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BENTON ON BANKS & CURRENCY.

WASHINGTON, C. STREET, NOV. 15, 1857. To the Editors of the National Intelligencer:

GENTLEMEN: Many papers, desirous of the establishment of a National Bank, are quoting what General Jackson said in favor of such an institution at the beginning of his presidency. I have to remind all such papers that what was so said was said before Gen. Jackson saw a prospect of restoring the currency of the Constitution, and that, after he saw that prospect, he said nothing more in favor of Banks, National or State, but the contrary, and labored during the remainder of his public life to restore and preserve the hard money currency which the founders of our Government had secured (as they believed) for us. The plan of that restoration and preservation consisted of five parts, namely: 1. To revive the gold currency by correcting the erroneous standard of 1791. 2. To create a demand for hard money by making it the exclusive currency of the Federal Treasury. 3. To make sure of this money by keeping it in its own treasuries. 4. To suppress all paper currency under twenty dollars by a stamp duty. 5. To wind up all defaulting banks by a bankruptcy law against delinquents.

The first three of these five parts were accomplished, and to these we are indebted for twenty years exemption—from 1837 to 1857—from bank suspensions and depreciated currency; also, for carrying the country through a foreign war—the Mexican—without paper money, and with the public securities above par; also, for having in the country at this time full fifteen times as much hard money as we had in the time of the late Bank of the United States; and we are indebted to the want of the two latter parts of the plan for what we now see: nearly two thousand banks in the country, a great part of them frauds from the beginning, and the bad governing the good; a general suspension in a season of peace and prosperity; people are forced to use depreciated paper when there is more hard money in the country than its business could employ; men and women begging for work, and unable to obtain it, when the country needs all they can do, and has the means to pay for it; families crying for bread, when a bountiful Providence has given the most exuberant crops that ever were seen; the business of twenty five millions of people deranged, disordered and thrown out of joint; and all this the work of the base part of the banks, falling down of themselves for want of foundations, and dragging the solid ones after them. For it is in this case of bank suspensions as it is with a ship sinking at sea, where those who cannot swim drag down those who can.—A stamp duty on their notes, and a bankruptcy process against themselves would have saved the country from the calamities it now endures; for many of the base order of banks would have been unable to "make currency," for want of money to pay for stamps on their notes, and others would have been proper subjects for the bankruptcy process in the first few days of their existence.

The restoration of the gold currency was effected under General Jackson's Administration the establishment of the hard money currency for the Federal Government and the keeping of its own money in its own treasuries, was accomplished under Mr. Van Buren, both of which Presidents took the full responsibility of recommending these three measures, and also the two others—the two for the imposition of a stamp duty on all paper money under twenty dollars, and for a bankruptcy act against defaulting banks. Bills were repeatedly brought into Congress for both purposes, but were always defeated by the d-faction of the paper-money wing of the Democratic party.

The most plausible of the open objections made against the stamp duty was in the expense and the extensive machinery for its collection. That was answered by providing a cheap and simple process for both purposes—a clerk in the Treasury Department for a superintendent of the business, and the clerks of the Federal courts to deliver out the stamps which they received from the treasury. The amount of the duty, and whether it should apply to all notes or only to those intended to be suppressed, were questions on which there was room for some diversity of opinion.—The pre-dominant opinion was that there should be a duty upon all notes issued as currency, (for what more fit to be taxed than the moneyed powers) the duty being the same on all notes, and such as the large one could easily carry and the small ones not. The amount of the duty was held necessary to be large—far greater than in Great Britain; for there no note is re-issued; no one goes out of the bank a second time, so that the duty in England is paid every time the bank issues a note. Not so in the United States. Here a note is re-issued until it is worn out: until it has become too ragged to hold together, or too filthy to be handled, or too defaced to be deciphered. A small duty is, therefore, sufficient in Great Britain; it would require a very heavy one to be its equivalent in the United States. Among the penalties for violating the act, either by issuing, receiving, or passing the unstamped paper, should be a disqualification to retain or receive a Federal appointment; for the pursuit of office is so general at this time in our country, and so ardent, that, in arraying a class so large, so influential, and active against the unstamped notes, their circulation would be effectually checked.

The paper-money wing of the Democracy was still more against the bankruptcy act against bankrupt banks than against the stamp tax on notes; and, acting with the habitual opponents of the party to which they professed to belong, easily defeated all the bills. The open objection came from the lawyers, with their professional idea, drawn chiefly from British statutes, that merchants and traders were the proper

subjects of the bankrupt law,* although every late British statute on the subject includes banks, (the Bank of England excepted); and in a single season of suspension (that of 1813-14-15) ninety-two of these banks had been subjected to commissions of bankruptcy. But this remedy was not of English, but of Roman origin, as its name would show, ("banucus," and "ruplus,") and bankers were the original objects of the law, as the same name also shows. "Broken Bench" is the English of the Latin name, and was so called because the bankers (money changers of that time, as now in the east) had their benches in public places, on which they sat and did business; and when any one became delinquent, or criminal, he was driven away and his bench was broken. And thus, in its origin, bankruptcy was a process against banks and bankers, and still is in Great Britain; and hence retains its original name of Broken-Bench—the bench so broken being the sign and warning to the public that the banker himself was insolvent and deprived of his place of doing business.

Banking in the United States is the most unrestrained and unsafe that there is in the world; unsafe even for solid and well conducted banks there being enough of the unsolid and badly conducted to fall down of themselves every few years, and to drag down the rest with them. The laws put few restraints or penalties upon them; and these restraints and penalties are regularly repealed just as often as the community needs the benefit of them. It is by name in some places, and by fact in others, a system of "free banking," which the hard-money Democracy was accustomed to call "free swindling." Anybody becomes banker that pleases, and issues small notes and sends them off to a distance to be circulated and lost, and to sink upon the heads of the laboring people. A favorite plan is to issue notes on one place payable at another far off, out of the way, and difficult to get at, so as to compel the holder to submit to a shave. That mode of doing business was invented by a Scotchman of Aberdeen in 1806; but he was in Great Britain, not in the United States; and the British Ministry and the British Parliament immediately took cognizance of the inventor and his imitators, and placed them all in the category of swindlers, and so put an end to their operations. No stamp duty, no bankruptcy act, and no requisition to keep any proportionate amount of hard money on hand completes the license and unbounded freedom, and the perfect title to periodical explosions, which belong to American banking.

This last requisition, that of keeping on hand an amount of hard money proportionate to their liabilities, seems to be unknown (even in name) in the United States; yet that requisite is a legal and fundamental condition of the Bank of England; and the proportion of one-third in gold of the total amount of its liabilities in circulation and deposits is the rate enforced; and below that proportion the Bank of England does not deem itself safe. Thus swore Mr. Horsley Palmer, Governor of the Bank of England, before Lord Althorpe's committee, in 1832: "The average proportion, as already observed, of coin and bullion which the bank deems it prudent to keep on hand, is at the rate of a third of the total amount of all her liabilities, including deposits as well as issues." And thus swore Mr. George Ward Norman, a director of the Bank: "For a full state of the circulation and deposits, say twenty-one millions of notes and six millions of deposits, making in the whole twenty-seven millions of liabilities, the proper

*The American lawyer seldom looks beyond the statute of Elizabeth, which was the first to confine the bankrupt process to merchants and traders; if they would look a little further back—look into the reign of that Queen's father—they would find a statute sufficiently comprehensive to include others besides merchants and traders; and the preamble to which is an accurate description of many of those who in our country, and at this day, follow the pursuit of issuing "currency" for the American people. That preamble says: "Whereas divers and sundry persons craftily obtained into their hands great substances of other men's goods; do suddenly flee to parts unknown, or keep their houses, not minding to pay or restore to any of their creditors their debts and duties, but at their own wills and own pleasures consume the substance obtained by credit of other men for their own advantage and daily living, against all reason, equity, and good conscience." Anno 34, Henry VIII.

A specimen of modern banking in the United States is seen in one of the latest of these institutions, duly chartered to issue "currency"—the "Granite Bank of Volantown," Connecticut; whereas the Hartford (Connecticut) Times gives this brief and no doubt, veracious account: "The charter was passed, and for four or five months it was not heard of again. But suddenly, on or about the first of November instant, the bills of the Granite Bank of Volantown appeared in the market. The bank commissioners were in this city at the time, and though having their hands full of business in various parts of the State, they repaired at once to Volantown. There a very rich scene was opened to them. They found, we understand, the following state of affairs: "The managers of the bank, on or about the first instant, procured (i. e. borrowed for the occasion) a package of bills, or a package of something which they called \$30,000. This was the paid in capital of the bank, and upon this they commenced business, though on Saturday last they sent this same package back to New York, as they claim, to procure specie for it. They have issued \$17,000 in bills and had circulated them in various parts of the country. "Five thousand dollars in bills were taken by a man who was to circulate them in Ohio. This man left a receipt for them, and verbally promised to send on a note when he arrived in Ohio. "The assets were between three and four hundred dollars in coin, a one dollar bill on Windham County Bank, and a second-hand iron safe, not yet paid for. Also the receipt of the Ohio man for \$5,000 in the Granite bills."

This is a sample of a recent chartered bank in one of the oldest States. Here is another recent sample from one of the youngest Territories: "The Legislature of Kansas at its last winter session (1856-'57) chartered a number of Banks to issue currency, one of which at Leecompton was required to have \$50,000 in specie, before it could begin work. In the late Convention, while providing for a new bank of three millions, the fact came out in debate that the Leecompton bank, without a dollar in hard money, obtained its certificate from the Governor this summer past in this wise: It borrowed \$2,000, and putting \$1,000 into two bags, and, while the Governor counted one bag at a time, the other was carried out and brought in again; and this was done until \$50,000 were counted, and the certificate obtained."

sum in coin and bullion for the bank to retain is nine millions." And to the same effect swore other directors. But in Great Britain it is not sufficient that this proportion of one-third is required to be on hand, but it must be shown and that continually, that it is there.* This is accomplished by the publication of the quarterly weekly average of the liabilities and assets of the bank, from which the public can always see when the bank has crossed the line of safety. How different this from banking in the United States, where no proportionate rate of specie to the liabilities is even prescribed; and when five, ten, fifty, and hundred paper dollars for one hard one in the vault, are frequently issued.

But one thing was wanting to complete the title of our banking system to utter unworthiness, and that one thing has been discovered—it is the disposition of the specie basis: Throughout the world, so far as paper money is known, a specie basis is deemed necessary to an institution which issues promises to pay specie. Not so in the United States. Paper upon paper has become the vogue with us. Stocks, and bills of other banks, are the "sandy" foundation upon which a large proportion of our banks are built.

I do not expatiate upon the evils of small paper money; they are palpable to every observer, and only require enumeration: 1. It drives away all hard money of equal denominations; for, in a competition between two currencies, the meanest is always the conqueror and chases the other out of the field. 2. It is the great source of the crime of counterfeiting; for the mass of the counterfeiters consist of small notes. 3. It demoralizes the community; for people, not being willing to lose a note for which they have given value, instead of burning it, put it back in the pocket and offer it again to an ignorant person, who receives it, and who goes through the same process when rejected in his hands. 4. Small notes make the panic and bring on the runs which break down good banks; for these small notes being in the hands of the masses, when they get alarmed, they assemble by thousands at the doors of the institution which issued the notes, demand the money, break the banks, and propagate the alarm which they themselves feel until it becomes general; for nothing is more contagious than a motion panic, nor anything more unmanageable. 5. It pillages the poor and the ignorant; for every base note, every one that is counterfeit, or on a broken bank, or on a bank that never existed, although it will run for a while, must stop somewhere; and when it does, it sure to stop in the hands of the poor and uninformed, upon that class least able to bear the loss, who have no advantage from banks while in operation, and who bear the loss when they stop. 6. It excites to swindling; for knaves, with nothing but brass for their capital, and that in their faces instead of their coffers, are induced to set up manufacturing of small paper, to be sent abroad and sunk upon the hands of those among whom it is scattered; all that is so sunk being clear gains to the manufacturer. 7. It induces and even compels people to be wasteful of their money; for such is the natural honest and just contempt and distrust of small notes, that he or she that receives one, hurries off to lay it out for something not needed, while a piece of gold of the same amount would be valued and cherished, and laid by and added to, until enough accumulated to make a purchase of something needed and useful. 8. It subjects the payer to be cheated or worsted in change; for, giving paper in payment, he must receive the change in other paper, and for this purpose, the meanest raggard, dirty, and worthless will always be picked out and shoved upon him. In short, such are the evils, the crimes, the demoralization and cheating of small paper money, that all nations, except the United States, place it in the category of a criminal agent, and suppress it accordingly.

Twenty odd years ago, when we were laboring to restore the constitutional currency to the Government and the people, the ready objection, repeated by all the friends of paper money, was, that there was not gold and silver in the world to carry on the business of the United States; and the ready answer to that objection was, that there was precisely enough; and that exactly enough would come to the United States if we would only create a demand for it by correcting the gold standard, and suppressing small paper, and suppressing the plan of a magnificent project, the other a dazzled capitalist, ready to snap at the bait. He hesitated a little; but was not unyielding, merely making a few objections for conscience sake.

Near these two passed a couple of youngsters, of ten or twelve years. They were looking into a tobacco shop close by, and one cried out to the other: "By the pipe! I'd like to smoke a sou's worth of tobacco." "Well," said the other, "buy a sou's worth." "Ah! as luck will have it, I haven't a sou." "Hold on, I've got two sou's." "That's the ticket, just the thing—one for the pipe, and one for the tobacco." "Oh, yes! but what am I to do?" "You? Oh, you shall be a stockholder; you can spit!" It was a flash of light. The capitalist thrust his hand into his pocket and fled. The speculator cast a furious look at the two urchins, and turned down the street.

A CANDIDATE IN A FIX.—The Detroit Free Press avers that the Republican candidate for Mayor in that City visited the Detroit Locomotive Works to palaver the workmen. While doing the usual shaking of hands his coat tail was caught in the machinery and he was whirled up to the ceiling amidst frantic kicks and struggles on his part. While in this picturesque attitude it is said that he insisted on shaking hands with several of "the boys," who crowded around to see the fun. Getting red in the face, and having kicked himself out of breath, he was lowered away, after which he speedily "disburbed."

Table with financial data: LIABILITIES, ASSETS, Circulation, Deposits, Securities, Bull'n & coin, etc.

the foremost manufacturing country, requires the greatest amount of money; and has it, to wit: about eleven dollars a head; and Russia, so largely agricultural, requires the least amount of money, and can employ but about four dollars a head; So the United States, in small part manufacturing and largely agricultural and planting, would find her maximum demand for money somewhere half way between the two—say, eight dollars a head; which, at the present amount of the white population, (say twenty-five millions,) would give two hundred millions as the national demand; always remembering that the great payments are made with crops and bills of exchange founded on the proceeds of industry. And thus it becomes a proposition demonstrated that the United States, since the correction of the gold standard twenty-three years ago, have received a supply of gold to four or five times the amount which the business-operations of the people could employ. Of that amount the leading banks estimated two hundred and ninety millions to be remaining in the country at the commencement of the present panic; and since that time more than twelve millions have arrived, and very little gone; so that three hundred millions would be the present estimate of the amount of gold and silver in the country; being one hundred millions more than the business of the country would employ. Three hundred millions is exactly fifteen times as much as the United States possessed in the time of the late Bank of the United States. Twenty millions was the whole amount at that time, and that all in silver—not a particle of gold being then in circulation. And it is exactly thirty times as much as the whole Union possessed at the time of the termination of the first National Bank; the whole supply being then but ten millions, and that all silver.

Under these circumstances, (\$300,000,000 in gold in the country, peace and prosperity throughout Europe and America, great crops and good health), there was nothing in the state of the country to justify the suspension, or anything to justify its continuance. The only solution of such a catastrophe is the obvious one, to wit, the failure of bad banks and the consequent run which their failure made upon the good ones. The insolvent pulled down the solvent; and the Legislatures of several States have put all on an equality; but the solvent should repulse the association. The living body should not be tied to the dead one. The solvent should recommence their payments, and make visible the broad line between the sound and the rotten, which the Legislatures have covered up; and public sentiment would then soon dispose of the latter in spite of legislative interference.

The solvent banks can and will resume, and that will satisfy those who do not look beyond the evil of the day; but those who look ahead and see new evils in the perspective, and to the legislative power whose duty it is to provide against evils before they happen, something more will be seen to be necessary. A recurrence of such calamities, in the view of all such, should be guarded against, and can effectually be done by two acts of Federal legislation—a stamp-duty on paper currency, and a bankruptcy law against bankrupt banks.

There is not a monarch in Europe who would treat his subjects, or suffer them to be treated, as the people of the United States are treated by the base part of their own banks, and the indulgent Legislatures which legalize their violations of law, promises and contracts. The issue of currency and its regulation is an attribute of sovereignty, and every where is exercised by the sovereign power, except in the United States. Here, also, it was intended to be an attribute of sovereignty, and was placed in the hands of Congress, and limited to the issue of gold and silver, and the regulation of its value. For our present government was formed by hard-money men, who had seen and felt the disastrous and demoralizing effects of paper money, and were anxious to save their posterity from such calamities as they had suffered.—They did their part to save us. Shall we be false to ourselves and to them?

Respectfully THOMAS H. BENTON.

SPECULATORS AND CAPITALISTS.—This bit will fit other latitudes than that of Paris—a "good thing" of a Parisian gamin, (urchin, loafer boy.) It is lively, energetic, characteristic and effective:

Two gentlemen were chatting on the Boulevard. One was a great speculator, developing the plan of a magnificent project, the other a dazzled capitalist, ready to snap at the bait. He hesitated a little; but was not unyielding, merely making a few objections for conscience sake.

Near these two passed a couple of youngsters, of ten or twelve years. They were looking into a tobacco shop close by, and one cried out to the other: "By the pipe! I'd like to smoke a sou's worth of tobacco." "Well," said the other, "buy a sou's worth." "Ah! as luck will have it, I haven't a sou." "Hold on, I've got two sou's." "That's the ticket, just the thing—one for the pipe, and one for the tobacco." "Oh, yes! but what am I to do?" "You? Oh, you shall be a stockholder; you can spit!" It was a flash of light. The capitalist thrust his hand into his pocket and fled. The speculator cast a furious look at the two urchins, and turned down the street.

SLEEP. "God bless the man who first invented sleep!" "So Sancho Panza said, and so say I: And bless him, also, that he didn't keep His great discovery to himself; or try To make it—as the lucky fellow might—A close monopoly by "patent right!"

Yes—bless the man who first invented sleep! (I really can't avoid the iteration!) But blast the man, with curses loud and deep, Who wasters the rascal's name, or age, or station, Who first invented, and went round advising, That artificial cut-off—early rising!

"Rise with the lark, and with the lark to bed," Observes some solemn sentimental owl— Maxims like these are very cheaply said; But ere you make yourself a fool, or fowl, Pray just inquire about their rise—and fall, And whether larks have any beds at all!

The "time for honest folks to be a-bed," Is in the morning, if I reason right; But he who cannot keep his noxious head Upon his pillow till it's fairly light, And so enjoy his forty morning winks, Is up—to knavery; or else—he drinks!

Thomson, who sang about the "Seasons," said, It was a glorious thing to rise in season; But then he said it—lying—in his bed. At ten o'clock A. M.—the very reason He wrote so charmingly. The simple fact is, His preaching wasn't sanctioned by his practice.

"Tis, doubtless, well to be sometimes awake— Awake to duty and awake to truth— But when, alas! a nice review we take Of our best deeds and days, we find, in sooth, The hours, that leave the slightest cause to weep, Are those we passed in childhood, or—asleep!

'Tis beautiful to leave the world a while For the soft visions of the gentle night; And free, at last, from mortal care or guile, To live, as only in the angels' sight, In sleep's sweet realms so cozily shut in, Where, at the worst, we only dream of sin!

So let us sleep, and give the Maker praise; I like the lad who, when his father thought To curl his morning nap by hackneyed phrase Of vagrant woe by early songster caught, Cried, "I've served him right—it's not at all surprising— The worm was punished, sir, for early rising!"

THOMAS DICK AND EUGENE SUE.

The same mail from Europe which brought intelligence of the death of EUGENE SUE also bore tidings of the demise of Dr. THOMAS DICK, author of "The Christian Philosopher," and many other works written in vindication of the sacred and sublime truths of Revelation—works which, particularly in Scotland, have been circulated most extensively, consoling, teaching, and elevating the minds of millions. He ran his earthly course in pain and poverty. He did not sit at rich men's tables. He was not clothed in purple and fine linen. He had scanty, simple fare, and knew no luxury but that of doing his duty. In the fullest and most beneficent manner he was a Teacher of the People; devoted to scientific studies, and had the art—so rare and so valuable—of writing on these difficult and abstruse subjects so plainly, that even the peasant of his native land could understand him. Nor was his character unknown, unappreciated, or unhonored in this country. His numerous works (moral, religious, and scientific) were largely reprinted and circulated all over the Union. His name was even as a household word among hosts of serious-minded, thoughtful, religious people. American travelers who visited Scotland often went out of their way to visit him at his humble cottage, in the village of Broughty Ferry, on the banks of the silvery Tay. There they found an aged man, infirm of body but strong of mind, acute, and learned; poor in worldly riches, but whose life had indeed been devoted to laying up for himself treasures in heaven. The American heart warmly sympathized with this fine old man, and a few years ago, some benevolent and wealthy citizens of Philadelphia practically illustrated their sentiment toward him, by presenting him with a handsome pecuniary gift, as some provision for his closing days. Strangely enough, this American liberality led to Dr. Dick's receiving some justice, tardy and small enough, from the hands of the British Government. He was the recipient of a small pension, (£50 a year), and limited as this sole was, it sufficed for his humble wants. He died, a fortnight ago, at Broughty Ferry, at the ripe age of eighty-five.

About the same time there passed away, into the far Hereafter, the French novelist, EUGENE SUE, one of the most popular and mischievous writers ever produced by a country which, though it gave the world such men as FENELON, PASCAL, BOSSUET, and MASSILON, also cast up, on the scum of its society, such men as VOLTIERE, ROUSSEAU, PAUL DE KOCK, and ALEXANDRE DUMAS. Infidels, scoffers at all religious belief, socialists, and steeped in the very lowest obscenity, were the writers who, for several years, corrupted the mind of France. Chief among these ministers of evil was EUGENE SUE. Nor was the mischief he did confined to his own country. He wrote so remarkably well that his works got translated into almost every living language of Europe. They circulated widely in England, and here in America they commanded a sale so large that we should probably be considered romancing if we stated it. But, even at this risk, we will add that over a million of copies of "The Mysteries of Paris," "The Wandering Jew," and "The Seven Capital Sins," have been sold in the United States, at a price and in a form calculated to throw them into the hands of the masses. They figured largely among the infamous "yellow-cover literature," for some years a disgrace to our country, and they demoralized the public mind to a greater extent than can readily be calculated.

Communism and Socialism, with the strongest infusion of impiety and indecency, were the staple of EUGENE SUE's popular fictions. He painted vice in the most attractive manner, so that, looking at her gorgeous habiliments, the spectator scarcely heeded her laidly features. He was sensuous in his descriptions, and, even while sometimes pretending to condemn

him, drew its semblance so attractively that the opposite of repulsion was the effect produced. He was constant and consistent in insinuating and declaring that Reason, (as he called it, in the slang of the old Encyclopedists) was a surer and better guide than Revelation. All through his works there is a ruling doubt of God's goodness and merciful justice, of man's honor, of woman's chastity. Sue had no faith in Virtue. He professed to champion popular rights, and, while he lived in luxury which an epicurean might have envied, invariably turned a deaf ear to all personal appeals from Poverty. He was returned as a member of the National Assembly, between the last French Revolution and the re-organization of the Empire, but made a very remarkable failure in public life. Finally, suspected of complicity in some of the plots against what is called "The State" in Paris, he became an exile. Once off his own soil, it seemed as if his skill as a writer had vanished. He commenced a Socialist novel, called "Les Mysteries du Peuple;" the publication of which was prevented by the Government—a needless prohibition, for his former admirers, the workmen contemptuously pronounced that he had written himself out. He died, in exile, at the age of fifty-two.

Such, and so contrasted, were THOMAS DICK and EUGENE SUE, the believer and the infidel. Unquestionably, large intellectual gifts were bestowed upon each. How one used, and how the other misused them, we have briefly indicated. These men might almost stand as representatives, among modern writers, of Good and Evil. One felt that his mission was to teach, to look through Nature up to Nature's God, and the other acted as if he were convinced that his allotted work was to defile the purest and holiest decencies of life, and impress dark doubts, of a world beyond the grave upon the minds of all who read his works. The Christian philosopher to whom, at the age of eighty, a pension of £50 a year was comparative wealth lived in privation, self-denial, and frequent poverty. The popular novelist was surrounded with all that wealth can supply, and with the flattery and adulation of millions. Yet who, life's fitful fever ended, would prefer a career like Sue's? With indignant truth has the poet said:

"I'd rather be One of those hinds that round me tread, With just enough of sense to see The noontide's sun that o'er his head, Than thus, with high-built genius curst, That hath no heart for his foundation— Be all, at once, that's brightest, worst, Sublimest, meanest in creation." [Forney's Press.

"When I lived up in Maine," said Uncle Ned, "I helped to break up a piece of ground; we got off the wood in the winter, and early in the spring we began ploughing on't. It was as consarned rocky that we had to get forty yoke of oxen to one plough, we did, faith, and I held the plough more'n a week—I tho't I should die. It e'en' most killed me, I vow. Why, one day I was holdin', the plough hit a stump which measured just nine feet and a half through—hard and sound white oak: the plough split it, and I was going straight through the stump, when I happened to think it might snap together again; so I threw my feet out, and no sooner done so than it snapped together, taking a smart hold of the seat of my pantaloons. Of course I was tight, but I held on to the plough handle, and though the teamsters did all they could, the team of 80 oxen couldn't tear my pantaloons, nor cause me to let go my grip. At last, though, after letting the cattle breathe, they gave another strong pull together, and the old stump came out about the quickest. It had monstrous long roots, too, let me tell you. My wife made the cloth for them pantaloons, and I hain't worn any other since." The only reply made to this was—"I should have thought it would have come hard upon your suspenders." "Powerful hard!"

Old Lucre lives near Union Square.—He was applied to for a contribution to the Washington bronze monument, but declined. "I do not see," he said, "what benefit this statue will be to me; and five hundred dollars is a great deal of money to pay for the gratification of other people." "Benefit to you? why, sir, it will benefit you more than anybody else. The statue can be seen from every window of your house; it will be an ornament and add dignity to the whole neighborhood, and it will perpetually remind you of the Father of his Country—the immortal Washington!" "Ah!" answered old Lucre, "I do not require a statue to remind me of him, for I always carry Washington here," and he placed his hand upon his heart. "Then, let me tell you," replied the applicant, "if that is so, all I have to say is, that you have got Washington in a very tight place!"

It is said that the kind mothers of the East have got so good, that they give their children chloroform previous to whipping them.

A hospitable man is never ashamed of his dinner, when you come to dine with him.

The young man who cast his eye on a young lady coming out of church, has had it replaced, and now sees as well as ever.

"Did you ever see such a mechanical genius as my son?" said an old lady; "he has made a fiddle out of his head, and has wood enough left to make another."

To the Memory of a Miser. Here lies old thirty-three per cent. The more he got the more he lent; The more he had the more he craved.— Great God, can such a soul be saved!

The man who "ret-traced" the past is supposed to be a harness maker.

Blessed are the orphan children; for they have no mothers to spank them.

It is said that Forrest receives \$5,000 for his ten nights engagement in St. Louis.