

# National Banner.

Resistance to Tyranny is Obedience to God.  
J. B. STOLL, EDITOR.  
WEDNESDAY, AUG. 4, 1869.

HOW IS TRADE?  
The revenues of the general government are said to be abundant. The crops are also abundant. The Treasury is rich and the people are rich, so far as cheap food is wealth. Yet, says the Albany Argus, we must not forget that people of the time General Harrison was elected; when flour was three dollars a barrel at St. Louis. In fact, it was this low price of flour that overthrew Mr. Van Buren's administration. With the price of flour other articles of necessity and comfort, of course, also became cheap. But, in the midst of all the abundance of the times the people felt poor and distressed; and so they turned out a wise man and put in his place a military officer. They have no chance to do so foolish a thing now for the empty uniform is already in the place of a President, and the wise man is not.

Why was it that with flour cheap and food abundant, the people were enraged with Mr. Van Buren's administration and turned him out in wrath? Because, although food was cheap, the business of the country—its trade and exchanges of property—was lifeless. The sudden change made by the sub-treasury system, or rather the foolish fears of its operation, paralyzed leading business men, paralyzed trade, deadened confidence, and the interchange of property lacked briskness. The consequence was idleness except among the farmers. Mechanics had no employment. Laborers hungered amidst the abundance of food. It was the old story of Pat who boasted that something which cost him in this country a shilling, could be bought in Ireland for sixpence; he had to confess that the trouble there was to get the sixpence.

Wheat is now almost as low in price as it has been at any time in twenty years; measured in gold it is worth but little over a dollar a bushel. The coming crops ensure its continued cheapness. But the trade of the country is dull and lifeless. Empty buildings and declining rents in New York prove this; the general confession everywhere is that the business of the country is dull and sick.

Cheap wheat and cheap corn will not make the great industrial classes who do not raise food, rich. Nor will cheap and abundant corn make even him who grows the corn rich, unless he can exchange his abundance for some other comforts of life. It has happened more than once within the past twenty years, that Indian corn has been used for fuel on the farms of the West, not because other fuel was lacking, but because the corn would not pay for its carriage to market.

Providence has supplied us with one great fundamental element of prosperity—abundant food. But it is necessary that the grower of food in the West should be able to exchange for other goods, his surplus products, and it is trade that enables him to do so. It is necessary that the laborers all over the country, in other occupations than farming, shall have constant employment and good wages, to avail themselves of the blessings of abundant crops. With the prospect of abundant crops, and the prospect of abundant crops, no Government official has the right to meddle.

Yet, nothing is so common, as for our Secretary of the Treasury to think that his mission is to regulate all the operations of trade by their individual wisdom. Mr. McCulloch and Mr. Boutwell both think the people are using too much ready money in their business, and both have the conceived belief, that one great official can tell exactly how much ready money is good for the people to have. Mr. McCulloch undertook his measures to lessen the quantity of money in use with a great flourish of trumpets. He was to destroy \$40,000,000 of legal tender every month, and thereby make business solid. A few months of his policy made business so solid that it stood still. Of course there was clamor, and he gave up his plans and thereafter let the currency alone. Business at once revived and went on again. Now comes Mr. Boutwell and thinks if he cannot be wiser he will, at least, be more cunning than McCulloch, so he says nothing, but in silence goes on to contract the currency. The Evening Post boasted of this a few weeks ago, and showed by figures that Boutwell had been quickly contracting the currency ever since he came into office. But though the Secretary would not tell what he was doing soon told upon the business of the country, and again we have trade at a standstill. Again the Secretary has to recede.

Will not Mr. Boutwell learn that, next after the fear of God, the beginning of wisdom is to have a just estimate of one's own ignorance. Talleyrand said every body is wiser than anybody. The multitude of the people know better than any one how much ready money they ought to use. All the Government has to do is to see that the money it issues is good in quality. Diminish the bad money now in use in quantity, and what is left of it will still be bad money; and if in the process of contraction the business of the country is paralyzed, what is left of the bad money will be worse in quality and lower in credit than the whole of it is now. Abundance of ready money is just as necessary to keep the great exchanges of the country active and brisk as an abundance of railroads.

Difficulties Everywhere.  
The radical party is sorely afflicted with strife and contention in almost every locality. Even South Carolina is giving symptoms of this common malady. Some time ago Collector Mackey, a "Southern loyalist," was removed from the office of Collector of the port of Charleston, and one Clark, a carpet bagger, appointed in his place. Mackey refused to yield. Clark undertook to put him out of the office, and got himself put out. Subsequently Clark seems to have got possession of the office. Mackey is supported by the negro element, and Clark by the Northern carpet bagger. The affair is very lamentable, and we must await further developments before taking sides.

A jealous young husband, in Evansville, Ind., has been seen to pass upon record as the wealthiest since the organization of the Board.

GRANT'S HOSTILITY TO GENERAL THOMAS.  
It is very well known to all who know anything of army matters, that General George H. Thomas was one of the special objects of Grant's malignant ill-will. The reason was that Thomas always refused to join the Mutual Admiration Society of Grant, Sherman & Co. The following extract from a letter to the Cincinnati Gazette, by General Boynton, throws additional light on this subject, and shows Grant still more strongly as the smallest great man of the country:

"As a general thing, one would expect to learn of the secret acts of the War Department during the Rebellion in Washington rather than in California. But the occasion of General Halleck's departure from the Pacific coast for the East has accidentally brought to light the facts connected with the order relieving Gen. H. H. Thomas when he was at the head of the army and before the enemy at Nashville."

"Among a number of friends who had called in San Francisco, to say good-bye to Gen. Halleck, he was asked concerning this part in this transaction, which he gave the following history of it:

"President Lincoln, Secretary Stanton and himself, all had the greatest faith in General Halleck. They were anxious to have him move, but trusted his judgment implicitly, as he was on the ground. One morning, a few days before the battle of Nashville, the President received a request from General Grant that General Halleck should be immediately relieved."

"The President took the note over to Mr. Stanton, said it was very bad business, that he deeply regretted the step, and but for disregarding a direct request from the Chief he would have consented to it. Mr. Stanton was equally decided as to the impolicy of the step. General Halleck was called in, and opposed the measure very earnestly. Finally Mr. Lincoln said he did not feel at liberty to interfere, but he would like to have the order show that he was not the first mover in the matter. Gen. Halleck then drew an order covering the case, though not placing the entire responsibility upon Gen. Grant."

"Upon seeing this, Mr. Stanton directed it to be changed, to read so as to show that it was done by the special request of the General-in-Chief, and neither Mr. Lincoln nor Mr. Stanton was willing to go before the country on anything less than that."

"Gen. Halleck felt that a great military success and outrage was being committed, and that, in some way, it should be prevented."

"The conference over the matter was a long and earnest one. At length Gen. Halleck asked Mr. Stanton if he would permit him for despatch, to order the relief of Halleck, and he should delay the publication of his particular one for a few days. Mr. Stanton said he would not. Gen. Halleck pocketed the order. A few days after Gen. Thomas had completed his preparations for the relief of the rebels and defeat of the disaster. As it is well known, the order, so much talked of since, was never issued."

Abundant Notions.  
We entirely agree with the Indianapolis Journal, that the infinite folly, to call it by the mildest possible name, into which religious notions may be forced by unbalanced or inadequate brains, was never better illustrated than in the effort of some over-zealous nuns in the East to show that Rev. Mr. Halleck's fearful death, in the disaster at Mankato, was a manifestation of God's wrath against the habit of smoking. Mr. Halleck was in the smoking car, and was burned to death to test the inquiry of the habit of smoking. A man with so little sense or so much bigotry, as to entertain such an idea, is rather less fitted for heaven than a moderately soft-hearted burglar. If reason could effect such creatures, it might be suggested that Mr. Halleck's relative, who was in the car with him and actually smoking, escaped, and that the fact was quite as good evidence of divine approval of the habit; but reason and refutation are lost on the idiosyncrasy of deformed religion. In England, a paper called the Anti-Tobacco Journal traces the influence of smoking in the murder of Mr. Lincoln. One of its assassins, it says, confessed to have smoked a cigar a short time before the deed was committed, as if without that murderous and fatal cigar, the President might have escaped. Drugging the will and power of God into such acts by such means, would be the wildest blasphemy, if it were not the silliest of nonsense.

National Debt.  
The national debt of the old country, caused by war, are very large. Great Britain four thousand millions of dollars. The United States, one hundred and fifty millions of dollars. Italy, one hundred and fifty millions of dollars. Our own war debt is about twenty-five hundred millions. And yet this is only a fraction of the pecuniary debts of the world. An English economist, in estimating the expenses of the nations of Europe for the maintenance of their naval and military establishments on a peace foundation, when no war is raging, gives the following figures: "Number of men, military and naval, three millions; and the cost, about five hundred millions, annually. Mr. Pusey places the estimate somewhat higher, making the cost about one hundred and twenty-five millions of dollars."

Mr. Hendricks.  
The New Albany Commercial, an ultra Radical paper, pays the following tribute to the worth and ability of Mr. Hendricks:

"If there is anything of the signs of the times politically, Hon. Thomas Hendricks, of Indiana, is likely to be the next Democratic candidate for the Presidency. It is evident that the West will go up to the next National Democratic Convention almost, if not quite, unanimously for him. He is probably the best type of the Western Democrat, a gentleman of real ability, a vigorous politician, and having a long and valuable experience in public affairs. The Democracy could select no man as their candidate, who would carry more strength into a campaign than Mr. Hendricks."

LETTER FROM KANSAS.  
BLOOMING GROVE, Lin Co., Kansas, July 17th, 1869.  
EDITOR BANNER.—As I thought a few words from Kansas might interest some of your readers, I would try my hand at a short article. The weather at this time is very hot, the mercury ranging from ninety to one hundred in the shade, at noon. The wheat crop is all in stack, and the crop is heavy. Oats are generally in shock, and are the heaviest I ever worked in; there was a great breadth of land sown and consequently it will not bring much of a price. Corn is somewhat backward for the time of year, although it is shooting and the fodder is from eight to ten feet high; some of the earlier kinds for table use are almost in roasting ear. Fruit will be plenty where the orchards are on high land, except peaches, they were pretty much all killed by the late frosts. Potatoes, and in fact vegetables of all kinds, will be plenty. The farmers are all in good spirits over the large crops, and the prospect of the cars running as far south as by the first of October. I would say to all who expect to come to Kansas, that now is the time to come, as it will cost but little to live till they can raise a crop. Good, unimproved prairie is worth from eight to ten dollars per acre, and coming up steadily. I will close by subscribing myself Yours, &c., A. J. COLDWELL.

Massachusetts Summary Law.  
The attempt is made in Massachusetts, to force people to be abstinent in respect to spirits and malt liquors, in a most unfair and unconstitutional manner. It is a law which is a conspicuous failure in itself, but bids fair to show the utter utility of all such laws. So far, the effect of the efforts of the constables seems to have been a mere prohibition upon the sale and use of lager beer. The Boston Herald says:

Lager beer is the only beverage the sale of which is practically restricted in this State. Whisky, brandy, rum, gin and wine of all sorts can be obtained with little trouble as ever; but beer, which is a bulky and must be drawn in a certain way, can only be obtained in a few places. The law is so framed that while a large amount of this mild and wholesome beverage is liable to be wasted, thousands who used to drink it are now drinking nothing more, are now driven to drink spirits, and are in the end, as a result, more drunk than before. The effect is already apparent in a larger average of drunkenness.

The Advertiser sums up the case as follows: Drinking clubs have been revived on all sides; concealment and hypocrisy have taken the place of open drinking. The hotels and eating-houses continue to supply their guests without interruption; grocers and druggists find their trade stimulated by the change of law; but the one honest and sober force and angry commotion precipitated upon the State without approaching, yet the results they confidently promised themselves.

The thorough inefficiency of the law to put a stop to the liquor traffic is now generally admitted; but there is a feeling that while the law remains upon the statute book, it ought to be enforced, whatever may be the consequences to individuals or classes. To carry out this feeling will inevitably work a repeal of the summary laws as soon as the Legislature meets.

The New York Evening Post, referring to this matter, says: In a nation in which the security of all institutions lies in the general respect for the law, as the formal and highest expression of the public conscience. The habit of a study obedience to the law, because it is the law, is the first condition of self-government by the people. A law which is freely disobeyed by thousands, which is slighted, scorned and violated without odium, which the people have no respect for, and which the Government is a terrible power at work in undermining that habit, destroying that reverence, and working directly to make popular government impossible. We do not wish to magnify the evil which one such law does, but we do wish to say that in our unsettled society of today to weaken that old power over the popular conscience which is the glory of our country, is rather less fitted for heaven than a moderately soft-hearted burglar. If reason could effect such creatures, it might be suggested that Mr. Halleck's relative, who was in the car with him and actually smoking, escaped, and that the fact was quite as good evidence of divine approval of the habit; but reason and refutation are lost on the idiosyncrasy of deformed religion. In England, a paper called the Anti-Tobacco Journal traces the influence of smoking in the murder of Mr. Lincoln. One of its assassins, it says, confessed to have smoked a cigar a short time before the deed was committed, as if without that murderous and fatal cigar, the President might have escaped. Drugging the will and power of God into such acts by such means, would be the wildest blasphemy, if it were not the silliest of nonsense.

A Haggard Swindling Project.  
The Indianapolis Mirror is responsible for the assertion that a scheme to plunder the State Treasury is being cooked up for the next session of the Legislature. The State at one time undertook a larger amount of internal improvement than she was able to stand, and broke down with fourteen million of canal bonds outstanding. By a compromise with the agent of the bondholders, the latter agreed to take the Walsh & Erie Canal out of the hands of the State at a valuation of \$7,000,000 and call it square. The hands donated by Congress to the work they got lost. At that time, being very few railroads in the State, it was thought by the bondholders that they had got a good thing. Railroads springing up afterwards, the investment was not so profitable as was expected, and hence, the bonds were considered themselves a swindled and injured corporation. The idea they now have is to have the State take back the canal and sell it at a profit with interest. This "heads I win, tails you lose" in the testing up business, will hardly go down with the people, and there will be more difficulty in lobbying it through than the schemers anticipate. It is only could have been done quickly there would have been more probabilities of success, but as the people are made cognizant of it, our Legislature will do its duty and defeat the project.

The health of King William of Prussia is visibly declining. Hence the situation of the convalescent Count Bismarck is peculiar. Disliked by the Prussian heir-apparent and his wife, distrusted by many of the members of the Reichstag, and with Liberal tendencies thwarted by an old King, his future in relation to the prospect of a new King in Prussia is problematic. His present retirement from affairs is perhaps strategic.

FROM WASHINGTON.  
How the People's Money is Spent.  
A special correspondent of the Baltimore Gazette, writing from Washington under date of July 23rd, says: Of late years our "progress of civilization" has been such that now the most common-place matters are conducted upon purely material principles. Formerly the "Blue Book" contained the name and amount of salary of every Federal officer—legislative or executive. But this official register has become a mere means of concealing from the public the expenditure of public money, and the "Blue Book" is now a mere list of names of the Government upon its officials, or unofficials, as the case may be, and who those public beneficiaries really are.

Hundreds of men (such as the negro Menard, for example) have been paid out of some clandestine fund, as mythical members of Congress, (having no pretensions to seats) salaries approximately equal to those of the members of the Capitol have fattened upon what is called the "contingent" fund—performing no or performing service—real or imaginary, which law provides recompense. In the Executive Department this class of unofficial officials has assumed fabulous proportions. Not a day of consequence is now allowed by the Bureau before being submitted (not to the law officers of the government) but to outside attorneys for adjudication. Scarcely a case of importance arises in the District of Columbia without the presence of the country, or in the Supreme Court, in these favorites of fortune are not seen to figure. This may be all necessary (and it is but a sample of what is going on) but it is a gross and flagrant abuse of the public money. Upon this point I express no opinion; but it is a fact that the gross amount these amateur officers receive annually equals at least the nominal amount set down in the "Blue Book," and other official expenditures, as to the full expenditure on account of the legitimate civil list.

But it is, in the matter of registering the "salary" (or income) of recognized officials that the public is most grossly deceived by these "books," the nominal salaries of the members of Congress (and of those men legislators and executive officers) is not a drop in the bucket of what they really receive; and herein I by no means allude to the vulgar charge of downright pilfering. There is hardly a member of Congress who is not at the pocket, taking money out of Uncle Sam's pocket (beyond his \$5,000 per annum) and at the same time enjoying, at the expense of the government, all the luxuries of the most extravagant life. As head of the "Ways and Means" Committee, secured, by a solemn vote of the House, ten thousand dollars to defray the cost of a tour "down and across the country," which, by the way, he never performed. I mention his case simply as a specimen of the wholesale cutting up of Congress into traveling companies, and vouchers for the most extravagant expenses. A specimen of another sort of financiering, in an economical way, is the conversion of Congressmen (during vacation) into quasi Foreign Ministers, even where we have no business with the world. Ramsey, of Minnesota, has just been despatched to France to negotiate a postal treaty. Other cases, "too numerous to mention," of like character occur to my mind. Who would wonder that the amount of what they really receive, which I by no means allude to the vulgar charge of downright pilfering. There is hardly a member of Congress who is not at the pocket, taking money out of Uncle Sam's pocket (beyond his \$5,000 per annum) and at the same time enjoying, at the expense of the government, all the luxuries of the most extravagant life. As head of the "Ways and Means" Committee, secured, by a solemn vote of the House, ten thousand dollars to defray the cost of a tour "down and across the country," which, by the way, he never performed. 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