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THE PEOPLE'S ADVOCATE.

"EVERY DIFFERENCE OF OPINION IS NOT A DIFFERENCE OF PRINCIPLE."—JEFFERSON.

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Terms of Advertising. Advertisements conspicuously inserted at the usual rates of Fifty Cents per square for the first, and Twenty-Five Cents additional for each subsequent insertion.

Poetry.

The Blind Girl's Lament.

It is not that I cannot see The birds and flowers of spring, This that I cannot see...

A Ditch for the Beautiful.

Sadly, peacefully, lay her breast: Place the turf lightly on her breast— Gently, solemnly, bend o'er the bed.

Miscellany.

A VISIT TO THE DESERT AND THE DEAD SEA.

BY PROFESSOR ADOLPHUS LEWIS ROEPPEN.

From the height above Bir-Mousa we for the first time had a distant view of the Dead Sea and the towering mountain ridge beyond it an el-Belka, the ancient Moab.

The pilgrim-road runs North along the western mountains toward Jericho and the Jordan; we therefore dispatched the muleteers with the baggage accompanied by some Turkish troopers directly for the famous fountain of Elisha, where we intended to encamp for the night.

The part of the plain through which we were riding, is often mentioned in Scripture and termed "the wilderness of Judah," which extended along the western shore of the Dead Sea, the plain of Jordan and the mountains of Judah toward Jerusalem and Jericho.

At one o'clock, P. M., we arrived at the Northern shore of the lake, one hour's ride West of the mouth of Jordan, and we plainly recognized the long, low tongue of land, that runs out into the Sea on the western side of its embouchure.

The shores are sandy and strewn over with pebbles and gravel. Every where are seen blackened trunks and branches of trees, which the Jordan has carried down into the sea and the waves washed up on the sands.

From the times of remote antiquity down through the middle ages, so many wonders have been fabled about the wild, inanimate scenery of this lake, about its uninhabitable shores, its dangerous exhalations, and its sulphurous vapours, wherein this infernal pool was supposed to be eternally enveloped.

At the time of our visit no exact measurements of the sea had been published, though it appears, that English engineers in 1841, had taken a military survey of all Palestine. The length of the sea is generally given approximately at forty miles, and its breadth from ten to twelve miles, which it retains for the greater part of its length.

The two mountain-chains that on the East and West encompass the Dead Sea, are of a calcareous formation. On the East before the church of the Resurrection at Jerusalem, an American merchant showed me among other curiosities from the Sea, some pretty goblets of a black basalt, which

During the middle ages the Salt-Sea was termed more maledictum and more diabolus. The Arabs still call it Bahr el-Lut; the sea of Lot. +11. Jan. 15, 23. 16. 2. 17, 16, 22.

he said came from the rocks of En-Gaddi, but this was perhaps an invention, in order to attach higher importance to his merchandise, no modern traveller having yet found basaltic stones in the environs of the lake.

The duties and responsibilities of that are in other and higher hands—nor is it a subject that befits my peaceful mission to you this day. From the dark fields of bloody strife, if such await you (which God forefend) I turn gladly to the brighter scenes which greet the prophetic eye when peace has converted your "swords into ploughshares and your spears into pruning hooks."

The traveller, in his descent of seven hours, from the height of Jerusalem, to the shores of the Dead Sea, is astonished at the steep declivity of the mountains, and the sudden change of the temperature in the plain. It has therefore long been admitted, that the Valley of the Jordan and the Sea lay deeply depressed between the two mountain ridges, emerging from Mount Hermon on the Anti-Lebanon; but it was not until the year 1837, that English and German naturalists, by repeated thermometrical and barometrical observations made the discovery of the deep depression of this region beneath the level of the Mediterranean.

The great difference of 1253 feet here stated, which, as it appears, has been ascertained by actual admeasurement of the relative levels of the lake of Tiberias and the Dead Sea, and consequently the extraordinary rapid descent of the Jordan in the short distance of one degree, or about 70 miles, without exhibiting any cataract or fall, is beyond belief, and requires further elucidation.

The attempts which travellers, during the late years, have made by navigating the Dead Sea, scientifically to investigate its bays, depth, and the almost unknown eastern coast, have not hitherto been crowned with any happy result. The disastrous expedition of the Irish traveller, Costigan, who from the Lake of Tiberias brought a boat down into the Dead Sea, is well known.

Under favor of your Colonel's permission I address myself to you—Officers, non-Commissioned and Privates of the California Regiment—and never before, I confess, have I addressed myself to my fellow man with so deep a sense of my inability to say what befits the occasion and the audience. It is not your numbers that daunt me—I have addressed assemblies as numerous—nor is it your military array, and that I am a man of peace am called to counsel soldiers—with that too my official duty has made me familiar—nor yet that I speak to men presently bound for the battle field; even with such solemn partings, recent events have made me alas but too conversant; but never before have I been called to address an organized body of armed citizens who go forth alike to conquer and to colonize, and who bid adieu to their country and their homes, with the professed understanding that they return not, but are to find alike their dwellings and their graves in a far distant land.

give any weight to the few feeble parting words I have now to utter. But it is to the ulterior objects of your expedition that I shall speak. As a military armament I look not at it and speak not of it.

The duties and responsibilities of that are in other and higher hands—nor is it a subject that befits my peaceful mission to you this day. From the dark fields of bloody strife, if such await you (which God forefend) I turn gladly to the brighter scenes which greet the prophetic eye when peace has converted your "swords into ploughshares and your spears into pruning hooks."

Looked at in this light, what scenes of duty and high responsibility arise before the thoughtful mind. 'Tis then that I see in your array a mission not of war but of peace and love—like unto some armed convoy of high benevolence freighted with precious gifts—from the wealthy East unto the forests of the West—a royal donation from the boisterous Atlantic unto her quiet ocean sister.

In your departure ocean speaks unto ocean and says, "Receive at my hand the gift of civilization.

That lump of Science, Law and Religion which I myself received from the far East I, now, in turn, hand over to the distant West. Freely I have received—freely I give. Take the boon and hold it worthily."

But to speak without figure, who but must see in this transfer of American citizens from ocean to ocean, a forward step taken (whether man intend it or not) in that great Providential movement which from the earliest times has sent the tide of civilization westward. Thus looked at, you, my fellow citizens, constituting the California Regiment, are the living acion cut off from the Parent American Stock, destined to engraft the Institutions of the East on the wild plants of the West—you are our chosen carriers to introduce into less favored lands a higher and purer Christian civilization.

And now among the carriers of this better seed, what race stands so prominent on earth as that of which we Americans are on this Western Continent the Representatives—a race that in the tide of time, since first called forth on the theatre of the world's history, has never yet turned back, whose course has ever been onward and upward, and over whose destined Empire there would seem to hang no other cloud than that which may arise from their own possible unworthiness, should they be found to turn into base gain or lust of dominion, a trust of power committed to their hands for the Civilizing and Christianizing of the earth.

To make void that curse of unworthiness is a responsibility that rests in its due degree on all of Anglo-Saxon blood; but in a special degree, permit me to say, does it rest on each member, high or low, of this California Regiment. Never before has it, in my poor judgment, so rested on any equal number of American citizens, for never before have we as a nation thus colonized, and in the face of the civilized world put the stamp of our name and government and land, on a new, distant and dubious settlement. We have at least in this given a gaze to the civilized world which we are bound to redeem on peril of our honor. It behoves us all to remember that it is indeed, a most high and solemn act, in which the Christian world looks at in doubt or fear, one, therefore, that shall hereafter take its place in the world's history.

The living germ of a new State and a new Empire is as on this day to be solemnly planted by American hands—a living fountain as on this day to be opened in the wilderness, whence coming generations shall drink either sweet waters or bitter. Which that, shall be—on you, I repeat it, mainly depends—on you, its founders, legislators, citizens, rulers—on you officers and men of this California Regiment. It is a responsibility that so rests upon you that you cannot shake it off.

Shall then your country permit you, to depart laden with such responsibilities, bearing forth as you do in the face of the whole civilized world, her name and fame, the credit of her Institutions, her moral training and her Religion faith without one parting word of kindness or of caution? No, my friends! Though it be but from lips feeble as mine, yet as an anxious mother will your country this day lay her hand on the head and her

parting charge on the heart and conscience of every son here present, who goes forth not to return. Even while I thus speak do I see her, the venerable Genius of our Anglo-Saxon land, the common mother of us all. I see her rise up, from this her watery throne where she sits embosomed amid the peaceful flets of an unbounded commerce, to bid you, her armed sons, farewell. I see her followed in dim procession by a long train of patriots and heroes and Christian men; Men who not only here but in older lands have toiled and fought and bled, not for conquest but for right; not for license but for law, and that they might build up for posterity that which we here enjoy, a fair and enduring fabric of constitutional freedom. In that long line may I not say I recognize conspicuous the venerated form of Washington, the Father of our country. He who built up our liberty on the foundation of virtue and religion, and has left an impress on every American heart the fairest portraiture the world ever saw of the Christian soldier—the hero, without stain and without reproach. But higher yet do I recognize the Genius of our Anglo-Saxon land. I see her form, I hear her words, and mine, believe me, are their faithful echo.

"Go forth," she says, "my well armed sons—the sword in your hands, but peace in your hearts and justice in your deeds. Go forth as Apostles from this my favored land to teach and to bless those to which you go. Remember that you bear a widely honored name. It has ever been a lineage of faith and virtue, of courage and gentleness, of peace of order and of religion. Such has it been in the old world, such in the heroic times of the new. Let not its fair fame be tarnished or its Institutions defamed by unfaithful hands, or unworthy tongues. As you bear your country's ensign, so remember, do you, your country's honor. Let not the name of American Citizen ever receive a blot through you. Let it not be said that with Americans, might was the measure of right, or that gold outweighed justice, or that the soldier's sword made heavy the scale of a vanquished enemy's ransom. Rather let that name be known as one of blessing wherever it is heard even as that of a Teacher appointed of Heaven to instruct the nations of the earth—to exhibit to the world the living proof how Liberty may dwell united with law, how individual freedom may stand linked together with public order, and Christian faith in the nation walk hand in hand with an unfettered private conscience.

Go forth, then, my Children, and not only as citizens but as men, remembering that you leave at home those whom you will make to hold up or to hang their heads when in future days your names and careers are mentioned—the Father, whose name you bear—the Mother who nursed you at her bosom—the Sister with whom in early life you played and who now dashes from her eye the parting tear, in her blessed confidence that you, a brother and a son can never forget those whom you early loved. In that sacred confidence of Home affection do I too trust, that nothing unworthy, nothing base, will ever be permitted to stain your name or that of your country. I read it in your looks—I see it in your eyes—in that eye which even now glimmers when 'Home' is mentioned and which, in a far distant clime, will daily turn to the picture of 'Home,' as to a charm to guard alike your heart and life—to fill the one with pure and generous thoughts, the other, with virtuous and noble deeds.

And that you may perform well all your parts, whether as soldiers or Colonists, as Citizens, or as private men, go forth as Christians, and take the Blessed Book I now proffer to you, the gift of your Christian Country as the sum and substance of her farewell. Take it as the best Charter you can draft of your public liberties—the surest safeguard you can have of private virtue and the only enduring basis on which your Social Institutions can grow up. Believe me—believe the voice of history, that Society without Religion is a rope of sand, and government without the fear of God is but tyranny under the name of law. Think not then lightly of this gift of a Bible, even as human Legislators, for as no State can stand but upon Religion, so no Christian State can stand but upon the Bible. It is its life, and losing that, even Empires sink into ruin, they die and rot like the things of earth. Take this blessed book in your hands, it contains the only Religion that can stand inquiry, bind it to your hearts and lives and Social Institutions the greater will be your new State as the more enduring its prosperity. It will prove a safe-guard amid the perils of the wilderness; far beyond what man can give. Without its aid vain will be your arms, when physical strength will be in the governed; vain your laws, for what will they be without reverence for the lawgiver? Vain your freedom without virtue, to secure it, and very vain all attempts to build up a people's virtue on any other foundation than that of the Religion of the Bible, on whose hand asks not the aid of human power, and whose secret justice keeps an account with man's conscience whether on the shores of the Pacific or of the Atlantic sea.

To that estimable gift I add another, next in my life and as I think (viewed as a practical embodiment of Bible teaching) in value, the Liturgy of the Church of that land which is the home of our Anglo-Saxon race; the home where our liberties were cradled and our pure Religion nursed, and where our national blood has mainly flowed. "Go forth then," I say again, "my well armed Sons," confiding not so much in the arms you bear, as in the God you serve, the faith you profess and the virtues you practice. Look up in trust to that great and holy Being who had hitherto guided our race and nation as by a "pillar of cloud and fire" and who will lead you, their Sons, as He led your Sires, if you prove worthy of them, to peaceful homes, over a stormy ocean and through trackless forests. Only follow as becomes your lineage; the Anglo-Saxon footsteps, take God's word for your

guide and build up all your Institutions in His faith and fear. Let the banner of Christ be planted, wheresoever you place your foot place to God's house in the wilderness—This, even as a mother's dying word I charge upon your filial obedience. Build early a temple to God's honor, dedicate it to a Savior's worship, and from the rude log Church let daily prayers ascend from consecrated lips to bring down a daily blessing on the still ruder log cabin.

Such words of parting caution, fellow citizens, seem I to have heard from the lips of our common mother, and as such have I, however feebly, rehearsed them unto you. God grant that true words may not prove fruitless through the feebleness of him who speaks them. One thing gives me hope—This day will be remembered by you in distant lands not so much for what is said as what is given. When oceans shall roll between us, and the words of the speaker be forgotten, and the heart that prompted them have long ceased to beat, still shall this volume speak, and this day, when they were given, be by you freshly remembered. It may be on the battle-field, in one hurried but true thought of God and your Saviour; it may be on the bed of sickness, in the hour of penitence and prayer; I trust it will often be in the peaceful home of the happy Emigrant, when your eye, my Brother, glancing on this book, shall bring back this day and this hour, and this beautiful scene, and you will say to the dear ones clustering around you: "Yes, I remember well the day when this blessed volume was put into my hands—I thank God for the gift. It has been my guide and counsel, my stay and consolation in many a dark hour in the wilderness."

Such, men and Brethren, fellow-soldiers and fellow-citizens, but above all, fellow Christians, such is the parting farewell, of one whose prayers will follow you, whose words can no longer reach you, and who prays now, that the God and Saviour, whose he is, and whom he serves, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, will be your guide and guard wherever you are, will bless, preserve and keep you, now and forever. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION. To each non-commissioned officer and soldier of the Regiment, do I now present, in the name of the New York Bible Society, by whose liberality it is furnished, a copy of that Sacred Volume, together with an affectionate prayer, that it may prove to each one of you, the words of Eternal Life. Guard it carefully, read it faithfully, and may God's blessing be with you in the daily pursuit of it.

I am also commissioned, to present to each soldier desiring it, as a manual of devotion, both of public and private use, a copy of the Book of Common Prayer, on the part of the Bible and Common Prayer Book Society of New York; the Bishop White Prayer Book Society of Philadelphia and several private contributors.

I am also enabled to present to the Regiment, on part of many donors, (a list of whom is herewith annexed,) three small libraries, apportioned to the three ships of the command, with a view to their re-union in your future settlement, as the foundation of a Colonial library; (However small the collection, it will serve at least to strengthen the ties of home, and to remind you, that your country still holds you in affectionate remembrance.

To Lieut. Col. Henry S. Burton and Major James A. Hardy:—To you, Gentlemen, as vested with a distinct Command in your respective vessels, I have the honor to present, on the part of the same Societies, a copy of Bible and Prayer Book, inscribed with your names and official rank, with a view to facilitate the Services of Public Worship, on ship board. Receive them, as a parting gift of a friend, who is well assured that you can value them right, and will so use them as to make them a blessing to yourselves, and those under your Command.

To Col. J. D. Stevenson:—To you, Sir, as the Col. of the Regiment, Leader of the Expedition and probable ruler of the new Colony, I have the honor to present an engraved Bible, on part of the New York Bible Society, and on part the New York Bible and Common Prayer Book Society, a Book of Common Prayer, similarly inscribed, with your name and rank. Receive them in expression of the deep sympathy felt by this Christian land, in the religious welfare of yourself and Command, and of their equally deep conviction that you will find in them the surest aid to discipline, as well as the wisest guidance to those who govern. It is the closing prayer of one who yields to no man here present, in the deep interest he feels, that this Expedition, shall be one of honorable issue—the prayer of one, who is alike your friend and servant, it is his prayer that your part of duty may ever be open and your course in it ever blessed; as best it doubtless will be, as long as guided by the precepts and principles these volumes teach, of justice and piety, purity and peace.

On the part, and in the name of our Common Country, do I now, bid to you, and those under your command, an affectionate and respectful FAREWELL.

It is the infirmity of little minds to be taken with every appearance, and dazzled with every thing that sparkles; but great minds have but little admiration, because but few things appear new to them. It happens to men of learning, as to ears of corn; they shoot up and raise their heads high, while they are empty; but when full and swelled with grain, they begin to flag and droop. A diseased Irish Judge is reported to have said, when addressing a prisoner convicted of murder: "You are to be hanged, and I hope it will be a warning to you."

Ladies who have occasion to prepare peaches and plums for preserving, will find an advantage in pouring boiling water over them, which will cause the skin to come off more readily.