out their agony to the pitiless winds and the raging sea, presents a heroic picture. Here is a copy of the will, and let the reader observe with what care it is written:

"AT SEA, ON BOARD BRO. JONATHAN, }
"July 20, 1865. }

"In view of death, I hereby appoint my brother, Thomas Nisbet, at present engaged on the Pacific railroad, near Clipper Gap California, my sole executor, with instructions to wind up my whole estate, real and personal, and convert the same into cash, with all convenient speed, but so as not to sacrifice the same, and to pay over and divide the same equally between himself and my sole sister, Margaret Nisbet, now residing in England; and under burden of the payment of a legacy of \$5,000 in gold to Almira Hopkins, wife of Casper T. Hopkins, insurance agent, San Francisco, California. Thomas Nisbet shall not be asked to give security for his intromission with my estate.

JAMES NISBET.

"The document was written with a pencil; the writer coolly recollecting that pencil marks are less affected by water than ink marks. It was clearly written, in Mr. Nisbet's bold and steady penmanship.—When he had concluded the will, he found that he had yet a little time left before the ship would probably go down, and he addressed the following brief note to a family in this city, where he had boarded for many years:

"MY DEAR MA: A thousand affectionate adieus. You spoke of my sailing on Friday—hangman's day—and the unlucky Jonathan. Well, here I am, with death before me. My love to all—to Casper, to Belle, to Mollie, and little Myra—kiss her for me. Never forget GRANDPA.

The children familiarly addressed the old man as grandpa, although he was in no way related to them.

The Currency—Paper Money to be Reduced.—The Secretary of the Treasury of the United States made a speech a few nights since at Fort Wayne, Indiana. He said he was one of those who look upon an irredeemable currency as an evil which circumstances may for a time render a necessity, but which is never to be sustained as a policy. He favored a well secured convertible paper currency. No other can to any extent be substituted for gold. For all ordinary home transactions paper money is sufficient, but there are constantly recurring periods when balances between countries, and in the United States, between different sections, must be settled in coin. Whenever specie is needed for this purpose, the paper money should be convertible and a circulation not so convertible will not be and ought not to be tolerated by the people. The present irreconvertible currency of the United States was a necessity of the war, but now the currency should be brought up to a specie standard, and he saw no way of doing it but by withdrawing a portion of it from circulation.

The extreme high prices now prevailing indicate that the condition of the country is in an unhealthy condition. We have a circulating medium altogether larger than needed for legitimate business, and the excess is used in speculations. The United States to-day is the best market in the world for foreigners to sell in. The consequence is, Europe is selling us more than she buys of us, including our securities which ought not to go abroad, and there is a debt rolling up against us which must be settled in part, at least, with coin.

If Congress shall, early in the approaching session, authorize the fund of "legal tenders," and the work of reduction is commenced and prudently carried on, we shall reach it, probably, without injury, or embarrassment to legal business. If not, we shall have a brief period of seductive prosperity, resulting in wide-spread bankruptcy and disaster. The Secretary was hopeful that by wise legislation we will escape a financial collapse, and that the currency may be brought to a specie standard without those financial troubles which have afflicted countries followed a protracted and sanguinary war.

NATIONAL THANKSGIVING DAY.

By the President of the United States of America:

A PROCLAMATION.

Whereas, it has pleased Almighty God, during the year which is now coming to an end, to relieve our beloved country from the fearful scourge of civil war, and to permit us to secure the blessings of peace, unity, and harmony with a great enlargement of civil liberty; and, whereas, our Heavenly Father has also during the year graciously averted from us the calamities of foreign war, pestilence and famine, while our granaries are full of the fruits of an abundant season; and, whereas, righteousness exalteth a nation, while sin is a reproach to any people:

Now, therefore, be it known, that I, Andrew Johnson, President of the United States, do hereby recommend to the people thereof, that they do set apart and observe the first Thursday of December next as a day of national thanks—given to the Creator of the Universe for these deliverances and blessings. And I do further recommend, that on that occasion the whole people make confession of our national sins against His infinite goodness, and with one heart and one mind implore the Divine guidance in the ways of national virtue and holiness.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the city of Washington, this twenty-eighth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand [1865] eight hundred and sixty-five, and of the independence of the United States of America the ninetieth.

ANDREW JOHNSON.

By the President:

WM. H. SEWARD, Sec'y of State.

PURITY OF CHARACTER.

Over the beauty of the plum or apricot there grows a bloom and beauty more exquisite than the fruit itself; a soft, delicate flush that overpreads its blushing cheek.—Now, if you strike your hand over that, it is gone forever, for it never grows but once. The flower that hangs in the morning, imperiled with dew, arrayed as no queenly woman ever was arrayed in jewels, once shaken till the heads roll off, and you may sprinkle water over it as you please, yet it can never be made again what it was when the dew fell upon it silently from heaven. On a frosty morning you may see the panes of glass covered with landscapes, mountains, lakes, and trees, blending in a beautiful, fantastic picture. Now lay your hand upon the glass, and by the scratch of your finger, or by the warmth of your palm, all the delicate tracery will be obliterated. So there is in youth a beauty and purity of character, which when once touched and defiled can never be restored; a fringe more delicate than frost work, and which, when torn and broken, will never be re-embroidered.—When a young man leaves his father's house with the blessing of his mother's tears wet upon his forehead, if he once loses the purity of character, it is a loss that he can never make whole again.—Such is the consequence of crime. Its effects can never be eradicated, it can only be forgiven.

GOOD ADVICE.—Men should learn to be

attentive to their health, and keep the body as much as possible the fit medium of the mind. A man may be a good performer; but what can he do with a disordered instrument? The inhabitant may have good eyes; but how can he see accurately through a solid window? Keep therefore, the glass clear and the organ in tune.—We do not wish you to be finical and fanciful; to live in the shop of an apothecary, or to have a medical attendant always at your side; but be soberly and prudently attentive to the body. Rise early; take proper exercise; beware of sloth; observe and avoid whatever disagrees with your system; never overburden nature; be moderate in your table indulgences; let not appetite bemoan and clog the mind.

NO COMPLIMENTS IN PRAYER.—We

have heard some prayers which were designed to effect the heaver rather than to reach heaven. The following characteristic anecdote of John Randolph is a keen rebuke to the practice:

In a spell of repentance and sickness, he was visited by a minister who, at his request prayed for and with him. The minister began in this wise: "Lord, our friend is sick. Thou knowest how generous he was to the poor, and what eminent service he has rendered to his country, and how he is among the honored and great men of the earth."

"Stop, stop," said the impatient Randolph, "no more of such stuff, else the Lord will damn us both."

LECTURE OF CHAS. SWAIN.—Chancellor

Chancellor E. F. Swain was on Monday, October 23rd, invited to lecture at the Methodist Episcopal Church, at Abbeville, S. C. His subject was "The Christian's Duty in the Present Crisis." He was introduced by the Rev. Mr. Smith, who said that he had the honor to introduce to the audience of this church, a man who had spent the greater part of his life in the study of the Bible, and who had been called to the office of Chancellor of the State of South Carolina. He then read the following paper:

"The Christian's Duty in the Present Crisis."—The Christian's duty in the present crisis is to stand firm in the path of duty, and to be true to the principles of the Gospel. He should be a peacemaker, and should strive to bring about a reconciliation between the North and the South. He should be a patriot, and should love his country as himself. He should be a citizen, and should take an active part in the government of his country. He should be a man of integrity, and should not be swayed by the passions of the moment. He should be a man of courage, and should not be afraid to stand up for the truth. He should be a man of faith, and should trust in the Lord. He should be a man of hope, and should look forward to the day when all shall be made well. He should be a man of love, and should love his neighbor as himself. He should be a man of mercy, and should be merciful to all men. He should be a man of kindness, and should be kind to all men. He should be a man of gentleness, and should be gentle to all men. He should be a man of patience, and should be patient to all men. He should be a man of meekness, and should be meek to all men. He should be a man of self-control, and should be self-controlled to all men. He should be a man of temperance, and should be temperate to all men. He should be a man of chastity, and should be chaste to all men. He should be a man of purity, and should be pure to all men. He should be a man of holiness, and should be holy to all men. He should be a man of righteousness, and should be righteous to all men. He should be a man of justice, and should be just to all men. He should be a man of truth, and should be true to all men. He should be a man of honor, and should be honorable to all men. He should be a man of glory, and should be glorious to all men. He should be a man of power, and should be powerful to all men. He should be a man of wisdom, and should be wise to all men. He should be a man of knowledge, and should be knowledgeable to all men. He should be a man of skill, and should be skilful to all men. He should be a man of strength, and should be strong to all men. He should be a man of valor, and should be valiant to all men. He should be a man of courage, and should be courageous to all men. He should be a man of faith, and should be faithful to all men. He should be a man of hope, and should be hopeful to all men. He should be a man of love, and should be loving to all men. He should be a man of mercy, and should be merciful to all men. He should be a man of kindness, and should be kind to all men. He should be a man of gentleness, and should be gentle to all men. He should be a man of patience, and should be patient to all men. He should be a man of meekness, and should be meek to all men. He should be a man of self-control, and should be self-controlled to all men. He should be a man of temperance, and should be temperate to all men. 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