

THE LEADER.

LANGUAGE OF THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER.—The stars of our flag represented the constellation of "States" rising in the west. The idea was taken from the "constellation of Lyra," which, in the hands of Orpheus, signified harmony. The blue of the field was taken from the edges of the Covenanters' banner in Scotland, significant also of the league and covenant of the United Colonies against oppression, incidentally involving the virtues of vigilance, perseverance, and justice.

The stars were disposed in a circle symbolizing the perpetuity of the Union; the ring, like the circling serpent of the Egyptians, signifying eternity. The thirteen stripes, showed the number of the United Colonies, and denoted the subordination of the States of the Union, as well as equality among themselves. The whole was the blending of the various flags previous to the Union Flag, namely: the red flags of the army and the white ones of the floating batteries. The red color, which in Roman days, was the signal of defiance, denotes daring; and the white, purity.

What eloquence to the stars breathe when their full significance is known. A new constellation! Union! Perpetuity! A covenant against oppression! Justice, Equality, Subordination, Courage, and Purity!

IS THAT YOU, TEACHER?—A Sunday-school teacher was expected home one Saturday night from a long journey. The village in which he lived was several miles from the railroad station. There was no public conveyance, and not feeling able to hire a private carriage, he set out, cold and dark as it was when he left the cars, to walk home. As he plodded along he kept his spirits cheerful, by thinking of the pleasant greeting he should receive from his class at Sunday school the next morning.

While he was yet some miles from home, he heard a voice cry through the darkness— "Is that you, teacher?"

"What, are you here?" he exclaimed, for he recognized the voice as that of one of his scholars.

"Yes, we are here," responded half a dozen boys, as they seized his umbrella and carpet bag, and prepared to lead him home in triumph.

What made those boys walk so many miles on a dark winter evening to meet their teacher, think you? Because they loved him, eh? Ay, that was the secret. They loved him. Happy teacher! I wish all our teachers were as sure of their scholars' love as that good man was. How it would cheer them in their work!

My child, do you love your teacher? Show it by your good conduct, attention, and smiles. Depend upon it, your teacher values your love at a high price. He would prefer it to rubies or diamonds.

THE LOVE OF HOME.—It is only shallow-minded pretenders who either make distinguished origin or personal merit a matter of personal reproach. A man who is not ashamed of himself need not be ashamed of his early condition. It did not happen to me to be born in a log cabin, but my elder brothers and sisters were born in a log cabin; raised among the snowy drifts of New Hampshire, at a period so early that when the smoke first rose from its rude chimney, and curled over the frozen hill, there was no similar evidence of a white man's habitation, between it and the settlements on the rivers of Canada. Its remains still exist; I make it an annual visit. I carry my children to it to teach them the hardships endured by the generations which have gone before them. I love to dwell on the tender recollections, the kindred ties, the early affections, and the narrations and incidents which mingle with all I know of this primitive family abode.—Daniel Webster.

BUSINESS.—At the age of thirteen, Washington studied the intricate forms of business with great ardor. He copied out bills of exchange, notes of hand, bills of sale, receipts, and all the varieties of that class—all being remarkable for the precision and elegance with which they were executed. His manuscripts, even then, were of the utmost neatness and uniformity, the diagrams always beautiful, the columns and tables of figures exact; and all in unobscured and unblotted order. His business papers, ledgers, and daybooks, in which no one wrote but himself, were models of exactness. Every fact had its place, and was recorded in a plain, clear hand-writing, and there was neither interlineation, blot, or blemish. One of his rules, at this immature age was, "Let your discourse with men of business be short and comprehensive."

BEAUTIFUL THOUGHT.—A writer, whose life has passed its meridian, thus eloquently discourses upon the speedy flight of time:—

"Forty years once seemed a long and weary pilgrimage to make. It now seems but a step; and yet along the way are broken shrines, where a thousand hopes wasted into ashes; footprints sacred under their drifting dust; green mounds where the grass is fresh with the watering of tears; shadows even which we should not forget. We will garner the sunshine of those years, and with chastened steps and hope push on toward the twinkling where the waters are still, and the storms never beat."

LABOR is not only the source of all wealth in a people, but of all power in an individual. It develops a man's capacity while it increases his means. There is no royal road to greatness. He, who imagining that his genius will take care of him, sits down without effort, throws away all his chances, and will see the patient plodder take a place above him. The industrious and persistent tortoise makes better time than the sleeping hare in the race of life.

Woman will not suffer by laboring with the fallen to make them better. Her pure robes will gather no stain in going down to the lowest of God's creatures, to raise them up and point them to the way of life. Christ's robe was not soiled when he sat in the rude fishing boat and taught the people on the shore.

"BOY LOST."

He had black eyes, with long lashes, red cheeks, and hair almost black and curly. He wore a crimson plaid jacket, with full trousers buttoned on; had a habit of whistling, and liked to ask questions; was accompanied by a small black dog. It is a long while now since he disappeared. I have a very pleasant home and much company. My guests say, "Ah! it is pleasant to be here. Everything has such an orderly, put-away look—nothing about underfoot—no dirt." But my eyes are aching for the sight of whistlings and cut paper on the floor; of tumbled-down card houses; of wooden sheep and cattle; of pop guns, bows and arrows, whips, tops, go-carts, blocks and trumpery. I want to see boats a-rigging and kites a-making. I want to see crumblings on the carpet, and paste spilt on the kitchen table. I want to see the chairs and the tables turned the wrong way about. I want to see candy-making and corn popping, and to find jack-knives and fish-hooks among my muslins. Yet these things used to fret me once. They say, "How quiet you are here! Ah! one here may settle his brains, and be at peace." But my ears are aching for the patter of the little feet; for a hearty shout, a shrill whistle, a gay trala la; for the crack of little whips; for the noise of drums, firs, and tin trumpets. Yet these things made me nervous once.

They say, "Ah! you have leisure—nothing to disturb you. What heaps of sewing you have time for!" But I long to be disturbed. I want to be asked for a bit of string or an old newspaper; for a cent to buy a slate-pencil or pen-knives. I want to be coaxed for a piece of new cloth for jibs and mainsails, and then to lend the same. I want to make little flags, and bags to hold marbles. I want to be followed by little feet all over the house; teased for a bit of dough for a little cake, or to bake a pie in a saucer. Yet these things used to fidget me once. They say, "Ah! you are not tied at home. How delightful to be always at liberty for concerts, lectures, and parties! No confinement for you!"

But I want confinement. I want to listen for the school bell mornings, to give the last hasty wash and brush, and then to watch from the window nimble feet bounding away to school. I want frequent rents to mend, and to replace lost buttons. I want to obliterate mud stains, fruit stains, molasses stains, and paints of all colors. I want to be sitting by a little crib of evenings, when weary little feet are at rest, and prattling voices hushed, that mothers may sing their lullabies, and tell over the oft-repeated stories. They don't know their happiness then, those mothers; I didn't. All these things I called confinement once.

A manly figure stands before me now. He is taller than I, has thick whiskers, wears a frock-coat, a bosomed shirt, and a cravat. He has just come from college. He brings Latin and Greek in his countenance, and busts of the old philosophers for the sitting room. He calls me mother, but I am rather unwilling to own him. He avers that he is my boy, and says that he can prove it. He brings his little boat to show the red stripe on the sail (it was the end of the piece) and the name on the stern—Lucy Lowe, a little girl of our neighbor, who, because of her long curls and pretty round face, was the chosen favorite of my boy. The curls were long since cut off, and she has grown to a tall handsome girl. How his face reddens as he shows me the name of the boat! Oh! I see it all as plain as if it were written in a book. My little boy is lost, and my big boy will soon be. Oh! I wish he were a little tired boy in a long white night-gown, lying in his crib, with me sitting by holding his hand in mine, brushing the curls back from his forehead, watching his eyelids droop, and listening to his deep breathing.

If I only had my little boy again, how patient I would be! How much I would bear, and how little I would fret and scold; I can never have him back again; but there are still many mothers who have not yet lost their little boys. I wonder if they know they are living their very best days; that now is the time to really enjoy their children! I think if I had been more to my little boy, I might now be more to my grown-up one.—Home Journal.

TELEGRAPHIC CABLES.—The Atlantic telegraphic cable which was partially lost in the recent attempt at submergence between Great Britain and the American continent, was constructed of good substantial materials. There are seven copper wires to form the conductor. The entire length of the telegraph will be 2,300 miles, so that there are 16,000 miles of copper wire. Every portion of this copper wire is subjected to electrical tests, to ascertain its quality for conduction, before it is allowed to be worked up. The next process is to coat these wires with eight successive coats of the insulating material, equal to an aggregate length of 18,400 miles. This core is next covered with jute, wound round it from ten strands, making 23,000 miles of jute yarn. Then comes the outer coating, formed of the ten covered iron wires. The iron wire itself is 23,000 miles in length, and each wire is covered separately with five strands of tarred hemp, 135,000 miles of the latter being required, making together an aggregate length of material employed of 215,000 miles, or very nearly as much as would put ten girdles round the earth, or form a line that would stretch almost from the earth to the moon.

The last wicked story of Paris is, that there is a mother—married, of course, very early—who still prides herself on her youth and beauty. She has had differences with her son, who is old enough, at least to be examined on oath. They both had to state their age in a court of justice. "Your age madam?" asks courteous justice. "Twenty-five," says audacious mother. A little later the son in the box. "Your age sir?" asks justice. "Why," answers ingenious youth, "I find in my astonishment that I am a year older than my mother."

Perhaps he was her son by "another mother."

"I hope you will be able to support me," said a young lady while walking one day with her intended, during a slippery state of the sidewalks. "Why—ah—yes—" said the hesitating swain, "with some little assistance from your father." There was some confusion and a profound silence when the lovers' colloquy had ended.

Mistakes are sometimes excusable.

Patriotic Counsel.

The following letter from Horace Greeley to the colored people of the State of North Carolina, upon the Right of Suffrage, we commend to our readers as worthy of careful consideration:—

I. Be hopeful. Great reforms are seldom completed in a moment. Old wrongs and abuses yield slowly to the advances of Justice and Humanity. I have for thirty years ardently wished, but till very recently, dared not to hope, that I might live to see ours a free country. I now see it, and bless God for the wisdom and beneficence—so infinitely transcending all human preconception—whereby the weaker, infatuation, incapacity, disloyalty, treachery, and general unworthiness of men, have been made to subserve the Divine purpose. But for Northern subservency, so enormous that they were justified in expecting to be aided by it in the field as well as in the cabinet, the slaveholders would never have revolted. But for imbecility in high places, and incapacity, if not treason also, in the direction of our armies, the Rebellion would have been speedily suppressed without seriously affecting your condition—possibly, with new concessions and guarantees to Slavery. Looking back at the momentous history, the stupendous transformations, of the last five years, we must reverently say, "This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes." Let us unwaveringly trust that the great work will be prosecuted to its legitimate and logical consummation.

II. Be patient. We may not win a full reformation of your rights directly; but the effort will never be abandoned until its success is assured. And we are no longer resisted by a vast, tenacious, pecuniary interest—an all but omnipotent "vested right." Slavery the tree, whereof negro-hate and White prejudice the color are branches, has been cut down. There is still vitality in the roots, but the branches are bound to wither and decay. Yet this is not the work of a day; and we must "learn to labor, and [if need be] to wait."

III. Be peaceful. Do not be seduced nor provoked to resist lawful authority with lawless violence. Better suffer wrong in silence, or be worsted in invoking the protection of the laws. You see what the slaveholders have incurred by resisting authority by force. Let nothing tempt or swerve you from the ways of peace. If you are oppressed and abused, appeal to Congress, which will soon have been clothed by the pending Constitutional Amendment with power to redress your more flagrant wrongs. Whichever among you resists the law gives a signal advantage to your enemies. Better suffer and trust.

IV. Be diligent. I am not exhorting you to steadfast industry. You have had enough of that. Not being fools, you know that you have to work hard for all you get, and probably for something more. There cannot be a hundred of you who do not know that you are to work out your own pecuniary salvation or miserably perish. But you must be equally diligent in educating yourselves and your children, and must not grudge working an extra hour per day, if needed, to provide yourselves with books and teachers. It is indispensable that you all, or nearly all, acquire the rudiments of a substantial education at the earliest moment, and that you each keep on acquiring useful knowledge at every opportunity to the last day of your lives. Your alleged ignorance is now one of the chief pretexts for denying you the Right of Suffrage.

V. Respect yourselves. Refuse to minister to others' vicious appetites, no matter what is the temptation. Stand quietly and respectfully aloof from all Whites who see fit to regard you as inferiors merely because of your color. Keep away, or get away, from all cities, unless you are sure of making money rapidly and virtuously therein. Hold no voluntary relations to negotiators, and bestow no patronage on them though this compel you to go without comforts you might otherwise enjoy. Trade with and patronize your friends, but, above all, each other. Encourage your brethren who embark in trade or in any branch of mechanical or other useful industry, though at some personal inconvenience; keep out of debt; where possible, for men whom you esteem and trust; and each of you become land-holders so soon as you can without running in debt. Few know "how much land there is in an acre," and North Carolinians understand this less than most others. If you each had a cabin and four acres of land, you need nevermore, after next harvest, look for work; while those who want help would come looking for you and offering you fair, living wages. Finally.

VI. Stay where you belong. It may by-and-by be well to migrate, but not now. North Carolina is a noble State, with her resources mainly undeveloped. Her climate is admirable; her soil better than is supposed; her inland navigation, water-power, timber, minerals, &c., &c., sources of unsuspected wealth. Work for the best wages offered by good men, till you can save the means of employing yourselves; strive to win the respect and esteem of the better Whites, and keep clear of the worse; and be sure that, whenever you shall, by your thrift, have made yourselves independent and desirable customers of merchants and others, your righteous demand of enfranchisement can, if not already granted, be no longer successfully resisted. Your friend, HORACE GREELEY.

JESUS hath many lovers of his heavenly kingdom, but few bearers of his cross. He hath many desirers of his consolation, but few of tribulation. He findeth many companions of his table, but few of his abstinence. All desire to rejoice with him; few are willing to suffer anything with him or for him. Many follow Jesus into the breaking of bread, but few to the drinking of the cup of his passion. Many reverence his miracles; few follow the ignominy of the cross.—Thomas Kempis.

Thomas Jefferson said that "nothing gave him so much trouble in his administration, as intemperate drinking," and regarded strict temperate habits as an essential prerequisite for appointments to office. Let total abstinence from all intoxicating drinks be your motto.

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