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Love of other Years.

BY EDWARD J. PORTER.

When summer's flowers are weaving

Their perfume-wreaths in air,

And the zephyr's wings, receiving,

The love-gifts gently bear;

Then memory's spirit stealing,

Lifts up the veil she wears,

In all their light, revealing

The loved of other years.

When summer stars are shining

In the deep blue midnight sky,

And their brilliant rays, entwining,

Wave coronals on high;

When the fountain's waves are singing

In tones night only hears,

Then sweet thoughts waken, bringing

The loved of other years!

The flowers around me glowing,

The midnight star's pure gleams,

The fountain's ceaseless glowing,

Recall life's fondest dreams.

When all is bright in Heaven,

And tranquil are the spheres,

To the sweet thoughts are given,

The loved of other years!

Our Country.

HISTORY OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

This was the subject of a lecture some time since delivered in New York, by the Rev. JARED SPARKS. Perhaps there is no man in the country better qualified to give accurate information on this interesting topic. Mr. Sparks states that it was a long time after the struggle commenced, before the American people had the remotest idea of claiming their independence. Indeed, no private letter has yet been found, written before 1775, in which the idea of independence is ever alluded to. The colonies required reconciliation and redress, and these were all they for a long time claimed or contended for. In England, however, the matter was agitated as early as 1774; and Colonel Cartwright, and others, wrote a pamphlet entitled "American Independence," and urging parliament to declare the colonies free. Dean Tucker also earnestly contended in the same spirit. It is said, however, that Dr. Franklin was anxious that the colonies should take a stand for independence as early as 1774; but even the Continental Congress was for reconciliation, and Mr. Jay, John Adams, Jefferson, and Washington, all declared that the colonies did not desire independence. Not subsequent events, and further oppression, roused them to a bolder stand, and individuals assumed a loftier and a more indignant tone.

On the 4th of June, 1785, General Green in a letter to a friend, recommended the immediate declaration of Independence; and as soon as the news of the battle of Lexington reached Mecklenburg County, North Carolina the authorities assembled the inhabitants in convention, at which resolutions were drawn up and signed by 27 declaring that "these Colonies are and of right ought to be free and independent." These resolutions were lost sight of and when again brought before the public in 1818, they excited a great deal of surprise. By some, among the rest Thomas Jefferson, they were thought to be spurious. This excited considerable feeling in North Carolina, and the Legislature of that State appointed a committee to investigate the matter and report. The result was that they were proven to be genuine.

In 1776, Thomas Paine published his Essays, entitled "Common Sense," which were widely circulated, and read with avidity. In them he urged the necessity of a declaration of independence; and none, said Mr. Sparks, dare deny him the honor which is due him for these powerful efforts, in one of which he held the following language: "The present state of America is truly alarming to every man capable of reflection. Without law, without government, without any other kind of power than is granted by courtesy—legislation without law—a constitution without a name—and what is truly astonishing, perfect independence struggling for dependence!"

The first legislative movement for independence was on the 7th of April, 1776, in the Legislature of North Carolina. About a month afterwards, Virginia backed the measure in a

more tangible shape; and to her properly belongs the immortal honor of having made the first decisive step towards freedom in its most extensive sense.

In Congress, in June following, Richard Henry Lee moved that Congress do declare the colonies free and independent. The matter was postponed; but in the meantime a committee was appointed to draft a declaration, of which Mr. Jefferson was Chairman. On the 8th and 10th of June, the subject was again taken up and again dropped. On the 28th of June, Mr. Jefferson reported his draft, and on the 1st of July the celebrated Virginia resolutions were passed. About one-fourth of the original draft was stricken out, and as amended it was passed by a unanimous vote, with the exception of Mr. Dickinson, of Pennsylvania, who had perhaps contributed (strange as it may appear) as much to the declaration as any man, and was afterwards a warm and efficient advocate of the interests of his country. On the 4th of July, 1776, the colonies were solemnly declared free and independent. The delegation from New York, signed the declaration on the 15th of July. Among the paragraghs stricken out was one censuring the importation of Slaves, which was done to accommodate the delegates from South Carolina and Georgia.

After the Declaration was signed, a copy was sent to each of the colonies, to be read publicly to the people. The reading was generally accompanied, with the ringing of the bells and firing of cannon. The Continental army was then in New York and Washington ordered the declaration to be read on parade, where it was received with marked demonstrations of approbation.

On the 2nd of August, the Declaration was engrossed on parchment and signed, which is the copy in the Department of State from which the common fac similes are taken.

In conclusion, Mr. Sparks observed, that it seemed specially ordered by Providence that the Declaration should be made just at the time it was; for that a few days after British Commissioners arrived with offers of reconciliation, and had the measure being delayed, it is impossible to tell what might have been the result.

No one, indeed who closely remarks the history of the American Revolution, can fail to trace the finger of Providence in its most important events.

The Total Eclipse of the Sun, as seen on the Coast of Norway.

The *Scottsman* has a very interesting communication from the Astronomer Royal of Scotland, who obtained a steamer from the Commissioners of the Northern Lighthouses, and permission from the Swedish authorities to land on any part of the coast of Norway. He was accompanied by Rev. Dr. Robinson, of the Armagh Observatory. A station was selected on one of the outlying Blue Islands, in lat. 61 deg. 20 min. This was in the centre of the line of shadow, and a clear horizon in the direction of the sun at the time of the eclipse was obtained. The weather was very unpropitious, the morning being cloudy, and immediately after the total obscuration a deluge of rain fell. We copy the main portion of this account:

"The instruments were landed at an early hour, and there were sufficient glimpses of the sun through the clouds to obtain the necessary observations for time and for latitude; and before the commencement of the eclipse each observer was told off with his instruments prepared, and with a code of instructions. These, too were so arranged that, by a division of labor, it was hoped that, although the important part of the eclipse was of so short duration and the number of phenomena to be noted so many and various, yet none of them, whether referring to the purely astronomical bearings of the case or to terrestrial physics, could be well lost sight of; that is, weather only permitting; but this was by no means so favorable as could have been wished. Still, however, the commencement of the eclipse was very fairly observed, and sufficient was seen during its progress to enable the observers to take accurate notes of some spots on the sun and of mountains on the edge of the moon, so as to be prepared to state their degree of connexion, as regards place, to those wondrous tongues of light and the variations of the corona, inexplicable and the most important of all phenomena presented during a total eclipse. Further, the instant of complete obscuration was observed very accurately, and some interesting features were remarked, tending to explain anomalies perceived in former total eclipses, and indicating a rapid fluctuation in the degree of brightness of the sun's surface.

Immediately after this, however, the clouds became so very thick that the eruption of the sun was not seen at all, and heavy rain beginning soon after, continued through the rest of the evening. But the terrestrial phenomena, to which more attention could be turned, on the loss of the celestial ones, were of a nature abundantly sufficient to satisfy any soul capable of entering into and appreciating the awful and the sublime.

As the totality approached the air felt sensibly colder at every moment, and the darkness plainly increased; the clouds seemed to lower, and under the sun was seen an appearance of rushing, descending streams of them while the sea-birds appeared by their noise to be gathering around the rocks for their nightly rest or for shelter. The difference of illumination had also become very marked on the mountains at different distances, those far from us being brought out with a vividness and distinctness which made our own increasing gloom the more observable. Suddenly, at the moment of totality, the very extremity of darkness seemed to fall upon us.—Notso, however, absolutely, for the rain clouds which closed in the greater part of the horizon, left open a strip of sky extending from N. W. to E. N. E. and two or three degrees high, and which at this moment became of a dark lurid orange color, verging from red on one side to greenish on the other, and enabled us barely to see each other by a faint unearthly sort of light; small hand-lamps, fifty or sixty yards off, in a hollow, were as visible as in a dark night, and, with their red color, contrasted strangely with the general green hue of everything immediately around.

But the appearance of the country, seen through that lurid opening under the clouds, was the most appalling. Though standing in the centre of the shadow, we could yet, by reason of their great height, see the distant peaks of the lofty Jostedal and Dovrefield mountains still illuminated by the rays of the sun descending upon them from on high; but we were shut out in outer darkness. Some approximation to the appearance might be obtained by watching the opportunity of a similar configuration of clouds in the north from the Calton hill during a midsummer's midnight; but still it would be only an approximation, for never have we observed all the light of heaven and earth so entirely confined to one narrow strip along the horizon, never that peculiar greenish hue, and never that appearance of outer darkness in the place of observation, and of extensive distance in the verge of the horizon, caused in this case by the hills there being more highly illuminated as they receded by a less and less eclipsed sun; while in a morning or evening sky they are, on the contrary, most in the shade, and therefore are dark and unnaturally thrown forward.

Though none of us were unmoved with gratitude at having been allowed to witness such a spectacle, though we should have been glad to have enjoyed its teachings for a longer space of time, and should have been alarmed, indeed, if it had not happened as it did, and with such wonderful accuracy to the computed time; yet certain feelings of relief were experienced when the lurid streak in the sky suddenly changed to yellow, when the clouds brightened up, and the darkness seemed to be wafted visibly away to the southeast.

The sea-birds that had stopped their screaming during the darkness now reappeared; but the wild Norsemen of those rocky isles, who had congregated so curiously around us during the commencement of the eclipse, when the light returned, where were they! Gone to hide themselves in their huts, thinking that they were in the jaws of destruction, among the stones of darkness, and in the shadow of death. Such we heard afterward was the general feeling among them all along the coast, even beyond the limits of total obscuration. Horses and even oxen began to wend their way homewards, and poultry to fly up to their roosts; but one farmer informed us that an amusing scene of confusion took place when the fowls found the darkness coming on so quickly that they could not all get placed on their perches in time; and then again, when they found, by the quickly returning light, that they had had a false alarm.—We also heard that there had been over all that line of the country such excessive rain that day, that our party, enabled by the light-house steamer to take up the peculiar position we did, was probably the only one that had had the good luck to make any accurate observations; a circumstance the more fortunate, inasmuch as that was the earliest part of Europe visited by the shadow in its progress from west to east.

These observations will, of course, appear elsewhere in due time, and in a different form; but meanwhile some general idea of what was witnessed may not be unacceptable to the public at large.

"Mr. Jenkins," said mine host of the Swan, "as you always come in late, have you any objection to this gentleman occupying your bed until the stage goes out?"

"Not in the least. I will be infinitely obliged to you if you put him there, so that the bed bugs can have their supper before I retire."

The wretch deserves to be bow-strung who being pressed to stay a little longer, replied "I will, fifteen minutes will make no difference;—my wife is now as mad as she can be."

Gov. Johnston's Speech at Erie.

The *Erie Gazette*, brings us an excellent report of the speech delivered by Gov. Johnston at Erie, which we would be glad to publish at length, did our limited space permit it, but we have only room for the concluding portion of it:—

"I have thus, fellow-citizens, endeavored, in a frank and candid manner, to express to you my opinions on the questions bearing most directly on the next election. I have given you my views freely and fully. Having, as before stated, no concealments, I could not do otherwise. I am, in word, in favor of the reduction and gradual extinction of the Public Debt by means of a sinking fund of an economical and judicious administration of State affairs, and of a wisely framed protective Tariff, such as the interests of Pennsylvania require.

I had supposed, fellow-citizens, that these were properly the questions connected with the campaign, but our opponents tell us there are others. A distinguished gentleman, whose long eyes have for many years been fixed upon the Presidency, has taken it upon himself to make other issues, and to allege that if I am re-elected the Union is virtually dissolved! If such is the result, fellow-citizens, I honestly tell you I do not wish to be elected! I think too much of our admirable system of government, too much of our glorious Union, to be instrumental in producing such a catastrophe. I think too much of the noble State in which I live; a State in which I was born, and in which I have no interests, to lend myself, either directly or indirectly, to the work of dissolving the Union. Suppose the Union to be dissolved, what would be the condition of Pennsylvania? She would be the Belgium upon which the belligerent parties would meet; would be the border of the State; the ground upon which the battle of brother with brother, and father with father, would be fought. Can it be that a man who has no interests beyond the limits of the State, would consent to be the efficient agent of thus deluging its fields and cities with human blood, and making it the scene of war and desolation? The idea is preposterous, and unworthy of a moment's consideration.

But a very different object is had in view in making the charge. He whose aspiring blood would reach the Chief Magistracy of this Union, but cannot reach it save upon the basis of some palpable humbug, gave expression to it in order that he might introduce an issue which would enable him to gratify his ambitious longings. But he is doomed to disappointment. He must reach the Presidential chair by some other loop-hole or avenue through which to gull and humbug the people. Very few, if any, will believe the silly charge. He may go to the bosom of his own party, and find scarce six men who will not laugh at the idea of the Union being dissolved by the result of a single State election.

Why is the attention of the "aspiring House of Lancaster" thus directed to me?—Why does he not look to and deprecate the consequences attendant upon the success of a political friend now in nomination in Mississippi as the Secession candidate for Governor? Why does he single out me, who never since God gave me breath entertained a thought, or uttered a sentiment, giving semblance and support to the charge? I repeat—he has so done with a hope to manufacture some capital in Pennsylvania, to aid him in gratifying his Presidential aspiration. A vain hope it will be.

No Pennsylvanian is in favor of the dissolution of the Union. No Pennsylvanian would sustain a candidate for office, of either party, who had expressed, or would dare express, a single sentiment favoring so direful a result. I have mingled freely with the people, and never found one whose loyalty—whose devotion to the Union, I could for a moment suspect. Why there is a vastly more difference of opinion respecting our common Religion. Men may differ and do differ, upon that subject; but in regard to the question of maintaining and perpetuating our glorious Union, all agree—all are united—all stand together, and, if needs be, will fight together.

One of the arguments, fellow-citizens, bro't forward in support of my alleged hostility to the Union is based upon a law refusing our State prisoners to Fugitive Slaves, passed in the session of 1847—a law which has remained upon the statute book for the space of full four years without affecting the integrity of the Union in the slightest! In the month of March last, a bill passed the Senate repealing this law, and immediately went to the House, where, through the action of its Democratic majority, a vote upon it was not taken until the last day of the session. It was then passed, and presented to me for my signature about one hour previous to adjournment, after a vote of thanks had been returned to the Speaker, after the Committees had been discharged, and after the general business of both branches had been disposed of! The Constitution secures to the Executive ten days to examine and decide upon the enactments of the two Houses, and believing that in the instance referred to the object was to interfere with a clearly defined Constitutional right, I, of course, under a proper sense of self-respect and a proper appreciation of my privileges and duties, did not feel myself bound to act upon the bill within the limited period assigned, particularly when other engagements of more pressing importance claimed my attention. I furthermore, could not discover occasion for any particular haste. The law had been in force four years, and still the Union stood in all its original glory and grandeur; and Judge Porter, one of the advocates of its repeal, had pronounced it a Constitutional, though discourteous enactment, so that the National Compact could not be considered in any very imminent danger from a little delay in the disposal of the question. Well persuaded of this, and that the purpose had in view in acting upon the subject at so late an hour was to place the Executive in an awkward position, I quietly pocketed the bill, as I had a right to do, and intend to keep it there until the meeting of the next Legislature!

But, fellow-citizens, another argument employed to prove my hostility to the National Union and Constitution is founded upon a certain feature or certain features of the Compromise measures which I have not chosen to endorse. The Compromise measures, properly speaking, have passed from the control of the people. California has been admitted, and is a member of the Confederacy, the boundaries of New Orleans have been fixed, and the Slave Trade in the District of Columbia has been abolished, and nobody can, as I suppose nobody is desirous to, disturb these several acts of national legislation.

But the Fugitive Slave Law, passed in connection with these measures, does not occupy precisely the same relation to the popular judgment. As a law of the land it is entitled to respect and obedience so long as it is a law. It was adopted, professedly, with a view of fulfilling that provision of the National Constitution which recognizes the right of slave-holders to recover fugitives from labor escaping into other States; and having agreed to that National Constitution, it is of course our duty to carry the same into effect. But the question here arises, has the Fugitive Slave Law been so framed that this Constitutional provision can be carried fairly into effect. I think not; and had I had the honor of a seat in Congress I should have voted against it, because it does not sufficiently guard the rights of the colored population.—I have no false sympathy with that class; but they are human beings, possessing capacities like ourselves, and as such are entitled to just protection. For proof that the law may and does not operate properly and equitably, I refer you to the case of the alleged fugitive slave who was some months since brought before Commissioner Ingraham of Philadelphia, and upon very slight testimony remanded to the residence of his assumed owner in the adjoining State of Maryland. On being taken there, however, he proved not to be the person sought for and was set at liberty.—Cases like this are constantly liable to arise under the law. So regarding it, I conceived it a duty in my last Annual Message to the Legislature to speak of it as requiring modification or amendment, so as to afford security against such hasty judgments. I yet think it might be so changed as to protect better the rights of both master and slave. But we are told that if we dare to modify the law, or even talk about it, the Government, is at an end. To say nothing about the ridiculousness of such an assumption, deny the people the right to discuss any and every measure of public policy, and you introduce the most odious form of human tyranny. It has been said that an Austrian Emperor, goaded on by some real or fancied insult, once undertook to destroy the liberties of Bohemia. After vainly resorting to numerous expedients, he determined to teach them to forget their mother tongue. Let us, my friends and fellow-citizens, be admonished by the example. Let us carefully guard against every attempt to take from us liberty of thought and speech. Let us speak out boldly and fearlessly upon every public question—defend the cause of right—denounce all forms of wrong—and as a legitimate adjunct of the National Union, and the Constitution upon which it is based, labor to spread far and wide the blessings of Human Freedom!

The Union, my fellow-citizens, is safe, whatever designing politicians may allege to the contrary; and I have adverted to the topics last discussed not because they are relevant to the present contest, or in any way threaten the general peace and security, but because they have been made issues by a distinguished gentleman of Lancaster already alluded to, who, through some means, would make himself President. The Union, I again say, and say emphatically, WILL STAND—WILL STAND FOR AGES TO COME—AYE, WILL REMAIN FOREVER, A MONUMENT OF MAN'S CAPACITY FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT!

From the *Galena* (Ill.) Advertiser.

The Selkirk Settlement.

In the year 1870, Charles the Second granted all the territory in North America, subject to the British Crown, that was drained by waters flowing into Hudson's Bay, to the Hudson's Bay Company—and among other privileges, the exclusive right to deal and traffic in furs with the natives. Beside this territory they have extended their jurisdiction over the lands watered by the rivers that flow into the Arctic Ocean, and also that vast country west of the Rocky Mountains. Their territory, in fine, embraces all North America, (with the exception of the Russian possessions in the extreme north-west, and Greenland in the north-east, each of which is, separately, about ten times as large as this State,) that lies north of the Canadas, and the United States and its possessions. The southern boundary of the Company commences on the Pacific coast opposite to, and including Vancouver's Island, and latitude 49, and extends on this parallel to the south-eastern point of the Lake of the Woods, thence on the highlands that divide the waters which flow into Lake Superior and the St. Lawrence, from those flowing into the Hudson's Bay, east to the Atlantic Ocean. So much for the Hudson's Bay Company and its possessions, both of which may become objects of interests in a few years to us and our neighborhood.

Lord Selkirk having obtained a grant from the Company of a territory extending from Fort Gary an hundred miles in a circle, on certain conditions, came out with his colony in 1813. They flourished and increased for sometime. In 1825, 1826 and 1827, the Red River overflowed its banks—and produced universal distress, so much that many of the most wealthy and influential citizens left the place; a party of whom, consisting of Messrs. Francis Langet, Philip F. Selkirk, Louis Chetlain, Peter Raindi-

backer, Antonio Bricker, Paul Garber, John Baptiste Versain, John Tyrey, and others, with their wives and families, German Swiss from Geneva and that vicinity, speaking the French language, came down here and settled at Gratiot's Grove. At that time there were large smelting operations carried on by Col. Henry Gratiot.

The party we have named came out to Selkirk in 1817—the first band being nearly all Scotchmen, but the second from the Continent. Those emigrating here, the most of whom are now living, have been among our best citizens and worthy members of society, handing down their virtues to their children.

The origin of the floods which did such immense damage on Red River, in the years we named, has never been satisfactorily accounted for, but it is surmised that they came from the superabundant water of the branches of the Missouri, bursting over the low ridge, which divides the water flowing into the Gulf of Mexico from that flowing into Hudson's Bay.

The only tax the colonists of Red River pay is four per cent. on all the goods they import, whether from England or elsewhere, and the Hudson's Bay Company pay the same on all imports they sell or consume within the limits of the Red River Colony. The Company import goods and merchandize from England, and charge the consumer in the Colony 75 per cent. advances on the London invoice prices, for freight, insurance, duty, land carriage and profit. They sell bar and sheet iron for 12 cents a pound; sugar, London crushed, 24-cents; tea from 50 cents to \$2, and other articles in proportion. The imports for the last five years have averaged \$100,000, from all sources, and the \$4,000 revenue is devoted to schools, bridges, roads and internal improvements; all salaries being paid by the Company. The colonists export comparatively nothing—the only article that will pay being Furs (not including Buffalo Robes,) on which the Hudson's Bay Company have a monopoly, over which they watch with a jealous eye.

Since the route has been opened and traveled from Pembina to St. Paul, they have commenced to bring forward merchandize. But we learn that the late train from Selkirk, of more than a hundred carts, has been met by a U. S. Custom House officer, above St. Paul, and 20 per cent. duty demanded of the Selkirk's on Buffalo Robes, and 30 per cent. on their Moccasins. The Minnesota Democrat says that the Red River gentlemen express the assurance that they can never pay that tax, and that hereafter they will be obliged to avail themselves of the boats and ships of the Company.—We presume Congress will look into this matter, and discriminate in their favor unless there exists good reasons for a contrary course.

The cold is sometimes excessive in the settlement. Mercury freezes once or twice every year, and sometimes the spirit thermometer indicates a temperature as low as 52 degrees below zero. When such a low temperature occurs, there is a pervading haze or smoky appearance in the atmosphere, resembling a generally diffused yellow smoke, and the sun looks red as in a sultry evening. As the sun rises, so does the thermometer, and when the mercury thaws out and stands at 10 or 15 degrees below, a breeze sets in, and pleasant weather follows—that is, as pleasant as can be, while the mercury keeps below zero as continually as a fish in his own element, and coming up above the surface just as often.

For weeks, sometimes, the wind will blow from the north—temperature say from 5 to 10 below suddenly it shifts into the south, and for six hours the thermometer will continue to fall, a phenomena which meteorologists, perhaps can account for. Another; when, in summer, the wind blows a length of time from the north, it drives the water back, and Red River will have its banks full in the driest season. The same thing occurs when the wind blows from the same direction in Winter, although the sea and river are frozen, unbrokenly, ten feet thick, to the north pole.

He had Him.

A hoosier from the far West was standing on the steps of the Tremont House the other day, when a wag who had somehow obtained an introduction to him, stepped up to the verdant chap and with a very impressive flourish asked him—

"My dear Sir,—akem—what is the physical, moral, and intellectual condition of our great country that you came from?"

The fellow scratched his head a moment as if puzzled, and then broke out as if he had perfectly comprehended the comprehensive interrogatory.

"Wall," said he, "as far as heerd from, I believe it's comin in putty fair."

The Quotessence of Love.

The New-York Day Book says: "If our wife wanted to run away with another man, we would bid her God speed, for we think too much of her to see her wait for any thing."