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POETRY.

SONNET.

BY HENRY T. TUCKERMAN.
FREEDOM.

Freedom! beneath thy banner I was born,—
O let me share thy full and perfect life!
Teach me opinion's slavery to scorn,
And to be free from Passion's bitter strife;—
Free of the world, a self-dependent soul,
Nourished by lofty aims and genial truth,
And made more free by love's serene control,
The spell of beauty and the hopes of youth.
The liberty of nature let me know, [streams,
Caught from the mountains, groves and crystal
Her stary host, and sunset's purple glow,
That woo the spirit with celestial dreams,
On Fancy's wing exultingly to soar,
Till life's harsh fetters clog the heart no more!

COMMUNICATED.

MEXICO.

Report on its Finances under the Spanish Government, since its independence, and prospects of their improvement under the Presidency of His Excellency Don Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna; with calculations of the Public Debt—Foreign and Domestic—Average of Estimates, Revenue and Expenditure; to which are added Tables illustrative of its Commercial, Manufacturing, and prohibitive policy, and Remarks on Colonization;—the whole intended for the information of Merchants, Emigrants, and the holders of Mexican Bonds.

BY ROBERT CRICHTON WYLLIE.
(Concluded.)

Such a system as the above it appears to me would be the very thing required by Mexico along its Northern Frontier, on the banks of the rivers *Gila* and *Colorado*, and in California, both to check the Indians and successfully resist the expansive tendencies of their neighbor along that frontier. Such a system would not be incompatible with foreign colonization, if the Mexicans could only rise superior to the petty prejudices which have hitherto obstructed that and many other useful measures. The great experience of General Miller in these countries, the talent for the organization and improvement of new societies, which he has shown in all the important commands he has held, and his unequalled knowledge of the peculiarities and capabilities of the Spanish American people, entitle his suggestions to great weight in every thing that relates to their military defence, or even their civil policy.

During past years, and especially under the short government of "Gomez Farias," a disposition was manifested to seize the revenues of the clergy, and apply them to the support of public credit. It will be seen by Table F in the Appendix that Dr. Don Jose Maria Luis Mora calculated the whole Conventual wealth of Mexico as consisting of 1593 properties worth \$5,773,539 of current capital, or \$4,545,119 of capital in consolidation. The same author, in a work styled "Obras Sueltas," published in Paris, in 1837, gives a statement or rather calculation of the value which under different titles had belonged to the whole regular and secular clergy of the Mexican Republic, and which by right they have possessed, until the end of 1832, of which the following is the total result, viz.:

Value of Ecclesiastical revenues, \$7,456,593	
" Productive capitals, - - - - -	\$149,131,560
" Unproductive do., - - - - -	30,931,894
Total value of capitals, - - - - -	\$179,163,754

And he gives another calculation, professing to show that the Government might defray the whole annual expense of their Ecclesiastical establishment, with a yearly charge of only \$4,839,200, representing, at 5 per cent, a capital of \$97,784,000, and although himself a clergyman, he inclines to the opinion that Government ought to take the clergy into their pay, and apply their property and revenue, as others of the "ultra" party would have them applied.

In this opinion I am far from concurring, although I am a Protestant,—because it would be unjust to the Mexican Church,—because it would shock the conscientious feelings of many of the most religious of the Mexican people, and consequently of the best part of them,—because it might indispose the clergy to give their moral support to the established order of things,—because

the support of their respectability as gentlemen is of the highest consequence to the very existence of religion in this country,—because many of them distribute large sums amongst the poor and infirm,—and finally because such a measure of spoliation is not required to render the finances of this country equal to every want of the public service, and of public credit.

I have endeavored, in many quarters to procure information as to the total amount of the foreign commerce of the country, but no authentic data exist to determine it.—Were the 7,433,724 Mexicans, who, I calculate, inhabit the Republic, to consume at the rate of other populations of young and certainly less rich countries, the yearly value of goods consumed would be very great, but, at present it cannot be supposed to exceed much the yearly production of the mines.

This is the opinion of His Excellency Frederick Van Gerold, Esq., the well informed Charge d'Affaires of His Majesty the King of Prussia, to whom I owe the great kindness of having voluntarily offered me access to very important data upon this and other points contained in his archive, and to whom I owe much encouragement in the prosecution of my arduous undertaking.—From his long residence in this country, and his great attention to all subjects connected with its prosperity, and consequently with that of commerce, I set a very high value upon his opinions and his judgment.

His Excellency politely showed me a map, marking out the lands intended to be colonized by *M. Alexander de Grol*, who it appears is a very respectable gentleman.—The situation lies mainly between the *Rio Bravo del Norte* and the river *Nueces*, thus encroaching upon part of the territory which the Texans pretend to hold, on the strength of a decree passed by their own Congress; but a large portion of lands south of the former are also to be occupied.

Through a friend I am enabled to give the particulars of Exports and Imports, which appear in the Appendix under the letter C, with an average of the commerce of the Republic, for five years.

I have already shewn that the mining interests are gradually recovering from the shock sustained by the war of independence and the subsequent of party. The English mining companies have introduced great improvements in the art of amalgamation, whereby much of the quicksilver formerly lost is now saved. Had it not been for these improvements, some of them, before this, would have had to cease their operations.—All these companies are established upon too expensive a scale in point of management. Many a mine worked at a loss to an English company, when worked by a Mexican leaves a profit to him. The difference consists in this, that the Mexican spends only what is necessary to get out the silver, while the English company spends that and a great deal more, to keep up the private establishments of its managers and agents. I have often wondered that the share-holders at home do not appoint a committee of investigation to inquire into the management of every mine in which they are interested. To do any good such a committee must be composed not of mere theorists from England, but of men of good common sense, accustomed to business in this country, knowing the language and knowing the people.

Unless a very great improvement be made in the economical management of these companies, I fear that most of the mines will eventually lapse into the hands of the Mexicans, who will take them up, make money by them, and laugh at the foolish management of the Englishmen, as they have already done in several instances.

How different the result would have been to the English share-holders, had their money gone to the formation of companies to colonize and cultivate the rich lands along the coasts of this Republic.

Besides the loss of quicksilver in the process of amalgamation, a considerable quantity of the silver itself contained in the ores, is lost or remains inseparable by that process. His Excellency the Prussian Minister called my attention to this fact, and sent me a printed report upon it by Mr. Schmitz, Director of a German company in this country. The loss of silver seems to be sometimes as high as 37 per 100 of what the ores contain by careful assay.

I have touched upon these and other points connected with the commerce and general prosperity of this country, because they are intimately connected with its financial resources, and because I hold it to be the duty of every well wisher of his country, while travelling or residing abroad, to record all useful information. Fortunately, the interest and the policy of Great Britain coincide with the wealth and prosperity of all the nations with which she trades, so that I can hardly make any suggestion for the correction of abuses here, or the improvement of the country, without in my humble sphere acting on the spirit of the government of the nation to which I glory to belong, whose greatness is founded not upon the oppression of nations, but upon the universal development of their wealth, whose admirable institutions contain within them the springs of perpetual youth and renovation, and whose principles of equity, truth and justice, are at once the admiration and the benefit of the world.

In what I have written, many errors, redundancies, repetitions, omissions, and other defects of style, composition, arrangement, &c. may be discovered; the facts however, are in the main correct, and founded on official data; and when I tell you that the whole is written with one of Wedgewood's Polygraphic or Manifold Writers, admitting only the correction of words, I think I may fairly claim some indulgence both from you and others.

FROM OUR AMERICAN CORRESPONDENT.
NUMBER 6.

NEW BEDFORD, ——— 1843.

This is a beautiful town; affluence and general wealth seem to have centered here in a much greater ratio than the size of the place would authorize the visitor to expect; and it has all been fished from the ocean by the hardy whalers. It is chiefly expended in magnificent mansions and in external show. I have travelled over the United States, but in no other town have I seen such an air of general prosperity. If there is poverty, it hides itself, or else it is that comfortable degree of poverty, which is so only by contrast with the general prevailing luxury. The New Bedfordians and Honolulians are near neighbors, to all intents and purposes, for hundreds and even thousands of its inhabitants have spent more or less time at your islands. About the streets also, one meets with groups of Hawaiians, gesticulating and vociferating in all the freedom of their native manners, and seemingly much at home. Millerism and Mormonism have stirred the lower classes considerably. This year the religious excitement has been unusually intense, the passions of the mass venting themselves in this way, for want of other sources of action. The low price of oil had destroyed business, and New Bedford, like most other American towns, has no places of public amusement, where mind and body can indulge in innocent recreation after the fatigues of the day. Religious Charlatans have a fair field in a place like this, and they improve it.

Having heard many stories of the deeds and sayings of these people when under the influence of their religious monomania, which appeared incredible, I determined to hear for myself; accordingly I sought out their places of meeting. I would not have you understand that these scenes were peculiar to this town. They were and are common throughout the land. At the village of N—a number of people of both sexes got together in barns, and prayed and yelled and screamed, and committed the grossest absurdities, to expel the devil who was among them; but, to judge from the effect, the harder they worked the closer he stuck.—I attended two Mormon meetings; the first, with the exception of its foolish doctrines, was unexceptionable as a quiet, well conducted meeting. The speakers were re-

markable for nothing but their ignorance, and certainly seemed to be well-intentioned. But the second was far different. The hall was filled with the rabble of the place.—Many women were among them, but were, I was told, of no great respectability. If they had had the slightest pretension to refinement, they never would have listened to the vulgarity, obscenity, and blasphemy, which poured in wordy torrents from the lips of a rough, sinister-looking man who officiated as speaker. He paced the stage in great fury, thrashing his arms about like a windmill, and yelling at the top of his voice by way of emphasis. My disgust overcame my curiosity, and I was obliged to leave, but not without hearing some sentences which were sufficient to make the ears tingle with indignation. It reminds one of the fierce harangues of the sans culotte Jacobin leaders, when engaged in stirring up the populace to the bloody excesses of the first French revolution. Such men would glory in similar scenes here. They are revolutionists and anarchists. As low as were the audience, I could detect a smile of contempt among them, but the fellow I have no doubt succeeded in fleeing many of their funds.

With the Millerites I was better pleased. By their prophecies, making ascension robes, winding up their business, and the ridiculous pranks played off upon them by wicked wags, they had attracted the notice of the whole community. Not a few by their preachings have been frightened into incurable madness. The whole body while laboring under this infatuation are more or less mad, but when the fit is off them, they are worthy and reasonable people. So far have they carried their benevolence, as to inundate every house and family gratuitously with their Advent Tracts. No one was safe from their intrusions, and children and weak individuals trembled much under their warnings. But with others it had an opposite effect. If Advent books and tracts turned up every time you opened your front door, as often as you went into the street your eyes were attracted to a shop window by some wicked caricature got up by a scoffing wag. The best I noticed was one of a huge salamander fire-safe. Inside sat a man with his thumb upon his nose, expressing his contempt for the expected conflagration.—Around him were piled provisions, and materials for mint-jaleps, and one of his hands was on the latch, ready to spring to the door at the first warning.

But I forget the meetings I attended.—The Millerites raised funds and erected temporary buildings or tabernacles in which to worship daily until the Saviour appeared. One thing I was particularly struck with. In their preachings and ravings nothing denunciatory was ever breathed. They all appeared perfectly sincere, and manifested commendable anxiety for the eternal welfare of all. Their meetings were conducted on the most democratic plan. Every one, man, woman and child, had a perfect right to sing, preach or pray, when and as long as he or she listed. The one who had the floor kept it while the voice remained unexhausted, and then others jumped up, the stoutest lungs maintaining the ascendancy. During much of the time they appeared like individuals in a trance, and with some the excitement amounted to hysterical extacy. All who spoke did so at the top of their lungs, generally in a drawing, sing-song tone. One man in his excitement kept leaping from the floor and swinging his arms as if fighting spirits. In their warmest periods their language became that of maniacs.—They screamed—"the Lord Jesus is coming—let him come—I am ready—I see him,