



# Port Tobacco Times

AND CHARLES COUNTY ADVERTISER.

VOL. XIV.

PORT TOBACCO, (MD.) THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1857.

N O. 25.

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY,

BY E. WELLS,  
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.—For one year, if paid in advance or within six months, \$1.50; if not paid within six months, \$2.00.

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## An Original Letter.

ON READING.

A LETTER FROM ECCENTRICITY TO SIMPLICITY.

[CONCLUSION.]

The Jewish State, by the peculiarity and force of its principles, laid the foundation and prepared the instruments for the revolution and regeneration of human society. It was a mighty effort, an effort of daring and sublime resolve in the Jewish Lawgiver, to turn back the tide of universal error and to restore man to that condition to which he rightfully belonged by the institution of his Creator. If we find often an insuperable difficulty in reforming a man or a few men, what must have been the difficulty of effecting a reformation of a whole human race! Next to Christ on Calvary, the position of the Jewish Lawgiver, at the foot of Mount Sinai, conceiving and maturing the overthrow of existing systems, and the reformation of the world, is the most sublime and impressive of which history speaks. In the wilderness this truly great man prepared the means for not only the world's revolution, but for all the stable and progressive civilization of the nations of the earth; and this suggests one thing which it would be well for you to bear steadily in mind, and that is, that the three greatest men the world has produced were Moses the Jew, Alfred the Englishman, and Washington the American.

The next State to which your attention should be directed, as standing out in importance, for the progressive revolution she has aided in effecting, is England. Her history is a long one and you cannot expect to master the whole of it; and you must therefore gather up its principles and most important facts. For this purpose, after carefully reading it over, you must study its most important reigns; and learn first the real structure of the government, so that you may know why that State has possessed such stability, and been capable of achieving such mighty results in the world's progress. While it has hewed its way round the world with the sword, it has scattered learning and science and the civilization of christianity along its pathway.

The reign to which you should most particularly direct your attention, and should first intimately study, is that of Alfred.—Here you find signally exemplified the force and effects of Jewish principle. This reign constitutes the stand point from which you are to survey, examine and learn the history of this truly great and master State; for it was during this reign, by this great monarch, that were planted and matured those inherent principles of freedom which not only saved the British people from a degrading despotism, but have been slowly and progressively working everywhere a revolution in the elements and in the face of human society. Like Solomon, this monarch possessed an inherently wise constitution of mind; and, unlike him, he possessed an inherent virtuous constitution of heart. In establishing and defining the British government, he, in imitation of Jewish example, cultivated and enforced the federal principle; and hence, the English people, from the force of individual position and culture, have ever been prepared to lay down their lives in defence of their individual rights.

I cannot but attribute to the force of the federal principle, as planted, fixed and matured by Alfred, the invincible disposition of the British people, at all times to resist the usurpations of both the civil and ecclesiastical governments; and in the history of this State there is presented, for the first time in the progress of the human race, for your consideration and reflection, the most important struggle and revolution—partially achieved—in the separation of the civil and ecclesiastical governments. I know of no other State which furnishes an example of this kind; and you cannot too intimately and closely study this subject. The union of the purse and the sword in the same person has always been considered the perfection of despotism; and I will say the union of church and State is still more disastrous in its effects of perfecting despotism, and thereby arresting the moral and intellectual progress of the human race. The study of this subject, in the progress of this State, is

intimately connected with, and forms a part of, its constitutional history.

There are important reigns in the history of this State to which your attention should be specially directed for learning the history civilly and ecclesiastically. The reign of Henry II., I think it is, will be specially instructive. You will learn there what a fierce warfare was waged between the two powers, civil and ecclesiastical; and the latter triumphed, although the monarch himself was a man preeminently of talents and decision of character.

The events of the reign of John are important and instructive. It is perhaps fortunate for us and for the human race, that he was a man of weak mind and active indecision of character; and consequently incapable of maintaining, with firmness, position and power. Magna Charta was wrung from his reluctant grasp and adopted at the point of the sword. Study it closely and intimately as an evolution of the principles sowed and matured by Alfred, and as a novel, interesting and instructive monument of the first successful, sensible and permanent establishment of free principles in modern times.

Wicked and profligate agencies may, under a fortuitous juncture of events, be productive of great good. The reign of Henry VIII. should be read with great care and attention; and its results, in connection with the pacific and virtuous reign of his son, marked and preserved in your memory.

Study well and intimately the reign of the great, the renowned Elizabeth. She was one of the greatest monarchs that ever sat on a throne; and notwithstanding her reputed arbitrary character and career, she did much, very much—more, perhaps, than any other English monarch—to perfect the purposes of the great and wise Alfred, and give stability and progression to the British constitution. The English State, I think, may truly date its expansive, and expanded, and expanding greatness and excellence to this active, strong and glorious reign; and then and there it was, peacefully, decidedly, the ecclesiastical power was so crippled and crushed that it was ever after incapable of a successful and permanent struggle.

The reign of Charles I. is important and instructive, as furnishing an example of a fierce and bloody struggle between the popular and despotic power—between the creator and the rebel; and it is particularly instructive for this fact, that it furnishes a signal illustration of the incapacity of the creator, through a perversion of its organic elements, for self-government. The old dynasty was ultimately recalled to restore order and preserve peace and quiet, because the creator had shown itself incapable of exercising these attributes. The reign of Ann is interesting for its history of stirring and attractive events, and has sometimes been called the golden age of English literature. But the reign of James II., in connection with that of William and Mary, will furnish you with the most wholesome and nutritious for the mind; for it was during these reigns, as the offspring of a comparatively peaceful though decided and successful struggle between the civil and ecclesiastical, and despotic and popular powers, that the British constitution was established on durable and definite basis; and it was during these reigns that the creator first caught and held fast to a clear insight into those inherent and elementary rights with which he was primarily endowed. Read and study the history of this great, very great, this greatest, of States—civilly, ecclesiastically and constitutionally; and for this purpose, perhaps Hume's and Macaulay's histories, and Hallam's constitutional history, will be enough for you.

I come now to the third master State of the world—the United States. The stand point for the study, the accurate, intimate, and profound study of its history, is the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. From this point, you can readily survey, and with intense pleasure and great profit study and understand and treasure up, the important and instructive events of its history.—You cannot too intimately acquaint yourself with the character, the principles, and, above all, the genius of this State. The greater error in the education of all our youth is, that they treat as of secondary importance the history of their own country, and attach a primary importance to that of other countries. They travel into the remote regions of antiquity to learn these, while at home all is largely unknown or permitted to be forgotten. Learn well and accurately the historical settlement and progress of our own country; and learn it constitutionally.—Every private citizen in this country ought to be a constitutional lawyer. Always, in reading its history, bear in mind that the people are the creator and that the government is an agency, clothed with a limited and well defined authority; and in this aspect contrast it with the other governments of which you have read. Remember always that in all your other reading you have found the rebel the ruler, and that here, for the first time in the progress of nations, the creator rules.

The mode by which to acquire an original and self-relying knowledge of constitutional

law, is to study the Constitution with its history; and in doing this, learn what has been done for freedom, or rather how freedom has been wrought out and secured in the structure of the government. Freedom here has, for the first time, been secured by separating the purse, the sword, and the church from the civil authority; and hence all are not only freed from military restraint, but are left to enjoy and exercise whatever religious faith they may see fit—according to the common phrase, "to worship God according to the dictates of their own conscience." This phrase, though of such general use to express religious freedom, has been the means of deluding millions of human beings; for conscience is universally made the fashioned creature of education, and consequently every sect thinks it has the right religious conscience. It should have been—that every one should be allowed to worship God as freely as he enjoys the benefit of God's creation. Thus, heat is a portion of creation, and if a dozen men are standing by a fire all are or should be equally the recipients of the heat. This is the character of free worship; and you may ask, perhaps, why these remarks? The reason is obvious. In reading the histories of other countries you will have observed that one sect has invariably acquired an ascendancy over all others, and necessarily united itself to the government, and hence a religious despotism. Thus, England is Protestant, while France is Catholic. It will require a sleepless vigilance on our part to guard against so sad a catastrophe in this country.

I have already stated how you should learn the constitution of our country; but you will be greatly aided and instructed by reading Curtis' History of the Constitution, the Federalist, and the Commentaries of Marshall and Story; and for the purpose of the simple history alone of the country, I think Bancroft's and Tucker's histories will be enough for you, at least for the present. Read attentively the biographies of Washington by Marshall and Irving.

I have thus sketched, I know imperfectly, an outline of a course of reading. I do not intend to convey the idea that you are to confine yourself to this exclusively. You should carefully and thoughtfully read other histories and other works, incidentally.—You ought to make yourself well acquainted with the Pagan world, and particularly with the three secondary States—Greece, Rome and Egypt; and for this purpose, for want of a better, Rollins' History will suffice. You ought also to read generally and carefully, the history of the nations of the Christian era. For this purpose I think it likely Sears' Pictorial Works will be sufficient, except for France and Germany, the two secondary States, and for these you must search out good histories, for I am not acquainted with any that are really good. From the remarks which I have made, I do not intend that you should omit fictitious works altogether. They are valuable when rightly read. Those I have already named are valuable works for study, careful study, and Homer and Shakespeare's works are most instructive and improving—for I regard the poems of Homer, considering the age in which they were produced, as the master production of the world, and as an effort of Deity to leave man out of a state of barbarism; and it is not a little singular that the greatest oration and the greatest poem yet produced, are the oldest and of pagan origin. Milton, in his place and of his kind, is of intrinsic worth; but Homer and Shakespeare are more practical and like to real life; for there are few who can traverse the regions of omniscience with Milton and a master mind alone can tread with him the paths of infinity. Scott's and Kennedy's fictitious works are good, and in reading these you should read the histories of Scotland and Maryland. There are others, for the reading of which your own taste and judgment must direct you. Take a good review and one or two good newspapers and store your mind with, and permanently with the facts they contain. Commit to memory firmly, indelibly, the most interesting and instructive passages of the authors you read. Improve, strengthen and rely sublimely upon this faculty. It is said, there lived an Athenian who would quote five thousand poems appropriately and effectually, under all circumstances; and I have read that the English historian, Macaulay, could read once and then repeat every word in the London Times. In committing to memory, do it perfectly and indelibly, and not imperfectly and partially.

In reading, or rather, in studying word by word and sentence by sentence, any author, lecture and converse with yourself as if you had a class of students before you whom you were instructing. Habituate yourself to think of what you have read or studied, under all circumstances, whether you are riding, walking, sitting or lying in bed before you go to sleep and before you rise in the morning. Do not imitate or attempt to imitate the style of any particular author. This will enfeeble a strong mind and make a fool or a pedant of a weak one. Deeply imbue your heart and mind with the sentiments of your best authors. Read the biography of Demosthenes, the master ora-

tor and the founder of correct oratory, and learn how he formed his style and won for himself such a character for originality.—Never read a profane, or obscene, or low and grovelling work. Sentiments, whether good or evil, are infused into and incorporated with the heart and mind by an electrical process. I have already extended this letter to a greater length than I perhaps ought to have done, and space demands I should bring it to a close. In all reading and studying take the birth of Jesus Christ as your stand point. The birth of this being constitutes the line of demarcation between ancient and modern society—between the progressive triumph of evil and the progressive triumph of good. From this point you can well, impressively and instructively, most instructively, contrast the principles of the Jewish with the principles of the Christian era—the former the era of error and force, and the latter of truth and persuasion. For the purpose of effecting this contrast as distinctly and instructively as possible, you must have certain laws by which you are to be guided and directed in your investigations. These laws are the three primary and creative bonds of society: the matrimonial, the parental, and the servile. Each of these are of Divine creation—is of equal necessity, and each has existed from the origin of the human race, and in proportion to a departure from their observance does man become chaotic and profligate, individually and nationally.—These bonds are of God's formation or institution; and contrast the fruits of their peculiar execution and maintenance under the two eras, and learn if the Christian era has not truth for its basis. This subject is inexhaustible, but space has arrested my further progress, and I now conclude with the remark, that I have perhaps written you an eccentric and foolish letter; but I console myself with the reflection that eccentricity and folly are twin sisters; and, necessarily, where there is much wisdom there is much folly. Your friend,

ECCENTRICITY.

## Selected Poetry.

From the Pennsylvania Inquirer.

MY MOTHER'S GRAVE.  
Long years have fled dear Mother,  
Since lowly o'er thy grave  
I've heard the night-wind's requiem—  
And the willow's pensive wail,  
Where twine the tender cypress vine  
And blooms the violet fair,  
And sweetest odor breathes around  
Affection planted there.

I'll know thy love dear Mother,  
No more whilst time moves round;  
Within thy shroud thou sleepest now,  
Beneath the cold, cold ground.  
A solitary branch I droop,  
Above life's lessening stream,  
And all the past but seems to me  
A strange and mystic dream.

Oh! I'll return, dear Mother,  
To that endearing spot,  
So sad, and yet so soothing,  
So far, yet yet forgot.  
And fancy time is mingling  
With the voices of the wind,  
A prayer for the lonely one,  
Left weeping behind.

And oh! how blest, when life is o'er,  
This life, which is but breath,  
To sleep near thee the tranquil sleep,  
Dreamless, but not of sleep,  
With the sustained and sacred hope,  
That we shall meet once more  
Amid the bowers and by the streams  
On Heaven's unclouded shore.

PERSONAL BEAUTY.

The following are our sentiments; the words we believe are by Mrs. ELDRIDGE:  
'Tis not the fairness of thy brow,  
Nor brightness of the eye;  
Nor yet the cheek, whose radiant glow  
Can with carnation vie,  
That has a power to chain my gaze,  
Or hold it in control;  
The beauty that I most admire,  
Shines spotless from the soul.  
The beauty of the form and face,  
Last on our minds;  
The charms that centre in the soul  
Will never waste with time,  
The radiance from that inner shrine,  
That lights the thoughtful eye,  
Will claim for years my earnest love,—  
Its charms can never die.

## Miscellaneous.

SHOOTING PIGEONS WITHOUT SHOT.

A correspondent at Chillicothe, Ohio, under date of February 25th, records the following anecdote as a veritable fact:

A week or two since the woods and feeding-lots around this little city were "perfectly alive" with pigeons—as indeed they are every Fall and Spring. Among the many who seized their double-barrelled guns and rushed to the slaughter was my friend Sam K—k, from Bucks county, an eager sportsman; so eager upon this occasion, indeed, that after driving at 2:40 speed some five or six miles out from the town and seeing his horse properly put away, he discovered, with dismay, that he had left his shot-bag at home. Here was a dilemma for you! And to make the incident intolerable, the morning was simply perfect, and the birds, settling and rising in clouds! What was to

be done? That was a question upon which Sam exhausted his ingenuity, without arriving at any satisfactory conclusion. Having gyrated two or three times around the eighty acre lot to the music of some profane exclamations, he became calm enough to make up his mind for the return trip pigeonless. Just at that moment he saw another sportsman drive up to the fence near by, and soon recognized Capt. R—k. "Ah, how lucky!" thought Sam. "I can beg, buy, or borrow some shot of him. But—but—what if he has a short supply, and declines a divide in view of the multitude of birds? Ah! I have an idea!"

"Good morning, Capt. R—k." A beautiful morning this, for shooting, and the pigeons are as thick as blackberries."

"Coot'n murgin, Herr K—k," responded the new comer, who is one of the most gentlemanly, but not one of the sharpest, of kraut and sausage consumers; "me think we have plenty of shooton dis-day."

Yes, plenty sport, Captain. But I say, Cap, do you see yon coffee-nut tree at the edge of the timber, its big leaves still hanging look like pigeons. Now that tree will attract all the birds to alight upon it.—S'pose we build a blind there and shoot together to-day? We can take in a thousand or two, I guess.

"Very coot, Herr K—k," responded the German, and in a few minutes the ornate blind was erected, and the sportsmen ensconced behind it, ready for business.

On came the long line of birds, circling around the feeding ground for a moment, and then settling upon the coffee-nut trees in tens, fifties, hundreds.

"All ready now, Captain?" whispered Sam.

"Yah!" exclaimed the excited Captain. "Fire together, then"—bang bang! went both guns, and a dozen birds were fluttering on the ground beneath the tree, besides two or three that sailed off wounded and were lost.

"Pretty well done!" exclaimed Sam.—"But let them lie, Captain; will gather up the spoils when we get tired of killing."

And so they shot all day, Sam taking especial pains to fire with K; and when one or two occasions, he accidentally fired alone, the "d—d gun hung fire," or "something got in his eye just as he pulled the trigger," and resulted in a clear miss. In the evening they divided some one hundred and forty birds between them, and drove home in high glee over their good sport and heavy-game bags. To this hour the Captain has not learned the fact that Sam did not fire a single charge of shot in all that day.

A little friend of ours, a few days ago, while coming down stairs, was cautioned by his mother not to lose his balance. The question which followed was a puzzler—"Mother if I should lose my balance, where would it go to?"

If you wish to cure a soldiering wife, never fail to laugh at her with all your might until she ceases—then kiss her. Sure cure, and no quack medicine.

## Agricultural.

From the American Farmer, for October.

SWINE.  
If you have not already done so, have your pens made ready for the hogs you mean to fatten. Every pen should have a covered house with two apartments, one to feed in, the other to sleep in. The pen open on an enclosed yard, the surface of which should be covered to the depth of 12 inches, with rough materials of some sort, as loam and leaves from the woods, marsh mud, river mud, creek mud, direct scrapings, or some kindred substance, to act as absorbents of the liquid voidings of the fattening hogs; over these substances plaster, or pulverized charcoal should be sifted every few days; and, if convenient, additional quantities of rough materials should be spread over the surface of the yard every week or so during the fattening of the hogs, upon which plaster, or pulverized charcoal, should be strewn.

When the hogs are fattened and killed, if you have the time and materials to spare, spread any of the rough substances named over the surface of the yard, say to the depth of 3 or 4 inches, dust plaster thereon to save the ammonia—or you may clean up the yard, and form the materials into a compost.

Hogs are most excellent manipulators of manure; but, to render them efficient you must furnish them with the rough materials to work with. Each hog in a pen is capable during the fattening season of converting two two-horse loads of the materials we have named into good manure. No animal voids more urine than the fattening hog, and there are none voiding it of a richer quality; it abounds in urea, albumen, common salt, muriate of potash, gypsum, chalk, and glauber salts; while the solid evacuations are supposed to be as rich in nutritive elements as are human excrements. Substances, then, so enriching, should most

certainly be economised.—should be made to perform their rightful offices in the improvement of the soil—in the increase, nature, elaboration and perfection of the earth.

All hogs when first taken up for fattening should receive two or three doses of flour of sulphur and copperas, at two days apart, to be given in messes of bran and meal. Their food for the first two or three weeks, should be pumpkins, apples, or roots of some kind, which should be boiled and made into messes with bran, or meal, the latter being increased from day to day, so that when they come to have corn or meal altogether, the change may not be injuriously felt by them.

Hogs should be withdrawn from the woods, and penned as soon as the supply of mast ceases to be sufficient to continue their increase of size, flesh and fat.

When taken into the pen for fattening a saving of 20 per cent may be effected, if the corn be ground into meal, and converted into slop by water, instead of being fed in the grain, or on the cob. It should be recollected too, that the cob when reduced into meal makes excellent food for milch cows mixed with cut straw.

Each hog-yard ought to be furnished with a rubbing-post—and a trough be kept under cover in which the hogs could at all times find rotten-wood, ashes, charcoal and salt.

Fattening hogs should be fed three times a day, say at sunrise, 12 o'clock, and about sun-setting, and care must be observed to give them their meals at these times regularly as regularly in the hours of feeding operates most favorably in the taking on of fat. They should be watered three times a day.

Fattening hogs should have their troughs cleaned, and their sleeping apartments well littered with clean straw once a week.

CATTLE-YARDS.

As the time is coming on apace, when you will have to yard your stock, let us advise you before that time arrives, to have such rough materials as we advised for the hog-yards, collected and spread over your cattle-yards. In spreading in the materials fashion them basin-shaped, so as to prevent the escape of the urine of the stock. As the rough materials are being spread on the cattle yard, they should be dusted with plaster, or pulverized charcoal. Every week or two after the stock are in the yards, dust plaster over the mass.

About 12 inches in depth of rough materials while fashioning the yard will be about the right quantity at first, which if it be convenient for you to do so, you may add to throughout the season with kindred substances, taking care to dust it with plaster. In the spring when you are about to remove the mass to the corn, or other fields, shovel the whole over so as to mix it together, and our word for it you will find it equal to any barn-yard manure that you ever put upon your fields.

ACCUMULATION OF MATERIALS FOR MANURE.

Employ as many teams and hands as you can spare in the collection of such rough materials as may be convertible into manure, and in the formation of them into compost heaps, from now until the frost is too intense to admit of such labor. Now, we know that there is a prevalent opinion that the making of compost heaps is not profitable; but in defiance of that opinion, we are induced from experience to aver that in such formations true economy exists. If we are asked in what such rough materials should consist we would say that the gatherer cannot well go amiss, and we will name a few of the many articles that may be converted into manure, viz: Pine-shatters, mould and leaves from the woods, road and ditch scrapings, marsh-mud, river mud, creek mud, weeds, the earth from headlands, corn-stalks and all kindred substances, in depth, be spread on the field to which you may intend to apply them next spring, over these spread 10 bushels of slacked ashes for every 20 loads of the mass, then put on another body of the materials and a similar quantity of slacked ashes, and so on until you get the heap about 4 feet high. In forming the heap give it a cone-like shape. In the spring shovel over the heap so as to mix, the several substances together and equalize the virtue of the manure, and we think we hazard nothing in saying that you will find the mass highly charged with fertilizing matters.

GATHERING PUMPKINS.

Have your pumpkins gathered before they are injured by the frost. As the precise time of gathering them your own good judgment must determine that point. Have them carefully handled in pulling and hauling, so as not to bruise them, and store them away in some cool place. In feeding them out to your hogs and milch cows you will greatly increase their value as food by having them cooked. For hogs especially, cooking is necessary, as it prevents their purging. In feeding them to your milch cows, if you should not cook them have them cut into small pieces, and mixed with cut straw, or hay, a peck of each will make a milk producing mess.