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

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The Dreamer's Song.

I dream of thee at morn,
When all the earth is gay,
Save I, who live a life forlorn,
And die through a long decay.

I dream of thee at noon,
When the summer sun is high,
And the river sings a sleepy tune,
And the woods give no reply.

I dream of thee at eve,
Beneath the fading sun,
When e'en the winds begin to grieve,
And I dream till day is done.

I dream of thee at night,
When dreams, men say, are free:
Alas! thou dear, too dear delight,
When dream I not of thee!

From "The Friend."

Colman's Reports.

(CONTINUED.)

In the season of harvest immense numbers of Irish come over to assist in the labour, and this presents almost the only opportunity which they have, in the course of the year, of earning a little money to pay the rent of their cabin and potato patches. Nothing can exceed the destitution and squalidness in which they are seen; starved, ragged, and dirty beyond all description, with the tatters hanging about them like a few remaining feathers upon a plucked goose. At their first coming they are comparatively feeble and inefficient; but, after a week's comfortable feeding, they recover strength, increasing some pounds in weight, and, if they are allowed to perform their work by the piece, they accomplish a great deal.

"I found in one case on two farms—which, though under two tenants, might be considered as a joint concern—more than four hundred labourers employed during the harvests, a large proportion of whom were women, but not exclusively Irish. The average wages paid the men in this case was one shilling, [or 24 cents] per day and food, which was estimated at about 18 cents per day. Their living consisted of oatmeal-pottage and a small quantity of sour milk or butter-milk for breakfast; 1 pound of wheat bread, and 1 1/2 pint of beer at dinner; and at night, a supper resembling the breakfast, or 2d. in lieu of it. I was curious to know how so many people were lodged at night. In some cases they throw themselves down under the stacks, or upon some straw in the sheds, or out-buildings of the farm; but in the case to which I refer above, I was shown into the cattle-stalls and stables, the floors of which were lined with straw; and here the men's coats and the women's caps and bonnets upon the walls, indicated that it was occupied by both parties promiscuously. This was indeed the fact. Each person, as far as possible, was supplied with a blanket, and these were the whole accommodations and the whole support. This was not a singular instance. I am unwilling to make any comments upon such facts as these. They speak for themselves. They are matters of general custom, and seemed to excite no attention. The employers, in this case, were persons of respectable character and condition, and their families distinguished for refinement. It presents one among many instances in which habit and custom reconcile us to many things which would otherwise offend; and lead us to view some practices, utterly unjustifiable in themselves, with a degree of complacency or indifference; and as unalterable, because they have been so long established.

"This condition of things should certainly save our country from the reproach, if it be one, which some are disposed to attribute to American manners, that of treating woman with too much courtesy and deference. I cannot bring myself, however, to view the subject with any lightness whatsoever. My confident conviction is, that the virtue of a community depends on nothing more than on the character of the women. In proportion as

they are improved, and treated with deference on account of their sex, the women are brought to respect themselves, and the character of the men is directly improved: character itself becomes valuable to both parties. But in proportion as the condition of women is degraded, and they are considered and treated as mere animals, self-respect is not known among them; character is of no value; and the moral condition of such a class, or rather its improvement, is absolutely without hope. Nor is it without its pernicious influences upon the classes in the community above them. Much fault as some persons have been pleased to find with the deference paid to the sex in the United States, I should be very sorry to see it in the smallest measure abated.

"For a considerable portion of the year, the farm labourers are not allowed any beer. I could not learn that any allowance of whiskey or spirits is ever given them by their employers, or that it is ever carried by them into the fields. The drinking, in this country, with the lower and labouring classes of people seems, in a great degree, confined to the licensed houses, of which, certainly, there is nowhere any want. In passing through the village of Glossop, in Derbyshire, a modern and an exceedingly well-built village, in distance, I should judge, of less than three-fourths of a mile, I counted, as I passed along on the box of the coach, thirty-five licensed retail shops, most of which were probably for the sale, among other things, of intoxicating liquors. Indeed the number of licensed retailers in every village in England is quite remarkable, and would seem, in many cases, to include almost every fourth house.

"I am not disposed to object to the employment of women in some kinds of agricultural labour.—The employment of them in indiscriminate labour is liable to the most serious objections. Nothing can be more animating, and, in its way, more beautiful, than on a fine clear day, when the golden and waving harvest is ready for the sickle, to see, as I have several times seen, a party of more than a hundred women and girls entering the field, cutting the grain, or binding it up after the reapers. In cultivating the turnips they are likewise extremely expert. In tending and making hay, and in various other agricultural labours, they carry their end of the yoke even; but in loading and leading out dung, and especially, as I have seen them, in carrying broken limestone in baskets on their heads, to be put into the kilns, and in bearing heavy loads of coal from the pits, I have felt that their strength was unnaturally taxed, and that, at least in these cases, they were quite out of 'woman's sphere.' I confess, likewise, that my gallantry has been severely tried, when I have seen them at the inns acting as ostlers, bringing out the horses, and assisting in changing the coach team, while the coachman went into the inn to try the strength of the ale. The natural effect of such employment upon women, is to render them negligent of their persons, and squalid and dirty in their appearance: and with this neglect of person, they cease to be treated with any deference by the other sex, and lose all respect for themselves. Personal neglect and uncleanness are followed by their almost invariable concomitants, mental and moral impurity and degradation.

"There are two practices in regard to agricultural labour, not universal, by any means, but prevailing in some parts of England and Scotland, which I may notice. The first is called the 'Gang system.' In some places, owing to the size of farms being greatly extended, cottages being suffered to fall into decay and ruin, labourers have been congregated in villages, where have prevailed all the evils, physical and moral, which are naturally to be expected from a crowded population, shrouded into small and inconvenient habitations, and subjected to innumerable privations.—In this case the farmer keeps in permanent and steady employment no more labourers than are absolutely required for the constant and uninterrupted operations of the farm; and relies upon the obtaining of a large number of hands, or a gang, as it is termed, whenever any great job is to be accomplished, that he may be enabled to effect it at once, and at the smallest expense. Under these circumstances he applies to a gang-master, as he is termed, who contracts for its execution, and through whom the poor labourers must find employment, if they find it at all; and upon whose terms they must work, or get no work. The gang-master has them completely in his power, taking care to provide well for himself in his own commissions, which must, of course, be deducted from the wages of the labourers, and subjecting them, at pleasure, to the most despotic and severe conditions. It is not optional with these poor creatures to say whether they will work or not, but whether they will work or die—they have no other resource—change their condition they cannot—contract separately for their work they cannot, because the farmer confines his contracts to the gang-master; and we may infer from the reports of the commissioners, laid before the government,

that the system is one of oppression, cruelty, and plunder, and in every respect leading to gross immoralities. The distance to which these labourers go is often as much as five or six miles, and this usually on foot, and to return at night. Children and girls are compelled to go these distances, and consequently must rise very early in the morning, and reach home at a very late hour at night. Girls and boys, and young men and women, work. When the distance to which they go for work is ten miles, they are sent in carts. When the distances are great, they occasionally pass the night at the place of work, and then lodge in barns, or anywhere else, indiscriminately together. The general account given of the operations of the system shows an utter profligacy of mind in their general conversation and manners. If they go in the morning, and stay only a little while, on account of rain, or other good cause, they are paid nothing. The day is divided into quarters, but no fractions of time are in any case allowed to them. Then the persons employed are required, in many cases, to deal with the gang-master for the supplies they receive, in payment for their labour.—The results of such a system are obvious. The work being taken by the piece, the gang-master presses them to their utmost strength. The fragments of days, in which work is done and not paid for to the labourers, are all to the benefit of the gang-master, who, in such case, gets a large amount of work done at no cost. But his advantages do not end here, for there is no doubt that he gets a high advance upon the goods which he requires them to purchase of him, and thus their wages are reduced still lower. Children of the ages of four, five, and six, work in the gangs.—They earn ninepence a day, the big ones: the small, fourpence; children of seven years old, threepence a day.

"In some parts of Scotland, what is called the *botchie* system, or employment of unmarried men, living together in a *botchie* or hovel attached to the steading. The wages are paid in money or kind, as may be agreed upon; and the labourers are furnished with a room, fuel, and bedding; with two pecks of oat-meal weekly, and with a daily allowance of new or of sour milk—occasionally they may have beer and bread for dinner instead of the porridge. Nothing more, however, is done for them. They prepare their porridge themselves in such way as they choose; but this comprehends the whole of their living. Having myself visited a Scotch *botchie*, I cannot, how much soever the economy of the arrangements may be praised, very much commend the style of housekeeping. Indeed it is not difficult to infer that where young men and others are turned into a hovel together, and without any one to look after their lodging or prepare their meals, the style of living cannot have the advantages even of the wigwam of a North American savage; for there, at least, there is a squaw to provide the food, and to look after the premises. The wages of a Scotch labourer are about £12 sterling per year, and living as above; and for a woman, as a field labourer, four shillings sterling per week, or about eighty-eight cts., out of which she provides herself."

A Son's vindication of his Father.

A gentleman who has lately visited the battle field of Lundy's Lane, narrates the following in regard to a son of the late Gen. Hull:

"The height which Miller stormed is now a grave-yard. In its bosom repose, side by side, and in peace till the great trumpet shall sound, the remains of those who on that field struck at each other's life. A generous warrior spirit gave both equal honors and a common grave. Among the dead of the day there buried, the name of Hull, a captain in the American army, caught my eye.—He fell in the battle, in his 23d year, as he desired to fall. He was the son of Gen. Hull, who ignominiously surrendered Detroit at the commencement of the war and was sentenced to die a coward's death. Deeply did his high-spirited son feel this stain upon his name, and he sought for every opportunity of washing it out, if need be, with his heart's blood. He did wash it out; and here, sword in hand, beneath his country's flag, on the crown of the enemy's works, and in the arms of Victory—he died!"

A New York paper says that several tons of brimstone have been ordered to Washington, to cure those loafers stationed there who have an 'itch' for office.

The "OLDEST INHABITANT," that much talked of individual, has been discovered at last. An elderly chap, speaking of his great knowledge of the western country the other day, said that he had "known the Mississippi river, ever since it was a small creek!" He's the man.

"Tom, you seem to gain flesh every day; the grocery business must agree with you. What did you weigh last?"

"Well, Simon, I really forgot now; but it strikes me it was a pound of butter."

Hon. Roger Minott Sherman.

Hon. Roger M. Sherman, an eminent citizen of Connecticut, died at his residence in Fairfield, on the 30th ult., aged 73 years. He was a distinguished member of the Bar, and in 1840 was chosen a Judge of the Supreme Court of Connecticut, which station he resigned in May, 1842, on account of ill health. He was a nephew of Roger Sherman, who signed the Declaration of Independence.

Mr. Sherman continued the practice of law for forty-three years, and was, beyond a doubt, engaged in as great a number of causes as any other lawyer in Connecticut during the present century. In causes of importance, he was frequently called to practice in the courts of other States. In 1814, he became a member of the Upper House of the Connecticut Legislature, and he occupied that seat, by annual election, until 1818. This body of men, in those days, comprised persons of the highest respectability for character and talents; and among them all Mr. Sherman was distinguished for ability, integrity, independence, and a thorough knowledge of the policy and interests of the State. Many of the Connecticut statutes relative to the administration of justice, which are now in operation, were drawn up and caused to be passed through the Legislature by him.

In the same year (1814), Mr. Sherman was appointed, by the Legislature, a delegate to the celebrated *Hartford Convention*. Of his proceedings as a member of that Convention, it is sufficient to say that, although one of the youngest of the assembly, he maintained his high reputation for learning, judgment and eloquence: and of the Convention itself, it can hardly be inappropriate here to cite what Mr. Sherman said on a trial in which the character and objects of that assemblage were in question, and on which trial Mr. Sherman testified, under oath, as a witness:

"The Convention met on the 15th of December, 1814. The United States were then at war with Great Britain. They had in their forts and armies twenty seven thousand effective men, of whom only about thirteen hundred were employed in New England, although we had a sea-coast to protect of nearly seven hundred miles. By internal taxes, all others having become unproductive by reason of the war, the general government raised large sums from the people within our territory. Direct taxation, in the meantime, was the only resource of the State Governments; and this, in Connecticut, had already been carried to as great an extent as the inhabitants could bear. The banks, which furnished all our currency, either withheld their accommodation or stopped payment, and the people were embarrassed by a general stagnation of business. Powerful fleets and armies lay off our coast, making and threatening invasion on all parts of our defenceless sea-board. In this emergency, the New England States were compelled to protect themselves by their own militia, at their own expense. The duration of the war could not be foreseen. Attempts were made to borrow money, without adequate success; and the national constitution prohibited the emission of bills of credit. At this crisis, while the Connecticut Legislature was in session, in October, 1814, a communication was received from the Legislature of Massachusetts, proposing a convention of delegates from the New England States, to consult on the adoption of measures for the common safety. Such convention was soon agreed upon, and the delegates met as already stated. Mr. Otis, from Massachusetts, proposed that it should be recommended to the several New England Legislatures to present a petition to Congress, praying that body to permit the New England States to unite in defending themselves against the common enemy; that so much of the national revenue as should be collected in those States should be appropriated to that defence; that the amount so appropriated should be credited to the United States; and that the United States should agree to pay whatever was expended beyond that amount. This proposal was approved by the Convention. Subsequently, a debate took place as to certain amendments to the Constitution of the United States, to be proposed by the State Legislatures. One was, that Congress should not have power hereafter to declare war, without the concurrence of two-thirds of both Houses. It was also recommended to the several Legislatures represented in the Convention, to adopt measures for the protection of their citizens from such conscription or impressment as was not authorized by the Constitution of the United States. This movement was caused by a project laid before Congress by the Secretary of War, which, I believe, was not adopted. The Legislatures of Massachusetts and Connecticut, pursuant to the recommendation of the Convention, sent a delegation to Washington, to lay their petitions before Congress; but on their arrival, they found peace had been concluded by the Treaty of Ghent, and further proceedings became unnecessary. This is an outline of the origin and proceedings of the Hartford Convention. It was no part of the purposes of that Convention to embar-

ross the government of the United States in prosecuting the war with Great Britain; its principal object was, on the contrary, a more effectual co-operation in that war as to the defence of the New England States. Much has been said and published to prove that the Convention met for treasonable purposes; but all this is without foundation. I know the proceedings of the Convention perfectly, and not one of its acts was in any manner inconsistent with the obligation of its members to the general government."

The following beautiful incident, recorded in a late number of the New York Observer, occurred in the village of Owego, Tioga county, New York, as we learn from the Advertiser, published in that place:

A Beautiful Incident.

Messrs. Editors:—The following beautiful incident occurred a few weeks since in a village in one of the Southern counties of our State. It was a warm Sabbath afternoon, and the doors of the village church were thrown open to let in the balmy air from the fields without. The congregation had assembled, and whilst the minister was reading the first hymn, a beautiful dove entered the door and came walking up the aisle.

Such a visitor drew of course universal attention. But as the choir rose to sing, he was startled, and lifting himself on his wings, alighted on the stove pipe above him, where he sat bending his glossy neck and turning his head so as to catch the harmony as it swelled through the temple of God. Whether it was the chorus of voices, or the full-toned notes of the organ that captivated him, I cannot tell; but he sat the perfect picture of earnest attention till the music ceased.

Waiting a moment as if to hear the strain commence again, he started from his perch and sailed to the top of the organ, where he furled his pinions and sat and looked down on the audience.—The young clergyman arose to pray. He is distinguished for the earnestness and fervor of his invocation, and as he stood with his hands around the Bible which lay clasped before him, humbly beseeching the Father of all good to send his Holy Spirit down, that beautiful bird pitched from his resting place on the organ, and sailing down on level wings the whole length of the church, perched on the Bible directly in front of the clergyman.

It was merely a natural occurrence, but how beautiful the picture. There stood the messenger of God with his face towards heaven pleading for heaven's blessings—the Bible before him, around which his hands were reverently clasped, while on it stood that beautiful and innocent dove. The three thus together formed a group full of interest and symbolising all that is beautiful to man. The Word of God was before the people with God's chosen emblem upon it, and God's herald clasping them as he prayed.

What wonder is it if a superstitious feeling ran through the house as the people watched that dove—the emblem of innocence and purity and the divine spirit itself—standing on the Bible and looking down on them. Beautiful bird, it entered for a time the affections of all on it; and he who could have injured it there, would have injured hundreds of hearts at the same time. The pressure of its tiny feet was no sacrilege there, for the expression of its soft eye was innocence and love.

The clergyman feeling the presence of the bird, and fearing it might distract the attention of his hearers, gently passed his hand over the Bible.—The dove, unstartled, merely hopped over it on the cushion where it sat till prayer was ended. It then rose and sailed away. In former times the dove would have been regarded as a spiritual visitant from the unseen world, sent on a special mission in answer to prayer, and awakened feelings of awe and reverence.

To us it was only a natural but unusual occurrence, awakening simply the sentiment of beauty. It was a new and accidental figure introduced suddenly into a beautiful picture, giving greater harmony and perfection to what we deemed perfect before.

The Louisville Journal says that some wag who is tired of the capers of Chivalry, proposes that a big ditch should be cut around the Palmetto State, and she be pried off and floated to Texas. The benevolent projector says the Whigs may jump over to Georgia or North Carolina.

'Mother, why does Pa call you honey?'
'Because, my dear, he loves me.'
'No, Ma, that isn't it.'
'It isn't. What is it then?'
'I know.'
'Well, what is it?'
'Why it's because you have so much comb in your head—that's why.'

The public debt of Mexico, besides what she owes to the United States, is said to be eighty-two millions of dollars, upon which the annual interest is nearly five millions of dollars.