The Independent Republican.

"FREEDOM AND RIGHT AGAINST SLAVERY AND WRONG."

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Poet's Corner.

THE GRAVE IN THE WEST.

BY THOMAS HOOD.

Western wind, balmy and sweet,
Stole you the breath of the blossoming limes,
Under whose boughs we were wont to meet—
Wont to meet in the olden times?

Far away—adown in the West
Blossom the limes that I love so well,
Under whose boughs my life was blest
With a love far dearer than words may tell.

Western wind, though so far away,
I trace in your sighing their odorous breath;
Surely you stole it, and brought it to say:
"Think of the boughs you have wandered beneath!"

The limes in that avenue, leafy and sweet,
Blossomed and faded one happy year,
While under their shadow our two hearts beat
With a love unclouded by doubt or fear.

The limes in that avenue, shady and old,
Have blossomed and faded many a year,
Since *one* true heart grew forever cold,
And the *other* forever withered and sere.

Western wind, let the lindens rest!
Waft me no breath from the lime-tree bowers—
But the perfume of roses that grow in the West
On a lowly grave that is covered with flowers.

Tales and Sketches.

THE ENCHANTED PIKE.

A Russian Fairy Tale.

In a certain village lived at one time a peasant who had three sons, two of whom were sensible, but the third was a fool, and his name was Emelyan. And when the peasant had lived a long time, and was grown very old, he called his three sons to him, and said to them "My dear children, I feel that I have not much longer to live; so I give you the house and cattle, which you will divide among you, share and share alike. I have also given you a hundred roubles.

Soon after the old man died, and the sons, when they had buried him, lived on happy and contented. Some time afterwards Emelyan's brothers took a fancy to go to the city, and trade with the hundred roubles their father had left them. So they said to Emelyan "Hark ye, fool! we are going to the city and will take your hundred roubles with us; and if we prosper in trade, we will buy you a red coat, red boots, and a red cap.—But do you stay here at home; and when our wives, your sisters-in-law, desire you to do anything, do as they bid you." The fool, who had a great longing for a red coat and cap, and red boots, answered that he would do whatever his sisters-in-law bade him. So his brothers went off to the city, and Emelyan staid at home with his two sisters.

One day, when the winter was come, and the cold was great, his sisters-in-law told him to go out and fetch water; but Emelyan remained lying on the stove, and said, "Ay, indeed, and who, then, are you?"

The sisters began to scold him, and said, "How, now, fool! we are what you see.—You see how cold it is, and that it is a man's business to go."

But he said, "I am lazy."

"How!" they exclaimed, "you are lazy? surely you will want to eat, and if we have no water we cannot cook. But never mind," added they, "we will only tell our husbands not to give him anything, when they have bought the fine red coat and all for him!"

The fool heard what they said; and as he longed greatly to have the red coat and cap, he saw that he must go; so he got down from the stove, and began to put on his shoes and stockings and dress himself. When he was dressed, he took the buckets and the axe, and went down to the river hard by. And when he came to the river, he began to cut a large hole in the ice. Then he drew water in the buckets, and setting them on the ice, he stood by the hole, looking into the water. And as he was looking, he saw a large pike swimming about. Great a fool as Emelyan was, he felt a wish to catch this pike; so he stole cautiously and softly to the edge of the hole, and making a sudden grasp at the pike, he caught him, and pulled him out of the water: then putting him in his bosom, he was hastening home with him, when the pike cried out, "Ho, fool! why have you caught me?" Emelyan answered, "To take you home, and get my sister-in-law to dress you."

"Nay, fool! do not take me home, but throw me back into the water, and I will make a rich man of you."

But the fool would not consent, and jogged on his way home.

When the pike saw that the fool was not for letting him go, he said to him, "Hark ye, fool! let me go, and I will do for you everything you do not like to do yourself; you will only have to wish and it will be done."

On hearing this, the fool rejoiced beyond measure; for, as he was uncommonly lazy, he thought to himself, "if the pike does everything I have no mind to do, all will be done without my being troubled to work." So he said to the pike, "I will throw you back into the water if you will do all you promise."

The pike said, "Let me go first, and then I will keep my promise."

But the fool answered, "Nay, nay, you must first perform your promise, and then I will let you go."

When the pike saw that Emelyan would not put him into the water, he said, "If you wish me to do all you desire, you must first tell me what your desire is."

"I wish," said the fool, "that my buckets should go of themselves from the river up the hill to the village, without spilling any of the water."

Then said the pike, "Listen now, and remember the words I say to you: at the pike's command, and at my desire, go, buckets, of yourselves up the hill!"

Then the fool repeated after him these words; and instantly, with the speed of tho't the buckets ran up the hill. When Emelyan saw this, he was amazed beyond measure, and he said to the pike, "But will it always be so?"

"Everything you desire will be done," replied the pike; "but I warn you not to forget the words I have taught you."

Then Emelyan put the pike into the water, and followed his buckets home. The neighbors were all amazed, and said to one another, "This fool makes the buckets come up of themselves from the river, and he follows them home at his leisure." But Emelyan took no notice of them, and went his way home. The buckets were by this time in the house, and standing in their place on the foot-bench; so Emelyan got up and stretched himself on the stove.

After some time his sister-in-law said to him again, "Emelyan, why are you loitering there? get up, and go cut wood."

But the fool replied, "Ay! and prithee who are you?"

"Don't you see it is now winter, and if you don't cut wood, you will be frozen?"

"I am lazy," said the fool.

"What! you are lazy?" cried the sisters. "If you do not go instantly and cut the wood we will tell our husbands not to give you the red coat, or the red cap, or the fine red boots!"

The fool, who longed for the red cap, coat, and boots, saw that he must go and cut the wood; but as it was bitterly cold, and he did not like to come down from off the stove, he repeated in an under tone, as he lay, the words:

"At the pike's command, and at my desire, up axe, and hew the wood! and do you logs, come of yourself into the house, and lay yourselves in the stove!"

Instantly the axe jumped up, ran out into the yard, and began to cut up the wood; and the logs came of themselves into the house, and laid themselves into the stove. When the sisters saw this, they wondered exceedingly at the cleverness of the fool; and as the axe did of its own accord the work whenever Emelyan was wanted to cut wood, he lived for some time in peace and harmony with them. At length the wood was all finished, and they said to him:

"Emelyan, we have no more wood, so you must go to the forest and cut some."

"Ay," said the fool, "and you, who are you then?"

The sisters replied: "The woods are far off, it is winter, and too cold for us to go."

But the fool only said, "I am lazy."

"How! you are lazy!" cried they: "you will be frozen then; and moreover we will take care, when our husbands come home, that they shall not give you the red coat, cap and boots!"

As the fool longed for the clothes, he saw that he must go and cut the wood; so he got off the stove, put on his shoes and stockings, and dressed himself; and when he was dressed, he went into the yard, dragged the sledge out of the shed, took a rope and the axe with him, mounted the sledge, and called out to his sisters in-law:

"Open the gate!"

When the sisters saw that he was riding off without any horses they cried, "Why, Emelyan, you have got on the sledge without yoking the horses!" But he answered that he wanted no horses, and bade them only open the gate. So the sisters threw open the gate, and the fool repeated the words, "At the pike's command, and at my desire, away, sledge! off to the wood!" Instantly the sledge galloped out of the yard at such a rate, that the people of the village, when they saw it, were filled with amazement at Emelyan's riding in the sledge without horses, and with such speed that a pair of horses could never have drawn it at such a rate.—Emelyan had to pass through the town on his way to the wood, and away he dashed at full speed. But the fool did not know that he should cry out, "Make way!" in order that he might not run over any one; but away he went; and he rode over a great number of people; and though they ran after him, no one was able to overtake and bring him back.

At last Emelyan, having got clear of the town, came to the wood and stopped his sledge. Then he got down and said, "At the pike's command, and at my desire, up, axe! hew wood; and you, logs! lay yourselves on the sledge, and tie yourselves together."

Scarcely had the fool uttered these words, when the axe began to cut wood, the logs to lay themselves in the sledge, and the rope to tie them down. When the axe had cut wood enough, Emelyan desired it to cut him a good cudgel; and when the axe had done this, he mounted the sledge, and cried, "Up, and away! At the pike's command, and at my desire, go home sledge!"

Away then went the sledge at the top of its speed; and when he came to the town, where he had hurt so many people, he found a crowd waiting to catch him; and as soon as he got into the gates they laid hold on him, dragged him off his sledge, and fell to beating him.

When the fool saw how they were treating him, he said, in an under voice, "At the pike's command, and at my desire, up, cudgel, and thrash them!"

Instantly the cudgel began to lay about it on all sides; and when the people were all driven away he made his escape, and came to his own village. The cudgel having thrashed the folks all soundly, rolled home after him; and Emelyan, as usual, when he got home, climbed up and lay upon the stove.

After Emelyan had left the town, all the people fell to talking, not so much of the number of persons he had injured, as of their amazement at his riding in the sledge without horses; and from one to another the news spread, till it reached the court and came to the ears of the king. And when the king heard of it, he felt an extreme desire to see Emelyan; so he despatched an officer in search of him.

The officer whom the king sent instantly started, and took the road that the fool had taken; and when he came to the village where Emelyan lived, he summoned the Starosta, or head man of the village, and said to him, "I am sent by the king to take a certain fool, and bring him before his majesty."

So the Starosta instantly showed him the house where Emelyan lived, and the officer went into it and asked where the fool was.

Emelyan, who was lying on the stove, answered, "What is it you want with me?"

"How!" said the officer, "what do I want with you? Get up this instant and dress yourself; I must take you to the king."

But Emelyan said, "What to do?"

Whereat the officer became so enraged at the rudeness of his replies, that he gave him a box on the ears.

"At the pike's command and at my desire," said the fool, "up cudgel, and thrash them!" Instantly up sprang the cudgel, and began to lay about it on all sides.

So the officer was obliged to go back to the town as fast as he could; and when he came before the king, and told him how the fool had cudgelled them, the king marvelled greatly; and would not believe the story.—Then the king called to him a wise man, and ordered him to bring the fool by craft, if nothing else would do; so the wise man went to the village where Emelyan lived, called the Starosta before him, and said:

"I am ordered by the king to take your fool; send therefore for the persons with whom he lives."

Then the Starosta ran and fetched Emelyan's sisters-in-law. The king's messenger asked them what it was the fool liked, and they answered:

"Noble sir, if any one entreats our fool earnestly to do anything, he flatly refuses the first and second time; the third time he consents, and does what he is required, for he dislikes to be roughly treated."

The king's messenger thereupon dismissed them, charging them not to tell Emelyan that he had summoned them before him.—Then he bought raisins, baked plums, and grapes, and went to the fool. When he came into the room, he went up to the stove and said:

"Emelyan, why are you lying here?" and with that he gave him the raisins, the baked plums, and the grapes, and said: "Emelyan, we will go together to the king: I will take you with me."

But the fool replied, "I am very warm here;" for there was nothing he liked so much as being warm.

Then the messenger began to entreat him: "Be so good, Emelyan! do let us go—you will like the court vastly."

"Nay," said the fool, "I am lazy."

But the messenger entreated him once more:

"Do come with me, there's a good fellow, and the king will give you a fine red coat and cap, and a pair of red boots."

When the fool heard of the red coat he said: "Go on before, I will follow you."

The messenger pressed him no further, but went out and asked the sisters-in-law if there was any danger of the fool's deceiving him. They assured him there was not, and he went away. Emelyan, who remained lying on the stove, then said to himself, "How I dislike this going to the king!"

And after a minutes thought he said, "At the pike's command, and at my desire, up stove, and away to the town!"

And instantly the wall of the room opened and the stove moved out; and when it got clear of the yard, it went at such a rate that there was no overtaking it; soon it came up with the king's messenger, and went along with him into the palace. When the king saw the fool coming, he went forth with all his court to meet him; and he was amazed beyond measure at seeing Emelyan come riding on the stove. But the fool lay still and said nothing. Then the king asked him why he had killed so many people on his way to the wood.

"It was their own fault," said the fool; "why did they not get out of the way?"

Just at that moment the king's daughter came to the window, and Emelyan happening suddenly to look up, and seeing how handsome she was, said in a whisper:

"At the pike's command, and at my desire, away! Let this lovely maiden fall in love with me!"

And scarcely had she spoken the words, when the king's daughter fell desperately in love with him.

Then said the fool, "At the pike's command and at my desire, up, stove, and away home!"

Immediately the stove left the palace, went through the town, returned home, and set itself in its old place. And Emelyan lived there for some time comfortable and happy. But it was very different in the town; for, at the word of Emelyan, the king's daughter had fallen in love, and she began to implore her father to give her the fool for a husband. The king was in a great rage, both with her and the fool, but he knew not how to catch him: then his minister proposed that the same officer, as a punishment for not succeeding the first time, should be sent again to take Emelyan. This advice pleased the king, and he summoned the officer to his presence and said:

"Hark ye, friend! I sent you before for the fool, and ye came back without him: to punish you, I now send you for him a second time. If you bring him you will be rewarded; if you return without him, you shall be punished."

The king then sent for Emelyan, and, this time, having been made drunk, he was brot to the royal presence.

As soon as the king heard that they were come, he ordered a large cask to be provided without delay, and to be bound with strong iron hoops. When the cask was brot to the king, and he saw that everything was done as he desired, he commanded his daughter and the fool to be put into it, and the cask to be well pitched; and when all this was done, the cask was thrown into the sea, and left to the mercy of the waves. Then the king returned to his palace, and the cask floated along upon the sea.

All this time the fool was fast asleep; when he awoke, and saw that it was quite dark, he said to himself, "Where am I?" for he thought he was alone.

But the princess said, "You are in a cask, Emelyan! and I am shut up with you in it."

"But who are you?" said the fool. "I am the king's daughter," replied she. And she told him why she had been shut up there with him. Then she besought him to free himself and her out of the cask; but the fool said, "Nay, I am warm enough here."

"But grant me at least the favor," said the princess; "have pity on my tears, and deliver me out of this cask."

"Why so?" said Emelyan; "I am lazy."

Then the princess began to entreat him still more urgently, until the fool was at last moved by her tears and entreaties, and said,

"Well, I will do this for you." Then he said softly, "At the pike's command, and at my desire, cast us, O sea! upon the shore, where we may dwell on dry land; but let it be near our own country; and, cask! fall to pieces on the shore."

Scarcely had the fool uttered these words, when the waves began to roll, and the cask was thrown on a dry place, and fell to pieces itself. So Emelyan got up, and went with the princess round about the spot where they were cast; and the fool saw that they were on a fine island, where there was an abundance of trees, with all kinds of fruit upon them. When the princess saw this she was greatly rejoiced, and said, "But Emelyan where shall we live? there is not even a nook here."

"You want too much," said the fool.

"Grant me one favor," replied the princess; "let there be at least a little cottage, in which we may shelter ourselves from the rain;" for the princess knew that he could do anything he wished.

But the fool said, "I am lazy." Nevertheless she went on entreating him, until Emelyan was at last obliged to do as she desired.

Then he stepped aside, and said, "At the pike's command, and at my desire, let me have, in the middle of this island, a finer castle than the king's, and let a crystal bridge lead from my castle to the royal palace; and let there be people of all conditions in the court!"

Hardly were the words spoken, when there appeared a splendid castle, with a crystal bridge. The fool went with the princess into the castle, and beheld the apartments all magnificently furnished, and a number of persons, footmen and all kinds of officers, who waited for the fool's commands. When he saw that all these men were like men, and that he alone was ugly and stupid, he wished to be better; so he said, "At the pike's command, and at my desire, away! let me become a youth without an equal, and extremely wise!"

And hardly had he spoken, when he became so handsome and so wise that all were amazed. Emelyan now sent one of his servants to the king, to invite him and all his court. So the servant went along the crystal bridge which the fool had made; and when he came to the court, the ministers brought him before the king, and Emelyan's messenger said:

"Please your majesty, I am sent by my master to invite you to dinner."

The king asked him who his master was; but he answered:

"Please your majesty, I can tell you nothing about my master, (for the fool had ordered him not to tell who he was,) but if you come to dine with him he will inform you himself."

The king, being curious to know who had sent to invite him, told the messenger that he would go without fail. The servant went away; and when he got home, the king and his court set out along the crystal bridge to go and visit the fool; and when they arrived at the castle, Emelyan came forth to meet the king, took him by his white hands, kissed him on his sugar-lips, led him into his castle, and seated him at the oaken tables, covered with fine diapered table-cloths, and spread with sugar-meats and honey-drinks.—The king and his ministers ate, drank, and made merry.

When they rose from the table and retired, the fool said to the king:

"Does not your majesty recollect how a fool came riding on a stove to your court, and how you fastened him up in a pitched cask with your daughter, and cast them into the sea? Know me now—I am that Emelyan."

When the king saw him thus in his presence, he was greatly terrified, and knew not what to do. But the fool went to the princess and led her out to him; and the king, on seeing his daughter, was greatly rejoiced, and said, "I have been very unjust to you, and gladly give you my daughter to wife."

The fool humbly thanked the king; and when Emelyan had prepared everything for the wedding, it was celebrated with great magnificence, and the following day the fool gave a feast to the ministers and all the people. When the festivities were at an end, the king wanted to give up his kingdom to his son-in-law, but Emelyan did not wish to have the crown. So the king went back to his kingdom, and the fool remained in his castle and lived happily.

A MOMENT OF HORROR.

BY AN ARMY OFFICER.

I do not propose to tell a story either of romance or of sentiment, but simply to narrate an incident which happened to myself in the fall of 1851. I was bound westward to my regiment, and stopped for the night in the city of New York.

The city was crowded with strangers. After unsuccessful applications at several hotels, I at last obtained lodging at——'s kept on the European plan. Here I was obliged to content myself with a chamber on the fourth floor, oddly enough arranged in some respects, as, upon going to it, after supping, for the purpose of changing my travel-stained dress, I noticed the room had no window, with the exception of a square opening in the wall, through which air and light were admitted from the adjoining room. To the opening, too, was attached a shutter in that room.—I dressed and attended the Bowery theatre, reaching my apartment, on returning, about half-past twelve o'clock at night.

When about stepping into bed, I observed the wicket open, and a thought struck me to take a look into the adjoining apartment.—Why it was, I knew not; perhaps a sense of my odd insecurity actuated me.

I got upon a chair and gazed through the window into the chamber. No one was there; it was furnished like my own. A lamp was burning upon the table, and on the latter were lying a holster, a whetstone, and a pair of large false whiskers.

Well, thought I, these are rather queer articles of wardrobe. After a glance at the premises, I felt anything but easy. I finally got into bed, first placing the lamp upon the floor at the foot; and examining my pistol, I laid it carefully under my head. At first, though quite fatigued, I could not sleep; and when I did doze, my dreams were uneasy and troubled. "Macbeth" had been the play at the theatre, and witches and black whiskers, Banquo's ghost, with pistol, holsters, and the like interesting visitors were the companions of my dreamy thoughts.—About three o'clock, it might have been, I was aroused by a somewhat singular noise. On listening, it evidently proceeded from the next room. It could be likened to nothing I have ever heard; it was low, but regular and metallic in its sound—so to express it; such a sound, for instance, as might be made in cutting glass with a diamond. Suddenly I thought of the whetstone on the table, and at the same moment became convinced the noise was that of a knife being sharpened. The whetting now ceased. My bed was placed in the diagonal corner of the room from the wicket, and I had been lying with my back to the latter. I turned in the bed as noiselessly as posible, so as to face the wicket, grasping my pistol! The lamp was burning dimly, and all was still as death.

As my eye fell upon the window, it encountered first a hand placed upon the sill; then rose by degrees a head, with a pair of glittering black eyes, great heavy whiskers, and a long, sharp knife between his teeth! I think I possess the ordinary courage of a man, but I must confess the blood in my veins seemed to curdle as I viewed the apparition. Quick as lightning I sprang up in bed, and, pointing my pistol, cried out, "If you move a muscle from your position, you're a dead man." The eyes glared, the head remaining, however, as described, the man not uttering a syllable. I got out of bed, and, with pistol still presented and eyes fixed on his, I backed to the bell-rope and pulled it violently.—In a few moments a servant came up. I called to him to bring a police officer—there is something serious going on here. In a moment the passage was filled with the inmates of the house. In a short time a "star" made his appearance, and took the man into custody. The landlord said he had arrived that evening without baggage.

The next day a gentleman claimed the supposed assassin as his brother, a *maniac*, whom he had been conducting to the insane asylum in Philadelphia, and who had escaped from him while in that city. He had made his way to New York, and, with the well known cunning of a madman, had managed to avoid detection. I suppose the "power of the eye"—for I kept mine fixed on his—had restrained him, otherwise he could easily have mastered me in a moment. Since then, whilst in a strange place, I have been careful to examine and secure my chamber before retiring.

FALLING FROM GRACE.

ANECDOTE OF LORENZO DOW.

On one occasion, Dow illustrated his views on the subject of "Falling from Grace," somewhat as follows, his text being a part of the verse, Heb. ii, 1: "*Lest at any time we should let them slip.*"

"Now, my brethren," said Dow—when he had stated and enlarged upon his argument—"let me take a case, and a very likely one to happen. Nay, I'm not at all sure that it hain't happened, and not a hundred miles off. Well, here is Major Smith, who becomes converted. He joins the church, and is safe as a codfish, pickeled, packed, and in port. Of course, his calling and election are sure. He can't let 'em slip. He can't fall from grace—not he! Don't be too certain of that, my brethren! Don't be too sure of that, major!

"I say nothing agin the character of Major Smith, mind you. He is a very fair sort of a man, as the world goes. Nevertheless, they du say that he was in the habit of taking, now and then, a glass or two more than was good for him. He was fond of a warm gin toddy, especially on a cold day, for he was subject to wind on the stomach; and then, in order to settle his toddy, he would take a glass of flip, and then to settle his flip, he'd take a glass of toddy agin. These he usually took in the arternoon and at Northrup's tavern.

"But, as I say, one day Major Smith was convarted, and taken into the church, and so he must reform. He must give up toddy and flip, and Northrup's tavern. And he has gin them all up—for he is perfectly sincere—mind you. Well, some weeks later, on the afternoon of a cold blustering day in December, he happens to be passing by Northrup's tavern. Just at that time, as the devil will have it—for the devil is always looking out for a chance—his old friend and bottle companion, Nate Seymour, comes to the door, and sees the Major. Well, the latter rides up, and they shake hands, and talk over the news, and finally Nate says, "Won't you come in a minute, Major?"

"Now, as I tell you, it's a cold winter's day and the major says he'll jest git down, and warm his fingers. He won't drink anything of course, but he thinks it best not to break all at once with his old friends, for they may say he's proud. Perhaps he'll have a chance to say a word in season to some one. So he goes in, and, as it happens, Nate jest then puts the red-hot poker into a mug of flip. How it bubbles and simmers and foams!—What a nice odor it does send forth into the room! And jest then the landlord grates in a little nutmeg. What a pleasant sound is that to poor, shivering human nater on a cold day in December!

"Well, Nate takes it and hands it to the major. The major says to himself, "I'll just put it to my lips, so as not to seem frumptious and unreasonable, but I won't drink any." So he takes it, and it feels mighty warm and nice to his cold fingers. He looks at it; its fumes rise to his nostrils; he remembers the joys of other days; he puts it to his lips!

"Well, and what then? Oh nothing, my brethren—only I tell you, that elect or no elect, that is a very slippery spot for the major!"

The effect of this upon an audience to whom such language was adapted, especially as it referred to a well-known person, who, after being taken into the church, had backslidden to his old habits, may be easily appreciated. Who could argue down such telling logic with the million?

☞ The *Maine Farmer* has some excellent ideas on economy. It says: "It is no man's duty to deny himself of every amusement, every luxury, every recreation, every comfort that he may get rich. But there is yet an economy, which is every man's duty, and which is especially commendable in the man who struggles with poverty.—an economy which is consistent with happiness, and which must be practiced if the poor man would secure his independence. It is every man's privilege, and it becomes his duty, to live within, not up to his means. The man who feels that he is earning something more than he is spending, will walk the streets with a lighter heart, and enter his home with a more cheerful countenance, than he who spends as he goes, or falls gradually behind his necessities, in acquiring the means of meeting them." And so we should neither be indolent when want is creeping upon us, nor die in the forenoon (if we can help it) from considerations of economy, as Tom. Wyatt did:

"Silent, beneath this churchyard stone,
Lies stingy Thomas Wyatt;
He died one morning just at ten,
And saved a dinner by it."

☞ An enthusiastic admirer of the Czar was repeatedly saying to a stranger, "the Czar is great." "Yes," was the reply "but God is greater." "Ah!" exclaimed the Russian, "but the Czar is young yet!"

Condition of Kansas.

LETTER from Prof. EDWARD DANIELS.

ROOMS OF NATIONAL KANSAS COMMITTEE,
CHICAGO, Dec. 1, 1856.

To the Friends of Free Kansas.

Having just returned from the Territory, where I have labored earnestly to ascertain its true condition, wants and future prospects, I wish to call your attention to a few facts and suggestions.

First: Kansas is now in a state of peace, and will probably remain so, unless some unforeseen exigency shall occur. Her people are better armed, organized and drilled than ever before, and Gov. Geary is making every arrangement to secure them from invasion, and protect their persons and property from outrage.

Second: The population of Kansas is probably not far from 40,000; at least four fifths of this population are Free-State men and women. This population is receiving small accessions only at this time; but a decided majority of the newcomers are from the Free States. Of those who have left, within the past few months, probably more are from the North than from the South; but most of the former go away intending to return in the Spring, while but few of the latter class will go back. If, therefore, we can only keep up the present proportion between the Free-State and Pro-Slavery parties, of those leaving, (the Pro-Slavery men are leaving in quite as large numbers and the probability of their return is less), Kansas cannot be permanently a Slave State.

Third: The Free-State men in Kansas are confident of ultimate success if they can maintain themselves during the coming Winter and till another harvest, in peace. But the destitution is wide-spread and terrible. It is not seen in the towns so much, but along the valleys and over the plains you will find thousands who have lost their all, who have raised nothing, who have not had bread to eat nor clothes to wear, save what may be given them. Many thousands must have assistance in order to live through the coming Winter and Spring. Food can be purchased cheaply in Missouri, but they have no money. Money is therefore needed to buy food. Clothing can be sent from the East more cheaply than bought.

Fourth: The people of Kansas are receiving substantial aid through the National Committee. That committee is in direct communication with the sufferers and has forwarded large quantities of clothing and purchased provisions to the extent of its means. These have been, or are now being distributed in the most judicious manner to afford temporary relief. I have seen thousands eating the bread and wearing the garments which have thus been sent, and blessing the generous doners, from their humble homes, with grateful hearts.

The doubts expressed in regard to the proper appropriation of funds, are only means by which the foes of Freedom hope to neutralize the efforts of her friends. I have seen the practical results of last Summer's labor all over Kansas. Had the aid which reached that Territory through the Kansas Committee, and other similar associations, been withheld, it would have been Slave Territory beyond recovery.

Fifth: Most of the lands of Eastern Kansas, located within 100 miles of the Missouri River, and not included in the Indian reservations, will be brought into market during the next three months. These lands are among the very finest in the West; they are abundantly supplied with water, coal, stone, sand, clay for brick, timber, and covered with a soil of unsurpassed fertility. They are well adapted to oats, wheat, corn, hemp, grass, and every variety of fruits that grow in the latitude of Virginia and Southern Ohio.—They hold out the most tempting inducements both to the settler and the capitalist. Not one quarter of the Free-State men will have the money ready to enter their lands. Will not the friends of Free Kansas, who have loose capital drawing a moderate per cent East, let a portion of it go to Kansas to loan or invest in the purchase of lands? It is clearly demonstrable that the most profitable investments can be made there of any Western Territory now open for settlement.

Sixth: It is of prime importance that the Spring emigration should be large and of good material, and that it should start early, so as to get a hold upon the soil in order to make crops. A word now to emigrants:

Persons alone, or with small families, who value their time, should go to St. Louis and take a boat up the river—fare: first class, $12; second-class, $5; trip occupying from four to six days. Large families who have teams will find a cheap and comfortable route through Iowa or Missouri, according to their starting point. Persons intending to go next Spring should be making their preparations now. They should take no heavy articles; horses, cattle, and stock generally, and most kinds of tools, can be bought cheaper than transported. They should carry a good supply of clothes and bedding, and all conveniences that can be cheaply transported. The most important item of all is what people are most likely to omit, viz: seeds and young trees. It will do to pay freight on such articles. Take your time and make out a list of every tree and shrub, fruit-bearing, useful, or ornamental, that will grow in that mild climate, and then procure small roots, pack them in a little sawdust, and keep them from the frost if you start early. You can carry two hundred root-grafts or grape-vines in an ordinary carpet-bag, and some kind neighbor will gladly give you a place to set them out until you get a claim. Take out Osage orange and locust seed, and choice varieties of grain, potatoes, grass-seed, &c. In Kansas, as in all new countries, everybody regrets that they did not bring these things when they first came. Trees or seeds can be planted in Kansas from the 15th of March to the 1st of May.

The emigration to Kansas will, of course, in future be self-sustained, but the National Committee will arrange with the Railroad Companies and hotel keepers for a commutation of fare, so that persons who may wish to go by public conveyance may find it for their advantage to communicate with the Committee at Chicago. The great point is to start early. Don't delay, for your chances will grow less every week after navigation opens.

Seventh: The greatest danger apparently to be apprehended in the contest now is, that under the impression that the danger is over, or the equally mistaken one that Kansas is lost by the election of Buchanan, we shall slacken our efforts. We hear of much being done, also, and are apt to think that our assistance will not be needed. Our action has been all along too intermittant. We rouse up and thunder and resolve, and subscribe, lashed into indignation at some fresh outrage. Then we hear that all is quiet in Kansas, and we relapse into inaction, leaving our resolutions unfulfilled, and our subscriptions unpaid. Then we hear again of the peril of our friends, and again reenact the same farce, some refusing to do because it is too late to send help; and others, thinking that they escaped destruction before, and will again. Later we have been wiser, and are learning the sublime significance of the contest. Let each man give his share, however small, and not wait hoping that some one more ready and generous will give it for him. Let each act

"As if he himself were he
On whose sole arm hung Liberty."

Eighth: As to specific methods of collecting aid for the sufferers in Kansas, let me suggest,

1st. That every clergyman, who has not already done so, make the condition of Kansas and her claims upon the church a subject of special appeal, either upon the Sabbath or on some occasion publicly appointed.

2d. Let every town, village and community hold a Free-Kansas Banquet or Festival—a grand reunion of the lovers of Freedom—enlivened by music, eloquence and social enjoyment, the avails of which shall be devoted to the relief of those who have suffered for our cause in Kansas.

3d. That every sewing society prepare a box of clothing and forward it to the National Committee at Chicago as early as the 1st of March, to meet the wants of the coming Spring.

The labor of the two last methods of action must devolve mainly upon the women of the North. And here be it known that nine-tenths of all the aid that Kansas has received has come through the efforts of women.—Every breeze that comes from Kansas is laden with the blessings of the poor, for the noble, devoted, liberty-loving women of the North.

Ninth: In the application of our aid, there are several points that demand our attention. We should not rest satisfied with relieving the suffering merely, but we should apply that relief in the manner best calculated to benefit the community.

Nearly all the cases of need in Kansas would be met by furnishing employment, or extending credit. As a rule, therefore, would it not be well to give away nothing? School-houses, churches, and hospitals could be erected at a few prominent places, and the labor so distributed as to relieve a great number of persons. In other cases provisions and clothing could be sold on credit, each person receiving anything from the Committee giving an obligation to pay for it at a given time. There is no serious difficulty in applying this principle of distribution, and while it relieves the necessities of all, it saves them from the loss of self-respect and the demoralization consequent upon receiving alms.

The great body of those who need help have good claims, and as soon as they can get returns from their crops, will be abundantly able to repay any advance which they require now. I know that the great body of the settlers would much rather receive aid in this way than be treated as eleemosynaries.

There is another consideration worthy of note in this Committee. During the disturbances of the past year it has often been necessary, for the protection of the Free-State people, that large bodies of men should be kept under arms for considerable periods of time—night-watches, horse-guards and patrols have also been required. The support of these arrangements has devolved upon such persons as had available means, such as money, provisions, horses, &c. Hundreds of generous devoted men have given their aid for this purpose in times of peril, and every consideration of honor and justice demands that they should be repaid for this outlay.

Another matter of very great importance is very likely to be overlooked. A fund should be set apart to supply seed to every settler who cannot obtain it himself. A large quantity of wheat, potatoes and beans should be purchased and distributed in small quantities through the back settlements. It will be quite impossible for a man living back 100 or 150 miles from the river to get seed without great trouble and expense. Such an arrangement would double the crop in Kansas for the coming year, and would prevent the recurrence of such a necessity as now calls so loudly for our charities.

This struggle in which we are engaged is no war of speeches and resolutions of great assemblies and exciting demonstrations.—Whoever can put the greatest number of men, and the greatest amount of energy, intelligence and wealth into Kansas and maintain them there is conqueror. Success is to be achieved only by close attention to every detail, by seizing quickly every expedient and pursuing closely every advantage, by unceasing labor and sleepless vigilance.

Friends of Free Kansas, stand your ground with unfaltering faith. On the battle fields where to-day with difficulty we hold our posts, we shall yet gather to rejoice in a glorious victory. If we are true, KANSAS WILL BE FREE.

EDWARD DANIELS.

PUZZLE FOR SOME SUBSCRIBERS.—Those who are fond of applying their ingenuity to puzzles may give the following a trial and "fork over," the result:

MQNFY!!
MCNLY!!

The 'nub' of the above is made visible to most eyes by folding the lower line through the middle and laying it half way over the upper one. If you don't 'fushtay' then call up to the 'capting's' office.

☞ When you catch a man ridiculing the wrongs of Kansas, or the wrongs of the poor, crushed slave, look at him carefully. You will see a cold, glittering eye, passion-marked features and a self-worshipper. Watch him in every department of active life. "He hath a devil." He has no heart, or none that will make the world any better though it should beat a thousand years.—*Erie True American.*

Strong language but true to the letter.

☞ A venerable old gentleman was found a few nights since by the Philadelphia police busily engaged trying to fit a night key in a knothole of a board fence. He was taken to the watch-house, where it was discovered that he had imagined himself at his own mansion, and was trying to get in. He was fined for his mistake.