

The truth of the declaration made by an eminent statesman, "that eternal vigilance is the price of liberty," never has been, and never can be successfully controverted. It has stood the test of time, and will stand the scrutiny of ages. The desire to obtain unlimited power and control over the people, in civil polity, appears to have been a ruling passion on the part of those whose ambition nothing short of universal sway could satisfy. In tracing the history of nations, we invariably discover, that in their infancy, they were governed by simple, wholesome, and liberal laws and institutions, that the people retained nearly all power in their own hands, and entrusted as little as possible to their rulers; that they kept a jealous eye on their rights and privileges, and exercised a constant watchfulness over those to whom they had entrusted the execution of the laws. Thus they enjoyed the natural and inherent rights of man, as the Great Original intended they should do; and thus also in the incipient stages of nations more happiness and contentment fell to the lot of the people.—"Power is always stealing from the few," is an axiom that all admit to be correct. Demagogues in office, and ambitious office-seekers, will always be found proposing some new law, some new scheme for the purpose of obtaining power or creating new offices, to be filled at the expense of the people. The people, confiding souls, keep on granting away their rights and privileges, by degrees, until they soon find they have no rights left, and then they begin to clamor for what they have lost, and frequently it requires revolution and bloodshed, to regain what power they imprudently conceded away.

"The world is governed too much," is another truism, and it always will be until the people become satisfied that it is not necessary nor expedient to select law-makers, who consider it obligatory to legislate on all the visionary and absurd notions that may enter the brain of a bigot or an enthusiast. There is one fact that has not escaped the observation of the intelligent, and that is, that there is a comparatively small class of people, in every community, who are incapable of appreciating the benefits of liberal laws, and the blessings of free institutions; they are either too restive or too ambitious to sail along the channel of free government with contentment and cheerfulness, and are always devising new schemes, new inventions, or seeking to interpolate some new theory in Government. Man has his individual personal rights, and they should be sacred to him. He has the right to regulate the domestic concerns of his family—to manage his household,—he has the right to be the judge of what he shall eat, and what he shall drink, and what he shall wear; and whenever he renders those rights and invests them in another, he virtually acknowledges his incapacity to fill his proper station in society. In short, it is a humiliating confession that he is devoid of brains, and needs a guardian.

Among the chimeras of the present age, is the Maine Liquor Law, of which it has been rightly said that it is "precisely the old pretenses for State churches, inquisitions, censorship and prohibition of the press, suppression of thought and discussion, and shooting down, or imprisoning, of murmurers against the government, are relied on now to justify one of the grossest, yet cutest attempts against the liberty of the person that ever entered into the heart of a Metternich to conceive of."

The writer of this, Mr. Editor, is no apologist for drunkenness, debauchery, or any other vice. Nor does he approve or justify the low brothels that are dealing out adulterated liquors to frail humanity. He believes in the Divine injunction "Be temperate in all things." The advocates of the Maine Law, would debar a man the right to use wine, cider, beer, or strong liquors, even if temperately done. Now, I hold, that because a comparatively small portion of mankind eat to excess, or drink immoderately, it is no reason for depriving those who do not abuse the luxuries of life of their use. This would be punishing the innocent for the faults of the guilty.

I propose, with your permission, to resume this subject again, when I have leisure.

About four weeks since a Mr. Boyington of Obelin, O., was killed by a stallion. The horse was seized with a fit of madness, caught the man in his mouth and threw him into the air. When he struck the ground, the horse jumped upon him with his fore feet, seized him by the head, and broke his neck short off, severing the jugular vein with his teeth.

AN OX THAT GIVES MILK.—Mr. James Thorn, of Clinton, says the Poughkeepsie American, has an ox that gives milk freely. He has bag with four teats, each one of which yields milk like that of a cow. Pretty good beginning for a dry-dairy, notwithstanding we prefer water in all such cases.

IN TOWN.—The man with the white hat,

MR. EDITOR:—During the past week the Gothamites have suffered severely from the excessively hot weather with which our good city has been visited. A large number of persons have fallen victims from exposure to the extreme heat of old Sol's rays. During the prevalence of these warm days scarcely any one ventures abroad which gives the town a very quiet and dull appearance. Business is very dull without much chance of improvement, until the return to town of those who have been rustinating for the season at the various watering places. There has been for some time, considerable stringency in our money market, occasioned mainly by the operation of the new state law, which has just gone into effect, of compelling our city banks of publishing a weekly account of their affairs and which has been the means of causing them so as to be able to make a favorable report, call in the balances due to them, and restrict their discounts; this course has had a prejudicial effect upon the usual current of trade, as this is the time when the greatest amount of duties is paid in the Custom House, and notes falling due, our merchants relying on the accommodation of the banks, are thus left to get out of the scrape as well as they can, of course a great deal of shining had to be done to raise money to meet these obligations. A great deal of complaint is made on account of the unfairness of the operation of this law, as the banks in all the other large cities in the State, are excluded from its provisions—Brooklyn and Williamsburg, which may be said to form part of New York, are of course, without the pale of this enactment.

This hot weather does not however prevent persons from visiting the Crystal Palace, the attendance is equally as large as on cool and pleasant days. The galleries of the building are very warm, occasioned by the refraction of the sun's rays through the glass, in consequence of which the visitors confine themselves to walking through the naves and body of the building, which at all times is quite pleasant. Large packages of goods are daily received in the building.

Both Hunkers and Barnburners intend to hold a convention in this State, and of course there will be two tickets for Democrats to vote, according to the stripe to which they may belong. In the interior of the State the Barnburners are the strongest, in the city and the river counties, the Hunkers derive their strength; it is a matter of some speculation to know which faction will show the greatest amount of force, in fact the feelings towards each other are so bitter that to prevent either from having the supremacy, they would throw their votes on the Whig side.

We are called upon again to record one of those dreadful calamities which of late, have become so rife. I allude to railroad collisions. Yesterday about 8 o'clock, a dreadful collision took place on the Providence and Worcester Rail Road between the regular up train and an excursion train from Whitesville, by which fourteen persons were instantly killed and thirty or forty injured.

From Washington we learn that there has been a prolonged cabinet meeting; yesterday, despatches from Com. Shubrick concerning the Fishery matters were under discussion. Nothing positive had transpired, but the Commodore is apprehensive of a collision.

The Grand Jury have brought in an indictment against John Charles Gardiner, for committing perjury as a witness on the trial of his brother Geo. A. Gardiner, after a protracted argument, bail was set \$4000. By the arrival of the Africa, we have three days later advices from Europe. The Eastern question does not appear to advance towards a speedy settlement, any more than it did by previous advices. The Ambassadors are still up to their ears in negotiation, which all the European Governments would fain believe, with ultimate success. Meanwhile the same anxiety is manifest in the monetary affairs of Europe. Business is generally dull and feverish.—The headquarters of the Russian army are at Bucharest, the capital of Wallachia.—About 120,000 men have crossed the Pruth, and about 80,000 are in Bessarabia and the south of Russia. This certainly looks as though Nicholas intends, not only to occupy, but to hold the provinces.

The Sultan has issued his protest against the occupancy of the provinces by the Russian army. The document is mild in its character, without much force. The Sultan states he has given as much liberty to his Christian subjects as he has to the Turks, and he considers no other power has a right to dictate or interfere between himself and his subjects, and lastly, that the occupancy of the provinces he considers a just cause for war, but his great desire to preserve peace has determined to settle the difficulties by negotiation.

In England quite a stir has been made by the cab-men of London, striking against the reduction of fares to 6d per mile, as is contemplated in the bill introduced in Parliament by Palmerston. The people of London awoke one morning and found there was something missing in the streets of that city, when upon further investigation, they found that a cab was not to be seen; Every thing was thrown in confusion, persons arriving at the different railroad stations, were unable to reach the hotels or their homes. From appearances it is believed that the cabmen will be successful.

Markets—Cotton was firm and unchanging, the grain trade was also ruled firm. D.

Divorce in Ohio.—The recent re-enactment by the Ohio Legislature, with some slight modification, of the divorce laws of the State, has called forth various criticism. The causes for divorce now authorized, are:

1. "Where either of the parties had a former husband or wife living at the time of the second marriage."
2. "Where either of the parties shall be wilfully absent from the other for three years."
3. "Adultery."
4. "Impotency," at the time of marriage.
5. "Extreme cruelty."
6. "Imprisonment in the penitentiary, during the time of such imprisonment, &c.
7. "Fraudulent contract."
8. "Gross neglect of duty."
9. "Habitual drunkenness for three years."

Mr. Postmaster General has sent a circular to the various railroad companies carrying United States mails under charge of route agents, pointing out the necessity for their proper accommodation, and for the security of their charge, demanding, too, that they shall all strictly comply with the common clause of their specific contracts, binding them to have cars exclusively for mails. He furnishes them with a diagram, showing his view of what is necessary, first, for security, and next, to facilitate the labor of the mail agents in assorting and delivering mails from trains. He also points out the necessity for in future preventing any one, excepting United States mail agents, from having access to the body of the mail car.

The following extract is from a letter written by Hon. E. A. Hannegan to the editor of the Evansville *Enquirer*:

"Why is it that a portion of the Democratic press is waging war upon the President for his appointments to office? Have we fought the battle for offices, or for principles? If the former, then every man in the United States who voted for Pierce should be provided with one; if the latter, as the simple minded mass honestly believe, then is such a war shameless in the extreme."

Thirty years ago Russia was at war with Turkey. As that event may possibly again occur, it is interesting to recur to the sentiments of two of the most eminent men that existed at that time, of the merits of the question, and of war in general. Jefferson, when he wrote this letter, was 82 years of age, and John Adams 90.

MONTEVIDEO, June 1, 1822.

* * * * "To return to the news of the day; it seems that the Cannibals of Europe are going to eat one another again. A war between Russia and Turkey is like the battle of the kite and snake; whichever destroys the other, leaves a destroyer less for the world. This pugnacious humor of mankind seems to be the law of his nature; one of the obstacles to too great multiplication, provided in the mechanism of the Universe. The cocks of the hen yard kill one another; bears, bulls, rams, do the same, and the horse in his wild state kills all the young males, until worn down with age and war, some vigorous youth kills him."

* * * * "I hope we shall prove how much happier for man the Quaker policy is, and that the life of the feeder is better than that of the fighter."

And it is some consolation that the desolation by these maniacs of one part of the earth is the means of improving it in other parts. Let the latter be our office; and let us milk the cow while the Russian holds her by the horns, and the Turk by the tail. God bless you, and give you health, strength, good spirits, and as much of life as you think worth having."

THOMAS JEFFERSON."

MR. ADAM'S REPLY.

QUINCY, June 11, 1822.

DEAR SIR—Half an hour ago I received, and this moment have heard read, for the third or fourth time, the best letter that ever was written by an octogenarian, dated June 1.

* * * * This globe is a theatre of war, its inhabitants are all heroes. The little eels in Vinegar, and the animalcules in pepper-water, I believe are quarrelsome. The Bees are as warlike as the Romans, Russians, Britons, or Frenchmen. Ants, caterpillars, and caterpillars are the only tribes among whom I have not seen battles; and Heaven itself, if we believe Hindoos, Jews, Christians and Mahometans, has not always been at peace. We need not trouble ourselves about these things, nor fret ourselves because of evil doers; but safely trust the 'Ruler with his skies.'

JOHN ADAMS."

PUNNING SERMON.—The following string of curious puns is taken out of a scarce work published in the reign of James First. A divine more willing to play with words than to be serious in expounding his text, spoke thus in his sermon: "This dial shows that we must die all; yet notwithstanding, all houses are turned into ale-houses; our cares are turned into cakes; our Paradise into a pair o' dice; matrimony into a matter o' money; and marriage into a merry age." Our divines have become dry vines—it was not so in the days of Noah—ah no!

The determination of the Secretary of War, largely to increase the number of our troops on the Rio Grande, will give rise to not a little speculation as to its objects. We are supposed to be at peace with Mexico. Santa Anna's protestations, through his new Minister here, and faithful follower, all forbid the possibility of a rupture between us. It is not claimed by the friends of the Administration that the garrisons on the Rio Grande need strengthening with a view to restraining the Indians of New Mexico—that fact having already been admitted to be impossible of accomplishment. We are greatly mistaken, if this movement is not the first towards the development of a project of further territorial acquisition, foreshadowed months ago by our well-advised correspondent at Washington. We need a slice of Mexico; and the Administration is simply preparing to negotiate; or perhaps the better expression is, the Government desires to be prepared to take advantage of any opportunity that may arise for opening negotiations on that subject.

We say we need another slice of Mexico. In advance, it may be necessary to plead "not guilty" to any suspicion of lust for territory. We are not of those who believe territory, acquired anywhere and anyhow, an object to be sought by a country so vast and so unsettled, and so far from entire development, as ours. But our present boundary Mexicoward, is an unnatural and indefensible one. We have agreed to keep in check the Indians of New Mexico; yet they pass our lines, in the open country of the Rio Grande, with perfect impunity, devastating Sonora and other parts of Northern Mexico, laying waste whole towns, and utterly destroying not a few that once were reckoned among the wealthiest and most prosperous settlements in that vicinity. We cannot fulfil our treaty stipulation. The achievement is beyond possibility.

Again, we want El Paso, and the country through which the Gila runs, that we may have a better Southern route to the Pacific than we now possess. Santa Anna, on the other hand, wants money; or, if he does not now, it will not be long—judging from precedent—he will find foreign gold indispensable to the maintenance of his Government. His patriotic speeches about the "integrity of the Republic," and his expressions of determination to resist to the death any attempt to part with further Mexican territory to the "rapacious North Americans," may probably be taken as we understand the user, who assures one he cannot possibly let him have the loan he asks, with a view to enhancing the price of the "sacrifice" he eventually makes for the borrower's "accommodation." He may sell us the required strip, as soon as he has made the show of resistance necessary to maintain his credit at home. The Administration understands well full the treachery of the Mexican character, and does well to prepare to sustain the country in any sudden emergency which may arise, pending the contemplated negotiations.

Mr. Jefferson Davis, now Secretary of War, was in the United States Senate, it will be remembered, when the treaty of Guadalupe was discussed, and made some remarks, in open session, in favor of a mountain boundary between the United States and Mexico—the passes which might be easily defended—while a standing army equal to our whole force would scarcely be able to guard securely that which was finally adopted. He also occupied nearly an entire day, in secret session, pressing his views with all the earnestness of his nature, and with great force and tact. But the Senate was determined to have Peace, and would not send the Treaty back for amendment. The wisdom of Mr. Davis's position then is now quite apparent to all; and he will undoubtedly make good use of his present position to retrieve a great error of the Treaty. We doubt whether we get more than a very small Mexican population with the territory that we take for granted we are to acquire at an early day. The regiment of Mounted Riflemen now in Texas, chiefly at Forts Ewell and Inge, will probably be among the troops ordered to the Rio Grande; although that is not the case, we are assured, by the orders of the commanding officer of the Southwestern division of the Army.

ON WELL AND OIL SPRING.—In western Virginia, near the forks of Hughes river, there is an oil well and oil spring, which are curiosities in their way. A correspondent of the Christian Advocate and Journal thus describes them:

This well was dug for salt, but it commenced blowing out oil, and continues its blowings at intervals up to the present time. Every fifth day it blows out about fourteen gallons of oil.