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TOWANDA:

Thursday Morning, April 14, 1859.

Selected Poetry.

(From Ballou's Pictorial.)
ASSURANCE.

BY SYBIL PARK.

Yes; you love me—Agnes Lane,
And that forehead white as snow,
Need not crimson so with shame,
That I dare to tell thee so,
Very quick your young heart throbs—
Full of beauty, joy and light;
Underneath sleep broken soles,
For the love you scorn to-night.

Wear your lips with coldness now,
Such a look of proud disdain,
Well becomes that haughty brow—
Though it bring a moment's pain;
Yes, you love me; every tone
Of your voice was sweet and low,
When you wandered here alone,
At the early twilight glow.

I can read within your eyes,
All the world's a breath is true,
For each great thought mirrored lies
In their depths of languid blue;
And the white rose in your hair,
Twined among the diamonds bright,
Is the one I bade you wear,
When we parted yesterday.

Yester-eyes—oh strange to say—
Those small jeweled hands of thine,
Sparkling, trembling, trusting, lay,
Willing captives cased in mine.
With its wealth of tresses brown,
(There, you need not sigh and start.)
That young head bent humbly down,
Nestling close against my heart.

Ah! the crimson blushes sweep
Over cheek and brow of snow,
What! can those proud eyelids weep—
Lately have I grieved you so,
Come to me poor wounded bird;
Fold your white wings here again—
Now its eye depths are stirred,
How your bosom throbs with pain.

REMARKS OF

E. REED MYER,
On the Subject of Exemptions.

Senate bill No. 483, "a supplement to an act to exempt property to the value of three hundred dollars from levy and sale on execution and distress from rent, approved April 9, 1849," came up in order on second reading; when, the question being upon the second section,

Mr. MYER said: In bringing to the notice of the Senate the proposition contained in this bill, I am endeavoring only to carry out what I believe to be the true intent and meaning of the Legislature of 1849, which passed the law commonly called the "three hundred dollar exemption law." By an examination into the history of the exemption laws passed at different times, I find that the great principle of humanity, upon which all exemption laws are founded, first received the attention and favorable consideration of a Pennsylvania Legislature, in the year 1814; and as an evidence of the feeling that prompted them to the action then had upon this subject, I will call your attention to the title of the act referred to. It is in these truly expressive words—"an act to promote the comfort of the poor." A few years later in the history of our State, in the year 1821, finding, no doubt, that the operation of the act of 1814, (slight and inefficient though it was,) was favorable to the accomplishment of the object sought to be obtained, the Legislature passed two other acts of like import and similar title, keeping still in view the idea that must have then been prominently in view as before, of promoting the general happiness and prosperity of the whole people.

The acts to which I have referred are in themselves unimportant, so far as the amount of property that was really exempt from levy and sale by remorseless and unfeeling creditors was concerned, but they are of vast importance, exhibiting the spirit that animated the hearts of the men who were called upon to conduct the affairs of state at that day, and prove that the people had really considered those measures as beneficial, slight as was the exemption that was then secured to the unfortunate debtor and those that were dependent upon him. As the good result of these laws more and more developed themselves, the people began more and more to turn their favorable regards to the subject, and in 1828 the members of this and the other House, then, as before, coming directly from the people, and in this, as in all truly republican governments, being the representatives of an enlightened public sentiment, passed a law exempting property, which cannot be put down at less than two hundred and seventy five dollars, from levy or sale.—This law, although operating unequally in conferring its benefits, was productive of great good to the people. It cast around the home of the poor and industrious citizen the shield of protection, and held out to him that indefeasible and incentive to action, by creating a confidence and a certain security in the enjoyment of a home surrounded by the necessary comforts of life, which seldom, if ever, failed to inspire a man with sufficient ambition to accumulate what the law permits him to hold for the benefit of himself and family, and fixed forever in the minds of our people the justice and propriety of a liberal law of exemption.—So rapid was the progress of reform in this direction, that in 1842, the odious imprisonment act, one of the relics of barbarism, was swept from the statute books, never again to be reproduced to disgrace the history of our legal proceedings. Were I disposed to travel back and instance, as could be done, the suffering and misery which were the legitimate and disgraceful results of the enforcement of this abhorred law, I might draw pictures that would

astonish and appal you, and make all men wonder that it had been so long permitted to disgrace the statute book of a free, humane, and enlightened Commonwealth; but it has passed away, and its baneful effects live only in the recollection of our citizens, as an evidence that the early legislation of our State was too much governed by the principles and views that obtained favor in English jurisprudence, from which we derive, in a large measure, our own laws, and it required time to break the bonds of habit, and bring our legislation, by progressive steps, into close conformity with the genius of free institutions. So firmly fixed in the minds of our people, however, had at length become the policy of our laws in this direction that the Legislature, in 1846, passed a still further law upon this subject, exempting a yoke of oxen or a horse, not exceeding in value fifty dollars, from execution in certain cases, running the value of exempted property up to at least three hundred and twenty-five dollars. Thus again the people spoke, through their representatives, in confirmation of the well-settled policy of the State, and of their approval of the beneficent operation of the law on the subject. In tracing the history of legislation upon this important question, I am now brought down in scale of time to the passage of the law of 1849, the act to which the bill now pending is a supplement. The causes which led to the passage of this law, known as the three hundred dollar exemption law, it may not be out of place to refer to.

The operation of former laws upon this question was found to be unequal. It will be readily perceived by any one who chooses to examine the act of 1828, that any person living in a town or city was deprived of many of the benefits of that law, from the fact that it was impossible for him to keep many of the articles enumerated. For instance, he could not keep a cow or sheep, and of course did not need the necessary feed to support them, while to a man living in the country these things were of great value. Again, all a man's wearing apparel was exempt, and while the upstart popinjay in the city or town might have two or three, or even five hundred dollars' worth of clothing to strut in the street with, the honest mechanic, whose family it would have conferred a blessing upon to have been able to retain an equal amount in value of the necessary articles, was, by the provisions of this law, deprived of them. It therefore became the duty of the Legislature to alter or amend the law as to make it operate as nearly equal as possible. It was with this view, and for the accomplishment of so desirable a result as this, that the change was made, and all former acts repealed, and the law of 1849 enacted in their stead. The provisions of the bill now under consideration, as they appear upon its face, are designed to cure certain supposed defects in the original law, made really so by the decision of our Supreme Court, of which it is said of late there is but one thing remarkable, and that is, that, as if by chance, they sometimes decide questions of law twice in the same way.

However, in this case, they lost sight of the real objects for which the law was passed; which were not only designed for the benefit of men, but more particularly, like all preceding acts relating to the same matter, for the benefit of families; for it would be preposterous to suppose that the Legislature had no other object in view, in the passage of the law except to throw around that portion of our community that are most able to take care of themselves, the protecting arm of the law, and yet the decision of the Supreme Court has, in a measure, produced this effect, and has placed in the hands of the exacting creditor the power to pauperize many a family, and cast them out of home and home, upon the cold charities of the world.

While Pennsylvania has been moving slowly, but surely, on this good work of reform, many of her sister States have made far more rapid strides in the same direction. Connecticut, New York and Massachusetts were among the first States that led off in this reform—Ohio, Indiana and Maine are also among the numbers that have acted wisely and legislated liberally upon this question; but all the States named have been far outstripped by some of the more western States. Some of these have laws exempting property to the amount of one thousand dollars. The propriety of so large an exemption as this, is a doubtful policy, nor is our own State ready to try it at this time; but there is no excuse or reason why we should not make the small amount of property, reserved by the law of 1849 for her citizens, secure beyond any contingency. Any other course will continue to work hereafter, as it has heretofore, incalculable mischief and wrong, while its benefits would be slight and doubtful.

A custom has grown up, since the passage of the law referred to, under the decision of the Supreme Court, of exacting from the more unfortunate and ignorant portion of our people, a certain kind of notes, waiving all exemption laws, stay of execution, right of inquiry on real estate, with a confession of judgment, &c., thus binding a man hand and foot; and I have sometimes thought these "Shylocks" would get them, if it were possible, by deception or otherwise, to waive their right to a future existence for the most trifling sum, to provide they could make any money out of it.—Now, sir, I do not pretend to say that any considerable portion of our business men take these kind of obligations, because they desire or expect to take advantage of and use the extreme power which they are able to exercise with the unfortunate debtor, because the nature of the obligation they hold against him permits it; yet if he has been so pressed by present necessities as to be obliged to give this kind of an obligation to some unfeeling wretch whose god is Mammon, he may be stripped of every article of property that he owns, and himself and family be reduced to abject misery and want in a single day; while the honest business man who has trusted him upon his faith in his integrity, as much as from the nature of the obligation he holds, and has been giving him credit to aid him in supporting his family, and accumulating something to make himself, and those dependent upon him, comfortable, is cheated out of what is due him, and

which he would, at some future day, have obtained, had the individual been protected in the enjoyment of what he had, until sufficient time had elapsed to have enabled him to overcome present misfortunes.

The whole operation of this law, as it now stands, is bad. It induces men of doubtful integrity to resort to deception and fraud, to get others to give them obligations containing a waiver of exemptions, by promising them all the time they may desire, even after the debt shall become due; (such promises are generally made in the private counting room, where there is no witness present; and if there should be, he is apt to be some deaf clerk, who did not hear any bargain except what was "announced in the bond," and that before it was signed;) and while it cannot be denied that it is a temptation to men of easy virtue, it is a downright license to villainies to make paupers of our people. Hence it is, the law should be complete, and the full and free enjoyment of these exemptions secured to the debtor in such a manner that he may not be either overawed or entrapped into stripping himself of it; and that is what the bill under consideration proposes to do. Where are the beneficial results of the law as it is now? Will it be pretended for one moment that the collection of a few dollars from a poor debtor, and the small amount of advantage it affords to the poor creditor, are to be put in the scale against the misery produced by bringing a whole family to want and destitution? Nor is this often the end of the sad misfortune. Not infrequently it is the case, that under such circumstances the kindest husband and father, driven to desperation, falls into habits of dissipation and drunkenness; is led on from indulgence in that one master vice to a participation in others, until at last, in an evil hour, under the influence of the maddening bowl, he commits some offence against the criminal law, (it may be to keep away from the hills and valleys of the country; whose daily toil earns their daily bread, and they produce more of the real wealth of the nation than its most skillful financiers, and all the bulls and bears of the stock market, who dwell in "marble halls," and whose overgrown and unstable riches are the spoils of the less ornamental but vastly more useful classes of the community. These small people deserve the consideration of their representatives, who are sedulous to seek their favor and support on the election day. They should not be surrendered to a prey to unavoidable misfortune. They should not be handed over to the tender mercies, which are cruel, of the grasping money dealer, who estimates a man at just what he can make out of him. A home, and the necessary comforts of a home, should be secured to them; and the pittance of three hundred dollars, in whatever form of property they may desire, inalienable either by recklessness, inconsideration or simplicity, is sorely little enough to constitute them stable members of society, with a stake in the Commonwealth; safe under the protection of her laws; free to discharge all the duties of citizenship, without challenge from any quarter, and able to look around on wives and children, with the satisfaction that, so long as life shall last, they cannot be dissevered from them. Supported thus in his personal dignity, secure in his civil rights, safe in his domestic relations, he possesses the strongest inducement to improve his condition. He

"Princes and kings may flourish and troy fade,
A breath can make them as a breath has made;
But a bold peasant, his country's pride,
When once destroyed can never be supplied."

Here we have no class of persons, and we are fortunate in the fact, which corresponds with the peasantry of Europe. But we have the industrious mechanic and the hard-handed laborer, who ply their task in obscure streets, or far away among the hills and valleys of the country; whose daily toil earns their daily bread, and they produce more of the real wealth of the nation than its most skillful financiers, and all the bulls and bears of the stock market, who dwell in "marble halls," and whose overgrown and unstable riches are the spoils of the less ornamental but vastly more useful classes of the community. These small people deserve the consideration of their representatives, who are sedulous to seek their favor and support on the election day. They should not be surrendered to a prey to unavoidable misfortune. They should not be handed over to the tender mercies, which are cruel, of the grasping money dealer, who estimates a man at just what he can make out of him. A home, and the necessary comforts of a home, should be secured to them; and the pittance of three hundred dollars, in whatever form of property they may desire, inalienable either by recklessness, inconsideration or simplicity, is sorely little enough to constitute them stable members of society, with a stake in the Commonwealth; safe under the protection of her laws; free to discharge all the duties of citizenship, without challenge from any quarter, and able to look around on wives and children, with the satisfaction that, so long as life shall last, they cannot be dissevered from them. Supported thus in his personal dignity, secure in his civil rights, safe in his domestic relations, he possesses the strongest inducement to improve his condition. He

"Aspires to taste the proud and manly joy,
That springs from holding in his own dear right,
The land he plows, the home he seeks at night."

It is to encourage such efforts, to contribute in its measure to the accomplishment of such results, that the bill now under consideration has been drawn, and its passage urged. I do not believe it to be possible that a Pennsylvania Senate can reject a proposition, sustained by so many motives of humanity, of private advantage and sound public policy; but confidently expect its passage by a vote worthy of the highest branch of the Legislature of a free, intelligent and mighty Commonwealth.

BURNING OF GAS.—When coal gas is burning, it combines with the oxygen of from ten to twelve times its bulk of common air, or even more, the quantity varying according to the gas. By this combination, which in fact constitutes combustion, watery vapor and carbonic acid are formed—the former being composed of all the hydrogen of the gas, with three times its weight of oxygen, the latter consisting of all the charcoal, united with the oxygen, in the proportion of six to sixteen by weight. These products, which are similar to those from a candle or lamp, mingle with the air of the apartment, and are removed with it in the course of ordinary ventilation. In some circumstances the watery vapor is condensed on the windows; and in the street lamps it may be seen, when the weather is cold, bedewing the inside of the globes, and even collecting in considerable quantity at the bottom. The carbonic acid is not removed in the same manner by condensation, and it may accumulate to a hurtful extent; this can only happen however where ventilation is peculiarly defective, and the remedy sufficiently apparent. When the carbon is not all consumed, it flies off in smoke—an occurrence which should be guarded against, not only on account of its offensive qualities, but also from the great loss of light in proportion to gas expended. The emission of light, though usually the effect of combustion, is yet a different phenomenon. Many substances incapable of burning, yet emit the most brilliant light when they are intensely heated. Gasses possess this quality in a very feeble degree. Air, indeed, may be so hot that a solid body becomes luminous in it, while it gives off no light itself. The temperature at which solids begin to emit light is about eight hundred degrees Fahrenheit; they are then incandescence, or red hot; and if the temperature be increased, they become more and more luminous, until they are so brilliant that the eye cannot look on them without pain.

John Phenix went to the theatre once when Mrs. Smith was advertised to appear in two pieces. After the performance he demanded the return of his money, for, he said, Mrs. Smith appeared whole during both performances.

A Thrilling Incident.

A British officer, who was in the Battle of New Orleans, mentions the following incident of thrilling strangeness, and very descriptive of the Western hunter, many of whom marched to the defence of New Orleans as volunteers in the army under the renowned Andrew Jackson:

We marched, said the officer, in a solid column of twelve thousand men, in a direct line upon the American defences. I belonged to the staff, and as we advanced, watched through our glasses, the position and arrangements of our enemy with that intensity an officer only feels when marching into the jaws of death, with the assurance that while he thus offers himself as a sacrifice to the demands of his country, every action, be it successful or otherwise, will be judged with the most heartless scrutiny.

It was a strange sight, that long range of cotton bales—a new material for breastwork—with the crowd of human beings behind, their heads only visible above the line of defence. We could distinctly see their long rifles laying over the bales, and the battery of Gen. Coffee directly in front, with its great mouth gaping towards us, and the position of Gen. Jackson, with his staff around him. But what attracted our attention most, was the figure of a tall man standing on the breastworks, dressed in lincey woolsey, with buckskin leggings, and broad rimmed felt hat that fell around his face, almost concealing his features. He was standing in one of those picturesque and graceful attitudes peculiar to those natural men—wellers of the forest.

The body rested on the left leg, and swayed with a curved line upwards; the hand grasping the rifle near the muzzle, the butt of which rested near the toe of the right foot, while with his hand he raised the rim of the hat from his eyes, and seemed gazing from beneath intensely upon our advancing column. The cannon of Gen. Coffee had opened upon us, and tore through our ranks with dreadful slaughter; but we continued to advance, unwavering and cool, as if nothing threatened our progress.

The roar of cannon seemed to have an effect upon the figure standing on the cotton bales, but he seemed fixed and motionless as a statue. As last he moved, threw back the hat rim over the crown with his left hand, raised the rifle to his shoulder, and took aim at our group. Our eyes were riveted upon him. At whom had he leveled his piece? But the distance was so great that we looked at each other and smiled. We saw the rifle flash, and my right hand companion, as noble looking a fellow as ever rode at the head of his regiment, fell from his saddle. The hunter paused a few minutes, without moving his rifle from his shoulder, then reloaded and resumed his former attitude. Throwing his hat rim over his eyes and again holding it up with the left hand, he fixed his piercing gaze upon us as if hunting out another victim. Once more his hat rim was thrown back, and the gun raised to his shoulder. This time we did not smile, but cast short glances at each other, to see which of us must die; and when the rifle again flashed another of us dropped so the earth. There was something awful in marching on to certain death.

General Coffee's battery and thousands of musket balls played round our ranks. We cared not for them; there was not a chance of escaping unscathed. Most of us had walked upon batteries a hundred times more destructive without quailing; but to know that every time the rifle was leveled towards us, and its bullet sprang from the barrel, one of us must surely fall! To see the gleaming sun flash as the iron came down, and see it rest motionless, as if poised upon a rock, and know, when the hammer struck and the sparks flew to the full-primed pan, that the messenger of death drove unerringly to its goal—to know this, and still march on, was awful.

I could see nothing but the tall figure standing on the breastwork. He seemed to grow, phanton like, taller and taller, assuming, through the smoke, the super-natural appearance of some giant spirit. Again did he reload and discharge his rifle with the same unflinching aim; and it was with indescribable pleasure that I beheld, as we neared the American lines, the sulphurous smoke gathered around us and shut the spectral hunter from my gaze. We lost the battle, and to my mind the Kentucky rifleman contributed more to our defeat than any thing else; for while he remained to our sight our attention was drawn from our duties, and when at last we became enshrouded in the smoke, the work was complete—we were in utter confusion and unable, in the extremity, to restore order sufficient to make any successful attack.

So long as thousands and thousands of rifles remain in the hands of the people; so long as men come up from their childhood able, ere the dawn appears on the chin, to hit the centre of a mark, or strike the deer, at one hundred and fifty yards, in the most vital parts; so long as there is a great proportion of the Republic who live as free as the wild Indian, knowing no law but that of right, and the honorable observance of friendly intercourse, America is unconquerable, and all the combined world, though they may drive them from the seacoast across the Alleghany mountains, would not be able to subdue the free-souled hunters among the mountains and great prairies and mighty rivers of the West.

VALUABLE MEDICAL DISCOVERY.—A few days since, an Irishman upon one of our wharves was obliged to suspend work in consequence of being afflicted with an ulcerated sore throat. His employers pitying his sufferings, sent him a jar of nice currant jelly; and to their great surprise, he resumed his labors on the following morning with his throat and head completely enveloped with bandages highly discolored. Upon being questioned as to his health and peculiar appearance, Pat replied: "That was a beautiful medicine ye gave me, and did me a power of good. I made it all into a nice poultice, and put it on the outside of me throat, and it's far better than all yer doctor's stuff!"—Boston Times.

THE TROUBLE OF MONARCHY.—If the republics of America have their corruptions and evils, the monarchies of the old world are not free from their peculiar troubles; and in proof of it we append an extract from a leading article of a late London Times:

"At this moment Continental Europe is on a vast camp. Not only have the visions of long-enduring peace faded away, but every one is preparing for immediate war. While we are waiting, the resolution may have been taken which is to plunge Europe in blood. Austrian and Piedmontese outposts are watching each other across a narrow river. The arsenals and foundries are at work day and night in France; horses are bought up, clothes and shoes are manufactured with all haste, and thousands of men fully equipped for the field are ready for embarkation on the Algerian ports. Austria, on the other hand, in spite of debt, disaffection, and that worst of enemies, an alienated friend, in her rear, is as full of the obstinate warlike spirit as her antagonist. Her armies are immense, and they are being marched in mass to the points threatened by the French. Positions have been taken up, fortifications built or repaired, strong points made stronger, and the whole resources of a first-rate military organization brought to bear on the defence of a highly-valued province. Prussia and the German Bund, although highly jealous of France, would hardly go to war to uphold Austria's right of occupying the Legations. Yet, Prussia, Hanover, Bavaria, Saxony, Wurtemberg, all look upon war as a probable eventuality. Their armies are being put on a war footing; heads of departments are in council together; the export of horses and ordnance; patriotic speeches are made in the Chambers; and, as a matter of course, the conscription is heavier than ever. What passes in the vast and silent empire of the Czar it is not so easy to learn with accuracy, but there are rumors of troops concentrated in Poland, and we may conclude that there, too, there is no alleviation of the burdens of an armed peace. But when we turn to our own country we feel most keenly the situation of affairs. Are these exactions never to end? Are these apprehensions never to be allayed? Twenty-three millions were spent in armaments last year, and yet the cry is still, 'Give.' Statesmen and Generals tell us we are not secure. Periodical panics humiliate us in the opinion of foreigners, and tend to degrade the nation even in its own eyes. We are assured by the Premier that no taxes can be taken off, and that we may think ourselves fortunate if no new ones are imposed. The talk is continually of recruiting soldiers, manning the navy, casting rifled cannon, and building invulnerable craft."

SHEET IRON.—Sheet iron is made either by hammering the heated metal to the proper thickness by the same methods that by some manufacturers are still employed for the purpose of drawing it into bars, or it is made to acquire the proper form and thickness by being pressed, when strongly heated between smooth rollers with polished faces, arranged in the same manner as those intended for reducing it to bars. The metal employed for making sheet iron ought to be very soft and tough; and when thin sheets are required, such as those of which tin-plate is manufactured, the best charcoal-purified iron only can be used. To give the metal the form of sheets, it is repeatedly passed through sets of rollers, and when it has been rolled into very thin sheets, such as those employed in the manufacture of tin-plate, the smoothing of the surface is effected by a distinct and separate operation. For this purpose the reduced metal, after being heated to redness, in order to restore its softness, is laid in successive layers on a smoothly polished surface of cast-iron, where it is strongly compressed by the descent of another surface, acted on by hydraulic pressure. A singular illustration of the tenacity and ductility of iron has been produced at an establishment in Birmingham, England. It is in the form of a book, the leaves of which are iron, rolled so fine that they are not thicker than a piece of paper.—The book is neatly bound in red morocco, and contains forty-four of these iron leaves, the whole being only the fifteenth of an inch thick. This enormous book was rolled in the ordinary sheet-iron rolls.

POWER OF STEAM.—A pint of water may be evaporated by two ounces of coal. In its evaporation it swells into two hundred and sixteen gallons of steam; with a mechanical force sufficient to raise a weight of thirty-seven tons a foot high. The steam thus produced has a pressure equal to that of common atmospheric air; and by allowing it to expand, by virtue of its elasticity a further mechanical force may be obtained, at least equal in amount to the former. A pint of water, therefore, and two ounces of common coal, are thus rendered capable of doing as much work as is equivalent to seventy-four tons raised a foot high. The circumstances under which the steam engine is worked on a railway are not favorable to the economy of fuel, nevertheless, a pound of coal burned in a locomotive engine will evaporate five pints of water. In this evaporation it will exert a mechanical force sufficient to draw two tons weight on the railway a distance of two minutes. The great pyramid of Egypt stands upon a base measuring 700 feet each way, and is 500 feet high, its weight being twelve thousand seven hundred and sixty millions of pounds. It is stated that in constructing this prodigious pile 100,000 men were constantly employed for twenty years. Now however, by the means of steam, the materials of this pyramid could be raised from the ground to their present position by the combustion of about 480 tons of coal.

SPECIMENS OF A MODERN DICTIONARY.—*Distast Relations*—People who imagine they have a claim to rob you if you are rich, and to insult you if you are poor.

Ble—A beautiful but unless insect without wings, whose colors fade on being removed from the sunshine.

Editor—A poor wretch, who every day empties his brain in order to fill his stomach.