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Clearfield Republican.

A WEEKLY PAPER: DEVOTED TO LITERATURE, AGRICULTURE, MORALITY, AND FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE.

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BRIEF DISCOURSE.

BY THE CHAPLAIN OF THE N. Y. DUTCHMAN

TEXT:—"A little learning is a dangerous thing!"

My Hearers:—As you pass along the pilgrimage of Life, you necessarily meet with as many varieties of character as there are suitors to a pretty heiress; and of these some are desirable acquaintances, while others are disagreeable and annoying as burs among the wool of a pet poodle. But of all bores, my hearers, defend me from a creature who possesses just sufficient learning to entertain one idea at a time, without the ordinary intelligence that can look at both sides of the question. Such men, my friends, are like Esop's jackass, who, seeing the spaniel fawn upon his master, thought that he might follow his example, and therefore received a well merited drubbing, for *forgetting that he was a jackass*. There are many men now in the pulpit, my friends, who might have made respectable mechanics, had they possessed intelligence enough to have stuck to the honorable calling they have deserted. Many a hiccupping driveller, who pounds the Bible in a mahogany pulpit, might have been honored had he stuck to the sledge and anvil, at which he was brought up, and not, in his envying conceit, have coveted the trade of preaching.

"*A little learning is a dangerous thing!*" So it is, my friends, for many apologies of mankind know just enough to make themselves fools, *but do not know enough to perceive the fact*. For instance, the red-mouthed abolitionist "knows a little," but only just enough to keep one solitary idea in his cranium at a time. He judges that the Negro is oppressed, because some fellow has sent him a tract upon the subject, and forthwith he *feels* very deeply for the "poor colored brother"—*every where else but in his pocket-book*. My hearers, in the city of New York, in the street called Broadway, opposite to the city Hospital, stands every day, with his hand extended for charity, a blind and attenuated Negro. The abolitionists pass him by without a look. He is free, say they, what does he need more? No pity, has the red-mouthed Abolitionist—the man of one idea—no pity or compassion on the swarms of starving blacks that fester and rot in corruption in the dens of this huge city! But like a vile disunionist, he skulks around the home of the Southern planter, and there into the mind of the sleek and happy negro, who is a king compared to the free black, he instils the poison Discontent, entices him away, and then to rob the home where he has been born, and fed, and reared! Dangerous, indeed, is a *little* learning. It causes respectable mechanics to degrade themselves into miserable, howling preachers. It converts the apothecary's boy into a quack M. D. It makes a rascally pettifogger of the lad who sweeps out an attorney's office. No one my hearers, respects scientific or literary attainments more than I do; but a professional man with a fifth part of an education, is sure to be either a one-idea abolitionist, a quack doctor, a ranting preacher or a knavish pettifogger. Generally speaking, you will find men of this callibre, starting out as great reformers, inventing new systems of medicine, new ideas of negro-hugging, new notions in Theology, or some new fangled system of philosophy or ethics. My brethren, shun them all, and they will soon sink to their proper level. You will find the career of every knave terminate just as I have predicted. And, beloved, while we honor merit, though clothed in rags, and Talent, though unappreciated and impoverished, let us turn away from quackery, no matter how it develops itself. And so be it ever. Amen!

WILL SALTPETRE EXPLODE?—The following paragraph appears in Mr. Halo's last number of "*To-Day*:"

"Accidents from camphine are becoming so frequent that we have thought the world might forget that there was also danger in handling other explosive substances, such as the old fashioned gun powder for instance. The singular accident which recently occurred at the Sulphur Springs will tend to put the public on their guard. One of the visitors at the hotel there, who was in the habit of faithfully drinking the waters of the spring, partook at night of some saltpetred beef, which had been provided for the evening supper, and as usual washed it down with some of the water deeply impregnated with sulphur. On retiring to rest he brushed his teeth with charcoal powder, and on turning round to blow out the candle his head burst asunder with a terrific explosion. A coroner's jury was summoned, which reported a verdict in accordance with the above facts; and added that no blame was attached to the dinner."

REMOVAL FROM OFFICE.—Gov. Bigler has removed James M'Donald, Esq., of Mercersburg, from his office as a Justice of the Peace, for the county of Franklin, and has annulled and declared void the commission issued to him. This is the first removal under the amended constitution, and was done because Mr. M'Donald refused to obey the order of the Court of Common Pleas of Franklin county, requiring him to give "counter" security to indemnify his present sureties.—*Daily News.*

SLANDER.

"Who stabs my name, would stab my person too, did not the hangman's axe lie in the way."

"The man who attempts to rise in the world by pulling his neighbor down, is unfit to be elevated, and mankind will do well to keep him where he is, unless they wish to make a heartless tyrant. The woman who can go from house to house and as she opens her budget of evil reports, begs you not to mention it on any account, it would so grieve her that it would get abroad, and the poor creature would be injured, and repeats the same wherever she goes, is not only a suspicious character, but she proclaims herself a very vixen."

REV. T. G. GARVER.

The individual who penned the following must have had some conception of the evil of Slander, or he could not have depicted it so horribly.

"'Twas night, and such a night as earth ne'er saw before. Murkey clouds veiled the fair face of the heavens, and gave to pitchy darkness a still deeper dye. The moon had fled; the stars had closed their eyes, for deeds were doing which they dare not look upon. For a time the pure streams became stagnant and ceased to flow. The mountains trembled; the forest dropped its leaves; the flowers lost their fragrance and withered; all nature became desolate; in glee serpants hissed, harpies screamed, and satyrs revelled beneath Upas; domestic beasts crept near to the abode of man; the lion relinquished his half-eaten prey; the tiger ran howling to his lair, and even the hyena quitted his repast of dead men's bones.—Man alone of all earth's creatures slept, but sleep as if in the bodings of some half-known calamity sat brooding over his mind. Aspiring youth would mutter of blasted hopes, long cherished; young, fair and gifted maidens would start and tremble weep their injured innocence. Mothers, too, would half awake and press the trembling nurslings to their breasts, and breathe to heaven another prayer for their protection. On such a night, hell yawned and gave to earth a SLANDERER."

"OLD KENTUCK."

A Kentuckian at the battle of New Orleans, who disdaining the restraint of a soldier's life, when his name is upon the muster roll, preferred "gein' it alone," fighting upon his own hook. While the battle was raging fiercest, and the shot was flying thick as hail, carrying death wherever they fell, "Kentuck" might have been seen stationed under a tall maple, loading and firing his rifle, as perfectly unconcerned, as though he was "pickin deer." Every time he brought his rifle to his shoulder, a red coat bit the dust.—At last he happened to attract the attention of "Old Hickory," who supposed he had become separated from his company, and rode up to him to bring him behind the redoubts, as he was in a position that exposed his person to the fire of the enemy.

"Hallo! my man, what regiment do you belong to?" said the General.

"Regiment h—ll!" answered Kentuck, "hold on, yonder's another of 'm!" and bringing his shooting iron to his shoulder, he ran his eye along the barrel—a flash followed, another Englishman came tumbling to the ground.

"Whose company do you belong to?" again enquired the General.

"Company the d—l" was the reply of Kentuck, as he busied himself re-loading, "see that ar' feller with the gold fixins on his coat and hoss? Jist watch me perforate him!"

The General gazed in the direction indicated by his rifle, and observed a British Colonel riding up and down the advancing columns of the foe. Kentucky pulled trigger, and the gallant Briton followed his companions, that his Kentucky foe had laid low in death that day.

"Hurrah for old Kentuck!" shouted the free fighter, as his victim came toppling from his horse, then turning to the General, he continued "I'm fightin' on my own hook, stranger!" and leisurely proceeded to reload.

EXCLUSION OF BLACKS FROM OHIO.—Mr. Senator Cushing from Gallia county, has introduced into the Senate of Ohio, a bill "to prevent the further settlement of blacks or mulatto persons in this State."

The bill provides:—That after the 1st of January 1854, no black or mulatto persons shall settle in this State. That a record shall be made of all such residents in the State before the time. Children of such born after that time, to be recorded also. That all such persons found here after that time not recorded, are to be declared unlawful non-residents, guilty of an offence and punished by imprisonment in the county jail from six to twelve months. Non-resident colored persons under the act are declared incapable of holding real estate, and none can be devised to, or held in trust by them. All such is forfeited to the State.—*Cin. Gaz.*

☞ Virtue wants more admirers, wisdom more suppliants, truth more real friends, and honesty more practitioners.

From the Washington Union.

THE AMAZON AND THE ATLANTIC SLOPES OF SOUTH AMERICA.—No. 5.

(*Continued.*)

Amaguas, seven miles below Nauta, is an important point, (though at present it has but 240 inhabitants,) on account of its great extent of fertile lands.

Passing Amaguas with its 240 inhabitants, Iquitos with its 127, and Aran with its eighty, we arrive, twenty-seven leagues below the mouth of the Ucayall which comes from the south, at the mouth of the Rio Napo, a tributary from Ecuador.—There is here a settlement consisting of one family of Mitos Indians and one fugitive-slave from Brazil—total thirty-one.

This river is 200 yards broad at its mouth, and is navigable for 300 miles. It is rich in gold; its banks are inhabited by hostile tribes of Indians, and covered with sarsaparilla and other valuable products of the forests. These Indians make the finest and most beautiful hammocks that are found in the Pampa del Sacramento; price of a hammock two yards of cotton. The trade in poisons makes this an important place.

Pebas is thirteen leagues below the mouth of the Napo; has a population of 387, and a fine country round about. Its productions are white and black wax, sarsaparilla, vanilla, poisons, storax, "chambira," hammocks, pitch, copal, incense, India rubber, milk of the cow tree, and many curiosities, which the Indians, who, though wild and savage, are friendly to the white man, usually bring in exchange for beads, trinkets, &c.

White wax is worth two yards of cotton; black, half; thirty-four pounds sarsaparilla, twenty-four yards; hammock, two yards; a little pot of poison, four yards; one pound vanilla, eight yards.

Thence to Loreto, the frontier town of Peru, we have five small villages. Loreto is 160 leagues below the head of uninterrupted navigation of the Huallaga; population, 122. In this village you find a preparation from the wild yuca, which is very palatable, wholesome and nutricious. It is a good substitute for bread.

Sarayacu, situated on the right bank of the Ucayali, 300 miles above its junction with the Amazon, has a population of 1,270.

This is an important point, in the midst of a fertile region. Eight or ten miles above this town the Ucayali receives the Ahuaytia, which takes its rise almost on the banks of the Huallaga. A few miles up this tributary bring you to a great sarsaparilla country. This drug costs here eight yards of the cotton cloth of the country the 100 pounds; which 100 pounds are $25 in Para, and from $40 to $60 in Europe, according to the markets. These eight yards of cotton for the 100 pounds of sarsaparilla, according to the statement of this clever blacksmith, are worth four yards only of our coarse cotton.

Let us therefore, for the sake of illustration, trace this trade through its entire course.

The American or English pedler to the Amazon—for trader he is not—buys in New York or Liverpool, as the case may be, four yards of cotton, for which he pays twenty-five cents. He ships thence around Cape Horn to Callao. Here he pays duty at the Peruvian custom-house, and is sent thence to Lima by mule. By this time, what with freight, transportation, and commissions, it has cost the purchaser fifty cents. It is then packed on mules, carried across the Andes, and in about twelve months from the time of its leaving New York or Liverpool it arrives at the mouth of the Ucayali, where it is sent up by boat, which occupies 300 working hours in going up 300 miles to Sarayacu and the sarsaparilla country. Here this piece of four yards is exchanged in barter, according to Hacket, the New England Mechanic, from whom I have been quoting, for 100 pounds of that drug. A shipment of the return cargo is then made in the rude river craft of the country, and this 100 pounds of sarsaparilla, bought with four yards of "fi'-penny bit" cotton when it reaches the Amazon is worth $9 in Nauta, $10 50 in Sabatinga, $25 at Para, and $50 at New York or Liverpool. The voyage has been a long, and a tedious, and a round-about one, but the profits are enormous.

Now, if Peru and Brazil, instead of forcing commerce with their interior provinces to go around "Robin Hood's bow" to get there, would open ports of entry to all nations, and permit them to use the navigation of the Amazon, the citizens and subjects of Peru and Brazil, instead of getting four yards of cotton for their 100 lbs. of sarsaparilla, would get three or four hundred yards for it.

It would be difficult to quote any example more strikingly illustrative of the advantages to Peru of that "policy of commerce" which calls for the establishment of a port of entry at the head of navigation on the Marañon, as the main trunk of the Amazon in Peru is called; at Chasuta, the head of navigation on the Huallaga; at the head of navigation on the Ucayali; and at Fauta, which is at the junction of this last with the Amazon.

So, Ecuador might establish ports of entry on her side of the Amazon, at Barja, if the navigation be uninterrupted that far, and if Barja belong to her; and at the head of navigation of each one of her Amazonian tributaries, as the Pastaza, the Napo, the Putomayo, and the Japura;—though the head of navigation of the last is perhaps in New Granada.

Now, if any one of these republics should declare such places free ports to all the world, or ports of entry to the commerce of all nations at peace with them, surely Brazil would not in this enlightened day, if an American or Englishman should wish to wear his own flag and go in his own bottom under it on a trading voyage to those posts—surely, I say, Brazil would not at this day attempt to play the part of Japan, and hinder those vessels from passing by her doors to other parts of the world.

The Pastaza, I am informed on the authority of my old friend General Villamil, the Secretary of State of Ecuador, is navigable nearly up to Quito; and it is well known that the sands of most of those streams are auriferous.

Tabatinga is the frontier post of Brazil on the Amazon. Thence ascending, we have an uninterrupted navigation along the main trunk of the Amazon, which here courses through the northern parts of Peru, and not far from the southern boundary of Ecuador, for the distance of five or six hundred miles. Thus a steamboat may reach the foot of the Andes.

Lieutenant Herndon entered the Amazon four hundred and sixty miles above the Brazilian boundary, and he thus describes the river there:

"The Amazon, where it receives the Huallaga, is five hundred yards broad.—The march of this great river in its silent grandeur was sublime; but in the untamed might of its turbid waters, as they cut away its banks, tore down the gigantic denizens of the forests and built up islands, it was awful. It rolled through the wilderness with a stately and solemn air; its waters looked angry, sullen and restless, and the whole seem to awaken emotions of awe and dread, such as are caused by the funeral solemnities, the minute gun, the howl of the wind, and the angry tossing of the waves, when all hands are called "to bury the dead" in a troubled sea.

"Though the river was not at its full, it reminded me of our Mississippi at its topmost floods. The waters are quite as muddy and quite as turbid, but the Amazon lacked the charm and the fascination which the plantation upon the bank, the city upon the bluff, and the steamboat upon the water lend to its fellow at the North; nevertheless, I felt pleasure at its sight.—I had already travelled seven hundred miles by water, and fancied that this powerful stream would soon carry me to the ocean. But the water travel was comparatively just begun; many a weary month was to elapse ere I should again look upon the familiar face of the sea, and many a time, when worn and wearied with the canoe life, did I exclaim, this river seems interminable."

"Its capacities for trade and commerce are inconcelvably great. Its industrial future is the most dazzling, and to the touch of steam, settlement, and cultivation this rolling stream and its magnificent water-shed would start up a display of industrial results that would make the valley of the Amazon one of the most enchanting regions on the face of the earth.

"From its mountains you might dig silver, iron, coal, copper, quicksilver, zinc, and tin; from the sands of its tributaries you might wash gold, diamons and precious stones; from its forests you might gather drugs of virtues the most rare, species of aroma the most exquisite, gums and resins of the most useful properties, dyes of hues the most brilliant, with cabinet and building woods of the finest polish and the most enduring texture. Its climate is an everlasting summer, and its harvest perennial."

With this enchanting picture, and the hope that Lieut. Herndon will soon let us have in full the report of his wonderful voyage down the Amazon, I close this the antepenultimate of my numbers.

No. 6.

The Amazon enters the Atlantic thro' a delta. The principal tributaries from the south which fall into this river are, commencing at its mouth and going up, the Tocantins, the Chingu, the Tapajos, the Madeira, the Parus, the Tappe, the Hyutuba, the Hintay, the Tavary, the Ucayali, and the Huallaga—none of them smaller than the Ohio, and some larger than the Missouri.

From the north come the Rio Negro and the Japura, (two mighty streams,) the Potomayo, the Napo, the Tigre-Yacu, and the Pastaza.

I have spoken of the present commercial resources of the Madeira and the Huallaga from information derived from Lieutenants Herndon and Gibbon, United States navy, and from M. Castelnau. As to the present condition of the trade and resources of these other rivers, except the Tocantins, we are left very much in the dark or to conjecture.

All of them, we know, have falls and rapids of more or less velocity, which offer obstructions more or less difficult to steamboat navigation. Therefore, as to the question of how far these rivers may be ascended by steamboats at low water, and how far at high, that must be left for actual trial to decide. I hope, therefore, the time is not distant when an American steamer will be sent to make a complete and thorough examination as to this point, and to explore that rich and interesting region of country with a view to its commercial resources, both present and prospective.

In the present state of our information, we can judge as to the actual resources of those several streams for trade and traffic by comparing those as to which we are in the dark with those which have been recently explored. As the type of the whole in this respect, therefore, I take the Tocantins.

As you enter the southern mouth of the Amazon, the mouth of the Tocantins is the first but one that you pass. It travels more parallels of latitude than our Mississippi does. But it is a straighter, and therefore not so long a river. It takes its rise in the provinces of Matto Grosso and Goyaz, and drains these two provinces with that of Para. This river lies wholly within Brazillian territory, and was explored down to port Barra by Castelnau in 1843–'44. From him, therefore, I derive my special information with regard to it.

It drains a gold and diamond country, and is an exceedingly rich agricultural one. Its principal tributary is the Araguay, which is a most noble stream.—Speaking of parts of the valley of the Tocantins, in which he was, Castelnau says, "I believe that this rich and valuable country will be found one of the most healthy in the world.

The city of Goyaz, with a population of seven or eight thousand, and the capital of its province, is situated on the Vermilbo, celebrated for its golden sands. This river is about twenty steps wide opposite the city, and vessels from Para come up and make fast to the bridge below. The distance thence in a straight line to the mouth of the Amazon is rather under than over a thousand miles. The population of the whole province, more than two thirds of which is in the valley of the Tocantins, is 125,000, of which 25,000 are slaves.

There is a number of flourishing towns and villages on the water-shed of this river. Among these is Salinas, which derives its name from its salt works.

Near by the salt lake of Salinas is the Lake of Pearls, surrounded by a beautiful vegetation, and numerously inhabited by aquatic birds. Nothing, says Castelnau, can give one "*une idee de la beaute de cette jolie piece d'eau.*" Its waters are fresh, and it abounds with a shell-fish which contains the pearl.

It was here that the *voyageurs* found such a variety of rare and useful plants; among them one, the fruit of which is used to make ink, and it is an excellent substitute for nut-galls? another was a kind of cane, the roots of which make a yellow dye of the most exquisite hue. They obtained, wild from the forest, all the colors with which they painted the Brazillian flag that was hoisted during the descent of the Araguay, the principal tributary of the Tocantins, and far more beautiful than the *belle rivere* of the *West*. They use for tanning the bark of a tree, with which the raw hide is converted into leather in a month. They have two varieties of manioc, of great beauty, which require little or no labor in cultivation. It is propagated by cuttings, or slips; so also is the sugar-cane, which sends up from every joint a dozen stalks, and gives a crop in every eight months. The black bean, an essential article of food with the Brazilians, grows here in great perfection; it yields four crops a year. Two kinds of beautiful palms grow wild in the woods, which also furnish the natives with an abundant supply of wholesome food.

There have been in this province as many as one hundred thousand slaves employed at one time in collecting gold alone.

But as rich in mines as this province is, its soil with its productions is much richer. It is well adapted to the cultivation of cotton and coffee, sugar and tobacco, of Indian corn, rye, wheat, and oats, of rice, indigo, pulse and potatoes, manioc, nuts, ipecacuanha, sarsaparilla, vanilla, anatto, balsam, India rubber, and a great variety of gums, spices, ornamental woods, roots, drugs, and dye stuffs.

The margins of the river affords pasturage and support to numerous herds of cattle and horses. Their waters abound in fish. Castelnau saw dolphins sporting in them.

Limestone and saltpetre caves, with salt lakes, add beauties to the country and variety to its resources; also iron mines abound.

The mode of cultivation is rude and ruinous. The planters scratch the earth with a pick, sow, and at the end of a few months, says Castelnau, reap one or two hundred fold, more or less, according to the fertility of the soil and the excellence of the season.

The ordinary prices are: for coffee 3½ cents the pound; seed cotton 1 cent the pound; white sugar, 3 cents; tobacco 4 cents; beef cattle, $2 to $3 the head; tanned hides, 65 cents a-piece; green ditto, 20 cents.

The exports consist of these, besides calf, kid, otter, and ounce skins, with other productions of the field, the forest, the river, and the mine.

The imports are fabrics of silk, wool, flax, and cotton, hats, salt, drugs, medicines, crockery, wines, brandies, farming implements &c.

The voyage up the river from Para occupies about five months. The upward freight is four dollars the one hundred pounds; the downward, one dollar—and the first steamer has yet to be seen upon this majestic stream.

Here, then, is a river which enters the Amazon so near the sea that the water at its mouth is salt, and Brazil has not had the energy to put the first steamboat upon it.

How, then, is it possible for her to travel three thousand miles up the mighty Amazon, and introduce the steamboat upon the waters of Peru, as she has endeavored to persuade the government of Peru that she can?

The crew of one of those rude vessels that go poling up the Tocantins as far as Porto Imperial consists of from twenty to thirty men. They take down, among other things, hides, which at Goyaz are worth fifty cents, and at Para sell for one dollar and fifty cents; and so of other things.

The banks of this river are said to be inhabited in some parts by hostile Indians; and this, it is said, is one of the causes of its rude navigation. But the steamboat would certainly not have more to fear than these unwieldy hulks of Brazil as they go creeping along the coward shores.

There is a dozen other rivers emptying into the Amazon that drain water-sheds which are no doubt as rich and as fertile as this.

We are entitled to infer, not only by reference to the Tocantins as a type of them, but by reference to the quantity of produce that goes to sea from the Amazon, that the valleys of its other tributaries are not behind that of the Tocantins.—Produce enough comes down the Amazon to Para, to give that city an annual trade of three millions of dollars!

Bolivia sent last year from her port of this great water-shed two millions dollars' worth of Peruvian bark alone. But that went over the mountains to the Pacific. The steamboat would have brought it down the Amazon to the Atlantic. It would have brought business to Para, and added greatly to the wealth of Brazil and the prosperity of her people.

It certainly would be wisdom in Brazil were she to make not only the navigation of the Amazon free to all the world, but it would be politic to throw open to foreign commerce and navigation the Tocantins also, and all her other Amazonian tributaries.

The value of the trade up and down the Tocantins would be increased many fold; the hostile Indians, which infest its banks and prevent their settlement, would be driven away; and lands that are now profitless, and produce that is valueless, would become profitable.

We admit the coffee of Brazil into our ports duty free. We are her best customer and friend, and it is quite time that Brazil had signalized her appreciation of this patronage and friendship by some sign or token at least that she too would be liberal in her policy.

Since the subjects of Brazil themselves have not judged it expedient to put a steamer on the Tocantins to go up after all this coffee, and rice, and sugar, and tobacco, &c., it certainly would be wise in her to permit citizens of the United States, or of France, or of England, to do it. They would gladly go up this river after this fine Goyaz coffee. Her subjects then would receive double the price they now receive for it, and the rest of their produce.—Those of them who are employed in transporting this merchandise to the sea-board, by water and by land would then find more profitable employment in the cultivation of the soil. Double the price of the staples of a country, and you not only double the price of labor, but you greatly enhance the national wealth. Increase the substance of the subject, and you increase his power to pay taxes, and this, I imagine, is what Brazil wants.

But this river Tocantins lies wholly within Brazilian territory; she has the right to open it to the commerce of the world or not, as she pleases; and her action with regard to it is no just cause of complaint or offence to any nation.

Not so, however, when she keeps closed the Amazon, and endeavors, because she holds the mouth of that river, to shut it up, and to cut off those five Spanish-American republics, which own navigable tributaries to it, from commerce with the world, and all the world from commerce with them.

There are physical agencies at work upon the great Atlantic slopes of South America which will for ages prevent