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THE WHOLE ART OF GOVERNMENT CONSISTS IN THE ART OF BEING HONEST.—Jefferson.

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From the Northern Light.

The Schoolhouse.

BY ALFRED B. STREET.

In a green lane that from the village street Diverges, stands the schoolhouse; long and low The frame, and blacken'd with the hues of Time. Around it spreads the green with scatter'd trees; Fenc'd fields and orchards stretching, either hand, And fronting. When the strawberry ripe and red Is nestling at the root of the deep grass, And when the autumn sun has deck'd with gold And crimson the gnarl'd apple-bough, light paths Stretch from the play-ground worn by urchin-feet To the forbidden treasures; foray sad! For fingers stain'd or bulging pocket oft Betrayed what the faint sobbing voice denied. A picture of soft beauty is the scene When painted by the sinking summer sun In tints of light and shade; but winter's gloom Shows nothing but a waste, with one broad track Stamp'd to the humble door step from the lane; The snow-capp'd wood-pile stretching near the walls; And the half sever'd log with axe that leans Within the gaping notch.

The room displays

Long rows of desk and bench; the former stain'd And streak'd with blots and trickles of dried ink, Lumber'd with maps and slates and well-thum'd books,

And carv'd with rude initials; whilst the knife Has hacked and sliced the latter. In the midst Stands the dread throne whence breathes supreme command,

And in a lock'd recess well-known, is laid The dread regalia, gifted with a charm Potent to the rebellious. When the bell

Tinkles the school hour, inward streams the crowd, And bending heads proclaim the task commenc'd. Upon his throne with magisterial brow The teacher sits, round casting frowning looks As the low giggle and the shuffling foot betray the covert jest, or idleness.

Oft does he call with deep and pompous voice, The class before him, and shrill chattering tones Impart or blundering answers, break the soft And dreamy hum of study, heretofore

Like beehive sounds prevailing. Now perchance Some luckless urchin stands before the throne, With features swoln as scarce to keep the tears, And shoulders raised, whilst the detected fault

Is forth paraded, and the broken law Learnedly dwelt on: then with staring sight, Face all awry, and chattering teeth he sees

The sceptre taken slowly from its nook, A whip with thongs: pursues with blinking gaze Its upward motion, then, with hideous yell Tells that the whizzing blow is not in vain.

Now rising from his seat, the teacher strides Atward the room; as treads he past, each desk Starts into industry—white figures grow

Upon the slate, black spattering pothooks sprawl, And eyes are glued upon the letters huge And pictures of the book: as swift he wheels The wandering glance has scarcely time to sink,

The queer grimace, and the replying grin To vanish; each regaining its mute sway As turns the back upon them. But bright noon Now through the casement streams in quivering haze

And glistens on the floor: the word is given, And bursting from the thrallom rush without The merry throngs, and breaking into groups, Drive their loud pastime on the sunny green.

Hear flies the ball—there shoots the marble—now The racers seek the goal—each sinew now straining in the leap—while heartfelt mirth Echoes upon the soft and balmy air:

The clouds that float and wreath upon the breeze Not more restraintless than those happy hearts.

The glee, bright contrast to the sullen looks And lingering steps with which each urchin seeks

At the sad summons of the morning bell

The hated porch. Yet is the schoolhouse rude, As is the coffin to the butterfly, To the rich flower the seed. The dusky walls Hold the fair germe of knowledge, and the tree Glorious in beauty, golden with its fruit; To the low schoolhouse traces back its life.

Oregon—The New El Dorado.

We derive from a long letter in the National Intelligencer of yesterday, the following attractive sketch of the territory beyond the Rocky Mountains, which is now the theme of debate in the U. S. Senate:—

Within a few years several Americans, of whom the writer of this notice is one, have crossed the Rocky Mountains to the mouth of the Columbia, with objects entirely unconnected with trade or commerce. Mine was the desire to see a new country, a love of adventure for its own sake, and an enthusiastic fondness for natural history.

The party with which I travelled left Independence, Missouri, about the latter part of April, 1834, and arrived at the British fort of Vancouver in September, having performed the whole journey on horse-back.

From this time until October, 1836, with the exception of the first winter, which I passed at the Sandwich Islands, my residence was in the Territory of Oregon. Dr. McLaughlin, the chief factor treated me with uniform and singular kindness, supplying all my wants, and furnishing me with every facility in the prosecution of my plans. This is, I believe, the uniform character of the superintendents of British forts in that country. Travellers, naturalists, and all who are not traders, are kindly and most hospitably treated, but the moment the visitor is known to trade a beaver skin from an Indian, that moment he is ejected from the community.

The Company has a sum of money, amounting to several hundred thousand pounds sterling, for the sole purpose of opposing all who may come to interfere with its monopoly, by purchasing at exorbitant prices all the furs in possession of the Indians, and thus forcing the settler to come to terms, or driving him from the country. If it be an individual who is thus starved into submission, he then usually clears a piece of land on the Wallammet river, takes an Indian wife, and purchases furs of the natives, which, by previous contract, he is bound to sell to the Company, at an advance which is fixed by the Governor.

Fort Vancouver, the principal trading post of the Oregon, stands on the north bank of the river, about ninety miles from its mouth. The fort consists of several dwellings, store-houses, work-shops, &c.; all of frame, arranged in a quadrangular form, and surrounded by a stockade of pine logs, about twenty feet in height. The fort has no bastions, and contains no armament. There are, to be sure, four great guns frowning in front of the Governor's mansion, two long eighteens, and two nine-pounders, but two of these have long been spiked, and the others unfit for service.

The rainy season commences here about the middle of October, and continues until the first of April. During this period, the weather is almost uniformly dull, foggy, or rainy. Sometimes rain falls incessantly for the space of two or three weeks. Occasionally, during the winter months there will be a slight fall of snow, and in the winter of 1835 and '6, the river was frozen over. This intensity of cold, however, continued but a few days, and was said to be very unusual. The general range of the thermometer (Fahrenheit's) during that season was from 36 deg. to 48 deg., but for three or four days the mercury was as low as 25 deg.

J. K. T.
WASHINGTON, Jan. 26, 1843.

The cones of this pine according to Mr. Douglass, were from twelve to fifteen inches in length, resembling in size and form sugar loaves. Oak timber of various kinds, is abundant along the river, as well as the buttonwood, balsam poplar, ash, sweet gum, beech, and many other useful kinds, but no hickory or walnut.

The Governor of Fort Vancouver, who is an active agriculturalist, has exerted himself for several years in raising whatever appears adapted to the soil. Wheat, rye, barley, peas, culinary vegetables of all kinds are raised in ample quantity.

Fruits of various kinds, apples, peaches, plums, &c., do remarkably well. I remember being particularly struck, upon my arrival at Vancouver in the autumn, with the display of apples in the garden of the fort. The trees were crowded with fruit, so that every limb required to be sustained by a prop. The apples were literally packed along the branches, and so closely that I compared them to nothing more aptly than to ropes of onions.

In the vicinity of Walla-Walla, or Ney Perces Fort, the country, in every condition for many miles, exhibits an arid and cheerless prospect. The soil is deep sand, and the plain upon which the fort stands, produces nothing but bushes of dry aromatic wormwood. Along the borders of the small streams, however, the soil is exceedingly rich and productive; and on these strips of land the superintendent raises his corn, and the vegetables necessary for the consumption of his people.

The prong-horned antelope occasionally ranges these plains; the black tailed or mule deer is found in the vicinity; grouse of several species are very abundant, and the large prairie hare is common. In the autumn and winter, in the vicinity of Fort Vancouver, ducks, geese, and swans swarm in immense numbers. These are killed by the Indians and taken to the fort as articles of trade. For a single duck, one load of powder and shot is given; for a goose, two; and for a swan four loads. For a deer, ten loads of ammunition or a bottle of rum is the usual price.

Early in May the salmon are first seen entering the river, and the Columbia and all its tributaries teem with these delicious fish. The Indians take great numbers by various modes—subsisting almost wholly upon them during their stay, and drying and packing them away in thatched huts to be used for winter store. The salmon also forms a chief article of food for the inmates of the fort, and hundreds of cans are salted down every season.

About twenty miles above this, in the Wallammet valley, is the spot chosen by the Methodist missionaries for their settlement, and here also a considerable number of the retired servants of the company have established themselves. The soil of this delightful valley is rich beyond comparison, and the climate considerably milder than that of Vancouver. Rain rarely falls, even in the winter season, but the dews are sufficiently heavy to compensate for its absence. The epidemic of the country, ague and fever, is rarely known here. In short, the Wallammet valley is a terrestrial paradise, to which I have known some exhibit so strong an attachment as to declare that, notwithstanding the few privations which necessarily are experienced by the settlers of a new country, no considerations ever induce them to return to their former homes.

J. K. T.

Washington, Jan. 26, 1843.

Property Exempt from Levy in Pennsylvania.

The Act of June 16, 1836, exempts the following articles from levy or sale on execution: Household utensils, not exceeding in value thirty dollars; the necessary tools of a tradesman, not exceeding in value thirty dollars; all wearing apparel of the defendant and his family; four beds and the necessary bedding; a spinning wheel and reel; a stove with the pipe of the same, and necessary fuel for three months; one cow, two hogs, also six sheep, with the wool thereof, or the yarn or cloth manufactured therefrom, and sufficient for the said cow, hog, and sheep, from the first day of November, until the last day of May; any quantity of meat not exceeding two hundred pounds, twenty bushels of potatoes, ten bushels of grain, or the meal made therefrom; any quantity of flax not exceeding ten pounds, or the thread of linen made therefrom; all bibles or school books in the use of the family.

Spunk.

The members of the Legislature of Arkansas, recently passed a bill to pay themselves in specie for their services, but Governor Yell very properly and promptly put the executive veto upon it. The members of the Legislature on the return of the bill to them, passed it by the constitutional majority.

"It's a poor rule that won't work both ways," as the scholar said when he sent it back at his master's head.

Sale of the State Works.

As the subject of the sale of the public works is now occupying a considerable space in the public mind, it may not be amiss to lay before the community a statement of the cost of their construction, the revenues derived from them, and the expenditures made. In the following statement, the cost embraces the original construction, such as work done, repairs before completion, damages, engineering, &c., and the new work up to the first of November, 1840. The revenue is made up of canal and railroad tolls. The expenditures consists of agents, ordinary, and extraordinary, salaries of agents, motive power, locomotives, ropes, &c.—in short, all expenses attendant upon the operation of the works. The revenue and expenditures extend from the first of November 1829, to the 31st of October 1840. It is taken from a statement prepared last year by the bookkeeper in the Auditor General's office.

The Eastern Division of the Pennsylvania Canal, extending from Columbia to Duncan's Island, 43 miles, cost \$1,734,958 61. The revenue derived from the same has been \$1,047,826 08. The expenditures thereon, \$422,805 20. The Juniata division, from Duncan's Island to Hollidaysburg, 130 miles, cost \$3,437,334 99. Revenue, \$491,104 91. Expenditures, \$592,180 49. The Western division, from Johnstown to Pittsburgh, 105 miles, cost \$2,964,882 07. Revenue, \$887,013 65. Expenditures, \$889,834 46. The Delaware division, from Bristol to Easton, 60 miles, cost \$1,374,774 42. Revenue, \$586,515 01. Expenditures, \$638,831 11. The Susquehanna division, from Duncan's Island to Northumberland, 39 miles, cost \$867,874 37. Revenue, \$141,730 03. Expenditures, \$314,253 69. The North Branch division, from Northumberland to Lackawanna, 73 miles, cost \$1,491,894 67. Revenue, \$63,559 02. Expenditures, \$390,624 11. The West Branch division, from Northumberland to Dinsbury, 72 miles, cost \$1,708,579 82. Revenue, \$60,859 95. Expenditures, \$333,738 36. The French Creek division, from Franklin to Conneaut Lake, 45 miles, cost \$784,754 61. Revenue, \$4,767 42. Expenditures, \$133,979 26. The Beaver division, from Beaver to Newcastle, 25 miles, cost \$522,258 98. Revenue, \$10,924. Expenditures, \$139,082 21. The Columbia and Philadelphia Railroad, from Columbia to Philadelphia, 82 miles, cost \$3,983,302 05. Revenue, \$2,030,339 70. Expenditures, \$1,883,998 15. The Alleghany Portage Railway, from Hollidaysburg to Johnstown, 36 miles, cost \$1,783,176 45. Revenue, \$856,985. Expenditures, \$954,879 76. Making the whole cost of construction \$20,653,791 64. Total revenue received, \$6,181,624 81. Expenditures, \$6,644,206 80.—Mercury.

Inoculation with the venom of Rattle snakes.

In the work called "Life in Mexico," recently published, the fair author gives the following extraordinary accounts:

"We have just been hearing a curious circumstance connected with poisonous reptiles, which I have heard for the first time. Here, and all along the coast, the people are in the habit of inoculating themselves with the poison of the rattlesnake, which renders them safe from the bite of all venomous animals."

"The person to be inoculated is pricked with the tooth of the serpent, on the tongue, in both arms, and on various parts of the body, and the venom introduced into the wounds. An eruption comes out, which lasts a few days. Ever after, these persons can handle the most venomous snakes with impunity; can make them come by calling them, have great pleasure in fondling them, and the bite of these persons is poisonous!"

"You will not believe this, but we have the testimony of seven or eight respectable merchants to the fact. A gentleman who breakfasted here this morning, says he has been vainly endeavoring to make up his mind to submit to the operation, as he is very much disposed where he lives, and obliged to travel a great deal on the coast; and when he goes on these expeditions, he is always accompanied by his servant, an inoculated free negro, who has the power of curing him, should he be bitten, by sucking the poison from the wound. He also saw this negro cure the bite given by an inoculated Indian boy to a white boy, with whom he was fighting, and who was the stronger of the two. The stories of the Eastern jugglers, and their power over these reptiles, may be, perhaps, accounted for in this way. I cannot say that I should like to have so much snake nature transferred into my composition, nor live amongst people whose bite is venomous."

The difference between a republic and a monarchy is thus pointed out by somebody:

"Pile all the people into a pyramid, with the President for an apex, and you have the symbol of a republic. You can shake the president, but you can't move the united force of the people. Invert the pyramid, with a king for its base, and you have the symbol of a monarchy. Trip up the king, and the whole structure falls in confusion."

Grinding the Poor.

We have pretty authentic information, says the N. O. Crescent, that the "Committee upon the necessity of Grinding the Poor," have been in secret session for several nights past. The grindstones have been made to order, out of a "composition," as follows: 30 parts antlagon, made of flint stones, ground miser's hearts and constables' jail keys; 10 parts gristle and ostrich's stomach; 9 parts razors; 1 part hard soap; 20 do. alligator teeth; 20 do. court rasps; 10 do. pony. Composed of such ingredients, the grindstone has worked admirably well, and woe to him whose face is not as lean as a flour barrel, and as lank as the side leather of a pair of bellows.

Onions imbedded in the earth near the roots of flowers, increase their fragrance very perceptibly.

An exchange paper tells the following humorous story of a missionary lady who got permission through an interpreter to preach to the O- age Indians:

The chiefs and the assembled multitude during the woman's talk of three hours were all attention; but at the conclusion of the sermon, the principal man of the tribe, rising from his seat with the red man's dignity, said: "Squaw very good preach; better go home and mind papoose! Ugh!"

Scene in an Ohio Court.

The Judge is supported on the right and on the left by his associates, and an old lady is called up to give evidence:—

Presiding Judge—Take off your bonnet, madam.

Lady—I would rather not sir.

P. J.—I desire you to put off your bonnet, madam.

L.—I am informed that in public assemblies the women should cover the head.—Such is the custom—and of course, I will not take off my bonnet.

P. J.—Why, you are a pretty woman, indeed; I think you had better come and take a seat on the bench.

L.—I thank you kindly, sir: but I really think there are old women enough there already.—[Cin. Republican.]

School Room.

"Geography class, come up; Ephraim, how is the State of Maine situated?"

"It's bounded on the north by Kenneboscott, on the north east by the Boundary Question, on the east by Scovy Notia, on the south by the Chinese wall, and on the west by the Mississippy river."

"Very good; describe the soil and climate."

"It's climate is very salubrious, and the soil luxuriant; producing immense swarms of hercacious animals called gallinigers. They are about the size of daddy's windmill, with pudding tails, fence