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BY JAMES CLARK.]

CORRECT PRINCIPLES—SUPPORTED BY TRUTH.

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WHOLE NO. 591.

POETICAL.

PEAN.

BY CALER LYON, OF LYONVILLE.

Buena Vista—Buena Vista—
Who can sing thy deeds aright?
When thy mountains loudly echoed
With the thunder of the fight.
When a crimson sea enshrouded
Human forms in battle blaze,
Who shall tell thy deed heroic?
Who the song of glory raise!

See the Mexicans advancing,
As a line against the sky—
Clouds of dust are rolling o'er them,
And the trumpet pealeth nigh—
Now the cannon's voice awaketh
Echo from the distant sea,
Where the heaven-born flag is waving,
Peerless banner of the free.

Now a thousand lances gleaming
Like chain of lightning in the fray;
And our guns are fiercely reaping
Foemen from the light of day.
Onward—onward wildly rushes
Frightened steeds 'mid leaden rain,
While beleaguered hosts are struggling,
Their lost fast hold to regain.

In the smoke the Aztec eagle
Waves amid the conflict's din,
As they charge in solid phalanx,
With high hopes the field to win;
Like the waves when wildly raging
'Gainst a high and rocky shore,
They are met and back recoiling,
Like the waves, their strength is o'er.

Reeling, wounded, groaning, dying—
Words they murmur, faint and few;
O'er them other hosts are trampling,
Crushing hearts, the warm and true.
Again they rally—re-united,
Who can stay this human tide;
On his snowy steepl approach,
One the battle born to guide.

See Resaca's gallant hero
Now amid the foremost fray—
"Charge," he cries, "in steady column
We must win the fight to-day."
Charge they did—a nation's honor
Lives unsullied by that shock;
'Twas as when the fiery lightning
Cleaves the adamant rock.

Mine is language weak and feeble,
Yet 'tis glorious to tell—
How the noble eagle-hearted
For their country proudly fell.
Alleghenia's sons outnumbered,
By their prowess as of yore
Kept their stand amid the conflict,
With their life blood streaming o'er.

SKETCH OF THE REMARKS

OF THE
HON. DANIEL WEBSTER,
AT A
COMPLIMENTARY DINNER IN RICHMOND,
APRIL 29, 1847.

Mr. Wm. H. Macfarland, President on the occasion, having introduced Mr. Webster, to the meeting with the following sentiment:

"Honor to the statesman and jurist who is an honor to his country."

Mr. WEBSTER rose and said: Before I proceed to make any remarks in answer to the sentiment that has been given—you will allow me to say that I am for the first time hoping to make a visit among my fellow citizens of the Southern States. Owing to the circumstance that at the seasons suitable for such a visit, my duties have confined me elsewhere, I have been no traveller in my own country. When I pass the James River I shall be beyond all my previous journeying and undertakings. I am desirous to endeavor to see a portion of the country I have never yet seen; to travel, to see the people in the most unceremonious, freest manner, in which fellow citizens may meet and interchange civilities. It is not my purpose to make any tour for addressing multitudes, or discussing political questions. There is but little of me; that little is well known. I have no new lights, and don't belong to the school of new lights. I am pleased to meet so many persons in this growing and beautiful city, to see their faces and show mine, and exchange with them the sentiments and feelings that belong to men of the same generation and the same country.

After the complimentary allusion of the President, allow me to say in the whole course of my public life, I acknowledge with pride, and avow that I have looked to the institutions of this country, and to that first and chief of them all, the Constitution of the United States as the great production of the age that preceded us. I honor as much as any man the military achievements of the men of the revolution. They trusted to the hazard of fortune. They hazarded everything for the independence of the old thirteen colonies. But what at last are military achievements? It is true they have fixed the fate of nations, turned the tide of human affairs. But, after all, what is their end but to establish free government and promote public prosperity? Beyond that, there is no rational, no Christian object in civil warfare.—It is only just object is to establish civil and religious liberty, to raise man to the standard of human rights. If these be

not their objects then military achievements are unworthy of human regard.

From the constitution itself I have looked to the era of the constitution, the period when the country threw off its dependence, (which, it is true, it accomplished by military achievements.) We look to a narrow part of the theatre in which we are acting, if we think the constitution a matter of isolated interest. Let us look back to the period of 1775. What was there then that exhibited the practical utility of such a constitution? Was it the existence of large, growing, confederated, free, republics? There was nowhere such a republic.—There was indeed the constitutional monarchy of England. There was the incorporation in it of certain important principles favorable to liberty, and great limitations of the prerogative of the federal sovereign. But one need not say—every body knows—that there was no government founded on the principle of representative liberty—no government of any extent, respectability, or importance.

Whilst, therefore, I honor, as much as any man, the other works of our ancestors, I have always considered the establishment of the constitution in 1789, their greatest and noble achievement.—When I consider the time of its formation, its excellent fabric, and am constantly more convinced that it is a wise constitution, I cannot avoid believing that it was founded in Providential arrangement. With all the new lights of our age, give us one who can say that we could make such a constitution. I desire to thank Almighty Providence that it was not left to our day to make it. It evinces deep reflection, deep study of the nature of human government. Let us take it as an inheritance come down to us from men at least as wise as ourselves, and acting under circumstances more favorable than ours.

Two obvious views may be taken of this constitution. The first is its effects upon ourselves, upon the country. We are so prosperous, so happy, every interest is so well preserved, we are apt to be regardless of that human cause to which these blessings are due. Had we gone on under the old confederation, what would Virginia and Massachusetts now be? Who would have respected or cared for them? But when the Constitution was adopted—when that "E Pluribus Unum" spread over them all, gave them a new character, a new destiny. Who now asks whether a single man is from Virginia, New York, Alabama or Texas? It is enough to say that he is a citizen of the United States of America. The constitution gave our country what the lawyers call a "standing in court," a right to be heard in the tribunals of the world. An American is not said to live on Massachusetts Bay, or James River, but he is a citizen of this great Republic government.

What, then, has given this momentum to the prosperity of this country? We find no human cause but our united government. It is true, in party strifes, errors, may have been committed, and the national progress retarded; but let us look to the aggregate result. Let us go back for sixty years or to the time of the revolution. Since that period in other parts of the world, thrones have trembled, tottered and fallen; convulsions shaken nations; blood flowed—but have not property and liberty in this country been secured? Has tyrannous power trampled on our rights?—Property, life, liberty, have been as well secured as in the best governments of Europe. It may be said that we are the great untaxed among nations. Our government has not been an expensive government. A few thousands or hundred thousands, may have been improperly appropriated; but who can say that the government has oppressed the people by weight of taxation.

Whilst taxation is not the great end of government, I think every government is called on to collect taxes for the good of the nation. In all countries, and in this country, especially, there are certain objects which government may accomplish, and which cannot be accomplished otherwise. I look upon the government as the leader, the conductor, whose duty it is to lead on the country. Thus I have always thought the improvement of Harbors, Rivers, &c., within the constitutional view of the Government; and I think the Government is bound to take the lead in these matters of substantial importance. The government appears to me to be like the conductor on a railroad, whose business it is to go forward and draw the train after him; and if he neglect his duty, or go wrong in any way, it is no wonder if the train push forward and throw him off the track. [Much laughter and applause.]

The most pressing purpose of the framers of the Constitution in this respect, was doubtless the regulation of commerce with foreign nations; but they

cut the cloth broad enough and wide enough to embrace these subjects also. I do not ascribe to Washington, Madison, and their companions, the force of intellect to contemplate all the contingencies which should arise in the country after them. They did not imagine that there would be 2 or 300 steam vessels on the lakes, or that the great Mississippi, from its mouth to its source, would be ours, constituting a sort of "inland sea." [Laughter and applause.] But their work provides for it all. The constitution they left justifies, and present circumstances require, the execution of that policy which shall comprise the whole country as one country, both as to internal and external commerce.—They did not mean that the powers of the government should be determined by the taste of the water, whether fresh or salt, or by the circumstances of the position of some paltry port of entry.—In this branch the constitution is ample and large enough to accomplish these ends with the observance of a just economy. I know of no true economy but the just proportion of expenditure to object. Absolute saving is mere meanness. In a country of such extent as this, the object of government should be to give variety to labor, to bring out the active energies of the people, and develop its peculiar abundance.

In Massachusetts we cultivate a barren soil. My learned friend here (Dr. Hitchcock,) knows the whole of it. It is hard, sterile, granite. It has no Virginia beds of coals, no substratum of iron, no salt springs. It is without all the sources (if I may so speak) of subterranean wealth. Nowhere are these advantages more bountifully conferred than upon the happy inhabitants of Virginia. Within fourteen miles of your city (as my learned friend tells me) there is a geological phenomenon, a bed of coal thirty feet thick, resting on granite rock. Our New England granite knows no such company. Now it always appeared to me that labor and enterprise needed not excessive protection from the government, in order to draw the sources of mineral wealth from the earth. I have, too, always been a man for canals and rail-roads to a just extent. When Louis XIV established his grandson on the throne of Spain, he said "There are no longer Pyrenees." But I trust that we may use the phrase in a more useful and proper sense, and then we shall proceed with our canals and railroads until we can say, "There are no longer Alleghenies."

Under these general impressions of the constitution, I believe that our ancestors set us an example of great things. We have had no battles of liberty to engage in (whatever other battles it may have been the policy of our rulers to undertake,) [laughter,] nor were we born to the work of making a constitution.—The maintenance of justice and right, the observance of the precepts of law, religion and morality—these are the objects to which we have to look. Our government is designed less for achievement than perseverance in the maintenance of public order, public good, the conservations of the public institutions.

We may look with pride and exultation abroad, to see where this constitution has placed us in the eyes of the world. It is not egotistical to say, while we take no pre-eminence, that though we may conquer and subjugate nowhere, this great republic is the observed of all observers. We cannot say that it is our work or even the work of our great forefathers. The great result has followed, because sentiments and principles, inherent in the people of the old thirteen States, fitted them to be free; and sentiments and principles acquired by long practice under the colonial governments. We should not deny our ancestry, or repudiate the principles of liberty, we derived from them. We should rather hold to those principles as an inheritance.—When I think of Hamden, and Sidney, Burke, and Catham, I often imagine that it would be grateful to them, if, from Heaven above, they could look down, and see their principles illustrated in the United States of America.

It was the introduction of these principles, from the infusion of liberty into the English constitution, the sentiments of liberty, independence, and personal rights, transmitted here, and the practice and deep imbuing of these sentiments by the colonists, which fitted them to establish and carry on free government. The *habeas corpus*, the right of trial by jury, the right of petition; these contain the great elements of liberty, and were acknowledged here. It was this previous preparation, which fitted those people for those great achievements, the Declaration of Independence and the establishment of the constitution.

Let us contrast with this the introduction of liberty elsewhere. If we examine the origin of our liberty, we will find that it came from England. We

have the dominion of law over the will of individuals. But how is it with others who made the same experiment?—Look at the neighboring government of Mexico; a mere military anarchy; with no security to life, person or property. The man who happens to be leader of the army is the head of the State, and the army rules the roast. To the disgrace of liberty, Mexico is infinitely worse governed than it was under the viceroys of Spain. Has her public peace been secured? Her roads improved? The government of Mexico has collected three hundred millions of dollars from imposts. What has been done with it? It has been used to pay armies, to make and unmake pronouncements, to put up this man and put down that. Mexico has constantly kept a larger army to keep, or break the peace, than this great republic has raised to invade her soil.

Does not all this reflect light on the House of Bugesses of Virginia and the General Court of Massachusetts, who understood the principles of liberty, and were therefore prepared to institute a free government. The success of our government brings us out in honorable contrast with Mexico and all other republics. Who cares for these Spanish governments? Some of them may be respectable enough, may have the sense to keep the peace; but they differ widely from the American nation. It is our character in-grained, in-wrought, to know and understand liberty.

We ought therefore to unite in sustaining the constitution. We shall thus go far to show that it is practical for nations to govern themselves, that popular government possesses enough of wisdom, prudence, forbearance, to get on without any power not conferred by itself.

It has been my habit to give my time, which was not occupied in professional business, to public duties under the general government. I never held any State office, except for a fortnight, when I was a member of the Legislature of Massachusetts, (and I believe the only law, which in that capacity I aided in passing, was for the benefit of fishermen.) [Much laughter.] My studies have ever been connected with the constitution, as the great and extraordinary product of the age. After a public life of thirty years, I can say with sincerity, that though sometimes my course has excited clamor, I feel conscious of always having wished it well; and if nothing remain of me fit to be remembered, but a general acknowledgment, recorded on my tombstone, which all my countrymen will admit to be true, that "Here lies one who wished well to the Constitution of his country"—the great object of my life will have been accomplished.—*Richmond Times and Com.*

NAUTICAL SERMON.—When Whitefield preached before the seamen of New York, he had the following bold apostrophe in his sermon:

"Well, my boys we have a clear sky, and are making fine headway over a smooth sea, before a light breeze, and shall soon lose sight of land. But what means this sudden lowering of the heavens, and that dark cloud arising from beneath the western horizon! Don't you see those flashes of lightning?—There is a storm gathering. Every seaman to his duty! How the waves rise and dash against the ship! The air is dark! The tempest rages! Our masts are gone! The ship is on her beam ends! What next?"

It is said that the unsuspecting tars, reminded of former perils on the deep, as if by the power of magic, arose with united voices and minds, and exclaimed, "Take to the long boat!"

SMILES.—We are among those who love a jovial and smiling face. If there be any thing of which we may be prodigal, nor be the loser, it is of smiles.—A lively, happy face is contagious and all around partake of its influence. So with the sober wrinkled face of care—it equally dispenses its effects on its companions. Zounds! wear a happy face, at all hazards. Keep a consciousness of just purpose, and an honest heart within, and a merry face without.

COMING THE DICTIONARY.—"Castigate the quadruped until he shall have accelerated his pace," said a dandy to a livery-stable boy, who was driving him a short distance into the country.

"Talk to me in English," said the boy, "I don't understand Latin!"

A few Definitions.
Love.—A little word within itself, intimately connected with shovel and tongs.

Genetel Society.—A place where the rake is honored, and the moralist condemned.

Poetry.—A bottle of ink thrown at a sheet of foolscap.

Credit.—A wise provision by which constables get a living.

[From the Lutheran Observer.] A SAD REFLECTION. CAN IT BE TRUE?

Two armies, comprising twenty thousand on one side, and five thousand four hundred on the other,—in all 25,400 fighting men, lately met in a narrow broken valley in Mexico. They were for the most part perfect strangers, and had never before seen or done each other any harm. They had, personally, every reason that strangers could have to be friends and treat each other kindly, and no cause—not the slightest to inflict injury one on the other. But they met for the express purpose of mutual slaughter. A few so-called statesmen—politicians who had their own selfish ends in view, and their own unholy purposes to serve—urged on by popularity and office seeking men and time-serving newspaper editors, had brought about this ominous array of antagonist forces, this dread meeting for deadly strife. The work commenced. Oh, what a work it was; shooting with rifles, muskets, cannon, &c.—cutting, heaving, slashing, bayoneting, shouting, shrieking, cursing, riding over dead and dying, where the mangled bodies lay piled one upon another, stratum sub stratum. They fought, and killed, and butchered, until the men had lashed themselves in demonic fury; on they dashed, angry, vengeful, reckless as fiends. The air was rent with the screams of the wounded and the groans of the dying; and the whole surrounding atmosphere tainted with imprecations & blasphemies belched forth from the throats of the infuriated adversaries. The blood poured forth from thousands of wounded and murdered victims, until it flowed in torrents, like water in a gust of rain, rushing down the declivities of the adjacent hills into the ravines below. Alas what a scene was exhibited! malign spirits of perdition might well stand aghast, and look with amazement; for such a spectacle was never enacted in their dark domains.

No sooner were some thousands of poor affrighted spirits dislodged from their frail tenements, and sent howling into an awful eternity, than couriers were dispatched to carry the news. The telegraph also was put into requisition, and the swift winged lightning flashed the tidings over the earth. Something of an appalling nature was just then looked for with intense interest; hearts pulsed with strong emotions; and—what was the result?—why peans of joy and shouts of triumph pierced the heavens. Glory, glory, glory, re-echoed over our mountains and through our valleys! Why? because thousands of our fellow mortals lay weltering in their blood on the battle field, while their poor, guilt-laden souls had been precipitated unprepared into the awful presence of a sin-avenging God!

Eighteen centuries have now elapsed since the advent of the Prince of Peace, whose message breathes peace and good will among men. We profess to be worshippers of that Prince of Peace, and admirers of that glorious message. The Mexicans profess the same. Both nations proclaim themselves as Republican—free, enlightened, liberal; asking naught but justice, and prompt to yield to every well founded claim of equity. And yet, these are the governments that are thus embroiled in angry, deadly conflict! O what a scene for infernal spirits to gaze at! what inconsistency of conduct—what a mockery of profession we present to their scornful derisions! With what ineffable contempt the tyrants of Europe and Asia will point to the greedy, grasping dispositions of vaunted Republics—and to the gross contradictions of professed Christian nations.—*Republics* have never been satisfied with their own territory, but in all ages have been unduly ambitious, and aimed at conquest and enlargement. This has been the prelude of their downfall and ruin. We are treading closely on the heels of our aspiring predecessors—and if we escape their fate, our deliverance must be preceded by repentance and reformation.

Is it not a shame that we, by profession the most enlightened and liberal Republicans on earth, and the most ardent admirers of the Prince of Peace—eighteen hundred years after the promulgation of his message of good will, should advocate the decisional differences by a savage appeal to the sword?—If victory necessarily perched upon the banners of those who have right on their side, there might be found some apology. But generally it is not on the side of right, but on that of might. The ablest men and the best engineers of death usually prevail. It is might that prevails; and how very seldom physical might is identified with moral right, the history of the world abundantly proves. If right always triumphed, there would be no such feverish anxiety to learn the result of the latest battle.

"Five thousand of our fellow beings,"

says a cotemporary, "have been swept into eternity. There is now no distinction between the Mexican and the American. Their disembodied spirits have met. Do they still glow with hate?—If not, when did their feelings change? Are they now happy that they liberated each other from the body, to decide a boundary question, all for their country's good? We say nothing about the right or wrong of the contest according to human precedent or national laws; but we do say it becomes every Christian to weep—not rejoice—not to praise, but to pray—that our national sins may be forgiven, and that heathenish principles and heathenish practices may soon be driven from all the professed abodes of the gospel of peace.

"As religious men, as ministers, as editors uttering the sense of religion and of God's church in this nation, are we not bound to say it, without, in so doing at all speaking evil of dignitaries, that the blame of this guilty war, and the tremendous responsibility which the Atlantean shoulders of Satan himself are not able to bear, rests upon that or those rulers and statesmen, by the express order and consent of whom we have become involved in this war?

"How many long years of peace it must take to appease the deep rankling animosity that will be festering on against us in the hearts of the Mexicans, sure to be ever and anon out breaking in some fever sore. Who can measure the anguish, of which this fatal strife will be the source, in this country and in that into which we are carrying such desolations? Who can estimate the injury to the morals, the prosperity the reputation and growth of this country which this event will inflict, that now elicits the shouts of the mob, and glitters the eye with strange excitement? War is a terrible game for a nation to be playing at; and let us not imagine, in the thrill which the recital of noble and daring deeds of valor awaken, that Providence is asleep, or that its retributions ever fail to assert the vigilance as well as justice of that government to which nations no less than individuals are amenable. We profoundly feel that prayer is more becoming now than peans; and confession and repentance of our sin more called for, than exultation at the prowess of our soldiers, and the triumph of our arms."

THE LADIES.—An Irish gentleman remarkable for his devotions to the fair sex, once remarked, "Never be critical on the ladies. Take it for granted that they are all handsome and good. A true gentleman will never look on the faults of a pretty woman without shutting his eyes!"

WONDERFUL IF TRUE.—An Irish provincial paper, the *Downpatrick Recorder*, states the astonishing fact, that, by means of the inhalation of ether, Professor Sewell, had "effected the amputation of a leg of a deceased sheep, with perfect success, and without any apparent pain."

TIME TO PASS IT.—The facetious Dr. B., of W—, having inadvertently preached one of his sermons for the third time, one of his parishioners having noticed it, said to him after service, "Doctor, the sermon you preached this morning, having had three several readings, I move that it now be passed."

GOOD.—"Father," said a little boy to his Locofoco parent, "is Gen. Taylor a Whig?" "Yes, my son." "Were Clay, and Hardin, and Lincoln, Whigs?" "Yes—why do you ask?" "Because you call the Whigs Mexicans." "Pshaw! you are too small to understand politics." "But did Polk give Santa Anna a pass to return to Mexico?" "Don't talk to me, my son, I'm in a hurry."—*Ohio Repository.*

THE N. O. DELTA SAYS:—We saw a Democrat, who can lay no claim to the right to wear a temperance medal, refuse to take a drink, because a Whig stood treat. He said it was a Whig measure, and he could not join it, "no how."

A THOUGHT FOR EVERY DAY.—We see not in life the end of human actions. The influence never dies. In every winding circle it reaches beyond the grave.—Death removes us from this to an eternal world—time determines what shall be our condition in that world. Every morning when we go forth, we lay the mouldering hand on our destiny, and every evening when we have done we have left a deathless impression upon our character. We touch not a wire but vibrates to eternity;—not a voice but reports at the throne of God. Let youth especially think of these things, and let every one remember that, in this world where character is in its formation state, & it is a serious thing to think, to speak, to act.