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THE COUNTRY DOLLAR.

A WEEKLY PAPER: DEVOTED TO LITERATURE, AGRICULTURE, MORALITY, AND FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE.

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THE RACE OF THE ALDERMAN.

How the Whig's Lam'd the Locos.

In 183—, it chanced in the big city of New York, that the Aldermen elect were a sort of tie; that is, so many Whigs and so many Democrats. Such a thing did not occur often, the Democracy usually having the supremacy. They generally had things pretty much their own way and distributed their favors among their partisans accordingly. The Whigs at length tied them and the Locos, beholding with horror and misgiving, the new order of things which was destined to turn out many a holder of fit office, waxy a patriot overflowing with democratic patriotism, whose devotion to the cause of the country was manifest in the tenacity with which he clung to his place, were extremely anxious to devise ways and means to keep the Whigs at bay; and as the day drew near, when the assembled Board of Aldermen should have their sitting at the City Hall, various dodges were proposed by the Locos to out-vote the Whigs, in questions or decisions touching the distribution of places, and appointment of men to fill the various stations of the new municipal government.

"I have it; I've got it!" exclaimed a round and jolly alderman of a Democratic ward. "To-night the board meets—we stand about eight and eight—this afternoon, let two of us invite two of the Whigs, Alderman H— and Alderman J—, out to a dinner at Harlem, get H— and J— tight as wax, and then we can slip off, take our conveyance, come in and vote the infernal Whigs just where we want them!"

"Capital! prime! Ha, ha, ha," says one. "First rate! Elegant! ha, ha, ha," shouts another. "Ha, ha! haw! haw! he, he, he!" roared all the Locos.

"Well, gentlemen let's all throw in a vantage, to defray expenses; you, you know of course, must put the Whigs through, and we must give them a rouse they won't forget soon. Champagne and turtle, that's the ticket; coach for four out and two in. Ha, ha! The Whigs shall see the elephant!"

Well, the purse was made up, the coach hired, and the two victims, the poor Whigs, were carted out under the pretence of a grand Aldermanic feast to Harlem, the scene of many a spree and jollification with the city fathers, and other bon vivants and gourmands of Gotham.

Dinner fit for an emperor being discussed, sundry bottles of "Sham" were uncorked, and their everesting contents decanted into the well-fed bodies of the four aldermen. Toasts and songs, wit and humor, filled up the time, until the Democrats began to think it was time that one of them slipped out, took the carriage back to the city, leaving the other to fuddle the two Whigs, and detain them until affairs at "the Tea-Room," City Hall, were settled to the entire satisfaction of the Democrats.

"Landlord," says one of the Democrats, whom we will call Brown, "landlord, have you any conveyance, horses, waggons, carriages or carts, by which any of my friends could go back to town to-night, if they wished?"

"Oh, yes," says the landlord, "certainly; I can send the gentleman if they wish."

"Very well, sir; they may get very tight before they desire to return; they are men of families, respectable citizens, and I do not wish, under any circumstances, to leave your house until morning. Whatever the bill is, I will foot, provided you deny them any of your means to go into to-night. You understand?"

"Oh, yes, sir; if you request it as a matter of favor, that I shall keep your friends here, I will endeavor to do so; but hadn't you better attend to them yourself?"

"Well, you see," says Brown, "I have business of importance to transact—must be in town this evening. Give the party all they wish; put that in your job—(handing the host an X)—post up your bill in the morning, and I'll be out bright and early to make all square. Do you bark," says Brown.

"Oh, yes, sir; all right," responded the landlord.

Brown gave his confederate the cue, stepped out, promising to be in in a minute, and then getting into the carriage, he drove back to the city, almost tickled to death with the idea of how nicely the Whigs would be "dished" when they all met at the City Hall, and come up minus two!

A BEAUTIFUL PICTURE OF MINNESOTA.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15, 1850.

Sir: You did me the honor, a few days since, to request that I would furnish you some information relative to the climate, soil, and present condition of Minnesota Territory. In reply, I proceed to make the following statement of facts, which must necessarily be brief, but I trust will be, to some extent at least, satisfactory.

That part of Minnesota which lies east of the Mississippi river constituted a portion of Wisconsin Territory, before the admission into the Union of the State of that name, with curbed boundaries. The St. Croix, and a line drawn from the main branch of that stream to the mouth of the St. Louis river, on Lake Superior, now divide Wisconsin from Minnesota. On the West of the Mississippi, the parallel of 43 deg. 30 min. is the line of division between the State of Iowa and Minnesota west to the Missouri. All the country up the latter stream to its junction with the White water, and along that river to the British possessions, thence eastwardly following the line of 49 deg. to its intersection of the extreme northwest boundary of Wisconsin, in Lake Superior, appertains to Minnesota Territory. The area embraced within these limits contains between 140,000 and 150,000 square miles, equal in extent to New York, Virginia, and Pennsylvania combined.

This immense region is boundedly watered by the Mississippi, St. Peter's, and Missouri rivers, and the Red river of the north, and their numerous tributary streams, which traverse it in every part. There are also innumerable bodies of fresh water, which abound in fish of various kinds—the white fish especially being found in great numbers in the more northern and larger lakes. The general character of Minnesota is that of high, rolling prairie, but the streams and lakes are bordered with heavy bodies of timber, which contain every species of wood known along the Mississippi below, except beech and sycamore. At a point about eighty miles above the falls of St. Anthony, west of the Mississippi, commences a large and remarkable forest, which extends to the south, nearly at right angle across the Minnesota or St. Peter's river, to the branches of the Malakot or Blue Earth river. This vast body of woodland is more than one hundred and twenty miles in length, and from fifteen to forty in breadth. Many beautiful lakes of limpid water are scattered within its limits, which are the resort of innumerable wild fowl—including swan, geese and ducks. The dense thickets along its border afford places of concealment for the deer, which are killed in great numbers by the Indians. The numerous groves of hard maple afford to the latter, at the proper season, the means of making sugar, while the large cotton-woods and butternuts are converted into canoes by them for the transportation of themselves and their families along the water-courses and lakes. At the approach of winter the bands of Sioux, save those who rely exclusively upon the buffalo for subsistence, seek the deepest recesses of the forest, to hunt the bear, the deer, and smaller fur-bearing animals, among which may be enumerated the marten, the fisher, and the marten. In this beautiful country are to be found all the requisites to sustain a dense population. The soil is of great fertility and of unknown depth, covered as it is with the mould of a thousand years.

The Indian is here in his forest home, hitherto secure from the intrusion of the pale faces; but the advancing tide of civilization warns him that ere long he must yield up his title to this fair domain, and seek another and a stranger dwelling place. It is a melancholy reflection, that the large and warlike tribes of Sioux and Chippewas, who now own full nine-tenths of the soil of Minnesota, must soon be subjected to the operation of the same causes which have swept their eastern brethren from the earth, unless an entirely different line of policy is pursued by the government towards them. If they were brought under the influence and restraint of our benign laws, and some hope extended to them, that education and a course of moral training would, at some period hereafter, entitle them to be placed upon an equality, socially and politically, with the whites, much good would be the result.

The soil of Minnesota is admirably adapted to the cultivation of all the cereal grains. Wheat, oats, and barley are already raised in considerable quantities, and corn grows to great perfection. Wheat and barley afford a sure crop, even at the British Red River colony, which is in latitude 50 deg.

What will be the result in the cultivation of fruit trees in our Territory has never been tested; but there is no reason to doubt that the experiment will be successful, with all those species which are produced in the same parallel of latitude elsewhere. Minnesota is destined to be a great agricultural region, and her prairies are well calculated for the raising of stock—There is also such an extent of water-power throughout its broad surface, that no reason can be perceived why manufactures

should not flourish also. The reports of those scientific men who have explored the country justify us in the belief that our Territory is rich in copper ores, and more particularly in galena or lead. Whether coal exists is a problem yet to be solved. If it shall be found in any considerable quantities, the discovery will be of more real advantage to Minnesota than mines of silver or gold.

On the upper portion of the Mississippi and St. Croix valleys lies the great region of pine, which will continue to prove a source of wealth to the Territory and future State for a century to come. The manufacture of pine lumber already occupies a very large part of the industrial labor of the people. The quantity produced during the last year must have exceeded eight millions of feet, although the amount is but conjectured, as I have no reliable data upon which to base a calculation. Much of this is needed for home consumption, caused by the rapid increase of population, but the larger portion is rafted to St. Louis, where it meets with a ready sale. This branch of business is in the hands of hardy, enterprising, and respectable men, who, enduring every species of privation in their wild homes, are too often fated to encounter heavy losses from the uncontrollable floods which set in defiance, equally, the strength and skill of man.

The climate of Minnesota is not subject to sudden variations, especially in winter. Although in some winters snow falls to a considerable depth, yet, as a general rule, we have far less than is the case either in New England or the northern part of the State of New York. The comparative absence of moisture in our country is attributable doubtless to the fact that no very large bodies of water are to be found, although, as I have before stated, small lakes abound. During the coldest weather in winter, the air is perfectly still; consequently the temperature is much more tolerable, and even pleasant, than could be supposed by those who reside in the same latitude on the Atlantic coast.

Mysterious Murder of a Young Girl at Lawrence, Mass., by a Physician.

For a week or two past the eastern papers have contained scraps of intelligence relative to the most extraordinary murder of a young woman, named Catharine Louisa Adams. From what we can gather, the following are the main facts:—It appears that Miss Adams was a Lowell factory girl, 18 years of age. She had a lover named Darius Taylor, who kept a livery stable in Lawrence. She subsequently came to Lawrence and worked in the mills there, but owing to her intimacy with Taylor, (to whom it was reported she was about to be married,) she neglected her duties, and was discharged. After passing some weeks in Boston with her friends, deceased again made her appearance in Lawrence. On the 21st of December last, she disappeared, and was not afterwards heard of until Sunday, the 10th of February, when her body, shockingly mangled, was found in "Richardson's Brook," (so called,) a short distance from Methuen village, on the Lowell road, sewed up in a piece of bagging. The discovery was made by some persons on their return from church, who actuated by curiosity, drew the sack from the water and opened it. It was first seen in that spot on the 5th of January last, by some boys, who were fishing for "shiners," and subsequently by numerous persons passing over the road between Methuen and Lowell, but attracted no attention further than a casual glance, supposing it to be a valueless piece of bagging frozen in the brook. Dr. J. H. Morse and other physicians proceeded to examine the body.

A cord was drawn tightly around the throat, so tightly as to sink and bury itself in the flesh. The face was covered with thick bandages sufficient of themselves to cause strangulation. These bandages consisted of four thicknesses of cotton cloth, with cotton wadding underneath, the latter forced into the mouth and nostrils, and the whole fastened with a chord round the neck. So tightly, indeed, was the chord drawn, that it cut in the flesh back of the neck, and exhibited deep indentations in the cotton and banding, with which the unhappy girl was strangled. Some faint scratches appeared upon the face, and the forehead exhibited marks of blows, but the skull was not fractured, and the examining physicians gave it as their opinion, that the wounds on the head were not alone sufficient to cause death. It was the supposition of the medical gentlemen, that the blows were given to put end to her struggles, while the murderers were proceeding in their work of strangulation with the cotton cloth.

A further examination of the body brought to light practices surpassing, in inhuman barbarity, if possible, what we have already detailed of this heart-stricken and terrible tragedy. An attempt to produce abortion had been made, and the foetus, of about four or five months, had apparently been dissected with a sharp instrument, and part of it taken away by piecemeal. It is supposed that the deceased, while undergoing the operation, made outcries, and that, fearing a discovery, a fold of cloth was put over her mouth, and that finally they were obliged to kill her.

The investigation by the Coroner's Inquest brought out strong testimony against one Dr. Moses P. Clark, of Lawrence, and the lover of the girl, Darius Taylor. But as there was no positive testimony against them, the presentation of the jury merely charged that the girl was murdered at Dr. Clark's house, in Lawrence, by some persons to the jury unknown.

Dr. Clark was arrested and committed to the Salem jail. The accused is a man of about sixty years of age, apparently in feeble health, and of the most respectable appearance. His wife is suspected of being privy to the murder, is much younger, and of prepossessing appearance. Dr. Clark is a regular physician, and has been in the practice of his profession for many years. He is a native of Massachusetts, and has resided in Lawrence for some time. He is a man of high standing in the community, and is well respected by his neighbors. He is a member of the Congregational Church, and is a man of high moral character. He is a man of high standing in the community, and is well respected by his neighbors. He is a member of the Congregational Church, and is a man of high moral character.

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Arraignment of Professor Webster for the Murder of Dr. Parkman.

The arraignment of John W. Webster, indicted for the wilful murder of George Parkman, on the 23d day of November last, took place at 10 o'clock this forenoon, in the Supreme Judicial Court Room before Judge Fletcher. Mr. Webster was brought into Court in custody of officers Wm. Esterbrook and David Patterson.

At the opening of the Court, the Attorney General, Hon. John H. Clifford, addressed the Court as follows:—"May it please your Honor—The Grand Jury of this county presented an indictment at the last term of the Municipal Court, against John W. Webster, the prisoner at the bar, for the crime of murder, and by a provision of the revised statutes, that indictment has been certified up to this Court. I now move, your Honor, that the prisoner be arraigned upon that indictment."

The Clerk then called upon the Prisoner to stand up, and hold up his right hand, and hearken to the indictment. The prisoner, during the reading the first part of the indictment, manifested considerable emotion, evidently making an effort to stand perfectly firm. In reading the first count of the indictment, where it describes the manner of inflicting the wounds, just as the clerk pronounced the words "with a certain knife, which he then and there in his right hand had held up," &c., the prisoner let his right hand fall and rest upon the railing in front of him, where it remained until the reading was finished.

At the close of the reading of the indictment, the clerk asked—"John W. Webster, what say you to this indictment—are you guilty or not guilty?" To which the prisoner replied, in a clear and distinct voice, "I am not guilty, sir." The Court then inquired of the prisoner if he had any counsel engaged to assist him in his defence; to which the prisoner responded, "I have your honor—Mr. Sohler and Judge Merrick."

The Court then inquired of Mr. Sohler, and of the Attorney General, if they had any particular wish as to the time for the trial. Both the counsel stated that it would be desirable for the time of trial fixed for as early a day as possible, and they would be ready at such a time as the Court might direct.

Judge Fletcher then stated that he was directed by the Court, if no objection was made by the defendant, to assign Tuesday the nineteenth day of March next, as the day for the trial of this case. To this, the counsel for the defendant replied that they would be ready at that time. The prisoner was then remanded. So that day was assigned for the commencement of the trial of this important case. The general appearance of the prisoner was much the same as before his arrest. During the arraignment, the Grand Jury, many members of the bar, friends of the prisoner, and several physicians and gentlemen of other professions, were present.—Boston Journal.

MORAL CHARACTER OF PROS.—Some folks accuse pigs of being filthy in their habits, and negligent in their personal appearance. But whether food is best eaten off the ground, or from China plates, it seems to us, merely a matter of taste and convenience, about which pigs and men may honestly differ. They ought, then, to be judged charitably. At any rate, pigs are not filthy enough to chew tobacco, nor to poison their breath by drinking whiskey. And as to their personal appearance, you don't catch a pig playing the dandy, nor picking their way up the muddy streets, in kid slippers.

Pigs have some excellent traits of character. If one chances to yallow a little deeper in some mire hole than his fellows, and so carries off and comes in possession of more of the earth than his brethren, he never assumes an extra importance, on that account; neither are his brethren envious enough to worship him for it. Only question seems to be, is he a hog? If he is they treat him as such. And when a hog has no merits own he has on aristocratic claims peculiar respect connexions.

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Mr. Plumb in California.

We have a letter from Mr. Plumb, the gentleman who originated in Iowa, many years since, prior to Whitney and others, the plan of a Pacific railroad. The letter is dated at Sacramento city, Nov. 26th, and in it Mr. Plumb says: "I have just arrived at this city, after having crossed our continent, via the south pass, with the view of satisfying myself, from personal observation, whether the project I have so long agitated of a railroad from the Atlantic to the Pacific, was really entitled to the attention of the nation, which I have ever believed myself warranted in claiming for it. As the result of my examination, it affords me the greatest pleasure to have it in my power to report that the importance of the work, as well as the facility for its construction are, in my estimation, much greater than I had supposed, before seeing for myself."—Boston Transcript.

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