

THE JOURNAL.

"ONE COUNTRY, ONE CONSTITUTION, ONE DESTINY."

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TERMS

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FOR

The Huntingdon Journal.

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Bold Stroke for a Husband.

The following incident, combining a touch of the tragic and the comic, with a considerable dash of the most intense and highly wrought melo-dramatic effect, occurred a few days ago in New York, as we learn from the Sun, and we copy it entire as a caution to bachelors. It shows to what desperate remedies love will resort when pushed to extremity, and is indeed a striking illustration of the fact of what bold strokes the girls will sometimes resort to procure a husband. Here's the tale:

Our heroine, "a fair lady of light blue eyes and flaxen hair," became enamored with a young man of the town of the opposite style of beauty—one of raven locks and dark blue eye. Things went on smoothly until our fair lady heard that her intended lord was unfaithful, and that he had industrious lips, and a bee-like propensity for stealing sweets from every rose of beauty. On last Thursday evening she determined to test his love and the power of her art at the one stroke; and accordingly she went to a neighboring apothecary, ordered sixpence worth of cream of tartar, directing the shopman to label it "arsenic," and very quietly returned to her lodgings. At the expected moment the lover arrived—performed his amorous reverences to his lady, and for some time was in the soft dalliance of love—she in the rocking chair, and his raven locks upon her bosom. Suddenly, when her deep art had dictated the moment, she said, "my dear F. why rest not on this bosom forever?" The youth started—she held him fast. "What means this coldness, F?—you do not love me?" Then jumping up and throwing herself into a tragic attitude, she exclaimed, "To-night—this night I die—die for you and my blood shall fall upon your heart and brain, withering and burning them with my perpetual curse."

The draught was prepared before this red hot dialogue was let off—and then stepping to the sideboard, with the firmness of a Socrates she seized the poisoned bowl, and swallowed its contents.

Then (act 2d.) she seized him by the throat, and exclaimed, "My murderer—I die for you?" Then came the melting mood—"Will you but marry me ere I die? Say, my F., will you?"

The youth frightened almost to death trembled out the "Yes, my davy." "Then send for the minister at once, before death strikes me!" she exclaimed; and one of the household hastened, and in the twinkling of an eye the priest came—the knot was tied—the fair one exclaimed, "Let me die in his arms, and meet the stroke of death at the appointed time and place—I reel—I reel—darkness gathers around me—hold me, F.—lead me to my couch?" And they led her to her nuptial couch, the goal of her ambition.

Thus was her art triumphant, and now, as the fruit of her skill, she rejoices in the cognomen of her lord, and is happily domiciled in a comfortable brick house on the avenue.

The winds came howling through the shattered windows, and the rain fell beating on the dilapidated roof, then, as the thunder roared, and the lightning flashed—I buttoned my straps.

From the November Knickerbocker.

The Spirit World.

It is related by an elegant writer, once greatly admired, but we fear only occasionally talked of, and seldom read in those days of the "thrilling" and "exciting" in literature, that there is a tradition among a certain tribe of our Indians, that one of their number once descended in a vision to the great repository of souls, as we call it, the other world; and that upon his return he gave his friends a strict account of every thing he saw among those regions of the dead. He stated that after having travelled for a long space under a hollow mountain, he arrived at length on the confines of the world of spirits, but could not enter it by reason of thick forests, made up of bushes, brambles and pointed thorns, so perplexed and interwoven with one another, that it was impossible to find a passage through it. While he was looking about for some track or pathway that might be worn in any part of it, he saw a huge lion crouched under the side of it, who keeps his eye upon him in the same posture as when he watches for his prey. The Indian immediately started back, while the lion rose with a spring and leaped towards him being wholly destitute of all other weapons, he stooped down to take up a huge stone in his hand; but to his infinite surprise, he grasped nothing, and found the supposed stone to be only the apparition of one. If he was disappointed on this side, he was much pleased on the other, when he found the lion, which had seized his left shoulder, had no power to hurt him, and was only the ghost of that ravenous creature which it appeared to be. He no sooner got rid of his importunate enemy than he marched up to the wood, and having surveyed it for some time, endeavored to press into one part of it that was a little thinner than the rest; when again, to his great surprise, he found the bushes made no resistance, but that he walked through the briars and brambles with the same ease as through the open air; and in short that the whole wood was nothing else but a wood of shades.

He immediately concluded that this huge thicket of thorns and brakes were designed as a kind of fence or quick-set hedge to the ghosts it enclosed; and that probably their soft substances might be torn by these subtle points and pickles, which were too weak to make any impression upon flesh and blood. With this thought he resolved to travel through this intricate wood; when by degrees he felt a gale of perfumes breathing upon him, that grew stronger and sweeter in proportion as he advanced. He had not proceeded much farther, when he observed the thorns and briars to end, and gave place to a thousand beautiful green trees covered with blossoms of the finest scents and colors, that formed a wilderness of sweets, and were a kind of lining to those rugged scenes which he had before passed through. * * * He had no sooner got out of the wood, but he was entertained with such a landscape of flowery plains, green meadows, running streams, sunny hills and shady vales, as were not to be represented by his own expressions nor, as he said, by the conceptions of others. This happy region was peopled with innumerable swarms of spirits, who applied themselves to exercise and diversions, according as their fancies led them. Some of them were pitching the figure of a quoit; others were tossing the shadow of a ball; others were breaking the apparition of a horse; and multitudes employing themselves upon ingenious handicrafts with the souls of departed utensils. As he traveled through this delightful scene, he was very often tempted to pluck the flowers that rose every where about him in the greatest variety and profusion, having never seen several of them in his own country, but he quickly found that, though they were objects of sight, they were not liable to his touch. He at length came to the side of a great river and being a good fisherman himself, stood upon the banks of it some time to look upon an angler, that he had a great many shapes of fishes, which lay floundering up and down by him.

The tradition goes on to say, that the Indian had not long stood by the fisherman when he saw on the opposite side of the river the shadow of his beloved wife, who had gone before him into the other world, after having borne him several lovely children. Her arms were stretched out towards him; floods of tears ran down her eyes; her looks, her hands, her voice, called him over to her; and at the same time seemed to tell him that the river was impassable. Who can describe the passion, made up of joy, sorrow, love, desire, astonishment, that rose in the Indian upon the sight of his dear departed. He could express it by nothing but his tears, which ran like a river down his cheeks as he looked upon her. He had not stood in this posture long, before he plunged into the stream which lay before him; and finding it to be nothing but a

phantom of a river, stalked on the bottom of it till he arose on the other side. At his approach, the loved spirit flew into his arms, while he himself longed to be disencumbered of that body which kept her from his embraces. After many questions and endearments, she conducted him to a bower, which day by day she had embellished with her own hands from those blooming regions, expressly for his reception. As he stood astonished at the unspeakable beauty of the habitation, she brought two of her children to him who had died some years before, and who resided with her in the same delightful dwelling; imploring him to train up such others which were still with him, in such manner that they might hereafter all of them meet together in that happy place. Bereaved mourner! treasure this record in thy heart of hearts. To the untortured mind, even this poor Indian, was vouchsafed, in a vision of night, a glimpse of that spirit land to which we all are tending. There we shall meet the loved and lost:

"The dear departed gone before,
To that unknown and silent shore,
Sure we shall meet as heretofore,
Some summer morning."

"I WILL BY AND BYE."—Zounds! sir, you may as well swear that you will never do it. I'm out of all patience with these "by and bye" folks. An hour of the present time is worth a week of the future.

Why, I know a bachelor, who is as well calculated for matrimonial felicity as every virtue and every accomplishment can render him; but he has been putting off the happy time, from one year to another, always resolving that he would marry "by and bye," till the best ten years of his life are gone, and he is still "resolving" and "I fear" he will die the same.

He that would gather the roses of matrimony must wed in the May of life. If you wish only the withered leaves and thorns, why, poor Richard says, put it off till September.—Procastination is the thief of time.

I made a visit last winter to see my old friend Jeremiah Careless. When he put my horses into a stable, he took me to his barn floor to see some fine wheat he had just threshed. I observed to him that one of the boards of the barn was near falling and he had better nail it. "I will by and bye," said he. Things about the farm looked as though "by and bye" folks lived there. Next morning the boys came running in with sad news. An unruly bull had torn off the board, and the cattle had supped and breakfasted on the white wheat and old brindle, the best cow in the flock was fondered so that she died. Now two nails worth a penny, and five minutes of time would have saved the life of old brindle and the white wheat in the barn.

Passing by my neighbor Nodwell's the other day, I saw that his wife had made a fine garden, and the early peas were shooting above the ground. "It looks well," said I, "neighbor—but there is a hole in the fence, which you had better mend, or the hogs will ruin your garden." "I will by and bye," said he. Happening to go by there two days after, I was dejected with the cry of "Whoee, whoee—stu-boy, stu-boy"—a drove of hogs had come along, and while my neighbor was taking a nap, they had crawled through the broken fence and destroyed the labor of a week.—"Never put off till to-morrow what you can do to-day," poor Richard says.

MATTERS OF COURSE.—There are certain things in this world which have so uniformly turned out in the same way, that nobody dreams of them resulting in any other. In short, they are set down as "matters of course"—that is, events have always happened from the same cause or attended by the same circumstances, or produce the same effects. For Example: When a bank suspends specie payments, it is always done for the public good, as a matter of course.

If the said bank become irretrievably insolvent, and is forced to liquidate its affairs, the directors publish a card stating that the assets are amply sufficient to pay every thing as a matter of course.

People who put any degree of confidence in such statements are always deceived and disappointed, as a matter of course.

When a man commits a murder or a forgery or runs away with his neighbor's wife, and is detected and tried, he is proved to be insane as a matter of course.

When a fire occurs, whether it proves destructive of property or not, it is the work of an incendiary as a matter of course.

When a man is detected in some act of unmitigated rascality, which must destroy his reputation forever, he requests the public to "suspend their opinion," as a matter of course.

When two locomotives come into collision on a railroad, destroying each other, knocking half a dozen cars to pieces, kill-

ing a dozen passengers, and wounding twice as many more, the public are promised full information concerning the same, as a matter of course.

When such information comes, if it comes at all, it exculpates every body from blame, as a matter of course.

When a young lady has had five or six offers of marriage, and having rejected them all, finds herself "turning the first corner," with a small chance for the future, she is generally satisfied that good husbands are not always coming along, as a matter of course.

When a quack medicine is invented, it is tremendously puff'd, as a matter of course.

But every body who believes one half that is stated of its wonderful virtues, gets egregiously humbugged, as a matter of course.

Every man of intelligence and common sense is a subscriber to a newspaper, and if he is honest, he pays his subscription punctually, as a matter of course.—Boston Transcript.

MESSAGE.

TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA.

FELLOW CITIZENS:—In performance of the duty enjoined on me by the Constitution, I proceed to give you such information of the state of the Commonwealth, and to recommend to your consideration such measures, as I think expedient, at the present time. The discharge of this duty is, in many respects, beset with difficulty, but this does not absolve me from the obligation created by my official station. In a spirit of perfect frankness, I shall submit to you, the best dictates of my judgment, and shall be happy if, in your wisdom and experience, you can so modify and improve them as to promote in a greater degree, the welfare of our common constituents, the people of this Commonwealth.

The subject of deepest interest, and greatest perplexity, that calls for our attention is, the financial condition of the State. Although I have, on several former occasions, entered into a full and minute exposition of this matter, I cannot refrain from again presenting it to your consideration, in a manner so distinct and plain, as to preclude, I trust, the possibility of misconception on the part of those who feel an honest desire to understand it. I am persuaded that however embarrassed may be the pecuniary affairs of the Commonwealth, nothing is needed to induce the people to provide means to extricate them, but a clear and candid exposition of the nature and extent of the liabilities, to which they are subject. The time for concealment, evasion and deception on this point, is at an end.—The contract has been made. The faith of the State is pledged, and every consideration of duty and of honor require of us, to know our true condition, and to provide adequate means to meet our obligations, and to redeem our pledged faith.

There is due by this State, to the United States, on account of deposit of surplus revenue, the sum of \$2,867,514 78. The funded debt of the State, amounts to \$36,331,005 68. This debt is reimbursable as follows—

\$270,081 87	in the year	1841
62,500 00	"	" 1844
3,516,568 81	"	" 1846
50,000 00	"	" 1847
1,000,000 00	"	" 1850
2,000,000 00	"	" 1853
3,000,000 00	"	" 1854
2,783,161 00	"	" 1856
7,070,661 00	"	" 1858
1,250,000 00	"	" 1859
2,648,680 00	"	" 1860
120,000 00	"	" 1861
3,225,000 00	"	" 1862
200,000 00	"	" 1863
2,515,000 00	"	" 1864
1,797,010 00	"	" 1865
2,524,000 00	"	" 1868
1,557,362 00	"	" 1870
540,981 00	at the expiration of	certain bank charters
Total \$36,331,005 68		
This debt has been contracted for the following purposes—		
For Canals & Railways,	\$30,055,013 68	
To pay interest on public debt,	3,804,303 00	
For the use of the Treasury,	1,571,689 00	
For Turnpikes, State Roads, Bridges, &c.,	930,000 00	
For the Union Canal,	200,000 00	
For the Eastern Penitentiary,	120,000 00	
For the Franklin Railroad,	100,000 00	
For the Penn'a and Ohio Canal,	50,000 00	
Total \$36,331,005 68		

The value of public improvements estimated at cost, is	\$29,292,165 36
The state owns bank stock which cost, at par	2,108,700 00
The State owns Turnpike and bridge stock,	2,843,048 80
The State owns Canal and Navigation stock,	831,778 06
The State owns Railroad stock,	350,546 90
Money due on unpatented lands, estimated at	1,000,000 00
Total,	\$25,426,239 78

The immediate difficulty of our situation, arises mainly from the payment of the interest annually accruing on this debt. This interest is about \$1,800,000; and this sum, it is incumbent on the state to provide as it becomes due. The considerable portion of the funded debt, now redeemable, can be, doubtless, postponed until more auspicious times, but the interest admits of no such postponement. This is in a great measure payable to those who cannot afford to procrastinate its reception, and whose mean of subsistence depend, on the faithful adherence of the State, to its solemn engagement with its loan holders. The income especially appropriated to the payment of this interest, is derived from the following sources to wit:—tolls on canals and railways, auction duties, tax on collateral inheritances, dividends on turnpike, bridge and navigation stocks, escheats and the tax levied on real and personal property, &c.

The amount received from each of these several sources, during the last fiscal year ending 30th November last is as follows: From tolls on Canals and

Railways,	\$762,360 44
" Auction duties	77,023 15
" Collateral inheritances	21,591 43
" Dividends on turnpike, Bridge, and navigation stocks,	30,555 72
" Escheats,	336,64
" Taxes on real and personal property, &c.	33,292 77
Total,	\$924,959 15

The sum in the treasury, applicable to this object, on the first day of this month, independent of what will be received during the month, was \$1,020,936 38, being \$124,042 62 more than is necessary to pay the interest due on the first of February next.

In relation to the assessment and collection of the state tax under the act of the 11th June 1840, the greatest delinquency is found with the county commissioners. No return or statement has been received from several of the counties, although required by the 6th section of the said act, to be transmitted to the Auditor General on or before the first Monday of September, in each year. It is, therefore, out of my power to inform you of the amount assessed under said act. From the information however received I feel warranted in saying that it will amount to about half a million, or within a fraction of it. That amount will be considerably increased by the valuation and assessment provided by the act to establish a uniform mode for the valuation of property and assessment of taxes, passed 15th May last; the returns of which are required to be made to the Auditor General within the present month, and will be laid before you as soon as received.

The duty of the county commissioners to make returns of the assessments, &c., to the Auditor General, imposed by law, seems not to be designated and enforced with sufficient precision and certainty. To secure its faithful performance, I recommend a revision of the law.

During the existing state of things, the continuance of taxes assessed, for the payment of this interest, or at least of taxes of some kind for this purpose, appears to be indispensable. If the distribution of the objects of taxation, or the mode of levying and collecting the tax be unfair, or onerous, undoubtedly the evil should be promptly corrected.

I have heretofore declared my determination to do all that belongs to this department to meet faithfully the engagements of the state, and to maintain unsullied, the credit and fidelity of our Commonwealth. My sentiments in relation to these matters have undergone no change, and I am pleased to find that on this subject, there is no diversity of opinion among the great mass of the citizens of the state. All agree that, whenever the constituted authorities of the Commonwealth, have entered into engagements conformably to the constitution and laws, whether these engagements have been characterized by due prudence and a proper regard to the interests of the public, or not, the honor of the state, the permanence of the republican institutions, and a sacred regard to the sanctity of public engagements, require that the resources of the Commonwealth, and the energies of her citizens, be put in requisition, to meet her public engagements promptly, punctually, and unhesitatingly. It is therefore respectfully and earnestly urged upon the Legislature, to take the necessary steps, at the earliest possible day, to ensure this desirable result.

As the most efficient means that have occurred to my mind, I would suggest the following course. Let the Legislature ascertain from the financial departments, both the ordinary revenue, and the amount necessary to be raised, annually, for the payment of the interest on the state debt, and the ordinary expenses of government. Let provision also be made to cover all possible contingencies and losses on collection. Add to this sum, though ever so small, for a sinking fund, to be applied annually to the extinguishment of the principal of the public debt, and apportion it among the several counties of the Commonwealth, designating the amount to be paid by each, by a uniform apportionment according to the triennial, or last assessments, with such corrections and equalization as shall be found necessary, and on the same objects now taxable, or any others that the Legislature may think preferable. Let adequate and certain penalties be imposed on each county commissioner for omitting to have the duplicates issued in time, and on each assessor for the non-performance of his duties, and allow the county such a premium, as shall be thought right, if its full quota be paid into the Treasury, on or before the day required by law. It is believed that a committee of the Legislature would be as competent a board as the several counties, as above mentioned, aided as they will be, by the late assessments and census. The establishment of this system by law, would place the fund to meet the interest on the public debt, on a permanent foundation, and silence forever all doubts which interested speculators might seek to raise on this subject.

But it is not only to the loan holders of the Commonwealth, that she ought to be just in meeting her engagements. A regard to economy, as well as justice, to the men who labor upon the repairs of our canals and rail-roads, requires that they should be punctually paid. The laborer is worthy of his hire, and is as meritorious a creditor as the Commonwealth has, and it is absolutely disreputable that he should be dependant on the borrowing of money for his pay, and be unable at times, for months together, to procure as much for his labor as will buy him a loaf of bread. It is respectfully suggested, that when abundant means from taxation are provided to meet the interest of the state debt, that the tolls on the public works shall first be applied to their repairs, so that we may know, at a glance, to what the nett revenue, if any, arising from them respectively amounts.

It is not to be disguised that we are deeply in debt; and that the times call for an unequalled fearlessness in our public functionaries, to meet the emergency, and to provide the means for our extrication. The people are already burdened with taxation, and those burdens cannot be diminished, if we expect to pay our debts. The conduct and motives of those who make provision to pay them, may be misrepresented, and for a time misunderstood. Prejudice, from the sordid feelings of interest, may be invoked, and demagogues and unprincipled politicians will, doubtless, attempt to use it, to answer their own purposes. But the responsibility is one which every honest public functionary must meet fairly and frankly, and in so doing he will be eventually sustained by the people at large, who never deliberately err, and who always will reward, with their confidence, an honest and fearless devotion to their true interests, even though it may, at first, have met with temporary disapprobation.

The means to pay off the loan under the act of 4th May, 1841,—to pay the foregoing creditors of the state, and the interest on the public debt, must be provided before the Legislature adjourns.—Some policy, may common honesty, demands this much at our hands, and I am persuaded no member of the Legislature will shrink from a duty enjoined by such considerations as these.

It will be found in reference to the amount of taxes paid by the people, that comparatively a small portion is levied to discharge the interest on the public debt. Although in the aggregate the taxes are onerous, by far the greater amount is absorbed in the ordinary purposes of township, city and county affairs. I take great pleasure in stating the fact, that the increase of the taxes for the maintenance of the faith and honor of the state, has been regarded in a spirit of patriotic duty by the public at large, and has been borne without repining, unless, indeed, we except a very few persons, residing in portions of the state which have reaped almost the entire benefit of the expenditure of the vast sums of money, for the payment of interest on which these taxes are imposed. I felt satisfied when I recom-