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THE REPUBLICAN.

CLEARFIELD, PA.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, DEC. 4, 1872.

THE REWARDS OF SONG.

I have a little, soft and plaintive,
Mellow, murmuring lute,
To which I oft attune my voice
When earth and air are mute;
And though the plodding, busy world
Cares not to hear the strain,
I make my music to myself
A solace to my pain.

I reck not though none hear me,
More than the nightingale,
Or lark beneath the morning cloud,
High poised above the vale;
These seek not man's approval,
But sing for love of song,
As I do in the wilderness
When summer days grow long.

Perchance a passing stranger,
That loiters on his way,
May hear the distant echoes
Of my rejoicing lay,
And bless the unseen singer,
Embowered amid the copse,
Or soaring, singing, soaring
Above the mountain tops!

Perhaps—who knows? a mourner
For present grief, or past,
May hear my hopeful music
Upon the wild winds cast,
And so take heart and courage
To wander less forlorn,
And turn from evening shadows
To sunlight of the morn.

The stars rejoice in shining,
And I rejoice to sing,
For sake of love, for sake of song,
And not for praise 'twill bring.
Despise me if it please you,
Ye traders of the mart!
Not all your gold could purchase
The freshness of my heart!

POOR BLENNERHASSET.

BY JAMES PARTON.

The life and misfortunes of this man at least serve to illustrate the homely old saying, that a fool and his money are soon parted. He was the younger son of an ancient and somewhat wealthy Irish family, of the county of Herry; though he himself was born in England, while his parents were visiting a friend in that country, in 1765. After attending the usual period at Westminster school, in London, and at Trinity college, Dublin, he was put to the study of law, and in 1790, when he was twenty-five years of age, he was admitted to the Irish bar, as a barrister.

He never practiced his profession; for he had no sooner completed his legal studies than the death of his elder brother made him the heir to the family estates. Instead, therefore, of settling down to a lifetime of honorable labor, he put money in his purse, and started to make the tour of Europe. He happened to arrive at Paris about the time when the French people were in the early delirium of their revolution, and he was present at the first annual celebration of the destruction of the Bastile, when five hundred thousand Frenchmen, assembled in one vast amphitheatre, took the oath of fidelity to the Nation, to the Constitution, and to the King. He returned to Ireland full of those dreams and fancies which characterized the light-headed liberal of the period. He was a Republican; and, seeing no prospect of the emancipation of his native land; he determined to sell off his estates, and remove to the Republic on the other side of the Atlantic, over which General Washington was presiding with so much eclat and dignity. His Irish property yielded him twenty thousand pounds; which small as it sounds to our ears, was, for that day, really a handsome fortune. It was probably equivolent, in purchasing power and in the importance it gave to its possessor, to more than a quarter of a million of our present dollars.

While making his arrangements to remove, he fell in love with a young lady, Miss Agnew, the child of a distinguished military family. She was of a romantic turn of mind, and thought it delightful to marry an Irish republican whose sister was an Irish peeress, and to emigrate with him to the wilderness of America. On the first of August 1796, when Blennerhasset was thirty-one years of age, they landed in New York; where, it seems, the mosquitos attacked them with such unrelenting pertinacity, that they were glad to go into the country for a few weeks until the hot weather was over.

His first letter from New York gives a curious account of the fury of speculation then prevailing among business men; which he thought was the cause of the extravagant prices of everything and the high rates of wages. Men servants, he said, received twelve shillings a day, and a good house was two hundred pounds a year. There was a perfect mania for speculation in real estate—fortunes made and lost every day by buying and selling lots and lands. He saw almost everything in a favorable light. Witness his description of Newark, nine miles from the city of New York:

"Newark is perhaps the handsomest village in the world. Of extent, nearly three miles; it is seated in a plain, clear and level as a parlor floor, on the banks of the Passaic, in an amphitheatre environed by gentle swelling hills. Its academy, court house, and two neat buildings for public worship, added to nine stages, which, besides an infinity of wagons, every day pass through it between New York and Philadelphia, gives an air of business and gaiety to the place. It is also the residence of many private families of respectability."

It is only very old inhabitants of Newark, which is now grown to a great manufacturing city of one hundred thousand inhabitants, who will realize the truth of Blennerhasset's picture.

Our romantic adventurers were bound westward—for the *far* west—which was then the shores of the Ohio River, between Pittsburg and the site of Cincinnati. The next winter found them at Marietta, in Ohio, whence he made excursions into the universal wilderness in quest of suitable land upon which to establish himself. Near the village is an eminence of some elevation, from the summit of which an extensive view is afforded of the river and the surrounding country. No site could have been more inconvenient; but, as in the old world many a picturesque height was crowned by a picturesque castle, the relic of barbarous times, the Blennerhassets thought it would be a fine thing to place upon this height the mansion they intended to build. Abandoning this absurdity, they plunged into another still more ridiculous.

Near Marietta, there is a low island in the Ohio river, about three miles long and perhaps one hundred yards wide. It lies flat upon the serface of the water, bending with the bend of the stream, like a long green snake, the lofty banks of the Ohio hemming it in on every side, like two ranges of wood-covered mountains. The river is so narrow there, that a man upon the shore of the Island, and one standing upon the main land can converse together without any great inconvenience. It was upon this island that Blennerhasset bought a farm of one hundred and seventy acres, for four thousand and five hundred dollars, and took up his abode upon it in a small block-house, with his pretty and romantic young wife. He proceeded forthwith to erect a curious and remarkable ugly house, with barns, out-houses, and various other structures, at a cost of thirty thousand dollars; so that by the time his house was finished, he had expended about half his capital. From the picture of this house which is now before me, I should suppose it a miracle of inconvenience and absurdity; it resembles nothing so much as those temporary wooden barracks, which are sometimes erected, in time of peace, outside of fortified places.

What next? If this house was uncomfortable and inelegant, his establishment was large and expensive; and he was no more capable of extracting a livelihood from his farm than a child. A child indeed he was in everything but years. He tried to experiment in chemistry; he played the violin; he bought electrical apparatus; he collected books; and he even tried, short-sighted as he was, to shoot game. In this last amusement he was assisted frequently by his wife, who aimed the gun at the bird, and told him when to fire. He was so much afraid of lightning, that when a thunder storm was coming up he would shut the doors and windows, and get into bed. In short, he was one of the most foolish, incompetent, unpractical men that ever squandered a fortune and brought a family to beggary. And his wife, in her way, was not much wiser than himself, although abundantly competent, if she had remained at home, to shine in the sphere in which she was born.

So passed eight years. In 1805, Aaron Burr set on foot his famous expedition for the conquest of Mexico, and on his way to the west to make preparations and to beat up recruits, he became acquainted with the Blennerhassets. Already they were embarrassed for money and were more anxious to sell their estate than they had ever been to acquire it. Burr offered him a share in his dazzling enterprise; and probably conveyed in some way, to the eager and credulous Irishman, that when the prize had been won, it was he who should represent the empire of Aaron I, at the Court of St. James. So far as we know, Burr practiced no deception upon him; for it there was a man in the world who more entirely believed in the feasibility of his Mexican enterprise than any other man, it was Aaron Burr himself.

Before the scheme was well organized, as all the world knows, President Jefferson shattered it to pieces with a bolt no more formidable than a proclamation. Burr was arrested and taken to Richmond for trial. Blennerhasset, charged with complicity with him, was also conveyed to Richmond a prisoner. His island was overrun by wild Ohio militia; his gardens trampled into ruin; his outhouses destroyed, and his mansion defaced. After a detention in Richmond of many tedious and expensive months, he was discharged, and rejoined his family at Natchez.

He then gathered the remains of his property, and bought a cotton plantation of a thousand acres in Mississippi; and upon it he placed a few slaves. An able man could have made a fortune upon that virgin soil, in that early day of the cotton culture; as, indeed, many of his neighbors did, who had never seen an electrical machine and knew not a note of music. It was Mrs. Blennerhasset who managed the plantation, so far as it was managed. It was she who, at the dawn, mounted her horse and saw that the labors of the day were begun. Her exertions, however, were not adequate to the situation, and the struggle was unsuccessful. Harassed by creditors being clamorous, he offered his plantation and twenty-two negroes for sale, after he had held them about seven years, and realized enough to pay his debts, and leave a small sum over for investment.

In 1819, being fifty-four years of age, but more worn by misfortune than years, he removed so Montreal, took a partner, and tried to get into the practice of the law. The attempt not succeeding, he sailed for Ireland, where he made a futile attempt to recover some estates to which he fancied he had a legal title. Then he directed his energies to getting a place under government. Some of his old Westminster school-fellows were new ministers, generals, lords and dukes, and to them he addressed letters asking their interest in promoting his object; to which they uniformly sent polite replies of refusal. In 1825 he returned to Canada, but only to close up his affairs in America, and taking with him his wife and children, leave forever a continent in which he had experienced little but unhappiness. A maiden sister who lived in England had offered him a share of her cottage, which was not very spacious, and a subsistence upon her income, which was not very large. In this last refuge he lived six years, and there he died, 1831, in his sixty-third year.

In after years, Mrs. Blennerhasset, with an invalid son, and herself almost exhausted with anxiety and toil, came to New York and asked Congress to make good the damage done to her island abode by troops in the employment of the United States in 1806. Mr. Clay forwarded her memorial to Congress.

"Mrs. Blennerhasset," he wrote, "is now in New York, residing in very humble circumstances, bestowing her cares on a son, who, by long poverty and sickness, is reduced to utter imbecility, both of body and mind; unable to assist her, or provide for his own wants. In her present destitute situation, the smallest amount of relief would be thankfully received by her. Her condition is one of *absolute want*, and she has but a short time to enjoy any better fortune in this world."

It is supposed that an appropriation for relief would have been made if she had lived long enough for the tardy action of Congress. She died in e843, in a mean abode in the city of New York, attended in her last moments by Sisters of Charity. Her son survived her eleven years, during which he was utterly unable to help himself; and would have starved to death but for the charity of a few persons who knew his situation, and knew, too, the melancholy tale of his father's ruin. Occasionally a paragraph in a newspaper would make known his wants to the public, when small sums would be sent in for his benefit. I was myself a bearer to him of one of these newspaper collections, amounting to twenty-five dollars, a few months before his death in 1851. He sat silent in a miserable room near St. John's square—an elderly gentleman in an extremely shabby suit of black, with a palid, expressionless face. I explained to him the object of my visit and handed him the money. He gazed vacantly at it, but did not hold out his hand to take it, and evidently had not understood a word that I had said. I therefore laid the money upon an old chest, and went in search of some one who could be supposed to have charge of him. I believe I found some such person at length, and succeeded in leaving the money so that it would be expended for his benefit.

PLUNDERING THE UNIVERSITY.—The grand jury of Orange county, North Carolina, have made a report, in which they present the condition of the property of the University of North Carolina, founded in 1776, in which they say:

"Only one member of the faculty, the President, remains, and that the woodland of the college is being badly plundered, and the college *campus*, one of the most beautiful in the United States, is depredated upon, and that cattle wander through the college builings, and that the chapel, where prayer and divine service were wont to be held, is now often used as a place for the vilest purposes. The libraries, which belonged to the literary societies, formed by the students, are often invaded and valuable books abstracted." The Raleigh *Sentinel* enumerates among the trustees under whose direction the spoliation has been made, an ex-member of Congress, now an employee of the United States Senate, a Radical State Judge, the ex-Adjutant General of Gov. Holden, J. C. Abbott, late claiming a seat in the United States Senate, and other lights of the reconstructed government of North Carolina.

Alsace and Lorraine.

The New York *Herald* of the 30th ultimo says: We print this morning a letter from our staff of correspondents in Alsace and Lorraine, giving an exact narrative of singular events now transpiring in that renowned and interesting country. Our letter, or rather report, is a condensation of many reports gathered by correspondents in different parts of the territory, reserving so much of the narrative as might be interesting to American readers, and presenting it in a narrative and historical form. And certainly few chapters in the marvellous history of this romantic century will be read with the interest which attaches to the story of the exodus from Alsace and Lorraine.

It would be folly to approach a question of this moment with any of those sentimental feelings which many of our statesmen apply to foreign politics, and especially to the relations between France and Germany. We may denounce the Germans as tyrants and ridicule the French as an effeminate and dying race. We should be unjust in either judgment. The German nation cannot be dismissed with the sentence we should pass upon the Romans who burned Jerusalem, or the Turks who destroyed the Library of Alexandria. Nor can we call a nation that has shown the activity and financial strength of France an effeminate race. The Germans are astonishing Europe by their skill in war, their enterprise in peace, just as France has again and again astonished Europe in more auspicious epochs of her history. The American people have watched with solicitude and gratification the various steps by which the house of Hohenzollern has made Prussia one of the great Powers of the world and bound around its throne all the elements of the fatherland. The patience, the courage, the veracity, the foresight, the prudence, the inexorable and widely-reaching discipline and drill, the sagacity to adopt every means of science, experience and art, the wisdom to insist upon universal education as the only sure foundation of a nation's strength—all of these qualities we have admired in the rulers of Prussia since the time of the great Frederick. It is only fitting that they should have achieved the astounding success which culminated at Sedan, and that they should have given us in Prince Bismarck the largest historical figure the world has seen since the fall of Napoleon.

We are not, therefore, surprised to see, as is so clearly explained in our letter from Nancy, that there underlies the annexation of Alsace and Lorraine on the part of Germany profound principles of statesmanship. We have all along known that the annexation of Metz was a strategic measure, and that considerations of military prudence led to the reservation of Thionville and the country bordering on Luxemburg. We have heard with interest, but without paying much attention, the rhapsodies and fine poetic fervor about Alsace and Lorraine returning to the arms of bereaved Germania, who has mourned for them so long. But a still higher consideration seems to have actuated Prince Bismarck. He has left sentiment to the journals and poets. His plans now show the unfolding of a scheme that has long been a favorite measure of Prussian diplomacy—the creation of a German route from the North Sea to the Adriatic and the severance of France from any commercial domination over Southern Germany. Considering the importance of the overland route to the East—an importance that increases every day—we see that to acquire such a route independent of France is to strike a blow at the commercial supremacy of that nation more terrible than the indemnity or the military results of the campaign of 1870. Prince Bismarck has succeeded in doing this. By the annexation of Alsace he has direct communication with Antwerp and Ostend. He can compete with France in all carrying trade. He puts his hand upon England's route to India. And when the St. Gothard tunnel through the Alps is finished the supremacy of Mont Cenis tunnel will be at an end, and he can travel from the North Sea to the Adriatic without seeing the French flag. Add to this the unchallenged control of the Rhine, and it will be seen that Holland becomes to Germany what Louisiana before President Jefferson's time was to the United States. The Mississippi was River was an American stream, and yet France, a foreign nation, held its mouth. We contended that this should not be, and obtained control of the river by purchase. The Rhine is a German river, and Holland holds its mouth. Prussian statesmanship will seek a way to overcome this, and well will it be for peace if it can be done by purchase. By the building of this tunnel Bismarck cements the Prussian alliance with Italy and renders unnecessary the traditional dependence of that interesting kingdom on France. With Belgium on the north, behind which is the power of England; Spain on the South, under a Prince of the House of Savoy; Germany on her frontier and Italy a Savoy kingdom under German protection, France will be isolated from political as well as commercial influence in Europe.

We recognize the supreme wisdom of the statesmanship which has attained these results. And yet it is not without pain that we read this story of the annexation of Alsace and Lorraine. It is not too much to say that the civilized world looks on in grief and amazement at the scenes now taking place in that unhappy land. The rigid, unrelenting course of Prussia was to be expected. Prussia is even more severe to her own people than to the Alsatians. But no one expected—and certainly from a people as feeble and trifling as the French are said to be—such an extraordinary manifestation of patriotism. Fields abandoned; places of business closed; workshops idle; families turning their household goods into money and swarming over the frontier; fathers of families leaving homes that they and their ancestors have occupied for centuries; resisting temptations, blandishments, kindness, offers of aid and security—fleeing from the sway of mighty and triumphant Germany to cast their lot with dishonored and beaten France. This is not the first exodus history records. Men have left their homes for the sake of liberty of conscience, and crossed the angry, pitiless, mid-Winter seas for freedom to worship God in their own way. Men have been driven from their homes by persecution, or to avoid threatened persecution. Men have gone forth in a spirit of adventure, or, as they come to America, to find easier means of livelihood. But here are men flying from a country which is strong to a country which is weak; from comfort and kindness and protection under one ruler to exile and uncertainty under another; giving up home and business and prosperity for the insecurity of emigration. Within the last three months two hundred thousand persons have left Alsace, and it is not too much to say that but few of them succeeded in leaving without making sacrifices that may embitter and harden their [illegible] through life. And do we see that the Germans have given them any motive for leaving, beyond the fact they are conquerors of the territory. It is not that they have found the Germans tyrants, but that their heart and home are with France.

It is impossible not to be moved by the spectacle of this patriotic devotion to France. And there must be something in French rule, that it can take a province that two hundred years ago was German and in many parts of which even now German is only spoken, and make it as French as Normandy or Champagne. No one who loves his country can hesitate to honor this love of country, and we are not surprised to learn that it has created profound emotion throughout Germany. Prince Bismarck has pressed on to the achievement of high ends—the consummate master of the policy of "blood and iron." We readily concede that the political and commercial result attained by this annexation are worthy of his genius and toil, worthy of the extraordinay efforts and sacrifices of Germany. But we cannot overlook the shock which has been given to the tradition, teachings and ideas of the age—the age of universal suffrage, emancipation and nationalities—and it may be that Prince Bismarck has paid too great a price for what he has gained. May not these provinces be a weakness rather than a strength, an unhealthy, ulcerous member, draining life from the body of the Empire and giving no return? And is it not possible that Prince Bismarck, or more likely his successor, may find that what he fondly regards as the crowing stone of his mighty Empire may, in the hour of German extremity, prove a burden too grievous to be borne?—*N. Y. Herald.*

Go Home, Boys.

Boys, don't hang around the corners of the streets. If you have anything to do, do it promptly, right off, then go home. Home is the right place for boys. About the street corners, at the stables, they learn to swear, to smoke, and to do many other things which they ought not to do.

Do your business, and then go home. If your business is play, play, and make a business of it. I like to see boys play good, active, earnest, healthy games. If I was the town, I would give the boys a good spacious play ground. It should have plenty of soft green grass, and trees and fountains and broad space to run and jump, and to play any suitable games I would make it as pleasant, as lovely as it could be, and I would tell them to go home.

For when boys hang around the street corners and the stables, they get slouchy and listless. Of all things I dislike a listless boy or girl. I would have a hundred boys like a hundred yachts with every spar straight, and every rope taut, the deck and sides clean, the rigging all in order, and everything ready to slip the cable and fly before the wind when the word comes go. But this cannot be if you lounge about the streets and loaf about the corners, and idle your time away at the stables and at the saloons.

When you are from home, have some business and attend to it, then "Go home."

The Constitutional Convention.

Last week we published an alphabetical list of the members of the Convention and their party designation. Below will be found a correct list of commitees as arranged by the President, Mr. Meredith, whose non-partizanship is established by the appointment of such prominent Democrats as Judges Black and Woodward and Messrs. Buckalew and Gowan to the head of important committees. Mr. Finney, the member from our county, it will be noticed is the chairman of the Committee on Agriculture, Mining, Manufacture and Commerce, and with Mr. Hall is on the Committee on Legislation. Mr. Hall is also on the Committee on Education, and Mr. Aughenbaugh, the other member from this Senatorial district, has a place on the Committees on Lesislature and Industrial Interest and Labor.

President Meredith announced the standing committees as follows. The first-named person on each committee is the chairman:

On Legislature—Messrs. MacVeagh, Hopkins, David N. White, Gilpin, Niles, *Aughenbaugh*, John Price Wetherill, Dallas, and Horton.

On Legislation—Messrs. Harry White, J. S. Black, Dimmick, Purman, Mann, Corbett, *Finney*, John R. Reed, Ewing, S. H. Reynolds, Hanna, *Hall*, Curry, Thomas, H. B. Patterson, and Andrews.

On Executive Department—Messrs. A. G. Curtin, John N. Purviance, Charles A. Black, Walker, Biddle, Fell, Lamberton, Armstrong, and Bowman.

On Judiciary—Messrs. Armstong, Woodward, Russell, Cuyler, S. H. Purviance, Sharpe, MacVeagh, Kaine, James L. Reynolds, Dallas, Broomall, Boyd, Craig, Wright, and Bartholomew.

On Suffrage, Election, and Representation—Messrs. McAllister, Buckalew, Fulton, Brown, Simpson, Elliott, Lilly, Ellis, J. W. F. White, McMurray, Rooke, Cassidy, Carter, Campbell, and Ainey.

On Impeachment and Removal from Office—Messrs. Biddle, Andrews, Gibson, Harry White, and Davis.

On Commissions, Offices, Oath of Office, and Incompetency of Office—Messrs. Kane, Baker, Boyd, H. W. Palmer, John M. Bailey, Stewart, McClean, Beebe, and Struthers.

On Education—Messrs. Darlington, Chas. A. Black, Stanton, Wherry, Rauck, Landis, Lear, *Hall*, and Minor.

On Cities and City Charters—Messrs. Walker, Guthrie, Littleton, Metzger, Jas. L. Reynolds, Alricks, Pughe, Henry W. Smith, and John Price Wetherill.

On Counties, Townships, and Boroughs—Messrs. Lawrence, Lambert ton, Darlington, Henry W. Smith, Howard, Brodhead, Struthers, Landis, and Parsons.

On County, Township, and Borough Officers—Messrs. S. A. Purviance, Gowen, Curry, Elliott, Lear, Brown Manton, Andrew Read, and Ranck.

On Militia—Messrs. Porter, Hay, Lilly, G. W. Palmer, and Stanton.

On Public and Municipal Debts and Sinking Fund—Messrs. Buckalew, Ainey, Guthrie, Addicks, De France, Parsons, Temple, Littleton, and Van Reed.

On State Institutions and Buildings—Messrs. Turrell, Mott, McConnell, Worrall, J. W. F. White, Temple, and McCullough.

On Religious and Charitable Corporations and Societies—Messrs. Mann, Alricks, Minor, Hunsicker, Carter, Worrall, and Collins.

On Railroads and Canals—Messrs. Cochran, Curtin, Baer, Horton, T. H. B. Patterson, McAllister, Sharpe, Rooke, Beebe, Howard, Campbell, McCullough, Hemphill, Joseph Baily, and Funk.

On Private Corporations, Foreign and Domestic, other than Railroads, Canals, and Religious and Charitable Corporations and Societies—Messrs. Woodward, Turrell, Dodd, Collins, Heverin, Dimmick, Clark, Corson, Barclay, Stewart, Baer, J. W. F. White, Harvey, Baker, and Simpson.

On Declaration of Rights—Messrs. Hopkins, M'Connell, Wright, Corson, Clark, Edwards, Gibson, Lawrence, and Newlin.

On Future Amendments—Messrs. Funk, Cassidy, Davis, Brodhead, and Bannan.

On Constitutional Sanctions—Messrs. J. S. Black, Bowman, Cronmiller, Bannan, De France, Porter, Addicks, Hunsicker, and Bardsley.

On Schedule—Messrs. Bartholomew, Corbett, Manton, G. W. Palmer, D. W. Patterson, Gilpin, Hanna, Barclay, and Hazzard.

On Revision and Adjustment—Messrs. Gowen, Knight, Church, D. W. Patterson, and H. W. Palmer.

On Accounts and Expenditures of the Convention—Messrs. Hay, Cochran, Patton, John M. Purviance, and Jos. Baily.

On Printing and Binding—Messrs. Newlin, W. H. Smith, Russell, H. G. Smith, Cochran, Cuyler, and David N. White.

On Industrial Interests and Labor—Messrs. Cary, Long, Fell, McCamant, Pughe, Andrew Reed, Edwards, *Aughenbaugh*, and Fulton.

On Agriculture, Mining, Manufactures, and Commerce—Messrs. *Finney*, J. M. Wetherill, Knight, W. H. Smith, Curry, Dunning, Hazzard, Mott, and Craig.

On Revenue, Taxation, and Finance—Messrs. Broomall, Church, Niles, Van Reed, Bardsley, Purman, Ewing, Ross, and John M. Bailey.

"The dearest spot on earth" has at last been located. Those wishing to find that "spot" will find it at the store that does not advertise.