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THE DIAL

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RECIPE FOR THE DIAL

This recipe is for the Dial...
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LETTER NO. 10

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS IN FAVOR OF THE SALE OF THE MAIN LINE.

It is useless in any one to attempt to show that the Commonwealth realizes a benefit from its ownership and management of the Main Line. On the other hand, there is no hope for the salvation of the business of the people, except in the sale of the line, and the diversion of the proceeds to the relief of the public debt. Besides the good policy which requires this change, the honor of the State is, to some extent, involved in it. In 1832 and 1854, temporary loans were made by the Commonwealth, which are re-imbursable out of the balances remaining in the treasury. More than half a million of this debt is still unpaid because of the inability of the treasury to meet the engagement. And the difficulty here is that they are incurred by the State's failure to fulfill its contract, are complete to submit to the annoyance and possible loss. Has the State a moral right to thus disregard its promises, and thus to ride with the interests of those who loan it money in its hour of need?

Besides these temporary loans, which are unpaid, over \$1,043,251 of the permanent loans of the State are overdue and unpaid—\$878,882 35 more will fall due in 1858, and \$990,455 85 more will fall due within the six years succeeding 1858. Every day's failure to pay the loans now due involves the State in additional interest, and, as a consequence, they figure in the stock market of our cities as a daily toy, selling at a considerable discount—innocent original holders, who need money, being often forced to a heavy sacrifice. This is not as it should be. The State should set an example of faithfulness, promptness and scrupulous fidelity; that its citizens might feel their pride and an incentive to similar honorable conduct. She does not thus stand before the public, but rather as a negligent and indifferent debtor, able, from her position, to defy those legal resorts which would have, long since, brought an equally negligent and private debtor to a more accurate conception of his obligations. It is pleaded, in extenuation of the State, that it is necessary to thus in deference to the plainest business principles. But if these necessities be self imposed, if an effort could remove them and enable the State to stand fair before the world, and if this effort would, at the same time, relieve her citizens of heavy burdens and be the first step toward the emancipation of the people, what reasonable man will deny the weight of the considerations which demand that this effort be made? It was once doubted by learned doctors whether a man had not a moral right to steal to avoid starvation; but it is now universally admitted

THE BOND STREET MYSTERY.

MRS. CUNNINGHAM ARRESTED.

STRANGE DISCOVERIES.

From the N. York papers, 4th inst.

Another startling chapter in the celebrated murder case of Dr. Harvey Burdell has just been brought to light.

In order that the facts in the case as they are said to really exist, may be fairly set forth, we go back to the time when Mrs. Cunningham was in the Tombs, and previous to her trial for the murder of Dr. Burdell. From the evidence as it at present appears, it would seem that while in prison, Mrs. Cunningham sent for David Uhl, her family physician, and intimated that she was in an interesting situation, and at that time exhibited evident symptoms of being in the condition intimated by her. Shortly after this interview with Dr. Uhl the trial of Mrs. Cunningham came on, and after her acquittal she sent for Dr. Uhl on different occasions, and wished him to prescribe for her, and at the same time she requested that he should attend upon her during her approaching confinement, with a child which she said was Dr. Harvey Burdell's. Dr. Uhl replied that, owing to the peculiarity of the case, it would need several physicians to make a decided examination, and he promised to get the requisite number of doctors and proceed with the examination for the purpose of ascertaining her true condition.

For some cause or other, Mrs. Cunningham purposely avoided Dr. Uhl for considerable time afterwards, as if suspecting she could not depend upon him in the emergency. He, however, received a note from her in a few weeks, and at an interview which followed, she renewed with great force the importance of the examination, and said it must be made at once. At her request, Dr. Uhl engaged two physicians to aid him in the delicate matter, but from her movements, which were very mysterious, Dr. Uhl suspected that something was wrong. In fact his faith in her innocence of the murder became so much shaken that he determined to consult with his counsel, Dr. Wheeler. By his advice he, with much reluctance, went to District Attorney Hall, about the 10th of July and communicated his suspicions. Mr. Hall told him that if such a thing was contemplated by Mrs. Cunningham it was a very serious felony, and referred the Doctor to that section of the Revised Statutes which says:

"Every person who shall fraudulently produce an infant, falsely pretending it to have been born of parents whose child would be entitled to a share of any personal estate, with the intent of intercepting the inheritance of any such real estate or the distribution of any such personal property, from any person lawfully entitled thereto, shall, upon conviction, be punished by imprisonment in a State Prison not exceeding ten years."

The result was that Dr. Uhl placed himself under the direction of the District Attorney, and continued his visits to Mrs. Cunningham. The District Attorney advised him to go, and concerning his doubts and suspicions, learn from Mrs. Cunningham her full views and arrangements. Upon another interview Mrs. C. admitted to him that the approaching confinement was a humbug, and offered him \$1000 if he would undertake the job of finding a child and assisting at the "abandonment." Whereupon Dr. Uhl apparently assented, and returning to the District Attorney reported progress. The District Attorney then laid down the following plan of action: Dr. Uhl should concoct a story of a "California widow" (one of his patients) who was about to become a mother, and who, to conceal her shame, would gladly part with her child.

This child was to be taken to some place on Elm street where Mrs. Cunningham could procure it. Mr. Hall being very busy was also anxious to hurry up the deception.

When the Doctor communicated the plan to Mrs. Cunningham she expressed herself highly delighted with the arrangement. She was to feign all the pains of child-birth, and the forms usual in such affairs were to be gone through.

He also found it necessary to find another physician who should take charge of the child and care for its health, while it was in awaiting for Mrs. C. and accordingly sent for his most intimate friend and his own personal physician, Dr. De la Montagne, of Fishkill. The Doctor promised to lend his aid, and came down to New York for that purpose.

Dr. Uhl and Dr. De la Montagne were brought together by Mr. Hall at his office, and, after a consultation, started out to find fitting apartments for the California widow. No. 190 Elm street was eventually selected. Dr. De la Montagne being unprovided with such baggage, Mr. Hall lent him one of his wife's trunks, marked "K. L. H."

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JOHN RANDOLPH AND INFIDELITY.

A letter from the celebrated John Randolph, of Virginia, was published in the Washington Union some time since, which contained the following allusion to his own case. He had been an infidel, and had suffered intolerable misery, and been treated in gross darkness under that state of mind. At length the loss of his mother shook his whole nature. He says:

"I remember to have seen her die; to have followed her to the grave, to have wondered that the sun continued to rise, and the order of nature go on! Ignorant of true religion, but not yet an infidel, I remembered with horror my impious expostulations with God upon this bereavement—but not yet an Atheist." The existence of Atheism has been denied, but I was an honest one. Hume began and finished me. I read Spinoza and all the tribe. Surely I fell by no ignoble hand! And the very man who gave me 'Hume's Essay upon Human Nature,' to read, administered 'Beattie upon Truth,' as the antidote—Venice treacle against arsenic, and the essential oil of bitter almonds—a bread and milk diet for the bite of the Cobra-Capello. Had I remained a successful political leader, I might never have been a Christian. But it pleased God that my pride should be mortified; that by death and diction, I should lose my friends, that, except in the veins of a fanatic, and he, too, possessed of a child by a deaf and dumb spirit, there should not run a drop of my father's blood in any creature besides myself. The death of Taylor finished my humiliation. I tried all things but the refuge of Christ, and to that, with parental stripes, I was driven.—Often did I cry out, with the father of that wretched boy, 'Lord, I believe, help thou by unbelief!' and the gracious mercy of our Lord to this wavering faith, staggered under the force of the hard heart of unbelief, I humbly hoped would, in his good time, extend to me also. St. Mark vii. 17. 'Throw Revelation aside, and I can drive any man by irresistible induction to atheism. John Marshall could not resist me. When I say any man, I mean any man capable of logical and consequent reasoning. Deism is the refuge of those who startle at Atheism, and cannot believe in Revelation; and myself, with Didcot & Co. to laugh at the deistical bigots who must have milk, not being able to digest meat. All theism is derived from Revelation—that of the laws confessedly. Our own is from the same source; so is the false revelation of Mahomet—and I cannot blame the Turks for considering the Franks and Greeks to be idolaters."

END OF A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN.

The celebrated Lady Hamilton was distinguished almost above every other woman of her age for "personal beauty." Her compliments were scarcely inferior to her beauty. She was skilful in music and painting, she had exquisite taste, and her remarks would express every emotion by turns. The only occasion on which Bedford of Westminster Abbey, three miles from London, was visited by Lord Nelson, visited Lady Hamilton, along with Lord Nelson, visited Lady Hamilton. All that the wealth of the princely owner could furnish was provided to give splendor to the scene. The grounds were illuminated by lamps and torches, and the interior of the apartment was a blaze of jewelry and gold and silver. "Spiced wine" and confectionery in golden baskets were handed round to the company. A ministerial party was assembled, and Lady Hamilton, the envy of them all. Attired in a rich costume, she entered with a golden chain in her hand, and received some verses which the company were far too polite to refuse to apply, spoken as they were by one who had such influence over the hero of the hour. No one was there to tell her this was deception, that she surely carries its own punishment with it, and that the pleasure she was pursuing was a vain shadow. Thirteen years after the banquet at Fonthill had taken place, a lady buying some meat for her dogs at a butcher's stall in Calais, was thus accosted by the butcher's wife:—Ah, madam, you seem a benevolent lady, and upstairs there is a poor English woman who would be glad of the smallest piece of meat you are buying for your dog? "Who, then," was the grateful recipient of such humbly offered aid, it was the beautiful Lady Hamilton. After the death of Lord Nelson, deserted by those who had favored upon her in prosperity, she gradually became impoverished, and died in a wretched lodging at Calais. Her property consisted only of a few pawnbrokers' duplicates. Her body was put into a common deal box, without any inscription; and over the praised of statesmen, warriors, poets and artists, the funeral service was read by an officer of half pay. Such was the end of the beautiful Lady Hamilton.

DISCOVERY OF ILLINOIS.

In 1673, James Marquette, with five Frenchmen as companions, and two Indians for guides, set out from Canada, and after a tedious journey reached the great "father of waters" on which they embarked "with a joy that could not be expressed," and hoisting the sails of their bark canoe, boarded down the majestic river. Ever broad, clear and bare, the gulfed past islands swelling from its bosom with tufts of massive thickets, between the broad plains of Illinois and Iowa, all garlanded with majestic forests and chequered with illuminating prairies and island groves. After descending the Mississippi for about sixty leagues, they discovered an Indian trail, and unhesitatingly left their canoes to follow it. After walking for some six miles, they came to an Indian village, whence four men advanced to meet them, offering the pipe of peace; their exultant "Illinois" with many colored plumes" and speaking to them in language which Marquette understood. "We are Illinois!" that is, we are men! "How beautiful is the sun, Oh Frenchmen, when thou comest to us our whole village awaits thee; thou shalt enter in peace our dwellings." After staying with that hospitable people for a while, James Marquette and his companions further descended the Mississippi river, until they were satisfied of its flowing into the Gulf of Mexico when they returned, and reached the 29th degree of north latitude, entered the Illinois river and followed it to its source. The tribe of Illinois Indians, which occupied its banks invited Marquette to remain and reside among them. But expressing a desire to continue his travels, he was conducted by one of the chiefs and several warriors to Chicago, in the vicinity of which place he remained to preach the gospel to the Illinois, whilst his companions returned to Quebec to announce the discovery. Two years afterwards he entered the river in the State of Michigan, called by his name, and erected on its bank a rude altar, and mass after the rights of the Catholic church, and being left alone at his own request, he knelt down by its side and offering to the neglected solemn thanks and supplications, fell asleep to wake no more. The light breeze from the lake sighed his requiem, and the Algonquin nation became his mourners.

DEATHS BY LIGHTNING.

We have no recollection, says the Baltimore American, of having, during any previous summer, read so many accounts of death by lightning. These fatal occurrences are not confined to a district, State or section, but meet us hourly from every quarter of the globe. While the winter was one of the severest ever remembered in the country, and remarkable ever known we have now a summer unexampled in the number and violence of its thunder storms, hurricanes, and rains. There can be little doubt that the superstitious, for many long years to come, will connect the storms with the celestial wanderer believed to have passed within our vision at this time, and when to their other grounds for credulous superstitions had added the fact that intelligent journals have grandly speculated upon the possibility of some celestial being actually passing through the tail of the comet, vague and uninforming surmises will almost settle into certainty.

Of the frequency of the deaths by lightning of which we have spoken, some idea may be formed when we remark that an intelligent contemporary conjectures one hundred persons thus to have lost their lives in New York in 1846, and the different New England States during the week before last. During the week just past the proportion can hardly have been much less throughout the country. The lightning rod does not seem to be always a protector from the subtile fluid, for many houses have been damaged that were provided with this safeguard. It is worth while for scientific men to inquire into the causes of "thunder storms" the dependence that is to be placed upon lightning rods, and whether these are susceptible of improvements that will make them more efficacious.

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