

Mountain

Sentinel.

"WE GO WHERE DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES POINT THE WAY,—WHEN THEY CEASE TO LEAD, WE CEASE TO FOLLOW."

BY JOHN G. GIVEN.]

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MISCELLANEOUS.

A GOOD STORY.

The following story we extract from a letter to the Alabama Journal, by J. J. Hooper.

Old Col. D., of the Mobile District was one of the most singular characters known in Alabama. He was testy and eccentric, but possessed many fine qualities which were fully appreciated by the people of his district. Many of his freaks are fresh in the memory of the "old uns" of Mobile—and all of them will tell you, that the Colonel, though hard to beat, was once terribly taken in by a couple of legal tyros.

It seems that Col. D.—had had a misunderstanding with the gentlemen alluded to, and was not on speaking terms with them, although all of the three were professionally riding the circuit pretty much together. The young ones, being well aware of the Colonel's irascible nature, determined as they left one of the courts for another, to have some sport at his expense by the way. They accordingly got about half an hour's start in leaving and presently they arrived at a broad dark stream, that looked as if it might be a dozen feet deep, but which in reality was hardly more than as many inches—

Crossing it, they alighted, pulling off their coats and boots, and sat down quietly to watch for the old Tartar.

Jogging along, at length, up came the old fellow. He looked first at the youngsters, who were gravely drawing on their coats and boots, as if they had just had a swim—and then he looked at the creek that rolled before him like a fluent, translucent star. The Colonel was awfully puzzled.

"Is this — creek swimming?" he growled, after a pause of some moments.

No reply was made—the young men simply mounted their horses, and rode off some little distance, and stopped to watch our hero.

The Colonel slowly divested himself of boots, coat, pantaloons and drawers.—Then he remounted with a paunch of inordinate size, rather inadequate legs, a face like a withered apple, and a brown wig, there is no doubt he made an interesting picture, as he bestrode his steed, with the "breeze holding gentle dalliance" with the extremities of his only garment.

Slowly and cautiously did the old gentleman and his horse take the creek. Half a length and the water was not felloek deep. Here the horse stopped to drink. A length and a half—and the stream no deeper! Thirty feet farther, and a decided shoaling.

Here Col. D.—reigned up. "There must," said he, "be a h—l of a swift deep channel between this and the bank—see how the water runs! We will have to dash through!"

A sharp lash made the horse spring over the "watery waste," and another carried the horse and rider safely on the opposite bank. The creek was nowhere more than a foot deep.

A wild yell from the "young uns" announced their appreciation of the sport as they galloped away.

"I'll catch you, you — rascals!" was ground out between Colonel D.—'s teeth, and away he galloped in hot pursuit, muttering dreadful vengeance on his foes.

On, on, they sped—pursuer and pursued! The youngsters laughed, yelled, and screamed—the Colonel swore with mighty emphasis, while his shirt flowed and crackled in the wind, like a loose flying jib.

On, on—and the pursued reached a farm house on the roadside. Their passing startled a flock of geese from a fence corner, which as the Col. dashed up, met him with outspread wings, elongated necks and hisses dire. His horse swerved suddenly and the Col. in a moment was on the ground in a most unromantic heap, with his brown wig by his side, and his bundle of clothes scattered around!

The white headed children of the house came out first and took a distant view of the monster—as it seemed to them—and then returned to report progress. After a little the father of the family came, and the affair being explained, assisted the Col. in making his toilette: the Col. swearing and the countryman laughing, all the while.

Dressed and remounted, our hero started off with a woful phiz, and was soon out of sight.

Under all circumstances, "laugh dull care away!" Don't be in a hurry to get out of the world; it is a very good world, considering the creatures who inhabit it, and is about as full of fun as it can be. You never saw a man cut his throat with a broad grin on his face; it is a good preventive against suicide.

An Hour with a Californian.

We yesterday had the pleasure of passing an hour with our old friend, A. W. Brockway, Esq., formerly of the firm of Hays & Brockway, of this city, but for over a year past a resident of Sacramento city, California. He gives a glowing description of the present progress and future prospect of California. No person residing in the old States, he says, can form any correct idea of the immense business done in the towns and country in the neighborhood of the Pacific. And he is of the opinion that the wealth and business of California are only now beginning to be developed. The future is opening as bright as the most enthusiastic dreamer could possible desire.

Most of the mining operations heretofore in California have been confined to the wet and dry "diggings," on the various little streams and rivers running from the mountains. The gold dust is generally found in the sand along these streams, from two to three feet under the surface of the earth. Recently, however, the people of California have been turning their attention to the business of taking gold from the quartz rock, which is found in great abundance on the mountains.

Mr. Brockway has in his possession many specimens of gold quartz, which he exhibited to us. One lump, weighing two and a quarter pounds, containing 20 per cent of gold, and is valued at \$150. It looks as rich as Ophir! He has other lumps of quartz interlarded with veins of gold, which, when assayed, will yield ten per cent of the precious metal. He has still other lumps in which the gold is not visible to the naked eye, on account of the extreme smallness of the particles.—This he calls the "flour of gold," and when assayed it yields about \$15 to 100 pounds of rock. These quartz are the least productive of any found in California.

The Five Cradles.

A man who had recently become a votary to Bacchus, returned home one night in an intermediate state of booziness; that is to say he was comfortably drunk, but perfectly conscious of his unfortunate situation. Knowing that his wife was asleep, he decided to attempt gaining his bed without disturbing her, and by sleeping off his inebriation, conceal the fact from her altogether. He reached the door of his room without creating much disturbance, and after ruminating a few minutes on the matter, he thought he could reach the bedstead, and hold on to it while he slipped out of his apparel. Unfortunately for his scheme, a cradle stood in a direct line with the bedstead about the middle of the floor. Of course when his shins came in contact with the aforesaid piece of furniture, he pitched over it with a perfect looseness; and upon gaining an erect position, ere an equilibrium was established, he went over it backward in an equally summary manner. Again struggled to his feet and went headforemost over the bower of infant happiness. At length, with the fifth fall his patience became exhausted, and the object was yet to be overcome. In desperation he cried out to his sleeping partner—"Wife! wife! how many cradles have you got in the house? I've fallen over five, and here's another afore me!" Suffice it to say that his wife was by this time completely awake, and a certain lecture ensued, which rang in his ears for many a succeeding day.

Curious Circumstance.—While Mr. Simon W. Cumming, of this town, was laboring in the field a few days ago, he felt something hard pass from the inside of his nose into his mouth which he immediately spit out, and upon examination it proved to be a brass button about half an inch in diameter. His parents and others well recollect the time when he got up his nose; it was in the month of August, 1833, he then being only four years old. From that time forward it caused him no trouble until last winter, when he had a fall which jarred his head considerably, and as he thinks, partially dislodged the button and was the ultimate cause of its finding its way out, after being a tenant of his nose for about seventeen years. The button is covered with a kind of bony substance which gives it a rough ragged appearance. It has been carefully preserved and can be examined by any that feel disposed to doubt the correctness of the above statement.—*Williamianic Medium.*

Matrimonial Felicity.—"My love," says Mrs. Fozzle to her husband, "oblige me with \$20 to-day, to purchase a new dress."—"Shan't do any such thing, Agnes—you called me a bear yesterday!"—"Law, love, that was nothing; I only meant by it you were very fond of hugging."—"You're a saucy little puss, (sound heard like the explosin of a pistol,) but here's \$50."

Democratic State Central Committee.

At a meeting of the Democratic State Central Committee, held at McKimber's Hotel, Philadelphia, on Wednesday evening, the 21st of August, JOHN HICKMAN, Esq., of Chester county, Chairman, and EDWARD MAYNARD, Esq., of Tioga, Secretary, *pro tem.*, the object of the meeting having been stated, and the subjoined Address read by the Chairman, it was unanimously adopted. ANDREW MILLER & WILLIAM DEAL, Esqrs., of Philadelphia county, were appointed additional members of the sub-committee announced at the last meeting. There were present representatives from Chester, Montgomery, Bucks, Tioga, Philadelphia and Lancaster. The following is the Address adopted by the Committee:

Address of the Democratic State Central Committee.

Fellow Citizens: The approaching election for state officers, and for members of the Legislature, and representatives in Congress, according to an honored custom, calls upon the Democratic Central Committee of Pennsylvania to say a few words on the issues involved in the contest, and on the general aspect of things throughout the country. It has been well said that the Democratic party of the country never occupied a higher or more enviable position than at the present time. Out of power at Washington and at Harrisburg, its measures have, nevertheless, vindicated themselves by the most triumphant results, while the general policy of democratic administrations is the polar star by which even the whigs guide their shattered barque, and by which alone they are enabled to keep themselves from political shipwreck.

A little more than a year of experience of a whig national administration, has furnished to history another interesting and valuable example. Coming into power with a huzza, and elated at the prospect of continual rule, the Whig leaders themselves were among the loudest to rejoice—however much all may have regretted that the immediate cause should be the sudden death of General Taylor—at the termination of a regency, the members of which going into place, amid boasts of ability, experience and statesmanship, remained in office only long enough to make themselves universally odious. Every department of the general government, under their influence, gave during that period, melancholy evidence of the incapacity or unworthiness of its secretary. On the one hand, our foreign relations were conducted in a manner to cover the whole country with ridicule, and with such blundering awkwardness as to extract even from the representative of that foreign nation, which sympathizes most with federalism, the remark that it was weak and unpopular. The Treasury Department, notwithstanding the intellectual giant, as he was called, at its head, did nothing, during the same space of time, but establish the fact that the secretary, in his war upon the system of his predecessor, had forgotten the plainest rules of political economy. In another remarkable instance, we saw one member of the same regency urging against the government, for an exorbitant sum of money, most of which he received himself, having just driven a hard bargain with his client, and then obtaining the aid of his colleagues in carrying it through its various processes, without law, in defiance of law, and in utter disregard of the whole course of the government in similar cases. To complete the striking picture, Congress by a decided vote, including several independent whigs rebuked the regency that had supported the claim, and had agreed to its payment, in terms of the severest reprehension.—The regency left office amid general execration of their conduct, and at a moment when other developments were about to be made, proving, still further, their unfitness to conduct the affairs of a republican government.

It is a fact that speaks loudly of the inconsistency of our opponents, and of the triumph of Democratic measures, at the same time, that while the last Whig State Convention refused to nominate Mr. Strohm, for Canal Commissioner, because of his vote against a just war—the war with Mexico—Mr. Fillmore, the new Whig President, at first entirely overlooks Pennsylvania in his choice of Cabinet officers, and confers the treasury upon Corwin, whose opposition to the same war was so bitter and so uncompromising, that Mexico elevated him into one of her household gods, and the American soldiers burnt him in effigy on the very field where he wished they might receive a welcome with bloody hands to hospitable graves.

We refer to this significant history of very recent events, with no desire to revive unpleasant recollections, but to show to the people of Pennsylvania—First,

how utterly unfit the federal party are to administer the laws; Secondly, how in evitably their false and factitious course before every election covers them with disgrace, when they get into office; and Thirdly, to place in contrast with their doctrines of expediency and extravagance, the plain, practical, popular and comprehensive creed and conduct of democratic administrations. It is in view of these facts, now a part of the history of the country, that we think every Democrat has occasion to be proud of the position the national democracy occupies at a time when placed in a temporary minority.

Under these auspices, the Democrats of Pennsylvania have gone into the present canvass, with renewed courage and confidence. They feel that their cause is right and just; and they instinctively recall the whig pledges and promises which preceded the election of 1848, and compare them with the proscription and persecution that have since broken and trampled them foot. Convinced at the moment these professions were made, that they were never intended to be fulfilled they have no regret now, save that those who aided to defeat the democracy less than two years ago, should have only been convinced of the faithlessness of those they then confided in, by the melancholy failure at Washington, to which we have referred. Have not the members of the great Democratic party, therefore, profound cause for congratulation, amid the general feeling which holds up to the imitation of our rulers, the enlightened example of Democratic administrations?

It was under the impulse of such feelings as these, that the Democratic State Convention, which assembled at Williamsport on the 29th of May last, placed in nomination the several candidates for State officers, whose names you find inscribed on all our banners. These candidates deserve the support of the people of Pennsylvania. Two of the officers to be voted for, have just been made elective by the Legislature, thus imposing an enlarged responsibility upon the citizen in the discharge of his elective duties.

From similar causes, and the rapid growth and widely extending interests of our State and nation, have our elections, year after year, brought with them an increased importance and additional risks, lest our people should fail properly to appreciate and diligently to defend their liberties. We point with pride, fellow citizens, to the workings of our republican system, and the official conduct, severally, of those Democrats who have been chosen to fill our places of trust, especially since the election of the lamented Francis R. Shunk. The policy of Governor Shunk's administration was the salvation of Pennsylvania; and has been an example to all others, which it would be madness in them not to follow. The high-souled independence and stern integrity of that Executive, and the strict responsibility to which every officer of his administration was held, soon led to those great results, and to the establishment of that admirable system from which so much that was beneficial to the State has flown. The course of the same statesman-like Governor on the subject of banking, may always be profitably referred to and imitated.

Where is there, in this broad Union, a system of public works more economically and more indefatigably conducted?—The revenues of the State improvements, and the expenditures necessary to keep them in repair, constitute an exhibit into which the Democratic party might fearlessly challenge investigation. Under Democratic administration, no greedy Galphin is found among the honest men who control your public works, audit your public accounts, or pay out your public moneys, forgetting all law and all propriety, in their anxiety to fill their pockets with dishonest gains. Democratic policy, and Democratic integrity, lifted off the load of debt which had been piled upon Pennsylvania by the Galphins that ruled and ruined in the administration of Joseph Ritner. No longer is our fair fame outraged by the apprehension of repudiation. No longer are the State improvements used for personal and party purposes. No longer are the Canal Commissioners engaged in gambling for votes with the people's money, in establishing "missionary funds," to reward political emissaries, or in openly corrupting the ballot boxes. The Jeffersonian doctrines of economical expenditure, honest agents, and low salaries, has never been more successfully tried than by the Democratic party of Pennsylvania.

We appeal to every citizen to give his support to the Democratic nominations for State officers—composed, as they are, of able, honest and energetic citizens—men of tried integrity and capacity; every one of whom has been endorsed by the vote of the majority of his own immediate fel-

low citizens—of those who know them best, and have known them longest.

We appeal also to our fellow citizens, and especially to the Democratic party, to keep constantly in view the great importance of electing honest and well-tried men to represent us in the State Legislature; men who will advocate the usages which have made our glorious principles triumphant; who will participate in the regular party caucuses; and who will sternly abide by the nominations made by the majority. A United States Senator is to be elected in January for six years next ensuing the 4th of March, 1851, and it is due to our State that such a Democrat shall be chosen as will prove to be equal to the lofty responsibilities of the position, and a faithful representative of the well known opinions of the Democratic party.

It must not be forgotten, fellow citizens, that however ample are the causes pleading in favor of the success of the Democratic party, and however odious the political principles to which we are all opposed, victory cannot be attained without a vigorous and harmonious effort on our part. Do not let us suppose that the Whig party is disorganized by recent events and recent exposures. We have seen a majority of Whigs on the floor of Congress voting to sustain the Galphin infamy; and we must not be astonished to see the Whig leaders in our State, trying, in the face of recent occurrences, to obtain the mastery in the coming contest. It is now as it always has been, a contest between the two antagonist parties; between the friends of aristocratic doctrines and expensive government, and the advocates of Democratic doctrines and a frugal government; and, however disastrously the fortune of the day may eventuate to the first, it will retain nothing of its ancient vigor to contend against the last at every fitting opportunity.

Therefore, fellow Democrats, we invoke you to harmony and to concert. In several of the counties differences exist which prudence and patriotism may soon compose. Will not our political friends in those counties pause and ponder upon the importance of sinking all personal differences for the good of the common cause. Remember if these feuds are left opening and festering, you may have Whigs in your State offices; a Whig United States Senator; and a Whig Congressional delegation, which, in the event of the next Presidential contest going into the House, would throw the vote of Democratic Pennsylvania against the Democratic candidate. How utterly humiliated those who be, who, failing to exercise a disinterested spirit, may aid to give victory to our adversaries, and who in the hour of Democratic defeat may be held justly accountable for the fatal consequences! We again invoke our political brethren to exercise all prudence and care—we invoke all candidates to remember that the cause is higher than mere men—and, if our councils shall be heeded, we may look forward to a triumph worthy of the best days of the glorious Democratic State of Pennsylvania.

JOHN HICKMAN, Chairman.
T. J. P. STOKES, Secretary.
EDWARD MAYNARD, Sec'y pro tem.

He Had Him There.

The following squib was "perpetrated" in one of the public schools in Philadelphia county; I am not aware of its ever having appeared in print, and it is too good to be lost:

It seems that a few hours exemption from mischief had greatly enlarged the bump of "treachery" in the upper stories of the young "ideas," and took and smeared the balustrades from top to bottom with mud, and when the master came in he very naturally laid his hand on it when he mounted the stairs. He was soon aware of his sad mishap, but said nothing about it until the scholars had all been called in and had taken their seats, when he acquainted them of the fact, and said he would give any one five dollars who would inform him who had had a hand in it.

At this moment up jumped a little red-headed urchin who said—"Thir, you thay you'll give any one five dollarh you'll tell who had a hand in it?"

"Yes."

"Now, thir, you'll not whip me, will you?"

"No."

"Well, thir, y—Now you wont whip?"

"You young scamp, I'll lick you if you don't tell pretty soon."

"Thir y-o-u—Oh, I don't like to."

"Go on, or I shall skin you alive!"

"Well, thir, you had a hand in it!"

The master gave in and forked over.—*Fan. Blade.*

The Legislature of Wisconsin have made it a penal offence for the owners of land to allow the Canada thistle to go to seed thereon.

For near Sightedness.—Close the eyes and press the fingers gently, from the nose, outward, across the eyes. This flattens the pupil and thus lengthens or extends the angle of vision. This should be done several times a day, till shortsightedness is overcome.

For loss of sight by age, such as requires magnifying glasses, pass the fingers or towel from the outer corner of the eyes inwardly above and below the eyeballs, pressing gently against them. This rounds them up, and preserves or restores the sight.

It has been already said that this is nothing new. The venerable John Quincy Adams preserved his sight in this way, in full vigor, to the day of his death. He told Lawyer Ford of Lancaster, who wore glasses, that if he would manipulate his eyes with his fingers, from their external angles inwardly he would soon be able to dispense with glasses. Ford tried it, and soon restored his sight perfectly and has since preserved it by the continuance of this practice.

Startling News from the South.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 22.

An insurrection in which 400 slaves were to be engaged, was discovered at Lowndes county, Alabama, last week.—The rendezvous of the negroes was fired upon by the whites, killing one slave and wounding twenty others. The slaves then fled. It is said the slaves were incited to the insurrection by an Abolitionist, for whose apprehension a reward of \$6000 has been offered. Large parties are in pursuit of him. He is supposed to have fled towards Charleston. A general massacre is supposed to have been intended.

Industry is the great moralizer of man. The great art of education, therefore, consists in knowing how to occupy every moment in well-directed and useful activity of the youthful powers.



AGRICULTURAL.

From the Germantown Telegraph.

Economise Your Manure.

"Let none of your manure become fire-fanged," was the remark of the celebrated Judge Buel, one of the best men and most intelligent agriculturists this country has ever had the honor to produce. When the spring advance early and rapidly, and the long manure lays in large and compact heaps in the yard, there is a serious danger of its being injured by a violent fermentation, a process which involves the strong ammonia, and other volatile and fecundating gasses escape into the atmosphere, and are lost, leaving the residuum exhausted of two-thirds or one half its original strength. That such is the fact every one may easily satisfy himself by visiting the stercoratory, or exposed manure heaps after a few days of hot weather in the spring, when this gaseous loss will be made contingently apparent to his senses by the strong, pungent, and almost suffocating fumes which emanate from the heaps. In order to preserve this volatile and highly fertilising product, it is an excellent plan to mix all the manure as it is thrown out, with a sufficient quantity of muck, or rich loam, to absorb and retain all the ammonia, which as I have before said, is the richest and best part of the manure. If the fermentation is allowed to proceed unarrested and the decomposition to go on while the dung is in its natural and unadulterated state, this must inevitably be lost. It has often struck me with surprise to find so few farmers who apply gypsum to manure. Let any one enter a stable where a large number of horses are kept, and witness the strong ammoniacal odor that arises from the stalls and manure heaps. This is highly offensive; yet the sprinkling of a few quarts of plaster of gypsum, will effectually prevent this nuisance; by absorbing and fixing the ammonia, and render the manure one third more valuable than it would otherwise be. When you find a violent fermentation going on in your manure heaps lose no time in covering the surface with gypsum. This article costs but little, but when applied in this manner, effects immense good. It is probably to its capacity of fixing this gaseous product of decomposing vegetable matter that gypsum derives its principal value as an application to growing crops.

AGRICOLA.
New Lisbon July 25, 1850.