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## OUR CENTENNIAL LETTER.

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 12, 1876.

*Grave digger*.—"Now, your tanner, sir, will last you some nine years."  
*Hamlet*.—"Why he more than another?"  
*Grave digger*.—"Why, sir, his hide is so tanned with his business, that he keeps out the water a long time, and your water is a sore destroyer of your whorson dead body."

Shakespeare.

Who the tanner was, has never been definitely settled, but with all due deference to those whose historical researches entitle their opinions to weight, I would respectfully suggest the name of Adam. I do not mean to assert that he tanned leather breeches for his offspring Cain and Able, but there is every reason to suppose that, like more modern parents, he tanned the place which the breeches was intended to cover, and whether he used oak, hemlock, or birch in the operation, is a matter of no particular importance, alongside of the establishment of the substantial historical fact. Since his day, the business has very materially improved, and I have no doubt Adam would be exceedingly astonished and gratified if he could step into the shoe and leather exhibit at the Centennial Exhibition and observe the vast advances that have been made in this useful branch of manufactures. Fig leaves may have served a very excellent purpose in a climate where the thermometer rarely falls below sixty, but in lands where the keen biting blast will take the hair off of a dog's back, it is evident that ladies of gentlemen hunting huckleberries or polar bears would need something more substantial. So naturally after fig leaves grew unfashionable, the skins of animals became the favorite covering of man.

I can imagine that the young gentleman who tore the reeking pelt from the back of a Megatherium, must have found it rather an unsavory dressing gown in the course of two or three weeks, though it is nevertheless true that he might have combined in a single garment the delight of Limburger cheese with the comforts of a Mackinaw blanket. To people of delicate organization it must be evident that tanning would very early become a necessary and useful accomplishment—not that I consider the bouquet of a tanyard superior to the attar of roses, and candor compels me to say that there are many smells that are to me much more agreeable and refreshing—but I find the inclination to wander off in the regions of classical research and philosophic speculation, getting the better of my discretion. So I repress it at once and quietly address myself to my mittens. In any other situation the shoe and leather building would be considered an immense structure, and it only dwarfs beside Machinery Hall, under whose shadow it stands. It is 314 feet long by 160 wide. This exhibition is peculiar to itself—leather there is and plenty of it in the Main Hall. England and all her colonies exhibit it.—You see it from Africa, Australia, and every portion of her dominions. Every kind of pelt from the skin of a kangaroo to the hide of a hippopotamus, but nowhere do you get the same idea of the possibilities of the tanner's art that you do in the building exclusively devoted to their use. Near the east door, at the peak of honor, I might say on the right of line is placed the exhibit of Russia, and surely no nation that ever used tan bark was better qualified to stand the ordeal. We do some pretty good tanning in America, and we turn out some very nice leather, but if you want a pair of boots that you desire to leave as an heirloom to your great grandson, go to St Petersburg or Moscow. There a man invests three or four roubles for a pair of boots when he becomes of age, and the backs of them are used as hinges for

his coffin when he dies between seventy and eighty. The first class is of highly ornamental boots of all the colors of a rainbow, and dainty shoes bespangled in silver and gold, intended, no doubt, for some Russian Cinderella; but as you go back things look more solid, and there you find calf and kid and bull hide in abundance, and seven leagued boots that would reach to your neck, which were made on honor, and were intended to last forever. The leather has a look of square honesty about it that seems to say: "Pay for me what price you will, and you'll be sure to get your money's worth." In one case is a splendid lot of glove kids, the very finest specimens of the goods ever seen in America.—No mere description can convey a correct idea of the extreme fineness and exquisite finish of these rare skins which are put on exhibition by Sowkin, of Moscow. Wilson and Walker of Leeds, have also a very fine exhibit, the combination of colors and artistic arrangement being unsurpassed.

A little distance off it is difficult to believe that the goods are not the finest of satin, the illusion is perfect, but to be fully appreciated the goods must be seen. Against the wall on the south side of the building hang ponderous hides of sole leather from every portion of the Union, fine specimens of good honest oak tanning they are which would reflect honor to any country, and I trust may be of substantial service to our own.—Newark, N. J., is perhaps the largest exhibitor in sole leather, and a foreigner on superficial examination might be led to believe that it monopolized the sole leather business of the United States. Getting again toward the middle of the hall we are in the realm of fancy gaiters and ornamental shoes, suggestive of wedding favors. Strauss and the lancers, and the grandest of opera nights. No one going down to hear Moody and Sankey, ever put on such gaiters as these. No sir, they are not that kind of a hairpin, they know more about Offenbach and Gounod than they do about "Hold the Fort," or "Ninety and Nine." I never look at these cases of dainty shoes, but I always think of a female relation of mine whose foot was fourteen, and she would insist on trying on a number eleven and a half. These things are beautiful to look at, that is if a fellow has no wife or daughters. Sixteen dollars a pair, and dog cheap at that, still as a nation we are wealthy so blow the expense. I think there is something exquisitely fine in the idea of putting the heel of a ladies' shoe about the middle of the sole of the foot, in fact I have long labored under the impression that that was the proper place for it, and that there was a mistake in our pedal extremities, and that the toes should be cut off and sowed on behind; the manufacture of shoes in the latest fashion assures me that I am correct. Jacob Zain, of Philadelphia, has some very fine boots and shoes, which for style and finish are certainly worthy of all praise. Here, too, are contrivances for keeping shoes from wearing out which I respectfully commend to the attention of all fathers of families.—Here are Singer machines that will go through sole leather half an inch thick as easy as a cambric needle will go through a thousand dollar pocket handkerchief. The Knight of St. Crispin is no longer distinguished by his hammer and lapstone; soles are now cut out by a single impression of the die, and are made more effectually solid in a pair of rollers than a cobbler could hammer them in a week.

Not the least interesting portion of this exhibit is the display of India rubber goods which have been also consigned to this building. I have

before me while I write a specimen of Gossamer waterproof, by the Goodyear Company, which it seems to me impossible to excel. The texture is as fine as silk, and the quality of the goods as tough as India rubber. It is fashioned into various elegant garments and may well be regarded as one of the greatest of modern boons to our domestic life. I never look on these goods but I think of the struggles of poor Goodyear, how he pawned the beds and pillows and broke up the chairs and tables in his experiments, and then after success came how he fought infringers on his patent, and died without realizing a tythe of the interest which his magnificent discovery deserved. A most important matter to visitors to the Centennial is how to reach Philadelphia in the most comfortable and expeditious manner. While of course circumstances may frequently have a governing influence in the selection the traveller may make. Such as making appointments with friends and the route fixed by excursion tickets, all things being equal I should unhesitatingly say come by the New line via Bound Brook, the cars are all new, the officials polite and attentive, and it is especially desirable for ladies travelling without a male attendant. The route is almost free from dust, and the scenery among the most delightful that New Jersey and Pennsylvania afford. And now a word to the coming regatta which is anxiously looked forward to by all classes as one of the greatest events of this Centennial year. It is not a mere matter of muscle and brawn of skill and endurance, but a sort of a world's test of national pluck and bottom, which settles the world's status of the winning crew for some years at least. Now, when it is considered that supremacy in these contests is only earned by the most unremitting industry, by chastity, temperance, and the practice of all the virtues, and the abandonment of all the vices, it will be seen how much value it is to our youth to be taught, that the grand success of life can only be purchased by patient industry, and that temperance and chastity are imperative upon those who would reach the noblest goal. These Britons are hardy men, bent on winning if winning is possible. I have seen them at work, and of this I can assure you, if they don't carry the Centennial cup across the big pond it won't be their fault.

Yours truly,

BROADBRIM.

A colored preacher from Philadelphia, says a New York journal, arrived in the great metropolitan city a few days since, and went into a coffee and cake saloon to get lunch. He gave his order, but the proprietor informed him, regretfully, that he could not be served, as the waiter girls refused to attend him. Next morning the preacher called upon Gen. Foster, United States Assistant Attorney, and asked what course he should pursue to obtain redress.—Gen. Foster informed him that coffee and cake saloons were not inns, public conveyances on land or water, theatres, nor other places of public amusement, and that therefore his case did not come under the statute.

A rather vigorous and fatal exhibition of religious enthusiasm recently occurred in Barbour county, Alabama, about five miles from Eufaula. A negro man in the midst of a "shouting" season on the "mourner's bench," suddenly threw his arms around and accidentally struck a female "mourner" a severe blow in the stomach, causing internal injuries from which she is reported to have died soon after.—This may be called a rather belly-ioso exhibition of the power of the Gospel.—Atlanta Constitution.

The best barber is the man who can shave a note.

## Gov. Hendricks' Letter of Acceptance.

INDIANAPOLIS, July 24, 1876.

Gentlemen—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication, in which you have formally notified me of my nomination by the National Democratic Convention at St. Louis, as their candidate for the office of Vice President of the United States. It is a nomination which I had neither expected nor desired; and yet I recognize the high honor done me by the Convention. The choice of such a body, pronounced with such unusual unanimity, and accompanied with so generous an expression of esteem and confidence; ought to outweigh all merely personal desires and preferences of my own. It is with this feeling, and I trust also from a deep sense of public duty, that I now accept the nomination, and shall abide the judgment of my countrymen.

It would have been impossible for me to accept the nomination if I could not heartily endorse the platform of the convention. I am gratified, therefore, to be able unequivocally to declare that I agree in the principles, approve the policies, and sympathize with the purposes enunciated in that platform.

The institutions of our country have been sorely tried by the exigencies of civil war, and, since the peace, by a selfish and corrupt management of public affairs, which has shamed us before civilized mankind. By unwise and partial legislation every industry and interest of the people have been made to suffer; and in the executive departments of the Government, dishonesty, rapacity and venality have debauched the public service. Men known to be unworthy have been promoted, while others have been degraded for fidelity to official duty. Public office has been made the means of private profit, and the country has been offended to see a class of men who boast the friendship of the sworn protectors of the State amassing fortunes by defrauding the public treasury and by corrupting the servants of the people. In such a crisis of the history of the country I rejoice that the convention at St. Louis has so nobly raised the standard of reform. Nothing can be well with us or with our affairs until the public conscience, shocked by the enormous evils and abuses which prevail, shall have demanded and compelled an unsparring reformation of our National Administration, "in its head and in its members." In such a reformation the removal of a single officer, even the President, is comparatively a trifling matter, if the system which he represents, and which has fostered him as he has fostered it, is suffered to remain. The President alone must not be made the scapegoat for the enormities of the system which infects the public service, and threatens the destruction of our institutions. In some respects I hold that the present executive has been the victim rather than the author of that vicious system. Congressional and party leaders have been stronger than the President. No one man could have created it, and the removal of no one man can amend it. It is thoroughly corrupt, and must be swept remorselessly away by the selection of a government composed of elements entirely new, and pledged to radical reform.

## REFORM NEEDED.

The first work of reform must evidently be the restoration of the normal operation of the Constitution of the United States, with all its amendments. The necessities of war cannot be pleaded in time of peace; the right of local self government as guaranteed by the Constitution of the Union must be everywhere restored, and the centralized (almost personal) imperialism which has been practised must be done away, or the first principles of the republic will be lost.

Our financial system of expedients must be reformed. Gold and silver are the real standard of values, and our national currency will not be a perfect medium of exchange until it shall be convertible at the pleasure of the holders. As I have heretofore said, no one deserves a return to specie payments more earnestly than I do; but I do not believe that it will or can be reached in harmony with the interests of the people by artificial measures for the contraction of the currency, any more than I believe that wealth or permanent prosperity can be created by any infla-

tion of the currency. The laws of finance cannot be disregarded with impunity. The financial policy of the Government, if, indeed, it deserves the name of policy at all, has been in disregard of those laws, and therefore has disturbed commercial and business confidence, as well as hindered a return to specie payments. One feature of that policy was the resumption clause of the Act of 1875, which has embarrassed the country by the anticipation of a compulsory resumption for which no preparation has been made, and without any assurance that it would be practicable. The repeal of that clause is necessary that the natural operation of financial laws may be restored, that the business of the country may be relieved from its disturbing and depressing influence, and that a return to specie payments may be facilitated by the substitution of wiser and more prudent legislation, which shall mainly rely on a judicious system of public economies and official retrenchments, and above all on the promotion of prosperity in all the industries of the people.

I do not understand the repeal of the resumption clause of the Act of 1875 to be a backward step in our return to specie payments, but the recovery of a false step; and although the repeal may, for a time, be prevented, yet the determination of the Democratic party on this subject has now been distinctly declared. There should be no hindrances put in the way of a return to specie payments. "As such a hindrance," says the platform of the St. Louis Convention, "we denounce the resumption clause of the Act of 1875, and demand its repeal."

I thoroughly believe that by public economy, by official retrenchments, and by wise finance enabling us to accumulate the precious metals, resumption at an early period is possible, without producing an "artificial scarcity of currency" or disturbing public or commercial credit; and that these reforms, together with the restoration of pure government, will restore general confidence, encourage the useful investment of capital, furnish employment to labor, and relieve the country from the "paralysis of hard times."

## OUR INDUSTRIES.

With the industries of the people there have been frequent interferences. Our platform truly says that many industries have been impoverished to subsidize a few. Our commerce has been degraded to an inferior position on the high seas; manufactures have been diminished; agriculture has been embarrassed, and the distress of the industrial classes demands that these things shall be reformed.

The burdens of the people must also be lightened by a great change in our system of public expenses.—The profligate expenditures which increased taxation from five dollars per capita in 1860 to eighteen dollars in 1870 tells its own story of our need of fiscal reform.

Our treaties with foreign powers should also be revised and amended, in so far as they leave citizens of foreign birth in any particular less secure in any country on earth than they would be if they had been born on our soil; and the iniquitous coolie system which, through the agency of wealthy companies, imports Chinese bondmen, and establishes a species of slavery, and interferes with the just rewards of labor on our Pacific coast, should be utterly abolished.

In the reform of our civil service, I most heartily endorse that section of the platform which declares that the civil service ought not to be "subject to change at every election," and that it ought not to be made "the bribe reward of party zeal," but ought to be awarded for proved competency and held for fidelity in the public employ." I hope never again to see the cruel and remorseless proscription for political opinions which has disgraced the administration of the last eight years. Bad as the civil service now is, as all know, it has some men of tried integrity and proved ability. Such men, and such men only, should be retained in office; but no man should be retained on any consideration who has prostituted his office to the purposes of partisan intimidation or compulsion, or who has furnished money to corrupt the election. This is done and has been done in almost every county of the land. It is a blight upon the morals of the country, and ought

to be reformed.

## OUR SCHOOLS.

Of sectional contentions, and in respect to our common schools, I have only this to say: That in my judgment, the man or party that would involve our schools in political or sectarian controversy is an enemy to the schools. The common schools are safer under the protecting care of all the people than under the control of any party or sect. They must be neither sectarian nor partisan, and there must be neither division nor misappropriation of the funds for their support. Likewise I regard the man who would arouse or foster sectional animosities and antagonisms among his countrymen as a dangerous enemy to his country. All the people must be made to feel and know that once more there is established a purpose and policy under which all citizens of every condition, race and color, will be secure in the enjoyment of whatever rights the constitution and laws declare or recognize; and that in controversies that may arise, the government is not a partisan, but, within its constitutional authority, the just and powerful guardian of the rights and safety of all. The strife between the sections and between races will cease as soon as the power for evil is taken away from a party that makes political gain out of scenes of violence and bloodshed, and the constitutional authority is placed in the hands of men whose political welfare requires that peace and good order shall be preserved everywhere.

G. V. TILDEN.

It will be seen, gentlemen, that I am in entire accord with the platform of the Convention by which I have been nominated as a candidate for the office of Vice President of the United States. Permit me, in conclusion, to express my satisfaction at being associated with a candidate for the Presidency who is first among his equals as a representative of the spirit and of the achievements of reform. In his official career as the Executive of the great State of New York, he has, in a comparatively short period, reformed the public service and reduced the public burdens, so as to have earned at once the gratitude of his State and the admiration of the country. The people know him to be thoroughly in earnest; he has shown himself to be possessed of powers and qualities which fit him, in an eminent degree, for the great work of reformation which this country now needs; and if he shall be chosen by the people to the high office of President of the United States, I believe that the day of his inauguration will be the beginning of a new era of peace, purity and prosperity in all departments of our government. I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant.

THOS. A. HENDRICKS.

To the Hon. John A. McClelland, Chairman, and others of the Committee of the National Democratic Convention.

**SOLDIERS FOR LAURENS.**—We understand that Governor Chamberlain has secured troops for this county. This report may be false, but if there is any truth in it we would suggest to Governor Chamberlain to send not less than a brigade. The Laurens boys are terrible fellows—they are regular anthropophagi—and even with this number the Governor may wake up some fine morning and find that every one of the brigade has been literally eaten up—in fact nothing left but their shoes. If those should disappear, the Governor may know that his Reds are still alive and picking.—Upon second thought we would advise the Governor to send a division, for while he is engaged in the business we want him to give our boys a chance for a good meal.—Laurensville Herald.

**SHIPPING ARMS TO NEGROES.**—A box of Remington rifles was recently shipped by unknown parties, in Columbia to an irresponsible negro named H. Bailey, at Newberry. Bailey would not give any account of himself, and the package was detained.—Bailey hails from Laurens county—a place that will be made too hot for him if he goes to fooling about with rifles. Wonder if Chamberlain knows anything about this gun business?