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DEVOTED TO THE PRINCIPLES OF DEMOCRACY, AND THE DISSEMINATION OF MORALITY LITERATURE AND NEWS.

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POETRY.

WISHING.

BY JOHN G. BARK.

Of all the amusements for the mind,
From logic down to fishing,
There is none that you can find
So very cheap as wishing!
A very choice diversion, too,
If we but rightly use it,
And not, as we are apt to do,
Prevent it, and abuse it.

I wish—a common wish, indeed—
My purse was something fatter,
That I might cheer the child of need,
And not my pride to flatter;
That I might make opposition feel,
As only gold can make it,
And break the tyrant's rod of steel,
As only gold can break it.

I wish—that sympathy and love,
And every human passion
That bath its origin above,
Would come and keep in fashion;
That scorn and jealousy, and hate,
And every base emotion,
Were buried fifty fathoms deep
Beneath the waves of ocean!

I wish that friends were always true,
And motives, always pure;
I wish the good were not so few,
I wish the bad were fewer;
I wish that persons never forgot
To heed their pious teaching;
I wish that practicing was not
So different from preaching!

I wish—that modest worth might be
Appraised with truth and candor;
I wish that innocence were free
From treachery and slander;
I wish that men their vows would mind;
I wish that women were more lovers;
I wish that wives were always kind,
And husbands always lovers.

I wish—in fine—that joy and mirth,
And every good ideal,
May come, ere while throughout the earth,
To be the glorious real;
Till God shall every creature bless
With his supreme blessing,
And hope be lost in happiness,
And wishing be pressing!

From the Liverpool Times, Jan. 5.

PROSPECTS FOR THE YEAR 1854.

After forty years of peace, and several years of plenty and commercial prosperity, the year 1854 opens under circumstances of mingled hope and anxiety. It is still uncertain whether the storm which has been gathering in the East will pass away with a few claps of thunder, or will burst with fury on all the nations of Europe. It is too much to state positively whether it will pass away; but the attitude of Russia is too aggressive, and that of England and France too resolute, to leave much ground for hope of a peaceful solution of the present difficulties. It is probable, almost to certainty, that the spring will see us involved in a great war in Eastern Europe, such as has not been witnessed since the gigantic power and genius of Napoleon the Great fell beneath the united hostility of the Powers of Europe. At the present moment the Emperor Nicholas is assuming the same position which was taken by the first Napoleon—we hope and believe (if he should persist in doing so) to meet with an overthrow equally decisive, even if it should require a struggle equally desperate. The real point at issue between England and France on one side, and Russia on the other, is whether Russia shall possess and exercise the power of controlling all neighboring states, by seizing on their provinces whenever they refuse to obey her commands. She now holds Moldavia and Wallachia, provinces of Turkey, almost as large as England, and the keys of the Danube, simply because the Sultan after giving her satisfaction for every plausible grievance, refused to place himself at her feet as a suppliant and a vassal. She is attempting to do in Turkey what she has done to Poland, to Finland, to Turkey on previous occasions, and to Persia; and what, if she is not stopped by the resistance of the whole civilized world, she will do before long to Sweden, Denmark, Prussia, Austria, and to the smaller states of Germany, as well as to Persia, Khiva, and Bokhara. The time for resisting the spirit of universal domination has at length arrived, and Russia, after cajoling, bullying, and overpowering so many nations, finds herself in the presence of two nations whom she can neither deceive nor intimidate. The time has at length come when Russia must either yield to the opinion of Europe, or defy the arms of England and France. They have hitherto confined themselves to demonstrations which have brought them, step by step, to Constantinople—the grand object of Russian ambition; but Russia has not felt their little finger in actual warfare.

If the reports which are universally current are to be relied upon, the orders sent out by the English and French Governments will, from the moment when they are received, either deprive Russia from the use of the Black Sea for all purposes of warlike aggression, or compel her to attempt to retain it by declaring war and giving battle to the 20 line-of-battle ships and 21 war steamers which England and France have collected in the Bosphorus, in addition to 3 or 4 line-of-battle ships and a dozen frigates belonging to the Turkish fleet. The whole naval force of Russia could do nothing against these fleets, and from the time when the orders of the English and French Governments are received, the Russian vessels will have either to remain in the harbor of Sebastopol or come out to certain destruction. They will probably remain there, and thus be as useless to Russia and as harmless to Turkey as if they did not exist; but we can scarcely doubt that the Emperor of Russia will persist in trying the fortune of war on another element on which he is stronger, and on which he may hope that the success of his army will compensate for the blockade, or even for the loss of his fleet. Should he do so, war will commence which will end only when England and France have shown that they are as able to resist the designs of Russia by land as they are by sea.

If the time has really come when the British Empire is called upon to resist the attempts of Russia at universal empire, in the spirit in which it resisted similar designs on the part of Philip II. of Spain, in the sixteenth century, Louis XIV. in the seventeenth, and the Emperor Napoleon in the time of our fathers, we can only hope it will be done with equal energy. The English, as well as the French Government, both representing nations too strong to fear the imputation of fear, have made every possible effort to induce Russia to restore the plundered provinces of Turkey by peaceful means. They dissuaded Turkey from declaring war when the Russian army seized those provinces in the month of June, 1853, and they have submitted to this infraction of the laws of nations for now above half a year, rather than involve their nations and the world in the evils of war. But they are bound to obtain the evacuation of those provinces, either by peace or war; and, if Russia persists in retaining them, not only against their opinion, but against the opinion of the whole civilized world, they can only treat her as an enemy of all law, whom nothing but force can bind. Suppressing all attempts at negotiation to fail, the year on which we have entered will be a year of bloodshed and of lavish expenditure; for war is alike the waster of blood and treasure, of the lives of men, and the fruits of their industry. Still it is well to look the matter calmly in the face, and to consider what is the sort of struggle with which we are threatened; what is the strength of our enemy, who are our allies; and what are our resources for carrying the contest to a successful issue.

The war with which we are now threatened is not one which is likely to prove very injurious to the commerce of Great Britain, or to the employment of the people. Russia takes little from us herself, her policy being to produce bad and dear articles at home, rather than to buy good and cheap ones abroad. Hence the loss of Russia, as a customer, is comparatively unimportant. The course of trade with Russia, as we said some weeks ago, is this: British merchants make advances of capital, to the extent of some millions a year, to Russian land owners or their agents at St. Petersburg, Riga, Archangel, and Odessa; and these advances, which are necessary for the successful cultivation of the soil, are returned after the next harvest. The quantity of goods sent to Russia is small; and as our merchants have had ample warning, their advances on the crops of the present year will be small also. No doubt the loss of even this kind of commercial intercourse will be attended with inconvenience, for the profits on these advances are large, and the grain, flax, and tallow of Russia are valuable commodities. The trade with the Turkish Empire, and with the interior of Asia, will also be interrupted, and this amount to some millions a year. Still, after making every allowance for the possible disturbance produced by this war, it will not affect the tenth part of the trade of the country directly; nor will it affect the trade with Western Europe, with America, with India, or with Australia, in any respect, for Russia has no ports on the ocean, and no facilities for carrying on a war of privateers, such as the French, the Americans, and the Dutch have carried on with so much success in previous wars. A war with Russia may, and no doubt will, be costly, both as it relates to men and money; but no war can greatly affect the springs of industry which does not expose the commerce of the kingdom to peril on the ocean.

Another point in which this war, if it should take place, will differ from the previous wars, is, that this kingdom and

its foreign possessions will be free from all danger of invasion, or even attack. This has never been the case in our wars with France. In all those wars we have been seriously threatened with invasion; and, though we have always escaped it, it has only been by keeping half the naval force of the empire in the channel, and from 150,000 to 200,000 regular troops and militia, together with twice as many volunteers in arms at home. In the war which is now threatened, England and France will be alike free from danger of attack. The Baltic and the Black Sea, and the shores of those seas, will be the seats of the war which is now anticipated. The object of Russia will, no doubt, be to exclude the war from her own territories, and to confine it to those of Turkey; but she will not succeed in that object, for she has numerous vulnerable points on the Black Sea, and some in the Baltic; and England, and France, which can arm a hundred ships of war, and transport one hundred thousand men to any point which they may think fit to assail, will attack her where she is weakest. Russia is strong in the center of the empire where the Russian people dwell, the Russian language is spoken, and where the Emperor is worshipped as a demi-god; but she is comparatively weak in the outer provinces of the empire, where numerous populations, consisting of Finlanders, Poles, Tartars, Circassians, and Turks, have been conquered by force of arms, and are ruled only by the sword. These are the points at which Russia is vulnerable, and, fortunately, these are the points against which nations possessing the command of every sea which washes the shores of Russia can direct their attacks.

At the present moment England and France have in the Bosphorus twenty-four or twenty-five powerful steamers, each large enough to carry a regiment; they can double that strength of war-steamer if they think fit to do so, (and, indeed, they seem to be doing so rapidly); nor is that all, for if they wish for fifty or a hundred additional large steamers, for the transport of troops, the commercial marine of England would furnish them at a week's notice. It ought not to be forgotten that, in the year 1797 the French transported an army of 30,000 men from Toulon to Egypt, and that we sent an English army nearly equally as strong to Egypt in the following year, besides bringing 10,000 men from India down the Red Sea. If England and France could land 60,000 men in the Turkish dominions more than fifty years ago, and long before steam navigation was invented, they certainly can bring twice as many stores and munitions together in the same dominions, now that steam navigation has reduced the length of voyages, measured by time, to one-third of the former distance. For all practical purposes of war or peace, Toulon is nearer to the mouth of the Danube than Moscow, and Portsmouth than St. Petersburg.

But the circumstances which most diminish the danger of the threatened struggle is the cordial union of England and France. No such union has existed between the two countries, on any question of world-wide importance, since Henry Quatre and Queen Elizabeth struggled together against the Kings of Spain, who were then aiming at universal dominion, as the Emperor of Russia is now. By their joint efforts they successfully defied the independence of Europe against the great monarchy of Spain and the Indies, and we doubt not that they will be equally successful in defending it against the Emperor of all the Russias. France fully equals Russia, both as to number and the quality of her troops, and can at once send an army to the seat of war strong enough to defeat all the efforts of the Russians both in Europe and Asia. There are at present twenty-two English regiments either in the Mediterranean or on their way there, and that force may be doubled or trebled, if matters should come to the worst.

Although it will be a matter of universal regret if it should be necessary to expend any of the resources of the country in war, yet England is comparatively better prepared to sustain the pressure of a lengthened contest than any other country in Europe. So recently as last year the finances of the country were placed on a footing which is equally well suited to meet the requirements of war, and those of peace. As Mr. Gladstone stated in bringing forward the last budget, an increase of the income and house-tax would furnish the means of sustaining an army of 200,000 soldiers, and a navy manned by 100,000 sailors. Since the close of the last war the income of the country has doubled, and the amount of its foreign trade has more than trebled. In the year which is just ended the value of the exports of Great Britain reached the unexampled amount of twenty-six millions sterling, and this vast trade is every year increasing, with the development and resources of the United States, India, and Australia. The grand difficulty of

all wars is that of finding the ways and means, and this is immensely increased in the case of a war carried on by land armies in a thinly-peopled and barbarous country. The world has never yet had any evidence that Russia can sustain a force of 200,000, or even 150,000 men, beyond its own frontiers, for two years. It has never done so yet; but it will have to do that, and more too, if it is to give law to England and France, for they have the power of doing much more than that, if the resistance of Russia should be such as to render it necessary for them to do it.

We should have been most happy if it had been possible for us to congratulate our readers, at the commencement of the year, on the probable continuance of peace; but, unfortunately, the prospect of a continuance of peace is very much clouded. As we cannot congratulate them on a probable continuance of peace, we must congratulate them on being prepared for whatever may occur.

Extract from Hon. S. P. Chase's late Speech on the Nebraska Bill.

Sir, I believe that we are upon the verge of another era. That era will be the era of reaction. The introduction of this question here, and its discussion, will greatly hasten its advent. We who insist upon the denationalization of slavery, and upon the absolute divorce of the General Government from all connection with it, will stand with the men who favored the compromise acts, and who yet wish to adhere to them, in their letter and spirit, against the repeal of the Missouri prohibition. You may pass it here. You may send it to the other House. It may become law. But its effect will be to satisfy all thinking men that no compromises with slavery will stand, except so long as they serve the interests of slavery; and that there is no safe and honorable ground to stand upon except that of restricting slavery within State limits, and excluding it absolutely from the whole sphere of Federal jurisdiction. The old questions between political parties at rest. No great question so thoroughly possesses the public mind as this of slavery. This discussion will hasten the inevitable reorganization of parties upon the new issues which our circumstances may suggest. It will light up a fire in the country which may, perhaps, consume those who kindle it.

I cannot believe that the people of this country have so far lost sight of the maxims and principles of the Revolution, or are so insensible to the obligations which those maxims and principles impose, as to acquiesce in the violation of this compact. Sir, the Senator from Illinois tells us that he proposes a final settlement of all territorial questions in respect to slavery, by the application of the principle of popular sovereignty. What kind of popular sovereignty is it which allows one portion of the people to enslave another portion? Is that the teaching of enlightened, liberal, progressive Democracy? No, Sir; no! There can be no real democracy which does not fully maintain the rights of man, as man. Living, practical, earnest democracy imperatively requires us, while carefully abstaining from unconstitutional interference with the internal regulations of any State upon the subject of slavery, or any other subject, to insist upon the practical application of its great principles in all the legislation of Congress.

I repeat, sir, that we who maintain these principles will stand shoulder to shoulder with the men who, differing from us upon other questions, will yet unite with us in opposition to the violation of pledged faith contemplated by this bill. There are men, and not a few, who are willing to adhere to the compromise of 1850. If the Missouri prohibition, which that compromise incorporates and preserves among its own provisions, shall be repealed, abrogated, broken up, thousand will say, Away with all compromises—they are not worth the paper on which they are printed; we will return to the old principles of the Constitution. We will assert the ancient doctrine, that no person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property by the legislation of Congress without due process of law. Carrying out that principle into its practical applications, we will not cease our efforts until slavery shall cease to exist wherever it can be reached by the constitutional action of the Government.

Sir, I have faith in progress. I have faith in Democracy. The planting and growth of this nation, upon this western continent, was not an accident. The establishment of the American Government, upon the sublime principles of the Declaration of Independence, and the organization of the union of these States, under our existing Constitution, was the work of great men, in-pi-d by great ideas, guided by Divine Providence. These men, the fathers of the Republic, have bequeathed to us the great duty of so administering the Government which they organized, as to

protect the rights, to guard the interests, and promote the well-being of all persons within its jurisdiction, and thus present to the nations of the earth a noble example of wise and just self-government. Sir, I have faith enough to believe that we shall yet fulfill this high duty. Let me borrow the inspiration of Milton, while I declare my belief that we have yet a country "not degenerated, nor drooping to a final decay, but by casting off the old and wrinkled skin of corruption to outlive these pangs, and was young again, entering the glorious ways of truth and prosperous virtue, destined to become great and honorable in these latter ages. Methinks I see in my mind a great and puissant nation rousing herself like a strong man after sleep, and shaking her invincible locks. Methinks I see her as an eagle renewing her mighty youth, and kindling her undazzled eyes at the full mid-day beam; purging and unscaling her long abused sight at the fountain itself of heavenly radiance; while the whole noise of timorous and flocking birds, with those also that love the twilight, flutter about, amazed at what she means, and in their envious gabble would prognosticate a year of sects and schisms."

Sir, we may fulfill this sublime destiny if we will but faithfully adhere to the great maxims of the Revolution; honestly carry into their legitimate practical applications the high principles of Democracy, and preserve inviolate pledged faith and solemn compacts. Let us do this, putting our trust in the God of our fathers, and there is no dream of national prosperity, power, and glory which ancient or modern builders of ideal commonwealths ever conceived, which we may not hope to realize. But if we turn aside from these ways of honor to walk in the paths of temporary expedients, compromising with wrong, abetting oppression, and repudiating faith, the wisdom and devotion and labors of our fathers will have been spent in vain.

Sir, I trust that the result of this discussion will show that the American Senate will sanction no breach of compact. Let us strike from our bill the statement which historical facts and our personal recollections disprove, and then reject the whole proposition which looks toward a violation of the pledged faith and solemn compact which our fathers made, and which we, their sons, are bound by every tie of obligation sacredly to maintain.

From the Philadelphia Daily Register. Mass. Prohibitory Liquor Law Convention.

HARRISBURG, Jan. 26, 1854.
The hotels are crowded. Passengers by the night train of yesterday from the city, were unable to obtain any other lodgings than on the parlor floors of the hotels. At ten o'clock, this morning, the Temperance Convention assembled in the Episcopal Church, corner of South Third and Chestnut streets. The delegates were numerous, spite of all the drawbacks of the weather. They are intelligent-looking men, and hail from all parts of the State. Among them is a very good sprinkling of Silver Greys. A temporary organization was effected by calling Mr. R. M. Foust, of Philadelphia, to the chair. Rev. A. Reed, of West Philadelphia, made an impressive opening prayer. On motion, Christopher Magee, of Pittsburg; J. Hinckley, of Dauphin; and W. C. Flanagan, of Southwark, were appointed a committee on credentials.

A committee on permanent officers, composed of one from each congressional district, was nominated by the meeting. This committee retired to prepare its report. Rev. Pease Coombs, being requested to address the Convention, delivered in some humorous remarks, and suggested the reading of the report of the State Central Committee. Agreed to. Rev. George Duffield, of Philadelphia, began to read the report, but was interrupted by the return of the committee on permanent officers of the Convention. The committee reported the following names, which were agreed to by the Convention:

President—Col. Hiram Hultz.
Vice Presidents—Dr. J. Patrick, John N. Kirkpatrick, John P. Simons, Thomas Cummings, E. S. Mettler, Nathan Edson, Caleb P. Jones, Robert Lyle, Dean Gray, John F. Houston, James P. Wickertsham, William Hunter, George Perkins, Matthew B. Patterson, John B. Thomas, Buel Baldwin, David Duncan, Daniel Gant, John V. McEwen, John Porter, D. Phelps, Rev. Dr. J. T. Pressly, Samuel Clark, J. Boyington, William H. Davis.

Secretaries—William P. Coulter, Robert M. Foust, J. Heron Foster, J. M. W. Geist, Dr. J. K. Smith, Wm. Birney, Silas M. Clark, Geo. W. Patton, S. N. Lightner, Benj. F. Rose, J. S. Hoard, Wm. Irvin.
Col. Hiram Hultz, of Allegheny Co., being introduced by Mr. Foust, took the chair and returned his acknowledgments in a short and appropriate speech.

Mr. Stephen Miller offered the following:

Resolved, That a Business Committee of seven be appointed, to which all resolutions referring to a Prohibitory Law, legislative action or political organization, shall be referred. Carried.

Committee appointed by the Chair: Rev. P. Coombs, Hon. D. J. Bent, Chester county; Dr. J. Patrick, Dauphin; E. Robinson, Franklin; Thomas Steel, Allegheny; Martin Bell, Blair; G. F. Bailey, Tioga.

The reading of the report was then recommenced. It is an important document, full of facts, sweeping the whole field of argument, stating clearly and briefly the object of the present movement, and recapitulating the means used by the Central Committee for the promotion of the object. It was listened to by the convention with marked interest and repeated applause. The committee recommended the collection of statistics of drunkenness and its effects for 1853; a vote of thanks to Neal Dow, of Maine; Samuel F. Cary, of Ohio; and Judge O'Neale, of South Carolina; and the division of the State into three districts, each with a committee of five, each independent in its local action, and all forming the State Central Committee. The doctrine of the report was the highest one of total prohibition. After the appointment of a Finance Committee, the convention adjourned until half past two o'clock. What will be done by the convention on the mooted question of passing the Prohibitory Law without reference to the people, or with, it is impossible to foretell. Opinion is about equally divided.

More of the State Works.

The Governor, in his Annual Message gives the following discouraging statement as to the cost and condition of the railroad to avoid the inclined planes on the Allegheny Portage, and of the North Branch canal; which we hope our readers will "mark an inwardly digest," inasmuch as it comes from authority not to be disputed, and from one who is disposed to put the most favorable construction on the subject it will bear, before the people.

"The work on the railroad to avoid the inclined planes on the Allegheny mountains, has not progressed as had been anticipated. It is the opinion of the engineer, however, as will appear on reference to his report, that should the necessary means be promptly furnished, the entire line could be completed during the coming year. The grading for a double track is finished with the exception of four miles, and the cost of this balance, together with the expense of laying down a single track, is estimated at SIX HUNDRED AND FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS, in addition to the old track. Viewed in every aspect, it must be confessed that this branch of public affairs presents an embarrassing alternative. The prompt completion of the new work will involve the expenditure of more capital than the State can command without resorting to farther temporary loans.

On referring to the reports of the Canal Commissioners and the engineer, I found that the total cost of a single track was estimated at \$1,015,000. The materials on the old road were valued at \$219,650, which together with the appropriations previously made, reduced the amount to be provided to complete the work to the meagre sum of \$795,350.

The sum of SIX HUNDRED AND FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS HAS BEEN APPROPRIATED SINCE THAT TIME, AND OVER SIX HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS IS STILL REQUIRED with the value of the old road, to bring the line into use.

The estimated cost of completing the North Branch canal, was \$772,000; ONE MILLION OF DOLLARS has since been paid, and a sum exceeding ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS, is still required to pay for its completion."

By this official document the people can see how their money is squandered. The actual cost of the works above will exceed double the amount of the original estimates! While on the Pennsylvania railroad, the actual cost was under the original estimates. The State contracts are given out to party favorites and politicians, as rewards for their political services, while in the other they are given to the lowest bidders. The State pays twice the actual cost of making her improvements, for the purpose of filling the pockets of political speculators, while the company only pays a reasonable and just value, and their work is also done better and more closely inspected than that of the State.

These facts no one acquainted with the system of political favoritism carried on by the State will deny. They are enough to induce the people of all parties to demand of the Legislature a repeal of the public works, and a repeal of appropriation for their support.