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For the Democrat.

A History of the Great Struggle in America between Liberty and Despotism.

We continue the proofs that the Father of our country refused the offer of a crown, by quoting the following from Headley's "Life of Washington":

"The colonies had not originally taken up arms against a monarchy, but against its oppressive acts. The English government was considered by many wise men of the day to be a model one, and they wished only to see its like adopted by their country when its liberty was secured. Besides, the most thorough Republicans had seen quite enough of the government of a Congress. It was clear, therefore, that a head was needed. But this head must be invested with power sufficient to control and overrule Congress to a great extent. Circumstances of course indicated Washington as that head, and the next question naturally arose—under what title should he govern? At length an old and respected officer, Colonel Nicola, was empowered to sound Washington on this point. He therefore addressed him a letter, in which, after going over the points referred to above, he, in a circuitous manner, at length succeeded in communicating the plain fact that the army wished him to be King."

"This letter took Washington by surprise. An unexpected danger had arisen before him—an abyss suddenly opened at his very feet. The army was actually assuming the control of the government; the military power appointing the civil; and more than this, it was thinking seriously of setting up a king. Washington seemed doomed ever to wrestle with evils. No sooner did one disappear before his wisdom and strength, than another arose to fill him with grief. But not in the darkest hour of his country's trials, not in the midst of his starving, naked, dying troops—not when overborne and scattered by the enemy—under no blow with which fate had yet smitten him, did his heart so sink as under the revelation of this letter. What! Become a king over a free people, who had struggled so nobly for freedom? Dash to earth the hopes that had borne them up in the midst of such trials and sufferings, and so deeply wrong their faith, and confidence, and rights, as to turn traitor at last? To hint that he was capable of such turpitude was striking at the very soul of honor.—Pride, grief and resentment swelled his bosom."

We will now give the answer of Washington himself to this proposition. Jared Sparks in his "Life and Writings of Washington," gives the following particulars of this event:

"In reflecting on the limited powers of Congress, and on the backwardness of the States to comply with the most essential requisitions, even in support of their own interests—many of the officers of the army were led to look for the cause in the form of government, and to distrust the stability of Republican institutions. Col. Nicola, a highly respected officer, addressed a letter to Washington, and gave a disquisition on the different forms of government, and concluded that republics are the least susceptible of stability. The English government, he thought, the most successful experiment ever tried. 'Therefore,' he says, 'that when the benefits of a mixed government are pointed out, such will be readily adopted. In this case it will, I believe, be uncontroverted, that the same abilities which have led us through difficulties apparently insurmountable by human power, to victory and glory—those qualities that have merited and obtained the universal esteem and veneration of an army, would be most likely to direct us in the smoother paths of peace. Some people have so connected the ideas of tyranny and monarchy, as to find it very difficult to separate them. It may therefore be requisite to give the head of such a Constitution as I propose some title apparently more moderate; but if all other things were once adjusted, I believe strong arguments might be produced for admitting the title of King, which I conceive would be attended with some material advantages.'"

"It is not to be presumed," says Mr. Sparks, "that Col. Nicola was alone in the scheme thus put forward in his name. There was unquestionably at this time, and for some time afterwards, a party in the army, neither small in number or insignificant in character, prepared to sustain a measure of this kind, and establish a monarchy."

To this communication of Col. Nicola, as unexampled as it was extraordinary, Washington replied as follows:

"NEWBERG, 22d May, 1782.

"Sir:—With a mixture of great surprise and astonishment, I have read with attention the sentiments you have submitted to my perusal. Be assured, sir, no occurrence in the course of the war has given me more painful sensations, than your information of there being such ideas existing in the army as you have expressed, and which I must view with abhorrence and reprehend with severity. For the present, the communication of them

will rest in my own bosom, unless some further agitation of the matter shall make a disclosure necessary. I am much at a loss to conceive what part of my conduct could have given encouragement to an address which, to me, seems big with the greatest mischiefs that can befall my country. I am not deceived in the knowledge of myself. You could not have found a person to whom your schemes are more disagreeable. Let me conjure you then, if you have any regard for your country, any concern for yourself or posterity, or respect for me, to banish these thoughts from your mind, and never communicate, as from yourself or any one else, a sentiment of the like nature.

I am, Sir, &c.,
Geo. WASHINGTON."

"Such," says Mr. Sparks, "was the language of Washington, when at the head of his army, and at the height of his power and popularity, it was proposed to him to become a king. From the beginning of the revolution to the close of his life, he was an uncompromising advocate for a republican system of government.—The Union had hitherto been preserved by the pressure of war. The confederation had proved itself to be defective in many points absolutely essential to the prosperity of a national government. It was evident to all that an alarming crisis was near at hand, scarcely less to be dreaded than the war from which the country had emerged."

"Washington wrote thus: 'It is much to be feared that the people, being disgusted with the circumstances, will have their minds prepared for any revolution whatever. We are apt to run from one extreme to another. I am told that even respectable characters speak of a monarchic government without horror. From thinking proceeds speaking; thence to acting is often but a single step.'"

"The enlightened part of community," continues Mr. Sparks, "very generally approved the scheme of a Convention, and it began to whisper that the persons who opposed a Convention were at heart monarchists, and that they were glad to see the distractions of the country increasing, till the people should be weary of them, and discover their only hope of security to consist in a strong government, as it was called, or in other words, a Constitutional Monarchy. It has been said and believed, that a small party actually meditated such a project, and turned their eyes to some of the Royal families of Europe for a sovereign. But it is certain that no imagined remedy could have been more severely reprobated by Washington. We have seen with what stern rebuke the proposal to be a king was met by him when he literally had the power of the nation in his hands."

This history will show that these lovers of monarchy, who, failing to make Washington a king, turned their eyes to Europe for a sovereign to rule over the American people; and this project never vanished from our land. No! Through the long years of our nation's happiness and prosperity under the republican government, established by Washington, they were plotting and planning its overthrow. By their untiring efforts, they brought around a civil war, and then they offered the same temptation to the commander-in-chief of the Federal army that they offered to General Washington.—Yes, the same party which held President Johnson up to the ridicule and scorn of mankind, would have been bowing at his feet, and adorning his brow with the laurels of glory and renown; they would today be prolonging the praises of his name which for four years they resounded through our land, if he had only accepted the kindly power they offered him; if he would have conspired with them to overthrow the republican government established by Washington, and enthroned himself as a monarch over the kingly government planned by Alexander Hamilton. Like Washington, he refused to turn traitor to the American people, whereupon these monarchists denounce him as a traitor to their party, and forthwith prepare an amendment to the Constitution, which will have the effect of changing our free government into a monarchy. They declare that the President shall be impeached, and the South drenched again in blood, if they refuse to sanction their despotic decrees. One of these monarchists says: "We offer these Southern people the amendment as an olive branch, but if they will not have it they can have the sword."

Gen. Woodford says, "The soldiers have taken the old flag, and pledged it on the Constitutional amendment, and do not propose to take it down."

Gov. Curtin says: "Of all men to meet in council and deliberate on what are the true lessons of war, the soldiers are the proper men. When you have concluded what are the true lessons of the war, you have the power to compel the government to obey you. Politicians, statesmen, and officials sink into insignificance before the mighty voice of the surviving soldiers of the Republic."

What is this but treason? What but a revolutionary doctrine, that the army have a right to overthrow the government established by Washington, and if they want a monarchy they can have one?

Gov. Curtin continues: "I don't believe that Gen. Washington, if he would rise from the grave this day, with all his immortality—his historic fame, his credit with this great people—I don't believe he would dare, and if he did I do not think he could be equal to the task of settling for this great people, the logic and the lessons of the war."

Here we have another sample of the esteem with which the Republicans regard Gen. Washington. He would not dare again to thwart the plans of an army that was determined to establish a monarchy! Gov. Curtin admits that the Republicans want something that Washington would not dare to oppose, and if he did dare to interpose and try to save the liberties of the American people from destruction at the hands of the Republican party, he could not be equal to the task.

The same Gen. Washington, who told Col. Nicola that no occurrence during the whole war waged against the king of Great Britain, had given him more pain than to know that some of his officers desired to establish a monarchy; that he viewed such a scheme with abhorrence; and that it seemed to him to be big with the greatest mischiefs that could befall his country; begging them, that if they had any regard for their country—any concern for posterity, or any respect for him—to banish their monarchic schemes from their minds, and never to utter such sentiments again. If this old hero, who achieved our liberties by his own sword, should now rise from his grave, he would not be able to prevent the Republican party from establishing a monarchy, toward which their hearts have yearned for so many years, and for which they have drenched the South in blood, under the pretext of preserving the Union which he founded.

Alas for America when her armies turn their swords against the Father of our country, to reinstate a King!

A Judicial Reminiscence.

The San Jose (Cal.) Mercury relates the following incident in connection with the history of one of its judicial ornaments:

"In the early history of Santa Clara county—say as far back as the year 1830, or thereabouts—we had a county judge, who was given to excessive potations. He was old and lame, and aside from his intemperate habits, was generally regarded as wholly incompetent for the position. It is related that the bar became so thoroughly dissatisfied with this dispenser of justice, that on a certain occasion they sent him a request to resign, signed by every member of the bar in the county. As the court was then in session, on the morning following the presentation of this request every lawyer was present at the opening of the court, anxious to see what effect the petition would have upon the judge."

As the time arrived, the judge entered the court room, and for once perfectly sober. His countenance wore a sad and contrite expression. As he walked, with halting steps, down the aisle, he awakened a feeling of pity in the breasts of several who had signed the petition, and they sincerely regretted the step they had taken. The court opened with a hearty eye, etc., and the venerable form of the judge rose from the bench. After looking timidly around, he commenced, in a faltering voice, to address the bar: "Gentlemen of the bar, said he, 'last night I received a petition from you, couched in respectful language, setting forth certain reasons why I should tender my resignation as judge of this court. Conscious of my many infirmities, and realizing the necessity of a pure judiciary, throughout the silent hours of the past night, I have had your petition under painful, and I may add, prayerful consideration.' Here the eyes of some of the most sympathetic of his listeners were moistened with tears. The judge proceeded: 'I feel, gentlemen, that you have acted from a high sense of duty in this matter, and in responding to your petition, requesting my resignation, I will simply state that—straightening himself up and changing entirely his manner and tone of voice—I will see you all ranged first, and then I wouldn't. Mr. Clerk, call the next case.' The effect was somewhat startling."

A Truthful Answer.

Bunkum, in the old North State, is undoubtedly the healthiest spot on the earth, and it was on that account that some lower country gentlemen were surprised one day to see a Bunkumite at work on an ominous hole in the ground. Of course they inquired what he was about?

"Digging a grave, sir."
"Digging a grave? Why, I thought people didn't die often here?"
"Oh, no, sir, they never die but once! They never asked that question 'but once.'"

"A Sunday school teacher, deploring the lack of attendants upon his ministrations, appealed to the few present:

"What can I do," said he, "to get the boys and girls here?"
"I know," said one of the urchins.
"What is it?"
"Give 'em all five cents a piece."

Hints about farm Work.

Beginning the new year "with a conscience void of offence," and his pecuniary affairs in such condition, that he may know exactly what he owes and what is his due, and of the latter what will be paid and what may possibly be lost, the farmer is ready to take hold in earnest of his year's work. He should have, as essential to success,

Definite plans, not only for 2 months or 6 months ahead, but for every day, and as the evening and the morning made the first and each succeeding day of the creation, so every evening properly begins the next day, as it is the best time to lay plans for work to be done. This makes the man "fore handed." The work of every week should be planned by the Saturday night before. Winter is evening to the morning which dawns in April and culminates in July.

Business—Desirable alterations and new erections may be discussed & planned, timber and stones hauled when sledging is good, and preparations completed before the frost begins to come out, immediately after which is the best time to dig cellars, etc., and do grading.

Stock of all kinds should now, in the beginning of severe weather, be well fed and groomed. It is really the most critical time, for they now feel the change of feed most, and if not kept up and well cared for, will begin to run down.

Cows—Good hay is not good enough for any body's cows, if a few roots daily, and a little meal or oil cake will make the hay go much farther, make the cattle do much better, and make their whole keeping cheaper, notwithstanding the extra work. Do not dry off cows too early, especially young cows. If possible, keep up the flow of milk by extra feeding, etc., until within six weeks of calving. Be careful to have no slippery places where a cow may fall on the ice; the injury may induce slinking (abortion) and this is infectious. If a cow with calf shows symptoms of sickness of any kind, remove her at once to another barn, entirely away from her companions, and keep especial watch upon cows that have slunk twice in previous years. This is a great scourge to farmers in many sections, and every precaution should be taken to avoid it.

OXEN—See hints in December number. Beef cattle will be greatly benefited by regular carding; they need it as much as horses, and we doubt not it would be more to the pecuniary profit of the feeder.

YOUNG STOCK—Keep them growing, and give daily exercise and sunning in roomy yards.

SHEEP—If troubled with ticks, lice, or scab, though at this season it will not do, ordinarily, to dip them, the spots most affected may be wet with the dipping solution, (strong tobacco water, made by boiling tobacco stems, mixed with strong country soft soap). This is best applied by a bottle having a groove cut in the side of the cork with which it is stoppered. Give sheep access to water daily. It is a great mistake to force them to eat snow or go without. Feed roots freely to all, and especially to fattening sheep. Very little grain will be a great benefit, if equally distributed. Handle your sheep and know their condition.

VENTILATION—Stables and cellars need good ventilation. It is better to let in the cold air in blasts than to confine the air in the stables so that the animals breathe it over and over again, loaded with the exhalations of their skins and lungs, and the vapors which rise from their manure both solid and liquid. The health of the stock requires fresh air, economy of feeding is a secondary consideration; requiring warm stables; both may and should be had. In house cellars, especially if damp, the gases from the decay of vegetables, though slight, if not removed by frequent ventilation, may produce miasmatic diseases, typhoid fevers, etc.

Fowls usually roost as high as possible to avoid uncomfortable draughts of air. If indulged in this, they often become asphyxiated and drop dead from their perches, from breathing foul air arising from the fermentation of their droppings, or being suffocated by the carbonic acid gas from the breaths of many fowls, all close to the top of the house, or from both causes. In warm quarters and well fed, they will begin to lay before the close of the month.

ICE—See article about tools used in gathering ice on page 15. In packing, take care to have the drain clear and covered to prevent the air drawing through; and see that the floor is covered thick with straw, the ice is closely packed, and the chinks filled with snow or ice chips; also that straw or sawdust is packed between the ice and the sides, and that, if possible, the ice is put in when very cold.

SEEDS—Keep seeds in a dry cool place away from rats, and not in tight boxes of either wood or tin. Secure all that you need, in good time, before the stocks of seedsmen are exhausted, or they have so many orders to fill, that yours will be delayed. For the same reasons look out a head for

Tools and Machines for spring and summer work. Send for catalogues, study what you want, correspond about strength,

durability, adaption to your particular requirements, and order in time.

MANURE—Keep it piled up compactly, so that fermentation will go on slowly in the mass. If possible, have a tank for liquid manure under the heap, and pump it up over the solid frequently. Manure sheds quickly pay for their cost in the increased value of the manure. See hints on hauling out manure in December number.

Swine confined upon manure under cover, will keep hard at work rooting it over and working it up all winter, and if it is quite strawy, they will not compact it too much, but add much to its value.

MARKETS—We venture no predictions in regard to the markets, but state as facts that our grain crop is not equal to the demand, that much corn will go south, and much to Europe; the wheat will go to Europe also—all that we can spare. Prices are now very remunerative. Hay and all fodder is high. There has been a great rush of beef, mutton and pork to market. Those who can hold on to animals intended for slaughter, will no doubt get well paid. Still, the turns of speculation and the uncertainties of winter and spring travel, involve it with risks, and lead us to hold to our oft repeated advice, sell when a fair price can be obtained.

WOOD—Cut, fire wood, also fencing stuff, such as needs splitting or sawing, if not cut already, as it should have been. Small stuff for fencing, posts, or poles, should be cut when the bark will peel off easily.—Agriculturist.

Dress as a Cause of Disease.

In this age, when dress occupies so much of the attention of society, the influence of costume on the bodily condition becomes an important matter of inquiry.

Improper modes of dress, whether excessive or inadequate, are fertile sources of disease, and also aggravate an abnormal state of the system by whatever cause produced. If in our desire to keep the body warm we overload it with layers of thick, closely woven fabric, and thus produce an undue heat at the surface, the effect is to suppress the action of the excretory glands, and prevent a free perspiration. The vitiated matter which is thus retained is reabsorbed by the skin and carried back into the system, rendering the blood impure and deranging the delicate machinery of the glandular structure. Air and light are absolutely necessary to the healthy activity of the vessels of the skin, and those articles of clothing which prevent the admission of those two great vital agents are entirely unfit for use.

As a free circulation of the blood to all parts of the human body is requisite to the enjoyment of perfect health, so no part of the body should be dressed in such a manner as in the least to obstruct or retard its flow. Tight boots, shoes, or gloves are therefore detrimental. Cold extremities, painful humors, swellings and callosities are generally the result of such ligatures.

Insufficient clothing is much worse than too much. The effect of exposure to cold is the immediate contraction of the skin which suspends the operation of the secretory and excretory organs, and the matter which should be discharged from the system is thrown back into the throat, lungs or bowels, occasioning those forms of disease which are commonly called "cold," "headache," "catarrh," "diarrhea," &c.

A change of dress from thick to thin is not beneficial unless accompanied by a corresponding change in climate or temperature. A fashionable lady after wearing a thick, high neck dress all day, will sometimes array herself in low necked attire for an evening party. Such an imprudent change has frequently been followed by a sudden death. Head coverings at the present day are evidently worn by ladies for display and not for comfort, and we are not surprised when we hear this or that one complain of "such distress in the head" or "neuralgia." A hat to afford real protection to the head, should be large enough to cover the greater part of it, and at the same time be comfortably warm, but not so heavy as to fatigue the wearer after half an hour's use.

But the most serious feature in the dress of American ladies is tight lacing, a practice most unnatural, and therefore most dangerous to health. Does any one doubt the prevalence of this custom, let him consult the fashion plates in any popular ladies' magazine. How women, servilely obedient to the suggestions of their dress maker, or else grossly ignorant of the first principles of health, have squeezed themselves to death, the great day of account only will disclose. The record must be appalling, and yet the suicidal work goes on. The compression of the waist hinders, if it does not altogether suspend, the action of the diaphragm, and weakens the muscles of the respiration and the power of digestion. The heart, liver, lungs, spleen and stomach being forced into a space much too small for the proper performance of their respective functions, are weakened, and if the compression is continued, becomes diseased; consumption ensues, and the mistaken devotee of a barbarous fashion sinks swiftly into an early grave.

Oh, ye who sigh for the deformity of a wispish shape, consider the faultless contour of that chef d'œuvre of sculpture, the Venus de Medicis, and strive to develop your attenuated bodies into the beautiful proportions of the well grown woman.

Of course, the entire dress should be adapted to the climate and season of the year. In climates like that in New York city, where there are sometimes sudden transitions from heat to cold, and from wet to dry, it is hardly safe to dress in a slight manner, except it be in midsummer when atmospheric changes are least frequent. The most prevailing complaint among people of all classes is rheumatism, a disease which in every instance is the consequence of exposure to a sudden chill. No clothing of any kind should be worn in a moist state, especially while the person is inactive; and care should be taken that the feet are properly shod, not with "snugly fitting" boots or shoes of a kid glove consistency, but enveloped with those that are thick soled, substantial and amply large, so that the blood can circulate to the very toe tips, and a comfortably thick stocking can be worn without any sensation of constraint.

In the matter of dress, more attention should be given to comfort than to style, and it will be usually found that they who dress neatly, and in conformity with nature's laws, are the best dressed and certainly the most sensible.—American Phrenological Journal.

Behind the Curtain—How they go to Bed.

The young girl trips gaily up to her chamber, and, with the cautious timidity peculiar to her sex, first locks the door and arranges the window curtains, so that by no chance a passer by, or a belated nocturnal wanderer from the pavement can catch a glimpse of her beauty when she disabille. This task completed, she turns on the gas to its full, and institutes a general search throughout the apartment that she may be sure it does not contain a horrible "bugbear," or a "desperate ruffian," in big whiskers and crisp black hair. Carefully, with her delicate little fingers, she lifts the bed valance, peers into places where even Tom Thumb could not squeeze his diminutive corporation, and takes a cursory peep into the half-emptied trunk, not forgetting to glance nervously under the sofa, the space between which and the floor is not sufficient to contain the ghost of a spider.

Having ascertained that she is really alone, she leisurely proceeds to divest her fair form of the silk and linen conventionalities of society. First, she relieves her glossy hair of the pins and combs which enthrall it, and "does it up" more compactly. Then off comes the little collar and the little vapory cloud of lace she calls under-sleeves, which all the day have been clasped around her white plump arms, by a couple of India rubber straps.

Next the love of a spring silk dress is unfastened in front. The sundry waist strings and button straps are loosed, and lo! what a collapse, like Lowe's big balloon. She stands like Saturn, the centre of the rings. There they lie on the soft carpet, partly covered by the linen under-drawings, with no more expression in them than there is in the floor beneath the carpet. She sits now on the side of the snowy bed, and begins the unlacing of gaiters, and the disrobing of those fair swelling limbs of their stockings. The pretty little foot is carefully perched upon the knee—down drops the garter; off drops the elastic, and her thumb inserted in the top of her stocking; pushes it down—down over the heel, and the cotton rests beside the prunella. So with the other foot, only involving a change of position. There is a smile that peeps out behind the blushes of her sweet face, now, as standing before the glass, she places on her head the night cap, and with the quick twist of her finger ties the bewitching bow. Then the nightgown is thrown over the frilled chemise, concealing the heaving bosom and the shoulders in the linen folds. Then the counterpane and sheets are turned back, and the gas is turned down—very, very low—and the little form presses the yielding couch, and the angel goes off into the world of dreams. Now, in the room directly above her, is the great brute of a brother. He comes into it, shuts the door with a slam, turns the key with a snap, grows at a chair which happens to be in the way, pulls off his boots and throws them in a corner, jerks his socks from his feet, drops his pantaloons on the floor and lets them lie there, gets off his vest and coat by a quick, vindictive move of the arms and body, unpins and unbuttons his collar, throws it carelessly on, rather than on the table; travels to the window in his shirt extremity to let down the curtain, as if he didn't care a cuss whether the entire population of the neighborhood beheld his anatomy or not; then puts out the light and then bounces into bed like a great calf jumping into a pile of hay—curls himself up, his knees nearly touching his nose, lies a moment or two, turns on his back, stretches his limbs out, swears at the tucking in of the bed clothes, grunts; gets over on the other side, and is asleep. Then comes in the snoring and the snorting.