

THE COLUMBIA DEMOCRAT.

I have sworn upon the Altar of God, eternal hostility to every form of Tyranny over the Mind of Man.—Thomas Jefferson

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MISCELLANEOUS.

THE SILVER TANKARD.

On a slope of land opening itself to the south, in a new settled town, in the State of Maine, some hundred or more years ago, stood a farm house, to which the epithet of comfortable might be applied. The old forest came down to the back of it; and in front were cultivated fields, beyond which was ground partially cleared, full of pine stumps, and there, standing erect, the grand trunks of the trees which the fire had scorched and blackened, tho' it had failed to overthrow them.—The house stood at the very verge of the settlement, so that from it no other cottage was seen—the nearest neighbor was distant about six miles. Dan'l Gordon, the owner and occupant of the premises we have described had chosen this valley in the wilderness, a wide rich tract of land not only as his own home of his children and children's children. He was willing to be far off from men, that his children might have room to settle around him. He was looked upon as the rich man of that district, and was known over that part of the country. His house completely finished, and was large for the times, having two stories in front, and one behind, with a long sloping roof. It seemed as if it leaned to the south, as if to offer its back to the cold winds of the northern mountains. It was full of the comforts of life—the furniture ever a little showy, for a Puritan, and when the table was set there was to use a Yankee phrase, "considerable" silver plate, among which a large tankard stood pre-eminent. The silver had been the property of his father, and was brought from the mother country.

"Now we will go back to this pleasant valley, as it was on a bright and beautiful morning in the month of June. It was Sunday; and though early, the two sons of Daniel Gordon and the hired man had gone to meeting on foot, down to the landing, a little village on the banks of the river, ten miles distant. Daniel himself was standing at the doors, with the horse and chaise ready and waiting for his good wife, who had been somewhat detained. He was standing at the door step, enjoying the freshness of the morning, with a little pride in his heart, as he cast his eye over the extent of his possessions spread before him. At this instant, a neighbor of six miles distance, rode up on horseback, and beckoned to him from the gate at the enclosure a round the house.

"Good morning, neighbor Gordon," said he. "I have come out of way in going to meeting, to tell you that Tom Smith—that daring thief—with two others, have been seen prowling about in these parts; and that you had better look out lest ye have a visit. I have got nothing in my house to bring them there, but they may be after the silver tankard neighbor, and the silver spoons. I have often said these things were not fit for these parts. Tom is a bold fellow, but I suppose the fewer he means when he goes to steal the better. I don't think it is safe for you all to be off to meeting to day, but I am in a hurry neighbor, so good bye."

This communication placed our friend Daniel in an unpleasant dilemma. It had been settled that no one was to be left at home but his daughter Mehitable, a beautiful little girl about nine years old. Shall I stay or not was the question—Daniel was a Puritan; he had strict notions of the duty but then he was a father; and little Hitty was the light and joy of his eyes.

But these Puritans were stern and unflinching. He soon settled the point. "I won't ever take Hitty with me; for 'twill make cowardly,—what thieves may not come—to my house, they will not hurt that child. At any rate she is in God's hands, and I will go to worship Him who never forsakes those who put their trust in him." As he settled this, the little girl and her

mother stepped to the chaise—the father saying to the child, "If any strangers come, Hitty, treat them well. We can spare of our abundance to the poor. What is silver and gold when we think of God's holly word?" With those words on his lips he drove off—a troubled man in spite of his religious trust; because he left his daughter in the wilderness.

Little Hitty, the daughter of a Puritan, strictly brought up to observe the Lord's day. She knew that she ought to return to the house; but nature, for once at least got the better of her training. "No harm," thought she, "to see the brood of chickens." Nor did she when she had given them some water, go into the house; but loitered and lingered, hearing the robin sing and followed with her eye the bobolink, as he flitted from the house, because she did not feel alone when she saw him fly from shrub to shrub. She passed almost an hour out among the birds, and was gathering here and there a little wild flower. But at last she went in, took her book and seated herself at the window, sometimes reading, and sometimes looking out.

As she was there seated, she saw three men coming up towards the house, and she was right glad to see them; for she felt lonely, and there was dreary a long day before her. "Father," thought she, "meant something, when he told me to be kind to strangers. I suppose he expected them. I wonder what keeps them all from meeting. Never mind—they shall see I can do something for them, if I am little Hitty; so putting down the Bible, she ran to meet them, happy, confident, even glad that they had come. She called them to come in with her; and said, "I am alone; if mother was here she would do more for you—but I will do all I can," and all this, with a frank, loving heart, glad to please her father, whose last words were to spare none of their abundance to the weary traveler.

Smith and his two companions entered. Now it was neither breakfast time nor dinner time, but about half way between both; yet little Hitty's head was full of the direction, "spare not of our abundance," and almost before they were to the house, she asked if she should get them something to eat. Smith replied, "Yes; I will thank you my child, for we are all hungry. This was indeed a civil speech for a thief, who, half-starved, had been lurking in the woods to watch his chance to steal the silver tankard, as soon as the men-folks had gone to meeting.

"Shall I give you cold victuals, or will you wait until I can cook some meat?" asked Hitty.

"We can't wait," was the reply. "I am glad you do not want me to cook for you—but I would do it if you did—because father would rather not have much cooking on Sunday.

Ten away she tripped about, making her preparations for the repast. Smith himself helped her out with the table; she spread upon it a clean white cloth, and placed upon it the silver spoons and the silver tankard full of 'old orchard,' with a large quantity of wheat bread, and a dish of cold meat. I don't know why the silver spoons were put on, perhaps little Hitty thought they made the table look prettier.

After all was done she turned to Smith and with a courtesy, told him that dinner was ready. The child had been so busy in arranging her table, and so thoughtful of house-wifery, that she took little or no notice of the appearance and manners of her guests. She did the work as cheerfully and freely, and was as unembarrassed as if she had been surrounded by her father, mother and brothers. One of the thieves sat down doggedly with his hands on his knees, and face down almost in his hands, looking all the time down to the floor. Another a younger and better man, stood confounded and irresolute, as if he had not been well broken in his trade, and often would go to the window and look out, keeping his back to the child. Smith on the other hand, looked unconcerned, as if he had quite forgotten his purpose. He never once took his attention off from the child, but followed her with his eyes as she bustled about, in arranging the dinner table—there was even a half smile on his face. They all moved to the table, Smith's chair at the head, one of his companions on each side, and the child at the foot, standing there to help her guests, and to be ready to go for supplies as they were used.

The men ate as hungry men, almost in silence, drinking occasionally hearty draughts from the silver tankard.

When they had done, Smith started up suddenly, and said, "Come let's go."

"What!" exclaimed the other robber, "go with empty hands when this silver is here?" He seized the tankard.

"Put that down!" said Smith, "I'll shoot

the first man that attempts to take a single thing from this house."

Poor Hitty at once awoke to a sense of the character of her guests; with terror in her face, and yet with childlike frankness she ran to Smith, took hold of his hand and looked in his face, as if she felt sure that he would take care of her.

The old thief looking to his young companion, and finding that he was ready to give up the job, and seeing that Smith was resolute, put down the tankard growling like a dog that had a bone taken from him against his will.

"Fool! catch me in your company again!"—and with such other expressions left the house, followed by the other.

Smith put his hand on the head of the child, and said, "Don't be afraid—stay quiet in the house—nobody shall hurt you."

Thus ended the visit of the thieves.—Thus God preserved the property of those who put their trust in him. What a story had the child to tell when the family came home. How hearty was the thanksgiving that went up that evening from the family.

A year or two after this, poor Tom Smith was arrested for the commission of a crime, was tried and sentenced to be executed.—Daniel Gordon heard of this, and that he was confined in jail in a seaport town to await the dreadful day, when he was to be hung like a dog between heaven and earth. Gordon could not keep away from him; he left draw to him for the protection of his daughter, and went down to see him. When he entered the dungeon, Smith was seated, his face was pale, his hair was matted together—for why should he care for his looks. There was no other expression in his countenance than that of irritation, from being intruded upon, when he wanted to hear nothing, see nothing of his fellow-men. He did not arise, nor even look up, nor return the salutations of Mr. Gordon, who continued to stand before him. At last as if wearied beyond endurance, he asked, "What do you want of me? Can't you let me alone here?" My name is Gordon—I am your father's friend; and your companions came to rob a year or two since on the Sabbath.

As it touched the heart, Smith appeared changed; an expression of deep interest came over his features—he was altogether another man.

This sudden inference passed away in an instant. "Are you the father of that little girl? Oh, what a dear child she is! Is she well and happy? How I love to think of her! That's one pleasant thing I have to think of. For once I was treated like other men. Could I kiss her once, I think I should feel happy? In this hurried manner he poured out an intensity of feeling little supposed to lie in the bosom of a condemned thief.

Gordon remained with Smith, whispered to him of peace beyond the grave to the penitent, soothed in some degree his passage through the dark valley and shadow of death and did not return to his family, until Christian love could do no more for an erring brother, on whom before scarcely had the eye of love rested; whose hand had been against all men, because their hands had been against him.

I have told you the story more at length and interwoven some important circumstances, but it is before you substantially as it was related to me. The main incidents are true—though doubtless as the story was handed down from generation to generation it has been colored by the imagination.—The silver tankard, has descended down to the family—the property of the daughter named Mehitable, and is now in possession of a clergyman in Massachusetts.

What a crowd of thoughts do these incidents cause to rush upon the mind! How sure is the overcoming of evil with good. How truly did Christ know what was in the heart of man. How true to the best feelings of human nature are even the out-casts of society. How much of our virtue do we owe to our position among men.—How incessant be our exertions to disseminate the truth, that the world may be reformed, and the law of love be substituted for the law of force. The reader will not however need our help to make the right use of guarding the silver tankard, by the innocent kindness of a child.

A quaint old writer remarks, that a man should dress his wife above his means, his children up to his means, and himself below his means. He further remarks however, that the ladies should not be told this—they will have the goodness therefore not to read this paragraph!

Do good to all,—to your friends because they are such, and to your enemies that they may become your friends. This maxim is ancient and worthy of attention.

BRITISH TREATY.

A TREATY.

To settle and define the Boundaries between the Territories of the United States and the possessions of her Britannic Majesty in North America, for the final suppression of the African Slave Trade, and for the giving up of Criminals, fugitives from justice, in certain cases:

Whereas, certain portions of the line of boundary between the United States of America and the British dominions in North America, described in the Second Article of the Treaty of Peace of 1783, have not yet been ascertained and determined, notwithstanding the repeated attempts which have been heretofore made for that purpose; and whereas, it is now thought to be for the interest of both parties, that, avoiding further discussion of their respective rights, arising in this respect under the said Treaty, they should agree on a conventional line in said portions of the said boundary, such as may be convenient to both parties, with such equivalents and compensations, as are deemed just and reasonable: And whereas, by the Treaty concluded at Ghent, on the 24th day of December, 1814, between the United States and His Britannic Majesty, an article was agreed to and inserted of the following tenor, viz: "Art. 10. Whereas, the traffic in Slaves is irreconcilable with the principles of humanity and justice. And whereas, both His Majesty and the United States are desirous of continuing their efforts to promote its entire abolition, it is hereby agreed that both the contracting parties shall use their best endeavors to accomplish so desirable an object." And whereas, notwithstanding the laws of which have at various times been passed by the two Governments, and the efforts made to suppress it, that criminal traffic is still prosecuted and carried on. And whereas, the United States of America and Her Majesty, the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, are determined that, so far as they may be in their power, it shall be effectually abolished. And whereas, it is found expedient for the better administration of justice and the prevention of crime within the territories and jurisdiction of the two parties respectively, that persons committing the crimes hereinafter enumerated, and being fugitives from justice, should under certain circumstances, be reciprocally delivered up. The United States of America and Her Britannic Majesty, having resolved to treat on these several subjects, have for that purpose appointed their respective Plenipotentiaries to negotiate and conclude a Treaty, that is to say, the President of the United States has, on his part, furnished with full powers, Daniel Webster Secretary of State of the United States, and Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland has on her part appointed the Right Honorable Alexander Lord Ashburton, a Peer of the said United Kingdom, a member of Her Majesty's most honorable Privy Council, and Her Majesty's Minister Plenipotentiary on a Special Mission to the United States; who after a reciprocal communication of their respective full powers, have agreed to and signed the following Articles:

ARTICLE I.

It is hereby agreed and declared that the line of boundary shall be as follows.

Beginning at the Monument at the source of the River St. Croix, as designated and agreed to by the Commissioners under the 5th Article in the Treaty of 1794, between the Governments of the United States and Great Britain; thence; North, following the exploring line run and marked by the surveyors of the two Governments in the year 1817 and 1818 under the fifth article of the treaty of Ghent; to intersection with the river St. John, and to the middle of the channel thereof; thence, up the middle of the main channel of said river St. John, to mouth of the river St. Francis; thence up the middle of the channel of the said river St. Francis, and of the Lakes through which it flows, to the outlet of the Lake Pohenagmook; thence Southwesterly, in a straight line to a point on the North West branch of the river St. John, which point shall be ten miles distant from the main branch of the St. John, in a straight line, and in the nearest direction; but if the said point shall be found to be less than seven miles from the nearest point or crest of the highlands that divide those rivers which empty themselves into the river St. Lawrence from those which fall into the river St. John, to a point 7 miles in a straight line from the said summit or crest; thence, in a straight line in a course about South eight degrees west to the point where the parallel of latitude of 46 deg. 25 min. north intersects the Southwest branch of the St. John; thence, Southerly by the said branch to the source, thereof in the highlands at the

Metjarmette portage; thence, down along the said highlands which divided the waters which empty themselves into the river St. Lawrence from those which fall into the Atlantic Ocean, to the head of Hall's stream thence, down the middle of said stream till the line thus run intersects the old line of boundary surveyed and marked by Valentine and Collins previously to the year 1774, as the 45th degree of north latitude, and which has been known and understood to be the line of actual division between the States of New York and Vermont on one side, and the British Province of Canada on the other; and from said point of intersection west along the said dividing line as heretofore known and understood, to the Iroquois, or St. Lawrence River.

ARTICLE II.

It is moreover agreed, that from the place where the joint commissioners terminated their labors, under the sixth article of the Treaty of Ghent, to wit: At a point in that Neebriek channel, near the Muddy lake, the line shall run into and along the ship channel, between St. Joseph and St. Tammany Islands, to the division of the channel at or near the head of St. Joseph's Island; thence, turning eastwardly and northwardly, around the lower end of St. George's or Sugar Island, and following the middle of the channel which divides St. George's from St. Joseph's Island; thence, up the east Neebriek channel, nearest to St. George's Island, through the middle of Lake George; thence west of Jona's Island, into St. Mary's River, to a point in the Middle of that river, about 1 mile above St. George's or Sugar Island, so as to appropriate and assign the said Island to the U. S., thence, adopting the line traced on the maps by the commissioners, through the river St. Mary and Lake Superior, to a point north of Isle Royal in said lake, one hundred yards to the north and east of Isle Chapeau, which last mentioned Island lies near the northeastern point of Isle Royal, where the line marked by the commissioners, terminates; and from the last-mentioned point, southwesterly, through the middle of the sound between Isle Royal and the island of Pigeon, to the mouth of Pigeon river, and at the said river to, and through the north and south Fowl Lakes, to the Lakes of the height of Land, between Lake Superior and the Lake of the Woods; thence along the said line to the said most northwestern point, being in latitude 49° 23' 55" north, and in longitude 95° 14' 38" west from the Observatory, at Greenwich; thence according to existing treaties, due south to its intersection with the 49th parallel of north latitude, and along that parallel to the Rock Mountains. It being understood that all the water communications, and all the usual portages along the line from Lake Superior to the Lake of the Woods; and also Grand Portage, from the shore of Lake Superior to the Pigeon River as now actually used, shall be free and open to the use of the citizens and subjects of both countries.

ARTICLE III.

In order to promote the interest and encourage the industry of all the inhabitants of the countries watered by the River St. John and its tributaries, whether living within the State of Maine or the Province of New Brunswick, it is agreed that, where by the provisions of the present treaty, the River St. John is declared to be the line of boundary, the navigation of said River shall be free and open to both parties, and shall in no way be obstructed by either; that all the produce of the forest, in logs, lumber, timber, boards, staves, or shingles; or of agriculture not being manufactured, grown on any of those parts of the State of Maine watered by the River St. John, or by its tributaries, of which fast reasonable evidence shall, it required, be produced, shall have free access into and through the said river and its said tributaries, having their source within the State of Maine, to and from the seaport at the mouth of the said River St. John, and to and around the Falls of said River, either by boats, rafts, or other conveyance; that when within the Province of New Brunswick, the said produce shall be dealt with as if it were the produce of said Province; that, in like manner, the inhabitants of the Territory of the Upper St. John determined by this treaty to belong to her Britannic Majesty, shall have free access to and through the river for their produce, in those parts where the said river runs wholly through the State of Maine; provided always, that this