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An Independent Journal.

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A Song of '76.

The following double-entendre was originally published in a Philadelphia newspaper a hundred years ago. It may be read three different ways. First, let the whole be read in the order it is written; second, read the lines downward on the left of each comma in every line; third, in the same manner on the right of each comma. In the first reading the Revolutionary cause is condemned, and by the others it is encouraged and lauded:

Hark! hark! the trumpet sounds, the din of war alarms,
O'er seas and solid grounds, doth call us all to arms:
Who for King George doth stand, their honors soon shall slime:
Their ruin is at hand, who with the Congress join.
The acts of Parliament, in them I much delight,
I hate their cursed intent, who for the Congress fight:
The Tories of the day, they are my daily toast,
They soon will sneak away, who Independence boast:
Who now resistence hold, they have my hand and heart,
May they for slaves be sold, who act a Whigish part:
On Mansfield, North and Bute, may daily blessings pour,
Confusion and dispute, on Congress evermore;
To North and British lord, may honors still be done,
I wish a block or cord, to Gen. Washington.
P. H. M.

Pension Frauds.

[N. Y. Sun.]

It is notorious that enormous frauds have been and still are perpetrated on the generous fund voted by Congress for pensions, without any real effort having been made to arrest them, or to put an end to the system through which the Treasury is plundered under the disguise of patriotism. Like the Rings for manufacturing crooked whiskey, for cheating Indians, for procuring postal contracts, for favoring naval jobbery, for selling public arms, for promoting venal legislation, and for ruling the District of Columbia, there is an organized combination for obtaining fraudulent pensions.

Recent exposures in Philadelphia show how easily these frauds may be committed, by collusion between the agents who prosecute such claims as a business, and confederates in the Pension Office, aided by the use of genuine or forged seals of the local courts, false personation, and fabricated papers. It is believed that thirty or forty millions of dollars have been stolen in this way since the first election of Grant.

This belief is not confined to one party, but is as strong among honest Republicans as it is among pronounced Democrats. During the debate on the Pension Appropriation bill in the Senate, Mr. Ingalls of Kansas said:

"I believe with him that very extensive wrongs are perpetrated upon this fund, and that a proper examination would show that of the twenty-nine or thirty millions of dollars that are annually paid to the pensioners of this Government, at least five millions are fraudulently and improperly paid; that in consequence of recovery from disability, improper ratings, payments to minors who have reached the age prescribed by law at which the pension shall cease, the remarriage of widows, false personations, and in various other ways that are familiar to the authorities, and that are continually brought to your attention, at least one-sixth part of the entire amount that is paid to pensions is fraudulent and wrongfully paid."

This is no recent discovery. Delano and his Commissioner of Pensions knew all about the frauds, connived at them, and protected the Ring as a part of the political machinery by which the Administration was upheld and Grant Senators and Representatives were elected, through assessments of money. Mr. Ingalls charges in open Senate that this system is going on now, and as an orthodox Republican he ought to know. He alleges broadly, that "at least five millions are fraudulently and improperly paid" every year out of the pension fund, and no Senator ventures to dispute a statement which everybody believes to be short of the actual aggregate of stealing.

Yet no movement was proposed to investigate the frauds or to stop this barefaced robbery. Mr. Ingalls, who made the charge, had no better remedy for the evil of which he thus complained than to create forty special agents, as the late Commissioner of Pensions had recommended after a few months of experience in office, when he was superseded by a new partisan. More offices will not cure this thieving combination, but rather serve to complicate it. Less of them would be a more efficient means of protection.

Legislation of no kind, can be expected to correct abuses which are the natural outgrowth of a corrupt, reckless, and partisan administration of the Government. While the President has advisers around him, approved either because they subscribed money for his benefit, or chosen because of their personal servility and unfitness, venality and jobbery will flourish as they have done on a stupendous scale ever since Grant came in power.

He is the first President of the United States who ever openly associated with notorious plunderers; who made personal companions and confidants of notorious characters like Boss Shepherd, McDonald, Joyce, and that crew; who gave to Ring chiefs official protection and social recognition; and who has deliberately prostituted his great trust for the advantage of political scoundrels who ought to be cracking stone in the penitentiary.

The influence of this pernicious example has spread through and infected the whole official and social organization at Washington, with rare exceptions like that of Mr. Bristow, until the astounding spectacle is presented to the world of a Government professing to be free, plain, and honest, ruled by Rings and knaves. If the President was pure, conscientious, and resolute for the right, such a system could not posibly stand, or have ever attained its present growth.

Between avarice on the one hand and ambition on the other, he has encouraged the authors and abettors of these iniquities until the Administration has become nothing but a huge conspiracy to debauch and plunder the Government committed to its keeping. Its whole power, through every agent it can command, and by every means however desperate, even to the suborning of witnesses and stealing of papers, is openly exerted to-day, not in prosecuting Babcock, but in protecting him, with a full knowledge of his guilt.

The motive is palpable enough. Babcock will not consent to fall alone. He can never be convicted and sent to the penitentiary without dragging down others higher and more important than he is. Hence, he will never go there, even if found guilty. Grant would like to be spared the necessity of a pardon, but if the pinch comes, he will as surely grant it as he pardoned Hoge for stealing half a million within sight of the White House.

A radical change of Administration offers the only remedy for the existing corruption. Without that there is no hope for reform in any true sense. Even if Grant was dismissed, and replaced by another Republican of better antecedents and repute, the evils would not be extripated, because the system itself is poisoned with the virus of Grantism. The politicans form a close corporation inside the party, and direct its management. They are the power behind the throne. Therefore it is necessary to overthrow the party as the first step toward a return to honest and simple government. That we hope to do next November.

THE DISTRICT THIEVES.

Twelve Thousand Dollrrs Stolen to Pay Boss Shepherd's Counsel.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—The scene in the Senate to-day following the speech of Senator Wadleigh on the report of the Conference Committee on the 3.65 bonds was extraordinary for that sedate and venerable body. He said that the Board of Audit has actually paid $12,000 to the lawyers employed by the Board of Public Works—viz.: To Mattingly, $5,000; to Stanton $4,000, and to the notorious Harrington, $3,000—and he knew that his statement was true. Every effort was made to divert the attention of the Senate from the subject, but the sturdy opponents of the Ring refused to allow anything to be done but to adjourn, that the Senators might ascertain for themselves the facts. The transaction was denounced as an unparalleled infamy, and the Senator told that the bonds issued in payment, if their numbers could be ascertained, should be repudiated as a part of the debt of the District. What the Senate will do tomorrow, when it is in possession of the evidence taken before the House District of Columbia Committee to-day on this subject, can only be conjectured. In addition to the payment of the counsel a stenographer employed by Boss Shepherd was paid $7,500 for reporting the proceedings, and the *National Republican* was paid a large amount for publishing the testimony in full. In a word for the service between $25,000 and $30,000 of the people's money was deliberately and shamefully stolen from the District, and that service had for its only object the creation of sentiment unfavorable to the Congressional Investigating Committee. It must be remembered that the committee also had a corps of stenographers making the official report. The employment of the other stenographers, it was said at the time, was at Boss Shepherd's own expense. The evidence given to-day by Dr. Blake, one of the Board's confreres, and R. W. Taylor of the Board of Audit, tells the startling story above given.

"In Keokuk there is a man named John Plaster Alabaster." No need to call him hard names.

End of the Babcock Trial.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 24.—Judge Dillon, in his charge to the jury in the Babcock case, reminded them that the government owed a duty to its citizens as well as to its revenue, and it lay in the province of the jury to acquit as well as to convict.

At the opening of court this afternoon the motion for a new trial in the McKee case was taken up and the argument begun. At twenty-five minutes past three o'clock, the jury in the Babcock case sent word that they had found a verdict and they were immediately ushered into court. On taking their seats the foreman handed the verdict to the clerk, who read it as follows:

"We, the jury, find the defendant not guilty."

A Washington letter says: "It is understood that F. A. Sawyer, ex assistant secretary of the treasury, indicted for collusion in passing fraudulent cotton claims, called on the president yesterday and represented that he had been unjustly persecuted. He was innocent of the charges alleged and not in a financial condition to stand trial. He also alluded to the report that Secretary Bristow had become morbid on the subject of indicting prominent persons for political capital The president, is said, agreed with Mr. Sawyer, and thought, too, that the indictment business had been carried far enough. United States District Attorney Wells may be instructed to enter a *nolle pros.* in Mr. Sawyer's case."

THE NAVAL ESTIMATES.—WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—The House Committee on Naval Affairs to-day agreed to report the bill heretofore introduced by Representatives Whitthorne, the Chairman, requiring the Navy Department to make a detailed instead of several general estimates as heretofore for pay of the navy, including the contingent fund and the items for the support of the civil establishments at navy yards and stations. The same principle is applied to all the bureaus and to the marine corps. It is provided that appropriations made for one class or item of expenditure shall not be used or expended for any other class. The bill is framed on the model of the British budget and is expected if passed to produce a required reform in the naval service.

The Beecher Council.

BROOKLYN, Feb. 24.—After a heated debate the Council have ordered another investigation of the scandal.

Henry C. Brown appeared before the committee and read his statement. Beecher and forty others were present. Bowen turned to leave the room, when he says the doors were locked on him and he escaped by the back door.

Bowen refused to give his statement to the press.

Mr. White says Bowen read his statement, consisting of fifty-two pages, but failed to give names dates. It refers to scandal ten or twenty years ago.

The jury at St. Louis acquit Babcock. This is not surprising. The whole power and influence of the President and his nearest friends have been earnestly applied to produce such a result. But the facts proved on the trial are not obliterated and will not be forgotten. Now, wait and see Secretary Bristow driven out.

Pittsburgh, Feb. 23.—The nitro glycerine magazine of the Roberts Torpedo Company, at St. Petersburg, Clarion county, exploded with terrific violence at about six o'clock this evening, tearing the building to pieces and instantly killing James Barnum an employee of the company, who was at work in the magazine.

A little fellow being told by a young man to get off his knee, that he was too heavy to hold in that way, made quite a sensation among the persons present by yelling back. "Too heavy, hey? Sister Sal weighs a hundred pounds more than I, and you held her on your knee for four hours last night."

An American sent a consignment of hay and manure forks to Sheffield, England, where they created quite a sensation. He proposes to sell them "right there," in competition with the Sheffield manufacturers. In circular saws we are underselling the English manufacturers. The year opens gloomy in Sheffield, and American competition in her products is the cause of it.

An upright but uneducated judge closed a sentence with the following touching reproach: "Prisoner at the bar, nature has endowed you with a good education and respectable family connection; instead of which, you go prowling around the country stealing duck."

Liming Land.

Much of the reading which forms the literature of liming land is of English origin. English wheat growers are loud in their praise of lime, but it must not be forgotten that the best wheat land of England is its dry land, and that the English wheat growers use manure much more liberally than our farmers, as a rule, are accustomed to do.

Of itself lime is no benefit to the plant. It acts chiefly in preparing other material for food. Lime is found in the analysis of plant remains, but it seems to be taken up only when in combination with something else. Practically our farmers find benefit from it only when a heavy dressing of stable manure is given with the lime, or when a large amount of vegetable matter is already in the land. Thus, if a piece of woodland be newly broken up, a liming of the land is as good as a heavy coat of manure. Swamp muck with a little lime added, is made of considerably more value. Simply oats or wheat stubble limed and turned down, has given good crops, and even green manure, such as clover, if limed before being turned under, is much more powerful in its action on the succeeding crop, than if the simple green growing crop alone is used. But if the lime alone is applied to land, and that land has been already well worked, or if naturally light and poor there is no surer way to make the poverty worse. It is a good old maxim that circumstances alter cases. In no farming operation can this be better applied than in the use of lime. It is a capital thing in some cases, but a very bad agent in many others.—*German town Telegraph.*

Fault-Finding with Children.

Children are more hurt by indiscriminate, thoughtless fault-finding than by any other one thing. Often a child has all the sensitiveness and all the susceptibility of a grown person, added to the faults of childhood. Nothing about him is right as yet; he is immature and faulty at all points, and everybody feels at perfect liberty to criticise him right and left, above and below, till he takes refuge in callous hardness or irritable moroseness.

A bright, noisy boy rushes in from school, eager to tell his mother some thing he has on his heart, and Number One cries out, "Oh, you have left the door open! I do wish you would'nt always leave the door open! How many times must I tell you to wipe your feet?—"Now there you have thrown your cap on the sofa again. When will you learn to hang it up? Don't put your slate there; that is not the place for it." "How dirty your hands are! what have you been doing? Don't sit in that chair; you break the spring bouncing." "Mercy! how your hair looks! Do go up stairs and comb it." "There, it you haven't torn the braid all off your coat!—Dear me, what a boy!" "Dont speak so loud; your voice goes through my head." "I wan't to know, Jim, if it was you that broke up that barrel that I have been saving for brown flour." "I believe it was you, Jim, that hacked the side of my razor." "Jim's been writing at my desk and blotted three sheets of the best paper."

Now, the question is, if any of the grown people of the family had to run the gauntlet of a string of criticisms on themselves equally true as those that salute unlucky Jim, would they be any better natured about it than he is? No; but they are grown up people; they have rights that others are bound to respect. Every body cannot tell them exactly what he thinks about everything they do. If every one did, would there not be terrible reactions?

The Racio in Russia.

Some of the European nations are still engaged in devising expedients to eradicate duelling from their territories. Hitherto all such attempts have been aimed at that one of the duellists who had the best of it in the field. But a government has at last hit upon the very original and novel plan of inflicting a vindictive punishment upon the body of the slain. This is the Bavarian Government, which has carried out a signally severe sentence upon a certain Count killed in a duel, close to Munich, by an officer of the royal army. The old laws of the country recognize in duels only a sort of suicide, and condemn the persons killed in them to all the penalties attaching to suicidal acts. One of these consists in the denial to the defunct of the rights of burial. Accordingly, the body of the deceased Count was carried off from the hands of those relations and friends who were about to perform the funeral rites, and handed over to the dissecting room of the Munich Hospital. Great efforts are, it seems, being made to secure the remains from the ignominious fate, and from an inglorious interment in the common burial ground. But if these ateempts fail, it is expected that a death-blow will be given to duelling in Bavaria.

News and Courier.

Newspaper Toilets.

[From Washington Letter to Cincinnati Gazette.]

There is an anecdote of the Congressman who proclaimed that a rigid system of economy must be practiced, as the various failures here, there and everywhere had dwarfed the amount of his annual income. "But what am I to do for party dresses!" asks the anxious wife. "Leave that to me, my dear, and I will arrange it to your satisfaction," soothingly replied the legislator. Calling in a reporter, he set before him a tempting array of eatables, with wine enough to send warmth through his veins and generous throbs to his heart-strings. "Now, my friend," said the M. C., "I want to employ you to describe my wife's dresses this winter, or rather she will describe them, and you can insert the descriptions in your various papers. Here's $10 for your trouble and a seat at our table when you're hungry." After this, Mrs. M. C. appeared clothed in such gorgeousness as was only known to Solomon in all his glory, yet her wardrobe was exceedingly circumscribed. Of course, persons present at the various parties, likewise attended by Mrs. M. C., were amazed at the reportorial skill which could, chameleon-like, change her dresses, so constantly worn, to such varying hues; but the Madam's far-distant friends and her husband's constituents read the description, and thought how rich their representative had grown, and what a very queen of fashion and elegance his wife had become! And the M. C. gloried in the coup d'etat, which had provided his wife an elegant outfit for $10 and a dinner! There is no comparison between the two persons, as Mrs. Grant has a very generous wardrobe, and is made to do duty in one particular toilet, while the other was decked in rainbow hues out of her limited allowance, yet I can never read the description of Mrs. Grant's one particular toilet without recalling the above anecdote. Really, however, I do wish that monotonous "pink silk trimmed with exquisite bands of ostrich feathers blending harmoniously into the tinge of the silk," could be either worn out or temporarily laid aside. After all, variety is the spice of life, and one would rather see half a dozen pretty dresses of simple and inexpensive material than one toilet on each and every occasion, be it ever so magnificent and costly.

A Lawyer Outwitted.

A similar case to that of the Presbyterian clergyman commemorated in the Editor's Drawer of the January *Harper's* occurred in Massachusetts town of high repute quite a number of years ago. The town, now a city, maintained a high school, according to law. A teacher was employed, at a certain salary, by the year. After a while his services were not found satisfactory to the school committee, and their chairman, a smooth-spoken member of the legal profession, was deputed to perform the ungracious task of informing the master of the state of the case. After the settlement of preliminaries, the point was reached and the propriety of the master's resignation was diplomatically and politely suggested. The incumbent, if not not qualified to teach such a school, was a shrewd Yankee. He expressed his willingness to leave so readily, that the committee-man became uncommonly gracious at the success of his mission. "But,' said the worthy pedagogue, "if my services are not satisfactory here, they may be in some other place; and as I must get my living, I presume you will give me a recommendation?'

"Certainly,' replied the committee-man, thinking only of relieving his town of an inefficient instructor; and accordingly drew up the paper on the spot.

The master read it, and found it highly satisfactory. "And now' said he, glancing keenly at his employer, "upon this recommendation I am so well fitted to teach, I will thank you to pay me the rest of my salary for the unexpired half year.'

The Lawyer was caught, and the money was paid.—EDITOR'S DRAWER, in *Harper's Magazine.*

It seems probable that the Hon. Augustus H. Garland will be chosen Senator from Arkansas to succeed Powell Clayton, the carpet bagger, whose term expires March 3, 1877. Mr Garland is the present governor of Arkansas, and by his judicious, conservative course under circumstances which required the exercise of great sagacity, firmness and tact, he has commanded the respect of his political foes, as well as the warm approbation of the native citizens of the State.