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Poetry.

THE BLUE JUNIATA.

BY E. L. WHITE.

Wild rovd the Indian girl—
Bright Alfarata,
Where swept the waters
Of the blue Juniata;
Swift as an antelope,
Through the forest going,
Loose were her jetty locks,
In wavy tresses flowing.

Gay was the mountain song
Of bright Alfarata,
Where swept the waters
Of the blue Juniata;—
Strong and true my arrows are,
In my painted quiver—
Swift goes my bright canoe
Adown the rapid river.

Dold is my warrior good,
The love of Alfarata,
Proud waves his snowy plume
Along the Juniata.

Soft and low he speaks to me,
And then his war-cry sounding,
Rings his voice in thunder loud,
From light to light resounding.

So sang the Indian girl,
Bright Alfarata,
Where sweep the waters
Of the blue Juniata;—
Fleeting years have borne away
The voice of Alfarata,
Still sweeps the river on,
Blue Juniata.

Communications.

NATIONAL REFORM.

At an adjourned meeting of the Pitt-Ford National Reform Club, held Saturday evening, Feb. 12, 1848, the following Address and Resolution, which were read at the previous meeting, were read a second time and adopted.

To the landless Laborers of Rutland County.

Fellow laborers:—We have frequently heard of enquirers in relation to the character and object of our Society, and of answers being made by those who have not enquired into the merits of the principles and measures we aim to promulgate, or who either lack sufficient intelligence, or are too bigotedly attached to some of the popular dogmas of the day to perceive and appreciate a principle that is in advance of what has already become popular.

To enable such as have a desire for correct information to form a proper estimate, as to whether our objects are worthy of your attention and co-operation, we propose to give you an exposition of them, and of the means and probability of their attainment.

The object we have in view is no less than that of securing to every family throughout our country, a free, permanent and independent home. Without this, we consider the objects set forth, in the great charter of our independence, as being those for the maintenance of which, the fathers of our country pledged to each other their "lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor," are incomplete, and not worthy of the glorious sacrifices they made.

We aim to accomplish this without infringing the rights of any, through means already in possession. When we are accustomed to read almost weekly accounts of men, women and children, starving to death by thousands, and hundreds of thousands, in a country unsurpassed for its productiveness, upon the soil they had cultivated with their own hands, and caused to produce a sufficiency for all their necessities, while others are fleeing by thousands from the land that gave them birth, to foreign climes, and there famishing and rotting with famine disease among strangers, we might be led to doubt the existence of an overruling providence, but from a knowledge of the fact that all misery is but the natural consequence of an individual, or social wrong, somewhere antecedent to it.

While we commiserate the condition of our fellow beings who have been thus overtaken, it seems both natural and proper to turn our attention to causes, that we may ascertain in what the wrong consists, the consequences of which have been so destructive; and also to see if it may not be lurking among us, producing the same diseases; differing only in degree, and waiting but for a few more revolutions of the wheels of time to become as disastrous in the new, as it has in the old world. If God has so ar-

ranged the code of nature, that society shall suffer in proportion to the wrong it commits, or duties it neglects, we apprehend no difficulty in identifying the wrong that has been the cause of such a degree of suffering as that which the people of Ireland have recently undergone, when we shall have probed our way to it.

The fathers of our country declared the proper duties of government to be, to secure the inalienable rights of men; and those rights they said, were "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness;" in which we understand are included all those rights and privileges which God or nature has conferred upon man, and which he cannot create for himself, and are essential to his physical comfort, and the full development of all the powers with which nature has endowed him, including the free use of earth, and all the other elements, together with all the faculties of body and mind, so far as is consistent with the equal rights of all.

Man is so constituted, that to live, there must be a constant connection between his respiratory organs and the atmosphere. To intercept that connection, or impose any restrictions upon it, is as much a violation of the right to life, as imprisonment would be of the right to liberty. The same is true with regard to all other rights and elements. As in case of light and the pursuit of happiness; man being so constituted as to render light essential to the pursuit of happiness, to intercept it through organs placed within him for its reception, or impose any restrictions upon his access to it, would be an infringement of this right. There is also a connection between a man's stomach and the earth he inhabits, which, if cut off or destroyed, will cause certain death, as to destroy the connection between his lungs and the atmosphere he breathes.—To throw any obstruction, then, between him and the earth he is under the necessity of cultivating for a subsistence, or to put it in the power of the few to extort and appropriate to themselves, the means of living produced from the earth by the many, through the power of title deeds, or by whatever means, is manifestly violating the foundation of all right. To acknowledge a man's inalienable right to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," and then demand of him a price for water to slake his thirst,—atmosphere to breathe,—or such a portion of the earth's surface as is necessary to supply his natural wants, is absolute mockery. However plausible it may seem in the light of time-honored practice, it is a system that originated in the darker ages, and when carried to its legitimate extent, and viewed in the light of self-evident truth, is no less an outrage upon Humanity, than the tearing of a child from its mother's bosom, and demanding a price for its return.

Herein consists the great wrong, the awful penalty which has fell with such destruction upon the people of Ireland. The beautiful green earth, spread out by a bountiful providence for the common sustenance of all, has been wrested from the hands of the cultivator and passed into those of land monopolists, or money lords; so that he can no longer enjoy it as an inheritance from his creator, or as an inalienable right, and can find access to it only through the mercy or caprice of such as have it "represented upon parchment, and filed away in iron safes." The produce of his labor that should have been used to feed, clothe, and educate his children, has been taken from them in enormous rents, and lavished upon idleness and luxury, or flung to dogs. The deeds of the landlord, backed by the power of the government, have intercepted the connection between their stomachs and the soil on which they were born, and they have starved.

We think it must be apparent to all, that the government which sways the destiny of Ireland, has not only failed of discharging its highest duty, that of securing to the people their inalienable rights, but, if not the principal, it has been necessary to her greatest suffering.

But, let us see how the case stands in our own country, among ourselves.

It is generally supposed that our government has discharged all of its highest functions, viz: the securing to the people their inalienable rights; and that all the people, with the exception of about three millions of chattel slaves, are in full possession of all their natural rights; and that every person might, by industry and economy, secure a comfortable home; and that all the means of moral, physical, and intellectual development, so far as nature has provided, are within the reach of all; and that poverty and want are exclusively the result of individual, and not of any social wrong.

We are of the opinion that the reverse of this is true; that the government of the United States, and of the several States, instead of securing to the people their natural rights, have actually usurped them, and are doing them out at a price; and that poverty, ignorance, and crime exist in the most favored parts of our country in consequence of this usurpation, and by force of circumstances within reach of legislative enactment, combined with individual effort.

The first, and most essential right with which man is endowed, we consider to be, the right of each individual to so much of the earth's surface as is necessary for the supply of his natural wants.

Man cannot live without land. Neither can he live without bread. But it is not essential to natural equality that he should have bread furnished ready for his table; for God has only furnished the elements out of which it can be obtained, and has ordained labor as a means of obtaining it. But if one man has to labor for the support of another a part, or all of his life, as a condition of using these elements for himself, while the other has free access to them, or is enabled to control a greater portion of them than he needs, there is manifestly an inequality that does not exist in the order of nature.

Perhaps we can illustrate our views on this point no better than by the universally acknowledged right of all to the sea. No man or nation of men created the sea; therefore no nation has a right to monopolize it. It is the free gift of God to all, therefore all have an equal right to it. It is the same with regard to the earth. No man or nation of men created the earth; therefore no nation has a right to monopolize it. It is the free gift of God to all, therefore all have an equal right to it.

usurp this right, and throw it into the market as an article of traffic, like stock in a railroad, as they have done with the land, there would then be a monopoly of the sea as there is now of the land; so that no individual could have access to it except on such terms as the monopolists would be able to extort; and these would be high or low, according to the demand for the products of the sea, or the use of it as a means of communication between nations.

It is plain to be seen that whoever should attempt to live by fishing, would have to contribute from the products of his labor to the support of idleness and extravagance, as those now do who draw their sustenance from the soil under the present system of land monopoly. That land monopoly was the primary, if not the sole cause of the recent famine in Ireland, we have no doubt. That cause was imported into this country with the first grant of land made upon this continent. That it is fast reducing us to the condition of a dependent tenantry, as in Europe, is everywhere manifest to all who examine this subject. "By it, the laboring masses of every civilized country have been robbed of their freedom, and the proceeds of their labor." That equality, declared to be the birthright of all, is not, and can not be realized with it. Amidst the fast increasing means of human elevation in our country, there is even now, as rapidly increasing an amount of misery and wretchedness, staring our statesmen and politicians in the face, which neither banks, sub-treasury, tariffs, or free trade, or any other nostrum proposed by them can remedy. We have in the town of Pittsford no less than sixty families living in hired tenements, paying an average rent of \$25 each, making an annual draught of \$1,500 upon their earnings, to be distributed among those who are able to control more than they are able to use; being thirty families to each thousand inhabitants. Apply this ratio to the population of the State, and we have 5,700 families that can say, "the birds have nests, and the foxes have holes, but we have not where to lay our heads;" and upon whose aggregate earnings there is an annual draught of \$220,000; a sum more than sufficient to have paid for our State House, and saved to the rising generation their school fund of which they have been robbed. There is not the remotest probability that any considerable portion of these can, by laboring at wages under the present laws, become the owners of a home, or a sufficient amount of capital to sustain themselves as independent laborers.

Our State will soon be traversed by rail-roads, which will cause a rise in the price of land, a scarcity of fuel, greater competition among laborers, an increased demand for rent, and ultimately a more inadequate compensation for labor. So long as the present land system continues, we see nothing better in reserve for the laborer at wages, but something altogether worse. That "overgrown wealth—a disposition to oppress—luxury—pride and immorality—poverty—degrading dependence and servility—abasing ignorance and crime," are its certain and unavoidable results, we fully believe.

Were there no land monopoly, society, instead of being as we now see it, broken into isolated antagonistic fragments, would be one continuous congenial neighborhood. Each individual would be the owner of a portion of his mother earth. Says GEORGE SMITH, "were the soil properly distributed, the rich and the poor would rapidly approach that happiest of all conditions, which lies mid-way between them." "I would," says he, "have every man own a portion of this mother earth. The mechanic, if he have no garden and no time to cultivate it, should at least own a flower patch, or a grass plot; and even the seaman, though he be not able to revisit it twice in half a dozen years, should also own a speck of earth, which he may think of when upon their blows, and hasten to at the close of his voyage."

There are natural resources in Vermont, sufficient to sustain comfortably and independently, five or ten times the present population. The amount of wild, uncultivated land, within the jurisdiction of the United States, is estimated to be equal to two acres to each inhabitant of the globe. There can be no reason in nature then, why a single family should be without a home, or labor for the support of others as a condition of owning.

This rendering one portion of the people dependent on another, for those primary means of production, which a common providence has so abundantly bestowed upon all, is an abuse that ought to be no longer tolerated.

The National Reformers propose three, plain, simple, practical measures, based upon man's inalienable rights, which if adopted and carried into effect, would do more to harmonize the interests of capital, machinery, and labor, and to promote the happiness of the whole people, and render permanent our Republican institutions, than all the legislation for the last half century.

"Homestead Exemption—Land Limitation—and Freedom of the Public Lands to actual settlers." We place homestead exemption first, because it is more immediately comestible; it being but an extension of an established principle. This measure, if adopted, would go far to give to what among us is commonly called the credit system, that equilibrium which would render it a blessing, instead of a curse, to both creditor and debtor. It would leave the unfortunate debtor, who, through a want of necessary prudence and foresight, should find himself involved beyond his depth, an opportunity to retrieve his credit and standing instead of being driven with his family away from home, to become ever after a prey to a swarm of avaricious creditors.

It would render the creditors' collection more certain in proportion as it would render the debtor less liable to become reduced beyond hope of recovery. It would secure many a wife, widow, and orphan from want, when their natural protector, the husband and father should be stricken down by misfortune or death.

Its tendency would be to increase the number of freeholders, by inspiring thousands who are in dependency, with courage to exert themselves to acquire a home.

But, aside from this; The Home!—where the religious man erects his altar; around which the family are accustomed to bend the knee in worship; where parents and children, brothers and sisters, relatives and friends, are accustomed to meet and exchange with each other their joyous salutations

and mingle together their tears of sympathy for each other's misfortunes, should, above all things else, be held sacred and inviolable.

As to land limitation, if mankind in general have a right to till the earth, it necessarily follows that each individual must have a right to till a portion of it; and that no one can rightfully extend his possession so far as to interfere with this right in others.

If our premises are correct, that all those rights conferred upon man by nature, which he cannot create for himself, are inalienable, and that it is the duty of the government to secure to each of its constituents their inalienable rights, we see not why it should not fix some limit to the amount of land hereafter acquired, the peaceful possession of which it will guarantee to any one individual.—Upon what principle the powers of the government should be taxed to protect a few in the possession of that which violates the rights of all, we are unable to perceive. There is evidence that our city populations are increasing in great disproportion to the agricultural population; and we are not without danger from their becoming festering sores upon our country, engendering and diffusing moral and physical disease throughout society. The stock in our railroads is chiefly owned by city capitalists.—That which was originally taken in the country, mostly flows to the city before the enterprise is completed. When these reservoirs for the surplus capital of the cities shall become full, and capital shall seek an investment in the soil, land will begin to rise, and wages fall in a corresponding ratio. Let the millionaires but become the owners of the soil in the country as extensively as they are of the stock in the railroads, and their property in the bones and sinews of the working lipeds of the north, will be far more complete, yet much cheaper than is that of the southern slaveholder in his chattel man. It matters not how wealthy an individual or a company may become, provided they do not trample their natural rights so as to deprive others of the primary means of wealth.

The soundest political maxim we conceive to be, to keep the soil as far as possible in the hands of those who cultivate it. We see no way of accomplishing this more effectually than by fixing a constitutional limit to land monopoly. Were our farmers sufficiently informed on this subject, to procure from the Council of Censors such a proposition of amendment to the Constitution, they would accomplish more by way of securing homes for their children, than by a life of exertion spent in any other way. Without land limitation one half of the people must ever remain the virtual slaves of the other half.

As regards the public lands, we hold it to be the true policy and the duty of the General Government to keep them surveyed into townships and farms of reasonable size, free to actual settlers, requiring only satisfactory security for their cultivation and improvement as a condition of title. As fast as new Territories are admitted to the Union, the remaining uncultivated soil should be transferred to the State, on condition of such a disposal being made of it. Says Dr. Wayland, in his Elements of Political Economy, "division of property, or the appropriation to each of his particular portion of that which God has given to all, lays at the foundation of all accumulation of wealth, and of all progress in civilization." This being the case, the selling of the choicest lands in large tracts to non-resident capitalists, must be any thing but conducive to public interests; for, it is not only depriving a part of their particular portion of that which God has given to all, but it is manifestly a grant of power from the Government to appropriate the earnings of those who are thus robbed of their rights, to an extent proportioned to the power of land monopoly.

Of the means and probability of the attainment of these measures, we will merely say that, "in 1845, through the agency of the National Reform Association, a National Convention was called with a view to effect as far as possible a union of reformers; at which a plan of organization, by which the soil may be restored to the people, by political action, was completed." Of its success thus far, we may judge from the fact that the subject is already occupying the attention of the constitutional conventions and legislatures of several of the different States of the Union; and that there are over one hundred newspapers in the different sections of the country committed to its support.

That this organization will go on, gaining accessions till it has power to influence the now organized parties to adopt these measures, we have not a doubt.

Fortunately we are in possession of the ballot box; and with it, power to arrest the further progress of false, partial legislation. Not however by merely following either of the old political parties. They have already led us a long dance in a downward course. Every step taken in their direction will but sink us and the country deeper in degradation than we now are. With them, politics have become a trade, and have ceased to be a principle.—they are merely scrambling for power and plunder, as is manifest from the getting up of the present war by the one, contravening their professed objects, and the voting for it of men and money by other, in face of their repeated protestations against its justice and constitutionality.

With them, party ascendancy is the ruling principle. They both rob the poor of those means of moral and intellectual culture which nature has bestowed upon all, and then enter to their ignorance and prejudices for votes to sustain themselves in their infamous doings.

All that is required for the speedy success of these measures, is, that the friends of National Reform disenthral themselves from all party trammels, of whatever nature, and take a position to act in concert with whichever party will best promote this great end. Would the laboring masses but strike hands, and exert themselves politically for their own interest, as perseveringly as they now do for their own injury in the ranks of the different parties, they would rid themselves from the support of drones and idlers, and recover their natural rights, with far less of exertion than it now costs them for either party to obtain a victory over the other.—Let them but assume their proper position, and lead those parties instead of allowing themselves longer to be led by them, or in other words, use them as engines of power, for the attainment of high and noble ends, instead of allowing themselves to be used by them for demagogic purposes, and they may rest assured of triumphant success.—

Resolved.

That a committee of three be appointed to correspond with such persons in other parts of this County as are favorable to the leading measures of National Reform, and to call a County Convention of such persons as subscribe to these principles, to wit:—that all men are created equally free, "with certain inalienable rights, among which are the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness;"—to such a portion of the earth and other elements as will be sufficient to provide them with the means of comfort—to education and paternal protection from society; at such time and place between the 20th of May and the 20th of June next, as shall be thought most advisable; to adopt such measures as in the opinion of said Convention will best promote the cause of National Reform.

Voted that this address and resolution be signed by the Chairman and Secretary, and that the Editors of the Voice of Freedom, Young America and Spirit of the Age, be requested to give them an insertion in their columns.

H. G. DERBY, Chairman.
W. C. COTTING, Secretary.

* Organ of the National Reform Society, N. Y.

For the Voice of Freedom.

SALEM COUNTY, N. J.,
March 28, 1848.

Dear Sir:—I left Vermont in September

last and came south for the purpose of teaching. I am located in the southern part of New Jersey, in the county of Salem, near the head of Delaware Bay, having obtained a situation immediately after my arrival in this place. The standard of education, here, is rather low, owing no doubt to the scarcity of well qualified instructors. Intelligent and enterprising young men, who are desirous to follow this pursuit as a profession, will find better opportunities here than at the north; not that the pay is so much more liberal, but the employment is more permanent. A change in the method of teaching, I believe, is about to be effected through a law lately enacted by the legislature of the State, to establish Normal Schools for the purpose of educating teachers.

The surface of the country hereabouts, is quite low and level, there being no hills or mountains visible in any direction; a singular prospect, indeed, to one who was never before out of sight of the Green Mountain ranges. The land is in an excellent state of cultivation. The soil is variable, consisting in some places of clay, mixed more or less with loam; in others it is sandy, but very productive, raising wheat, corn, oats, potatoes, apples and peaches in abundance. Much system and economy is manifested by the farmers in tilling the land, who, as a class, are very intelligent, moral and industrious. A large proportion of them rent the farms on which they labor, or conduct them on shares, and although rent is high, yet the facility for raising grain, "truck," &c., and the proximity to ready markets, enable the major part of their number to accumulate gradually a competence, and live almost as independently as the owners of the soil.

They keep few sheep, more cattle, and make considerable butter, but little cheese, devoting the soil chiefly to the raising of grain and fruit. Lime and marl are principally used for enriching the soil. Of the former they apply from twenty to fifty bushels to the acre, using less on worn out lands, lest it may kill the soil entirely, but increasing the quantity from year to year as the soil renews its strength. On good land one application is sufficient for five or six years. It is obtained in market at a cost of seven or eight cents per bushel.

Since observing the importance attached to the use of lime in this section, as a manure, I have wondered why your farmers at the north so seldom make use of it to resuscitate worn out lands. It is, however, quite possible that it might not produce the same effect upon your soil in Vermont, that it does here; but it seems to be the opinion of the most experienced men here, with whom I have often conversed on the subject, that, when properly applied, it will benefit almost any kind of soil.

Many farms in this vicinity have been greatly improved by the use of marl, a kind of green earth mixed with blue sand, and shells. Its essential ingredient is lime, and its value depends upon the proportion of calcareous matter it contains. It is found in alluvial districts, in beds from four to twenty feet beneath the surface. The bones of marine and land animals are often discovered embedded in this material. The shells of oysters and various other testaceous shells, have been dug up at a depth of many feet below the surface, some of which exceed five pounds in weight. The quantity of marl applied to the acre varies according to its quality. In some places the marl is so strong that five loads suffice for an acre, and in others from twenty to a hundred are profitably used. The price is about twenty-five cents per load.

The winter has been very short and mild. It set in late, the fields being quite green until near the 10th of December. Snow fell but two or three times, not enough to make good sleighing, and remaining but a few days

either time. The first fall was about Christmas, the last near the beginning of the present month.

The roads here during the winter were very muddy; but now they have become settled—the traveling is good. The weather for several days has been so warm that no fire has been used in the parlors. Wheat is looking up—the fields are putting on their garments of green, while the merry notes of the feathered songsters are chanting their sweet music in all directions, which give every indication of a fast approaching summer.

The farmers are busily engaged in preparing the soil for seed-sowing, and some even have commenced planting. The time for fishing is also at hand, and hundreds of fishermen are setting their gill-nets, elated with hopes of reaping a rich harvest. During the spring, abundance of shad are caught in the bay, the river and their tributary streams, a more particular account of which I will give you another time, provided my communications are acceptable.

Yours very respectfully,

O. L. R.

Send them on—they will take well here. Variety is the call from our readers.—Ed. Voice.

For the Voice of Freedom.

Mr. Editor:—Having noticed with gratification that you take a deep interest in agricultural affairs by promoting its interests through your valuable paper, I would like to have you publish the following:—the result of three years' experimenting on the Potato Rot. There has been so much written upon this subject, it seems like folly to offer any thing new. But learning that New York has sent a petition to Congress "praying that an inquiry should be instituted to find a remedy to stay this disease of vegetable matter;"—I thought it not amiss to lay this before the public.

It is a common practice among farmers, to plant their potatoes after their other spring's work is done, and upon such land as fancy dictates, which is always very moist. Now this is the cause. Reverse this, and you have no cause. I planted a piece of land to potatoes in April, 1845, and a piece in June; the first were all sound, while the last were all rotten. The next year I planted the first of May, and my neighbors the first of June. There was not a rotten one among mine;—my neighbors' were nearly all rotten. Last year I planted the first of May, the first of June and of July. Those of the May plant, were all sound;—those of June were half rotten; whilst those of July were completely so. I have enquired extensively, and in no instance has it failed, but what an early plant has produced a sound crop; and a late plant an infected crop.

The theory of it, is this:—The disease commences in the tops of potatoes about the middle of July;—without respect to the age of the plant;—Then of course, the early plants are ripened so much, that the disease does not injure them; the tops will decay, but the potatoes will remain sound; whilst those planted in June, (being scarcely in the blossom when attacked by the disease— which will be at the same time the first plant is attacked,) from their exceeding greenness, will decay, "top and bottom;" at once.—Make this your rule. Plant EARLY, on dry ground, and keep off your "top dressing;" and Congress will not be troubled with any petitions relative to this strange malady.

Yours respectfully,
Rochester, Vt., Feb. 22, '48.

MURDER.—The proprietor of a porterhouse at the corner of Fourth-avenue and Thirty-first-st., by the name of Patrick Cogan, was killed last evening by being struck a blow on the head with a heavy club by a pedlar known as Dutch Jake. According to the best information obtained it appears that as Jake and some of his friends were passing the house of Cogan with a large dog, the latter was attacked by another dog belonging to a person then at Cogan's house, and on Jake's attempting to separate the two dogs he was knocked down by one of Cogan's acquaintances or customers, whereupon Jake and his companions, after providing themselves with clubs at an engine house, repaired to the house of Cogan, and on being refused admission to find the person who had knocked down one of Jake's friends, Jake struck Cogan a severe blow on the head which caused Cogan's death in about two hours after the occurrence.—N. Y. Trib. 17th.

THE LATE JOHN JACOB ASTOR.—The Sun avers that it is currently reported, and that great credence is given to the report, that the late John Jacob Astor has never been naturalized. It is said that upon examination of the books of the United States Court from 1784 to the present time his name does not appear. If such is the case, adds the Sun, his immense property must revert to the State, a sum which could amply provide for the liquidation of the State Debt and provide for the School Fund.—N. Y. Trib.

"That child don't look at all like its mother," was the remark of an old lady on seeing a new born child. "Very likely," said the mother honestly, "for fashions have changed so much, and he came into the world so long after me, that it could not be expected he would."