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The Power of Reading.

Benjamin Franklin tells us, in one of his letters, that when he was a boy, a little book fell into his hands, entitled *Essays to do Good*, by Cotton Mather. It was tattered and torn, and several leaves were missing. "But the remainder," he says, "gave me such a turn of thinking as to have an influence on my conduct through life; for I have always set a greater value on the character of a doer of good than any other kind of reputation; and if I have been a useful citizen, the public owns all the advantages of it to the little book." Jeremiah Bentham mentions that the current of his thoughts and studies was directed for life by a simple phrase that caught his eye at the end of a pamphlet, "The greatest good of the greatest number." There are single sentences in the New Testament that have awakened to spiritual life hundreds of millions of dormant souls. In things of less moment reading has a wondrous power. George Law, a boy on his father's farm, met an old unknown book, which told the story of a farmer's son who went away to seek his fortune, and came home after many years' absence, a rich man, and gave great succor to all his relations. From that moment George was uneasy, till he set out on his travels to imitate the adventurer. He lived over again the life he had read of, and actually did return a millionaire, and paid all his father's debts. Robinson Crusoe has sent to sea more sailors than the press gang. The story about little George Washington telling the truth about the hatchet and the fruit tree has made many a truth-teller. But illustrations are numberless.—Tremble ye who write, and ye who publish writing. A pamphlet has precipitated a revolution. A paragraph may quench or kindle the celestial spark in a human soul—in myriads of souls.

Old Saws Newly Set.

"A burden which one chooses is not felt." We once chose a burdensome hat which in spite of our volition was felt. "A weak watch invites a vigilant foe." Yes—and the "foe" in question is the watch repairer, who is always on the look out for weak watches. "A fox is the tailor's friend and his own foe." Not always. Sometimes he is his own friend and the tailor's foe. Custom invariably lessens admiration. Not invariably. Ask the sheepkeepers. "Business is the salt of life." Very likely. But who wants salt for a perpetual diet? "Better be alone than in bad company." True, but unfortunately many persons are never in so bad company as when they are alone. "Debt is the worst kind of poverty."—Not exactly. There are people so poor that they can't get into debt. Debt to them would be property instead of poverty.

A Yankee Trick.

A week or two ago four creditors started from Boston, in the same train of cars, for the purpose of attaching the property of a certain debtor in Farmington, in the State of Maine. He owed each one separately, and they each were suspicious of the object of the other, but dared not say a word about it. So they rode, acquaintances all, talking upon everything except that which they had most at heart.—When they arrived at the depot at Farmington, which was three miles from where the debtor did business, they found nothing to put them over the road but a solitary cab, towards which they all rushed. Three got in and refused admittance to the fourth, and the cab started. The fourth ran after and got upon the outside with the driver. He asked the driver if he wanted to sell his horse. He replied that he did not—that the horse was not worth \$50, but he would not sell him for that. He asked him if he would take \$100. "Yes," said he. The "fourth man" quickly paid over the money, and took the reins and backed the cab up to the bank, slipped it from the harness and tipped it up so that the door could not be opened, and jumped upon the horse's back and rode off, while the insiders looked out of the window. He rode to a lawyer and got a writ made and served, and his debt secure, and got back to the hotel just as the insiders came up puffing and blowing.

A Heavy Debt.

The City of Hamilton, C. W., with twenty thousand population, owes two million dollars, on which the interest is one hundred and thirty-two thousand dollars annually; in itself a very handsome tax. The population has on this account fallen off ten thousand as compared with ten years ago, and is still decreasing.—Property is unseizable, and houses are offered to let for the taxes alone.

LETTER FROM JUDGE BATES.

HIS VIEWS ON THE CHICAGO NOMINATIONS.

What Platforms are.

St. Louis, June 11, 1860.—O. H. Bronning, Esq., Quincy, Ill.—Dear Sir: When I received your letter of May 22d, I had no thought that the answer would be so long delayed; but, waiving all excuses, I proceed to answer it now.

Under the circumstances of the case, it ought not to have been doubted that I would give Mr. Lincoln's nomination a cordial and hearty support. But in declaring my intention to do so, it is due to myself to state some of the facts and reasons, which have a controlling influence over my mind, and which I think, ought to be persuasive arguments with some other men, whose political opinions and antecedents are, some important particulars, like my own.

There was no good ground for supposing that I felt any bique or dissatisfaction because the Chicago Convention failed to nominate me. I had no such feeling. On party grounds, I had no right to expect the nomination. I had no claims upon the Republicans as a party, for I had never been a member of any party, so as to be bound by its dogmas and subject to its discipline, except only the Whig party, which is now broken up, and its materials, for the most part, absorbed into other organizations. And thus I am left alone and powerless indeed, but perfectly free to follow the dictates of my own judgment, and to take such part in current politics as my own sense of duty and patriotism may require. Many Republicans, and among them, I think, some of the most moderate and patriotic of that party, honored me with their confidence, and desired to make me their candidate. For this favor I was indebted to the fact that between them and me there was a coincidence of opinion upon certain important questions of Government.—They and I agreed in believing that the National Government has sovereign power over the territories, and that it would be impolitic and unwise to use that power for the propagation of negro slavery by planting it in free Territory. Some of them believed also that my nomination, while it would tend to soften the tone of the Republican party, without any abandonment of its principles, might tend also to generalize its character and attract the friendship and support of many, especially in the border States, who, like me, had never been members of their party, but concurred with them in opinion about the government of the Territories. These are the grounds, and I think the only ground, upon which I was supported at all at Chicago.

As to the platform put forth by the Chicago Convention, I have little to say, because whether good or bad, that will not constitute the ground of my support of Mr. Lincoln. I have no great respect for party platforms in general. They are commonly made in times of high excitement, under a pressure of circumstances, and with the view to conciliate present support, rather than to establish a permanent system of principles and line of policy for the future good government of the country. The Conventions which form them are transient in their nature; their power and influence are consumed in the using, leaving no continuing obligation upon their respective parties. And hence we need not wonder that platforms so made, are hardly ever set out in practice. I shall not discuss their relative merits, but content myself with saying that this Republican platform, though in several particulars it does not conform to my views, is still far better than any published creed, past or present, of the Democrats. And as to the new party, it has not chosen to promulgate any platform at all, except two or three broad generalities which are common to the professions of faith of all parties in the country. No party, indeed, dare ask the confidence of the nation, while openly denying the obligation to support the Union and the Constitution, and to enforce the laws.—That is a common duty, binding upon every citizen, and the failure to perform it is a crime.

To me it is plain that the approaching contest must be between the Democratic and Republican parties; and between them I prefer the latter.

The Democratic party, by the long possession and abuse of power, has grown wanton and reckless; has corrupted itself and perverted the principles of the Government; has set itself openly against the great home interests of the people, by neglecting to protect their own industry, and by refusing to improve and keep in order the highways and depots of commerce; and even now is urging a measure in Congress to abdicate the constitutional power and duty to regulate commerce among the States, and to grant to the States the discretionary power to levy tonnage duties upon all commerce, under the pretence of improving harbors, rivers and lakes; has changed the status of the negro slave by making him no longer mere property, but a politician, an antagonist power in the State, a power to which all other powers are required to yield, under penalty of a dissolution of the Union; has directed its energies to the gratification of its lusts of foreign domain, as manifested in its persistent efforts to seize upon tropical regions, not because those countries and incongruous people are necessary, or even desirable, to be incorporated into our nation, but for the

mere purpose of making slave States, in order to advance the political power of the party in the Senate and in the choice of the President, so as effectually to transfer the chief powers of the government from the many to the few; has in various instances endangered the equality of the co-ordinate branches of the government, by urgent efforts to enlarge the powers of the Executive at the expense of the legislative department; has attempted to discredit and degrade the Judiciary, by effecting to make it, at first, arbiter of party quarrels, to become soon and inevitably the passive registrar of party decrees.

In most, if not all these particulars, I understand the Republican party (judging it by its acts and by the known opinions of many of its men) to be the exact opposite of the Democratic party; and that is the ground of my preference of the one party over the other. And that alone would be a sufficient reason, if I had no other good reasons, for supporting Mr. Lincoln against any other man who may be put forward by the Democratic party, as the exponent of its principles and the agent to work out, in practice, its dangerous policies.

The third party, which, by its very formation, has destroyed the organization of the American and Whig parties, has nominated two most excellent men. I know them well, as sound Statesmen and true Patriots. More than thirty years ago I served with them both in Congress, and from that time to this I have always held them in respect and honor. But what can the third party do towards the election of even such worthy men as these, against the two great parties which are now in actual contest for the power to rule the nation? It is made up entirely of portions of the disintegrated elements of the late Whig and American parties good materials, in the main, I admit, but quite too weak to elect any man or establish any principles. The most it can do is, here and there in particular localities, to make a diversion in favor of the Democrats. In 1856 the Whig and American parties (not forming a new party, but united as allies), with entire unanimity and some zeal, supported Mr. Fillmore for the Presidency, and with what results?—We made a miserable failure, carrying no State but gallant little Maryland. And surely the United Whigs and Americans of that day had a far greater show of strength and far better prospects of success than any which belong to the Constitutional Union party now. In fact, I see no possibility of success for the third party, except in one contingency—the destruction of the Democratic party. This is a contingency not likely to happen this year, for badly as I think of many of the acts and policies of that party, its cup is not yet full—the day has not yet come when it must dissolve in its own corruptions. But the day is coming, and is not far off. The party has made itself entirely sectional; it has concentrated its very being into one single idea; negro slavery has control of all its faculties, and it can see and hear nothing else—"one stern, tyrannic thought, that makes all other thoughts its slaves!"

But the Democratic party still lives, and while it lives, it and the Republican party are the only real antagonistic powers in the nation, and for the present, I must choose between them. I choose the latter, as wiser, purer, younger, and less corrupted by time and self-indulgence. The candidates nominated at Chicago are both men who, as individuals and politicians, rank with the foremost of the country. I have heard no objection to Mr. Hamlin personally, but only to his geographical position, which is thought by some to be too far North and East to allow his personal good qualities to exercise their proper influence over the nation at large. But the nomination for the Presidency is the great controlling act. Mr. Lincoln, his character, talents, opinions and history will be criticised by thousands, while the candidate for the Vice Presidency will be passed over in comparative silence.

Mr. Lincoln's nomination took the public by surprise, because, until just before the event, it was unexpected. But really it ought not to have excited any surprise, for such unforeseen nominations are common in our political history. Polk and Pierce by the Democrats, and Harrison and Taylor by the Whigs, were all nominated in this extemporaneous manner—all of them were elected. I have known Mr. Lincoln for more than twenty years, and therefore have a right to speak of him with some confidence. As an individual; he has earned a high reputation for truth, courage, candor, morals, and amiability, so that, as a man, he is most trustworthy. And in this particular, he is more entitled to our esteem than some other men, his equals, who had far better opportunities and aids in early life. His talents and the will to use them to the best advantage, are unquestionable; and the proof is found in the fact that, in every position in life, from his humble beginning to his present well-earned elevation, he has more than fulfilled the best hopes of his friends. And now, in the full vigor of his manhood, and in the honest pride of having made himself what he is, he is the peer of the first men of the nation, well able to sustain himself and advance his cause against any adversary, and in any field where mind and knowledge are the weapons used.

In politics he has but acted out the

principles of his own moral and intellectual character. He has not concealed his thoughts nor hidden his light under a bushel. With the boldness of conscious rectitude, and the frankness of downright honesty, he has not failed to avow his opinions of public affairs upon all fitting occasions.

This, I know, may subject him to the carping censure of that class of politicians who mistake cunning for wisdom, and falsehood for ingenuity; but such men as Lincoln must act in keeping with their own characters, and hope for success only by advancing the truth prudently and maintaining it bravely. All his old political antecedents are, in my judgment, exactly right, being square up to the old Whig standard. And as to his views about "the pestilent negro question," I am not aware that he has gone one step beyond the doctrine publicly and habitually avowed by the great lights of the Whig party—Clay, Webster, and their followers—and, indeed, sustained and carried out by the Democrats themselves, in their wiser and better days.

The following, I suppose, are in brief his opinions upon that subject: 1. Slavery is a domestic institution within the States which choose to have it, and it exists within those States beyond the control of Congress. 2. Congress has supreme legislative power over all the Territories, and may, at its discretion, allow or forbid the existence of slavery within them. 3. Congress, in wisdom and sound policy, ought not so to exercise its power directly or indirectly, as to plant and establish slavery in any Territory therefore free. 4. And that it is unwise and impolitic in the Government of the United States to acquire tropical regions for the mere purpose of converting them into slave States.

These, I believe, are Mr. Lincoln's opinions upon the matter of slavery in the Territories, and I concur in them. They are no new inventions, made to suit the exigencies of the hour, but have come down to us, as the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution have sanctioned by the venerable authority of the wise and good men who established our institutions. They are conformable to law, principle and wise policy, and their utility is proven in practice by the as yet unbroken current of our political history. They will prevail, not only because they are right in themselves, but also because a great and still growing majority of the people believe them to be right, and the sooner they are allowed to prevail in peace and harmony, the better for all concerned, as well as those who are for them.

I am aware that small partisans, in their little warfare against opposing leaders, do sometimes assail them by the trick of tearing from their contexts some particular objectionable phrases, penned, perhaps, in the hurry of composition or spoken in the heat of oral debate and holding them up to the public as the leading doctrines of the person assailed, and drawing from them their own uncharitable inferences. That line of attack betrays a little mind, conscious of its weakness, for the falsity of its logic is not more apparent than the injustice of its design. No public man can stand that ordeal, and however willing men may be to see it applied to their adversaries, all flee from the torture when applied to themselves. In fact, the man who never said a foolish thing will hardly be able to prove that he ever said many wise ones.

I consider Mr. Lincoln a sound, safe, rational man. He could not be sectional if he tried. His birth, his education, the habits of his life, and his geographical position, compel him to be national. All his feelings and interests are identified with the great Valley of the Mississippi, near whose centre he has spent his whole life. That Valley is not a section, but, conspicuously, the body of the nation, and, large as it is, it is not capable of being divided into sections, for the great river cannot be divided. It is one and indivisible, and the North and South are as broad and general as the regions they inhabit. They are emigrants, a mixed multitude, coming from every State in the Union, and from most countries in Europe; they are unwilling, therefore, to submit to any one pretty local standard. They love the nation as a whole, and they love all its parts, for they are bound to them all, not only by feeling of common interest and mutual dependence, but also by the recollections of childhood and youth, by blood and friendship, and by all those social and domestic charities which sweeten life and make this world worth living in. The Valley is beginning to feel its power, and will soon be strong enough to dictate the law of the land.—Whenever that state of things shall come to pass, it will be most fortunate for the nation to find the powers of Government lodged in the hands of men whose habits of thought, whose position and surrounding circumstances constrain to use those powers for general and not sectional ends.

I give my opinion freely in favor of Mr. Lincoln, and I hope that, for the good of the whole country, he may be elected. But it is not my intention to take any active part in the canvass. For many years past I have had little to do with public affairs, and have aspired to no political office; and now, in view of the mad excitement which convulses the country, and the general disruption and disorder of parties and the elements which compose them, I am more than ever assured that for me, personally, there is no

political future, and I accept the condition with cheerful satisfaction. Still I cannot discharge myself from the life-long duty to watch the conduct of men in power, and to resist, so far as a mere private man may, the fearful progress of official corruption, which for several years past has sadly marred and defiled the fair fabric of our government.

If Mr. Lincoln should be elected, coming in as a new man at the head of a party never before in power, he may render a great service to his country, which no Democrat could render. He can march straight forward in the discharge of his high duties, guided only by his own good judgment and honest purposes, without any necessity to temporize with established abuses, to wink at the delinquencies of old party friends, or to unlearn and discard the bad official habits that have grown up under the misgovernment of his Democratic predecessors. In short he can be an honest and bold reformer on easier and cheaper terms than any Democratic President can be, for, in proceeding in the good work of cleansing and purifying the administrative departments, he will have no occasion to expose the vices, assail the interests, or thwart the ambition of his political friends.

Being your pardon for the length of this letter, I remain, with great respect,
Your friend and obedient servant,
EDWARD BATES.

[From the Allentown Dem., June 27th.]

Gipsy Roguery—Rascal Trapped.

Much as has been said by the press against the stealing propensities and general roguery of the bands of Gipsies that roam through the country during the summer season, there are still people who become their dupes and victims by self consent and in the face of the most superstitious representations. A case of this kind happened near Emaus last week. It appears that Mr. Elias Weaver residing as above, has for some eight or ten years been afflicted with an ailment which has kept him an invalid almost continually. He had continual recourse to all kinds of medical treatment without however any beneficial effect. It so happened that on Saturday a week a band of Gipsies encamped on a piece of woodland a short distance from Emaus, and while in camp over Sunday were visited by a large number of eager spectators, among others Mr. Weaver, the subsequent victim of their duplicity. During his stay he got into conversation with one of the band, and related to him his sufferings from sickness. Upon this the Gipsy represented himself as a sorcerer and vegetarian physician, and by every thing that is good and holy affirmed that he could cure him and render him perfectly sound, and moreover that he would not charge him a single cent for his services; that he would again visit the neighborhood at the expiration of a year, and that then after beholding his restoration to health he felt able and disposed to remunerate him he would then be allowed to accept of his offering, but previous to that time he was forbidden so to do except by forfeiture of the power of incantation. In the face of these specious offerings, Mr. Weaver agreed to place himself under his treatment. On Monday morning following the Gipsy made his appearance at Weaver's house to commence his operations. Weaver being in readiness, he was asked by the Gipsy what the usual expenses of a funeral were in that locality. Weaver replied about \$30. The sorcerer then told him that in order to effect a cure Weaver would have to produce the amount to cover three funerals (ninety dollars). Weaver said he had only about thirty dollars. The sorcerer then told him that under these circumstances he could not attempt to cure him, as the amount mentioned was absolutely necessary to make it successful, and at the same time intimated that he should make a loan of the balance, to which Weaver assented, and in a short time the money was produced,—four twenty dollars of the Allentown Bank and twenty silver half dollars. He next asked for two pieces of linen about a foot square, exactly alike, two pieces of cord, and a watch. He was furnished with the first named articles, but not being the possessor of a watch, the Gipsy prevailed upon Mr. W. to make a loan of one, but this he obstinately refused.—In making these loans the Gipsy took precaution to warn Mr. W. against making any mention whatever of the purposes to which the loans should be applied, lest the cure would prove ineffectual. Weaver not being able to produce a watch, the sorcerer, anxious to make hay whilst the sun forerced him, at last volunteered and produced one of his own watches. The money and watch was tied up in one of the pieces of linen mentioned, in sight of Mr. Weaver, and the remaining linen and cord went into the sorcerer's pocket. The Gipsy then asked for an empty chest, and the two proceeded up stairs.—Weaver carrying the enchanted package (money and watch). The chest was then unlocked, and the two with open hands crossed over each other, then jointly lowered the package thrice into the chest, and deposited it therein the third time, the Gipsy all the while repeating unintelligible formulae of words and ceremonies.—This done the chest was locked and the key deposited in the hands of the patient, with an injunction that the package must not be tampered with else their labor would certainly prove fruitless. The sorcerer then

told Weaver that the same ceremonies with the package would have to be repeated at noon and evening of that day. He departed and at noon returned, when the ceremonies of lowering the package were repeated in manner as before. This done he asked for some gunpowder and had himself directed to the nearest graveyard, whither he went. At evening he returned, and the chest was re-opened; Weaver was ordered to stand behind the sorcerer while he lifted the package out of the chest. He drew it up several times to his shoulder and caused Weaver to lay his fingers thereon, when it was again jointly lowered as before. (Here it may be well to state that while absent to the graveyard the Gipsy prepared a bogus package, the exact counterpart of the one in the chest, being prepared with the piece of lined and cord, and in lifting the package from the chest in the evening, exchanged package No. 1 for package No. 2, unknown to Mr. Weaver.) The chest was locked and Mr. W. given the key, together with the injunction that the package must not be disturbed for nine months; that he must not mention to any one anything concerning the matter; that he might look at the package daily if he chose so to do, but if he violated any of these commands, no cure could be effected and his arms would wither and drop from his body. The sorcerer then took his departure. Weaver began to reflect upon the matter and felt ill at ease in mind—so much so that he did not sleep a wink during the night. Finding no rest, he on the following morning related his troubles to his sister, who, without much hesitation, even at the risk of her arms, tore the package from its resisting place, when lo, to the bitter astonishment of Weaver it was found to contain nothing but a stone and some other trash to give it bulk. Immediate search was made for the Gipsy party but they had cleared out the day before and had a whole night's headway. They were traced on towards Easton, and at 9 o'clock on Wednesday they were arrested at Riegelville, about 14 miles below Easton. Fifty dollars of the stolen money was found in the wagon of the sorcerer. The balance of the sum it is supposed was laid out in purchase of goods at Bethlehem. The Gipsy was taken into custody and after a hearing before a Justice in this county, committed to Jail at this place to await trial at next Court. He gives his name as Carel Hoffman and is about 54 years of age. He has a wife about 16 years of age.

An old criminal was once asked what was the first step that led him to ruin, when he answered: "The first step was cheating a printer out of two year's subscription. When I had done that, the devil took such a gripe on me that I could not shake him off.—Delinquents reflect ere it is too late.

A Dead Sure Thing.

The Cincinnati Commercial tells a yarn about two ladies travelling from St. Louis; one of whom was asked by a fellow traveller with whom a conversation had been opened, if she was married. "I was married," sighed the blooming dame, "but, alas! I know not if my husband is dead or alive. I heard that he was accidentally killed in Pittsburgh, a few weeks ago, and I am now going there to ascertain whether the report be true or false.—'Well, I've got a dead sure thing on my husband,' remarked the other lady, 'for I saw him buried five weeks ago.'

Two white women are living at the Agencies, in Minnesota, with Indian husbands. One of them, Mrs. Renville, came from Illinois about eighteen months ago, and after a vigorous courtship, won the consent of her dusky mate, and married him that she might elevate the race. She is now teaching the Indian girls to bake and sew, and do household labor generally, and her husband is said to be quite proud of her. The other, Mrs. Othertday, became enamored of one of the braves at Washington, where he had gone with others of his tribe to complete a treaty, and she followed him to his home on the prairies.

Our friend Judge—, who is taking the census in the rural districts, is meeting with some thrilling scenes. The Judge arrived at a farm house the other day, and in the absence of the men proceeded to ask questions of the ladies. "Ladies," politely says the Junge, "how many male cows have you?" "We have no male cows," replied a young lady—a sweet, ethereal creature of some 100 pounds weight, but we have a gentleman bull calf!" The Judge put it down.

Important to Profane Swearers.

The Philadelphia Dispatch calls attention to the fact that the Revised Penal Code, passed last winter, makes all persons who speak loosely or profanely of God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, or the Bible, liable to an indictment for blasphemy, the penalty for which is a fine not exceeding one hundred dollars or imprisonment not exceeding three months, or both at the discretion of the Court. Persons in the habit of swearing had better be careful, as no officer who regards his oath of office can avoid returning to Court all persons who are guilty of the offense above specified.