

# Democratic Banner.

BY MOORE & THOMPSON.

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## TERMS

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## POETRY.

From the Juvenile Scrap Book (London Annual for 1847.)

### WOMAN'S LOT.

Oh! say not woman's lot is hard,  
Her path a path of sorrow;  
To-day, perchance, some joy debar'd  
May yield more joy to-morrow.

It is not hard—it cannot be,  
To speak in tones of gladness,  
To hush the sigh of misery,  
And soothe the brow of sadness.

It is not hard sweet flowers to spread,  
To strew the path with roses,  
To smooth the couch, and rest the head,  
Where some loved friend reposes.

It is not hard, to trim the hearth  
For brothers home returning;  
To wake the songs of harmless mirth,  
When winter fires are burning.

It is not hard, a sister's love,  
To pay with love as tender;  
When cares perplex, and trials prove,  
A sister's help to render.

It is not hard, when troubles come,  
And doubts and fears distressing,  
To shelter in a father's home,  
And feel a mother's blessing.

It is not hard, when storms are on  
Mid darkness and dejection,  
To look to Heaven with trusting eyes,  
And ask its kind protection.

Then say not woman's lot is hard,  
Her path the path of sorrow;  
To-day, perchance, some joy debar'd  
May yield sweet peace to-morrow.

### Vice President Dallas.

INTERESTING LETTER.—The following communication to the Washington Examiner, introduces a correspondence between citizens of Washington county, Pa., and the Vice President of the United States. We publish the reply of the Vice President in connection with the communication referred to:

To the Editors of the Washington Examiner:—Gentlemen—It being devolved upon me to request the favor of you to publish in your next paper, the annexed correspondence between the Vice President of the United States and some of your friends, neighbors and subscribers, in town and country—the State and county election bring over, a calm, deliberate and unbiased consideration of a great national subject may be expected—and I now, therefore, perform the duty.

The pure moralist no less than the republican statesman; and both equal with the true patriot and enlightened philanthropist, it may be permitted to anticipate, will award the reply of Mr. Dallas the meed of their highest commendation. In it there is no indirection, no subterfuge; every thing is manly, candid and above-board. He regards his fellow man not as a mere animal, whose highest instinct is *idiotry of moneyed interests*; but as a moral and intellectual being, endowed by the wisdom and goodness of the Creator, with a capacity, under a beneficent government of a high degree of mental improvement, and individual and social happiness. *Ribaldry* may be continued; but this degrades not him, but those who use it. Washington, Jefferson and Jackson were mercifully pelted by such storms—History records the result. It is a tribute or tax, ever levied on the fearless and able advocates of the equal rights of man. How then can the Vice-President escape? Effigies may be burnt, but where do we find the scars?

'Strike, but hear,' is a noble and heroic motto, and if, after hearing what none but those who fear the truth can object to hear with calmness and candor, and a sincere desire to arrive at the truth, the weapons do not fall from the hands of those who grasped them so indignantly, he and his friends, having nothing in view but the truth, will doubtless hear with a similar spirit, whatever arguments may be urged in opposition.

The subject being a national one, and of the highest importance—meriting the sober thought and deliberate duty of every citizen—coming home, as it does, to the firesides of the most indigent in the community, as well as those in good circumstances, it is worthy, not of a fleeting thought only, but of the most earnest and unprejudiced investigation.

Very respectfully,  
ONE OF THE SIGNERS.

Philadelphia, Sept. 26, 1846.

Gentlemen:—The animated and energetic letter I have just received from you calls for an immediate reply. I cannot allow you, for a moment, to suppose me insensible to the approbation you so eloquently express of my recent conduct in the Senate of the United States. The comprehensive view which you have taken of the subject gives greater value to your judgment, and entitles you as well to my thanks as to a frank reciprocation of sentiment.

An equal system of taxation, and as mild as one as a pure and economical administration of their public concerns will justify, is the demand of the American people. It is their right, resting on a fundamental principle of their social structure, and guaranteed by the whole tenor of their constituents. Why should they

not have it? Why should we perceive in enforcing a mode of obtaining treasure to meet the expenses which works unfairly—kindly on the east and cruelly on the west and south; which gathers wasteful and pernicious surplus, and gradually gives unwieldy and dangerous power to a single class of capitalists? Answers to these questions might be easy, as long as the majority of the people, sensible of an unripe organization, volunteered to sacrifice largely, in order to drive deep into their soil the roots of social independence and safety. But answers become difficult, if not impossible, when that majority, conscious of matured strength, and prepared to cope with every sort of antagonism, avow a change of purpose, or rather a recurrence of the justice and freedom from which they diverged under the belief that it was at least prudent if not necessary to do so. They have now called for a reduction of the duties on imports to the measure of revenue want; for an abandonment of all legislative favoritism; for an equalization of the burdens which they know should be borne by all alike; and they have insisted, with emphasis, that indirect but copious tribute shall no longer be exacted from the agricultural, commercial and mechanical masses, under pretence of protecting where protection is obviously and notoriously mere pampering. Calls such as these, from such a source, it is as wise, as it is wholesome, in conformity with the spirit of our institutions to obey with as little delay or opposition as possible.

My faith, in the intelligence and patriotism of the people is habitual. The democracy never fail, sooner or later, to understand and pursue their true policy and interests. On the subject of a tariff, however, difficulties existed, at once complex and covert, by which they were liable to be embarrassed and deceived. It is indirect and unseen taxation on all but the importing merchants; and impoverishes without its agency being perceived. Incomes or wages become inadequate, and it is not immediately discovered that this inadequacy is caused by the swollen prices which men are obliged to pay for their iron implements, their clothing, their household utensils, their groceries, and their comforts. The demand of the tax collector who visits them for the ordinary rates and levies is distinct enough, and if that be exorbitant they redress themselves by electing more economical county commissioners—the grievance is direct and undisguised—and they know their remedy. Not so with the taxation which taxes in shape of duties on imports. The ploughman is unconscious of having paid any rate upon the machine with which he is furrowing the soil—so is the blacksmith as to his anvil—and the family matron as to her blankets, her sugar, and her salt—they bought the articles at a neighboring store for the same money that others paid, and nothing intimated that a part of the money they gave was the reimbursement of final payment of a public tax. We of Pennsylvania, who can scarcely continue quiet under the imposition of three mills per dollar to meet the interest on our debt, have actually become accustomed to contribute from our means without the slightest murmur, fifty, nay, a hundred times as much in as many deceptive modes, under the operation of the tariff of 1842. We not only pay our share for supporting the general government, but we also pay that portion of the price of every article we buy over and above what it would have cost if the tariff had not been enacted. Why, then, wonder that the laboring classes of our population were late in attending to, and slow in thoroughly appreciating the oppressive draining consequent upon an exorbitant tariff? Like banking, there is a mystery in it whose solution lags at the close of protracted discussion, inquiry, vigilance and thought. Yet, the same people that gradually matured the operations and tendencies of the one, and resolutely arrested them, have now, with the progressive spirit which characterizes them and their epoch, pushed forward to check the other.

The veil by which the evils of indirect taxation are concealed from the eye of the people should be determinedly lifted by those who have at heart the happiness of the masses, and seek to ameliorate their condition. This is a high obligation of democratic representation, legislative or executive. It is the higher, because easily evaded or plausibly left undone. Let the wrongs of a confiding and toiling constituency be studied by the agents whom they honor with their suffrages, and let the real sources of those wrongs be laid bare. If harsh, unfair, or unnecessary demands upon their substance have been made, they ought not to be considered sanctified and unassailable because long and patiently endured. On the contrary, the faithful sentinel should "cry aloud and spare not" the more zealously when the opportunities of his elevated position enable him to see what is hidden from others. A strong and gratifying illustration presents itself in a recently distributed document addressed by the Secretary of the Treasury to Congress, and received at the close of the late session. Our countrymen should have their attention invoked towards this remarkable paper—remarkable in every respect—its broad bearing, its precision, its authentic facts, and its striking results.—

No development of which I am aware has been made equally lucid and impressive. It purports to be a report, in compliance with a resolution of the Senate, exhibiting a list of manufactured articles upon which \$54,000,000 (fifty-four millions!) are annually paid to the protected class (not to the national Treasury!) by enhancing the price of the domestic articles, and the amount so paid on each article, under the Tariff of 1842, and by accurately formed tabular statements it establishes the annual aggregate of indirect taxation imposed by the law—seen and unseen—for government and for favorite classes—to exceed eighty-two millions of dollars! Were the American people sensible that this tariff, which ostensibly lanced but a single vein, practically made them bleed at every pore?—which professed to collect for public uses twenty-eight millions, yet silently and imperceptibly drew also for private monopoly almost twice that sum? Did we of this Commonwealth realize the extraordinary juggles by which the federal legislature seemed to seek from a duty on iron alone a gross revenue of but \$3,237,427, actually extorted a total tax of \$26,415,817? seeking from a duty on coal alone the sum of \$130,221, extorted a tax of \$6,669,092? and seeming to seek from a duty on manufactures of wool alone the sum of \$3,731,005, extorted a tax of \$10,457,145? Some few financial students may have early detected these latent vices of the system; but our farmers and toiling poor, our men of the axe and the anvil, the scythe and the saw, they have not the means nor the time for such investigations; they could take no note of it but by its loss, they suffered long under the weight of the burden, and dreamed not that it was the invisible and insatiate vampire of indirect taxation which exhausted their strength.

I wish not to be understood to prefer the substitution of excise for impost.—There are asperities in the former which render it almost intolerable among a people peculiarly sensitive as to domiciliary visits; and it is abuse only that makes the latter mischievous. Certainly our liberties would be safer under a system of open and direct taxation, with all its roughness, than under a prolonged administration of such furtive oppression, gross inequality and immoral deception as characterise the tariff of 1842. But reduce the duties one-half, take from them their tendency to nurse and rear monopolies, adopt value instead of name or form as the controlling standard, drop the false hypocrisy of minimums, and the thing essentially demoralized, becomes at least harmless.—Such, in plain truth, is the law which "the great Congress" has passed, to commence operating on the first of December next. That law may contain errors of detail, amendable as developed by experience, but comparatively its traits are equality, justice, moderation and candor. While the necessary revenue is sought at custom-houses, we shall experience less wrong, and incur less risk from a tariff founded on its principles than from any other mode of taxing. If I am not mistaken in the prevailing spirit of that law, political economists will hereafter say that its reforms give security to the earnings of labor and limits to the power of capital.

The home operation of the tariff of 1846, promises to be genial and salutary—I mean in regard to the great industrial masses. Its reduction of taxes, one half, is immediate relief; its indirect abatement of prices and the general expenses of comfortable living, awakens hope in the breasts of all whose wages or means are low and precarious, and its tendency to oblige capitalists to seek the success of their investments rather in a fair and generous treatment of their workmen, yields a protection to the moral independence and dignity of labor far worthier of attainment than that which the manufacturer demands for his wares. There is much more to protect in the citizen of a republic than his opportunities to work. He is not merely to devote his days unceasingly to acquire bread and raiment. The "rights of man," rights too readily ridiculed or forgotten, are his. The pride of character, the sense of natural equality, the spirit of independence, are his. The ennobling relations and duties of domestic life, are his; and the law which would sacrifice all these, upon the wretched pretext of securing to him a market where he can sell the strength of his sinews or the dexterity of his fingers, is a law for the gradual establishment of slavery on the basis of animal necessities.

The Tariff of 1846 recommends itself no less by certain considerations connected with its external bearing or aspect. It is in greater harmony than its predecessor with the liberal ideas of international commerce prevailing throughout the world. Retaliatory restrictions on trade are uncalled for. The vista of general peace stretches far into futurity, and invites us to mingle on terms of reciprocity and fearless friendship with our fellow-men every where. Even now Agriculture exults in the liberty of sending her surplus food over thousands of miles of water, to the famishing sons of Ireland. Our crops of wheat and Indian corn are suddenly augmented in value upwards of forty millions of dollars an effect of opening the

gates in a single channel, which will carry gladness to the family fireside of every farmer. Assuredly this Tariff is far from Free Trade; that, of course cannot be pretended, while the revenues necessary to maintain the Government, say twenty-eight millions of dollars, are exacted from our imports alone, but it meets modern enlightenment half way; and though still discriminating in favor of our own industry, it gives a much broader welcome than was heretofore given to the industry and enterprise of other countries.

In referring with such extreme kind and complimentary language to the decision given by the Vice President, when Senators were equally divided in favor of the new Tariff, you seem gentlemen, warmed up by the shameless excesses of slander and outrage with which cupidity and faction attempted, as it were, at once and by storm to overwhelm the casting vote. I fear you do me more than justice, and that I am bound to thank my defamers for a large share of your animated applause. It was the duty of office and the peremptory law of position. The citizen—I care not whether whig or democrat—who can deliberately inculcate that under the circumstances, political and personal, which surrounded me, I should have voted against the bill—"hic niger est, hinc tu cavere Romane!"—he is radically and incurably insensible to the obligations of public trust, and his instincts utterly rickety and unsound. I claim then only not to have been recreant, not to have proven false to my morals or my mission, nor have sunk to the hopes and standard of my assailants. In one aspect, indeed, the chance or the design which devolved upon me the necessity of intervening, assumes an importance and a charm to which I confess myself far from insensible. If, as you forcibly argue, and as certain advocates of moneyed interests seem almost to admit, the casting vote has disenfranchised the producing classes, has dissolved the fetters which bound the poor to the cars of the rich, has palsied the movements of covetous rapacity, has summoned labor to the assumption of its natural independence and dignity, and has taken even a few feathers from the backs of the overburdened, if, I say, the casting vote, by the closing career of the Tariff of 1842, has led to these results, then I solemnly and sincerely thank my God that it fell to the lot of so humble an instrument as myself, even reluctantly on other accounts, to strike the final blow in an achievement so philanthropic and substantially glorious.

Our commonwealth of Pennsylvania, it is thought, has 'interests' which may be injuriously affected by a diminution of the duties on imports of coal and iron. These 'interests' are, I presume nothing more than the profits of such of her capitalists as have made investments connected with procuring and selling these two articles of merchandize. Such profits may, for a season be impaired, and no one can be accountable, even when impelled by the best motives, and aiming at the wisest purposes in defeating incidentally the pecuniary calculations of his friends and neighbors, without feeling pain and repugnance.—Such was my avowed sentiment when determining the Senatorial tie.

Still, I cannot refrain from saying that these 'interests' so loudly trumpeted, are very far from being the only or the great public 'interests' of Pennsylvania. They are not those which constitute her happiness, her intelligence, her character. They are not the 'interests' of her Jurisprudence, Justice, Education, Virtue, or Liberty. Assuredly, they are not the 'interests' which create or strengthen the roots of patriotism, or bind the hearts of her sons, as mine has been bound, inseparably to her purity and honor. May we not be permitted to think something more of the 'interests' of her poor, as the many, than of her rich as the few?—more of her moral than of her material 'interests'—more of the free, upright, and manly souls of her population, than of the chests of her corporations? All who have weathered the storms of the last twenty years, can remember how the 'interests' of the State were represented as centering at a great board, whereon paper credits were manufactured with magical facility, within the white walls of a Chesnut street temple—when our internal improvements and their avails, our public schools, our commerce, and our currency, were said, to radiate from an institution which wielded the force of hundreds of millions of dollars, and lifted or lowered the value of everything around us at its pleasure.

The same debasing and state picture is now drawing by the same class of men—the idol with which they at present identify our 'interests' is the Tariff of '42, placed on the pedestal whence the National Bank was crumbled in ruins!—They summon us to pray for our 'interests' at the old shrine, with all the superstitious observances and rites formerly established, and really makes no change but in the figure of their Jos. May we not doubt whether these ministers of the Prophan Mammon have juster conceptions of the enlarged, lasting, and solid 'interests' of our people than they entertained in 1830? Is it not excusable to tell them that this noble community has much more to be proud of and to rely upon, as means of prosperity, order and renown; than

what they are pleased to label as her vital 'interests'?

It would be well and wise were these 'interests' to take warning from the past, and resolutely decline being placed by party fanaticism in a position antagonistic to the social and political reforms of progressive democracy. Within their proper sphere, no one can desire that they should cease to thrive. But if they quit that sphere, and blindly rush forward to dominate over the masses—to assume to be 'all in all' highest, greatest, best—to marshal, exhort, and subsidize, or coerce partisans—or corrupt or overawe legislation—and to dictate what shall be, instead of obeying what is, the law—then it is but the deduction of uniform and yesterday's experience to say that they must become odious and intolerable to a free and proud people, by whom, at any seeming sacrifice, they will be disowned, prostrated, and proscribed. Let us, gentlemen, endeavor, while we have yet time and temper left, by inculcations of truth, forbearance and moderation, to avert the necessity of such courses, but if the necessity be forced upon us as a similar necessity was forced upon us in 1830, your letter distinctly tells where, in that conjuncture, the honest republicans of Washington county will be found, and I hope this answer was not necessary to let you know where to look for me.

Accept the renewed thanks and warm salutations of your obliged fellow-citizen and friend.

G. M. DALLAS.

To Thomas Morgan, and others.

## TATTLERS.

During a certain period of Mr. Hall's residence at Leicester, there were in the congregation some members of a family formerly widely scattered over the world, but who, I hope, are now dying off—I refer to the *tattlers*—sometimes found related to the busy bodies in other men's matters; and always to be discovered where mischief is to be done, especially among Christians. My friend, having been annoyed by some of these parties, resolved to give them a little advice from the pulpit.

On one Lord's day meeting, the place being crowded, and the earlier portions of the service gone through, he rose, and in the hesitating, tremulous manner in which he always began his sermons, announced as his text, James i. 26. "If any man among you seem to be religious, and brideth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain." The congregation looked at the preacher, and then at each other, beginning, I suppose, to expect something "appropriate to their circumstances." It is possible that Mr. Hall perceived this, for he proceeded, in a somewhat higher tone than usual, to say—"My dear brethren, you will probably feel that something like an apology is due, on account of my having selected this text, from which to address you this morning. I entirely sympathize with this feeling, and hereby I solemnly and publicly ask pardon of God and of you, that I have so long neglected an important branch of my duty, which is to reprove one evil that has awfully tended to devastate the world, to ruin the Church of God, and to destroy the personal religion of every one who indulges in it; I mean the practice of backbiting and slander." I need not add that the sermon was one which could not be easily forgotten; and happily it was useful in removing the evil which he thus exposed.

Of the many revengeful, covetous, false, and ill-natured persons whom we complain of in the world, though we all join in the cry against them, what man among us singles out himself as a criminal, or ever once takes it into his head that he adds to the number? or where is there a man so bad who would not think it the hardest and most unfair imputation to have any of those particular vices laid to his charge? If he has the symptoms ever so strong upon him which he would pronounce infallible in another; they are indications of no such malady in himself; he sees what no one else sees, some secret and flattering circumstance in his favour, which no doubt makes a wide difference betwixt his case and the parties whom he condemns. What other man speaks so often and vehemently against the vice of pride, sets the weakness of it in a more odious light, or is more hurt with it in another than the proud man himself? It is the same with the passionate, the designing, the ambitious, and some other characters in life, and being a consequence of the nature of such vices, and almost inseparable from them, the effects of it are generally so gross and absurd that where pity does not forbid, it is pleasant to observe and trace the cheat through the several turnings and windings of the heart, and detect it through all the shapes and appearances which it puts on.

MORE SCANDAL.—The editor of the Alabama Journal has just learned that the "ladies will not look at or notice a bright moon, because Lord Rosse's new Telescope has proven that there is no man in it."

Language.—It is estimated that three thousand three hundred and forty-four different languages are spoken in the world.