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BY D. P. HOGE.

—TERMS.—

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POETRY.

DEATH OF THE FIRST-BORN.

Young mother,—he is gone!
His dimpled cheek no more will touch thy breast;
No more, the music-tone
Float from his lips, to thine all fondly prest;
His smile and happy laugh are lost to thee—
Earth must his mother and his pillow be.

His was the morning hour;
And he hath passed in beauty from the day,
A bud, not yet a flower—
Torn, in its sweetness, from the parent spray;
The death-wind swept him to his soft repose,
As frost in spring-time blights the early rose.

Never, on earth, again
Will his rich accents charm thy listening ear,
Like some Æolian strain,
Breathing at even-tide, serene and clear;
His voice is choked in dust, and on his eyes,
The unbroken seal of peace and silence lies.

And from thy yearning heart,
Whose inmost core was warm with love for him,
A gladness must depart,
And those kind eyes with many tears be dim—
While lonely memories, an unceasing train,
Will turn the raptures of the past to pain.

Yet, mourner! while the day,
Rolls like the darkness of a funeral by,
And Hope forbids one ray
To stream athwart the grief discolored sky;
There breaks upon thy sorrow's evening gloom,
A trembling lustre from beyond the tomb.

'Tis from the Better Land!
There bathed in radiance that around them springs,
Thy loved One's wings expand;
As with the quiring cherubim, he sings,
And all the glory of that God can see,
Who said on earth, to children—"Come to me."

Mother,—thy child is blest;
And though his presence may be lost to thee,
And vacant leave thy breast,
And missed, a sweet load from thy parent knee;
Though tones familiar from thine ear have passed,
Thou'lt meet thy First-Born, with his Lord, at last.

W. G. C.

From the Ladies' Companion.

A WIFE WANTED.

Ye fair ones attend, I've an offer to make you,
In Hymen's soft bands I am anxious to live;
For better for worse a companion I'll take me,
Provided she fills the description I give.

I neither expect nor can hope for perfection,
For that never yet was a batchelor's lot,
But choosing a wife, I would make a selection,
Which many in my situation would not.

I'd have—let me see—I'd not have a beauty;
For beautiful women are apt to be vain,
Yet with a small share, I would think it a duty
To take her, be thankful, and never complain.

Her form must be good without art to constrain it,
And rather above than below middle size;
A something (it puzzles my brain to explain it,)
Like eloquent language must flow from her eyes.

She must be well bred, or I cannot respect her,
Good natured and modest, but not very coy,
Her mind well informed—'tis the principal nectar,
That sweetens the cup of Hymenial joy.

Her home she must love, and domestic employment,
Have practical knowledge of household affairs:
And make it a part of her highest enjoyment,
To soften my troubles and lighten my cares.

Her age I would have it at least to be twenty,
But not to exceed twenty-five at the most—
And the girls of that age being every where plenty,
I hope to get one of that numerous host.

Not fortune I ask, for I have no predilection,
For glitter or show, or the pomp of high life;
I wish to be bound by the cords of affection;
And now I have drawn you the sketch of a wife.

If any possess the above requisitions,
And wish to be bound by the conjugal band,
They will please to step forward, they know the conditions,
Enquire of the Editor, I'm always at hand.

A STRANGER.

To the Honorable Roger B. Taney, late Secretary of the Treasury.

SIR:—Permit me to congratulate you. I have reason to know that the eyes of a whole community are turned upon you with an intensity of attention that might satisfy the most extraordinary love of notoriety. From the depths of their calamities, the people find leisure look to up to the hand that has stricken them. These papers are read, even by persons under protest. Their frame of mind may not predispose them to regard you with favour, but, rely upon it, they will do you even justice.

If a man's ambition may be gratified by the assurance that his labours have been followed by transcendant results, you have ample cause for self congratulation. Look around you. One scene of wide spread ruin and desolation meets your eye. The landscape is relieved by no green or fertile spot. An arid waste extends itself from the mountains to the sea shore. Commerce languishes in her most favorite marts. The products of our virgin soil seek in vain for a market. The noise and bustle of business are no longer heard on our streets or wharves. The means of purchase and sale are no longer at our command. A sirocco has passed over the fair fields of our commercial enterprise and left them a desert. I have determined, respectfully, but resolutely, to arraign you at the bar of the public as the chief author of all these calamities. I have a season of leisure, and shall devote it to the task of displaying the extent of your connection with the evils of which the nation now complains.

Your accession to the post of Secretary of the Treasury has left a stain upon your reputation which, I know, your best friends regard as indelible. Your predecessor had been required by the Executive, under pain of contumelious removal from office, to execute a measure which his own judgment, not less than his conscience, would not approve. A man of only ordinary firmness would have yielded to the requisition. Most men would have taken refuge behind the constitutional responsibility of the President, and consented to do the menial office. Not so Mr. DUANE. His sense of his personal dignity precluded the idea that he was the mere ministerial tool of the President—the register of his rescripts—upon a level with his porter or footman, to be ordered upon duty at pleasure, and dismissed without ceremony, upon any pretence of insubordination. He accordingly coolly and deliberately examined the nature of the service required of him, and laid before the Executive his reasons for declining a compliance. He was rudely expelled from the Cabinet, and, with an indecent haste, the loathsome, rejected task was offered to and accepted by you. In process of time, you were called upon to furnish your reasons for doing what your predecessor refused to execute. These reasons I have already examined. I have shewn that they were the sophistical suggestions of a mere lawyer, devised as excuses for an inexpedient, if not illegal act. I have shown that, wherever you indulged in prophecy, time has disproved your predictions. I now come to the task of examining how far Mr. DUANE'S foresight was surer and better than yours. *His* auguries were only of evil from the removal of the Deposites. *Your* imagination rioted in extravagant images of the happy results of that catastrophe. I have shewn that yours were the ambiguous responses of the Delphic Oracle, leading those who trusted them into a warfare of more than Peloponnessian duration and disasters. They were the

"aio te, Aeacide, Romanos vincere posse" of modern divination.

Your oracle* no longer has credit for much skill in prophecy. But your predecessor's predictions were taken from the ample volume of experience, which, in all ages, is the only horn-book of the true soothsayer. Let us examine his vaticinations and contrast them with yours. When that is done, the world must award the Tripod.

In the letter of Mr. DUANE to the President, under date of July 10, 1833, after assigning various satisfactory reasons for preferring to retire from office rather than be the instrument of vindictive malice against the Bank, I find him asserting the following noble and godlike sentiments:

"The undersigned is thrown on his own reasons, and if he acts, and has none, he must stand in a posture before the world, not more honorable to the president, than grateful to himself. It would, in these malevolent times, he said, that the president had purchased the conscience of the undersigned, and that the undersigned had basely sold for office the only inheritance that he may have to leave to his children, the unblemished integrity of their father.

Sir, Mr. DUANE may safely assure himself that he *has* escaped the "malevolence of the times." It were rank favouritism, indeed, if *you* were to escape their *justice*. I have not the presumption to anticipate the judgment of posterity—but it may be asserted, I think, without danger of contradiction, that, if *he* had good reason for fearing an imputation of mercenary motives, in obeying an order, that he might retain an office he already held, you may well dread an inquiry into the motives which led you to seek the post he left, as a stepping stone to the place you now fill. But to Mr. Duane's predictions.—Let me group them. They are scattered through every sentence of the letter before me. Speaking of the new arrangements proposed for the keeping of the public deposites, he declares his belief. *"that the operation will scarcely have been commenced before the apparatus will be demolished."* Sir, here spoke the very voice of true prophecy—Contrast it with your own sanguine anticipations of the superior credit and safety of your Deposite Banks. *"The apparatus is already demolished."* What was then prediction is now history.

Mr. Duane proceeds:

"The undersigned is indeed aware, that certain local banks are now, from a supposed necessity, used as fiscal agents; and that several of his predecessors, as an act of ministerial duty, or supposed necessity, at various times, and under various circumstances, made arrangements with state banks; (the particulars of which he cannot now ascertain, owing to the destruction of the treasury office) but he also knows, that under those arrangements, the country lost between one and two millions of dollars, whilst of upwards of four hundred millions, from time to time in the custody of the United States Bank, not one cent has been lost."

* * * * * * *

'Does not the President see, that, however selfish the United States Bank may be, the local banks have not more extended principles of action? Will not the anxiety to make money, the ignorance, or the imprudence of particularly remote, local banks, tempt them so to extend their loans, and trade upon the public money, that, when that money shall be called for, they may either fail to pay it, or ruin their debtors by demanding its return? Upon whom would reproach, in such events, be cast? not on the banks, but on the secretary of the treasury, as an oppressive, perhaps a party measure."

But, sir, the prophetic vision of Mr. DUANE saw, in the proposed arrangement, not only loss to the government, but ruin to the people. He foresaw, aye, sir, and he foretold, the very results that I call upon you now to come out from your retirement and witness—with what pleasure you may. The following extracts, taken *passim* from his letter, evince the sagacity which he calculated the consequences of the measure he refused to execute:

"Although the undersigned limits the inquiry to the mere wants of the government, it is not because he thinks this the only question worthy of consideration. On the contrary, an inquiry into the state of the entire currency, if not now demanded, must soon be required."

* * * * * * *

The fiscal operations of the government should be safely, steadily, and speedily conducted—how shall they be so conducted? what shall be the machinery? who the agents? The undersigned, in the voice of experience, cannot err in saying, that local banks are not the best.

Supposing, that in adopting the proposed measure, the faith of the country would not be violated; that contempt to the last, and the next congress would not be evinced, that the power to contract with state banks exists; and that it would not be unwise to make the contract; still the question presents itself, what would be the effect upon society? Would the operations of the government, or of the commercial world, be facilitated? Would confidence between man and man be promoted? Would the facility to stand a shock, in the event of a war in Europe, for instance, be given to the local banks?"

'These questions, and others of an analogous character, need not be discussed by the undersigned; for his predecessor, on all accounts so much more competent to advise the President than he is, has placed this part of the subject especially, in a point of view, that cannot, he respectfully thinks, be overlooked by a chief magistrate, as anxious as the President has proved himself to be, to protect the mass of the community from embarrassment? From want of experience or information, the undersigned may not anticipate evil so extensive as that apprehended by his predecessor; but his fears are still so strong, that he is quite unwilling to be the one, who is to put the match to a train, the end of which he has not the sagacity to discern."

When I commenced these enquiries, I had no design of pushing them to this extent; but the favour with which they have been received by the public, and the interest naturally felt in the causes of the extraordinary events hourly transpiring around us, have encouraged me to proceed. I have no unkind feeling to gratify—no sinister object to accomplish.—I shall write, I trust, with a manly freedom;—but be assured, sir, I will not expose myself to be justly charged either with the meanness of adulation or the licentiousness of detraction.

To the Honorable Wm. Duane, formerly Secretary of the Treasury:

SIR—Your successor will pardon me for pretermitting my attention to him for a single day, that I may offer to you the homage of my sincere respect and admiration. If a good man could rejoice in the fulfilment of his own prophecies, when they are, at the same time, the misfortunes of his own country, you would have ample cause for rejoicing at the scene around you. Foreseeing the inevitable consequence of the measure which you were required, by a tyrannical Executive, to undertake, in defiance of your better judgment, you nobly chose to forfeit place, power, influence, all the chances of promotion all the hopeful cotingencies of party fealty, rather than swerve from your duty, your country & your conscience. Sir, the whole country now honors and applauds you. Your prophecies have been fulfilled, whilst those of him whose underhand practices superceded you in your office, have by their falsification, covered him with confusion. Sir, I shall not be suspected of designing to flatter, when I say that you are now justly regarded as one of the most honored citizens of the Republic.—I turn with pleasure—with a feeling of relief, from the contemplation of the servility of your successor to that of your own high souled and magnanimous independence. I doubt not, that the man to whom you surrendered your seat at the Cabinet Council of your country would gladly exchange the office he now holds, with all its splendour and emoluments for the peace of mind with which you can look back upon your past career. For him, I fear, a retrospect can have few attractions. If he look around him, now, he can discover nothing but ruin and desolation spread by his own hand. If he look forward, he can see nothing but the horrors of prostrate commerce, ruined credit and disordered finance—the work of his own hand. You, Sir, refused to be the agent in this work of destruction. You declined to do the bidding of an imbecile despotic tyrant.—In considering the conduct of him who stooped to do the task which you rejected with disdain, I came naturally to contrast your respective merits, & I could not refrain fom pausing to offer you this sincere tribute of respect from your superior wisdom, patriotism and honor

*The temple has already passed into the hands of a new priesthood.

From the New York Courier & Enquirer.

FEMALE CHARACTER.

The laws of honor deserve in an especial manner to be regarded in our conduct towards the female sex. Upon the laws of honor they are indebted for the principal share of their privileges; being debased by the civil laws, and by established customs in many parts of the world,—from the legal privileges enjoyed by the other sex. So dependant is a female for the honors and privileges of society, upon her reputation and character, that they ought to be held sacred by every individual of the other sex, so long as they believe them to be virtuous and innocent. He who wantonly sports with a woman's reputation; who, without just reasons, utters in jest or in earnest, any insinuations against her character, is guilty of an unpardonable offence against the laws of honor and gallantry. He thus trifles with what is dearer to her than life, and the loss of which would render life undesirable. A woman cannot, like a man, live without character, in a state of comparative happiness. Next to her virtue, her reputation is of all things the most sacred in her own esteem. To speak lightly of the character of an innocent female, is, therefore, of all scandal, the vilest and most dishonorable coming from the lips of a man. He thus trifles with what it is his duty as a gentleman or a man of honor to protect and defend. He that hears any such scandal, is bound to resist it, on the spot, unless it can be proved beyond all doubt. A female, unjustly accused, is placed in a very different situation from a man, who is unjustly accused of crime. She cannot, without a violation of that modesty which becomes a woman, defend her character, or manifest any resentment. All her male acquaintances are, therefore, bonnd to act as her champions, just as much as if it was her person, instead of her reputation that was attacked. A fallen, degraded woman, must expect to incur all the disgrace of truth—honor does not require of an individual to contradict what he knows to be truth. Yet he is bound to turn a deaf ear against all insinuations. If one cannot utter any palpable facts against the subject of remark we are bound to consider all insinuations, as so many malicious, unfounded attempts to injure her character. Insinuation is the instrument generally used by the detractor, who wishes to defame, while he knows nothing that can be uttered against the object of scandal,—without a violation of truth. By such means the detractor gains his malignant purpose,—without rendering himself liable to suffer the punishment due to his baseness.

From the National Gazette.

We present to our readers to-day a third letter to Mr. Adams from the President of the Bank of the United States, which will be read with not less interest and advantage than the preceding ones. It is a perfectly clear and satisfactory exposition of the existing state of things, & cannot fail to carry conviction to the minds of all. It shews that the course adopted by the Banks of Philadelphia was imperatively demanded by circumstances beyond their control, and that will be the most conductive to the ultimate benefit of the community and country—that the Bank of the United States has been actuated in this measure by the same spirit of patriotism and wisdom which has guided all its proceedings, and that it will be ready at any moment's warning to do its part in bringing matters to their former condition of peace and prosperity.

Philadelphia May 13th, 1837.

MY DEAR SIR: You were good enough to expess a wish to know my own views of the present state of things, and I hasten to give them without reserve.

You may perhaps remember that in my letter to you of the 11th of November last, I stated what seemed the real cause of the embarrassments then existing, and the appropriate remedies for them, adding that by their adoption "confidence would be restored in twenty-four hours, and repose at least in as many days." Six months further experience has only confirmed my opinion. I believe now, as I believed then, that the events of this week might have been readily prevented—and that the unhappy perseverance in the measure then deprecated has reduced the country to its present condition. But I have no leisure now to discuss the subject, & no disposition to indulge in unavailing regrets. It will be more profitable to look distinctly at the present position of the banks and the country, and to suggest their respective duties to themselves and to each other.

All the deposite banks of the Government of the United States, in the city of New York, suspended specie payments this week—the deposite banks elsewhere have followed their example; which was of course adopted by the state banks not connected with the Government. I say of course, because it is certain that when the Government banks cease to pay specie, all the other banks must cease, and for this clear reason. The great creditor of the United States is the Government. It receives for duties the notes of the various banks, which are placed for collection in certain Government banks and are paid to those Government banks in specie, if requested.

Now if these Government banks, the depositories of the public revenue, will not pay specie, for the very warrants drawn upon them by the Treasury—the Government of the United States from that moment ceases to pay specie to the citizens of the United States. As moreover the Government receives for duties only specie and the notes of specie paying Banks, the instant its own deposit Banks cease to pay specie, the Government must refuse to receive the notes of its own deposite Banks and can receive no notes except those of Banks not deposit Banks. On the one hand then the Government is bound to pay its debts in specie, and it has no means of procuring the specie except from the Banks not connected with the Treasury, so that these Banks find all their notes collected and paid into the Treasury for duties, converted immediately into specie for the use of the Government—while the deposit Banks will not pay their debts to the other Banks in specie nor pay the Treasury warrants in specie. Take for instance this example. The claimant under the French indemnity had certain monies due to him in France. The Government imported it in gold for him—and when the day of distribution arrived he obtained an order for his portion. But instead of receiving his own share of his own proper identical gold, he has received neither gold nor silver, but the notes of the deposit Banks—which very notes the Government itself would refuse to receive from this very climant for any debt which he might owe to the Government

So long therefore as the government and the Government Banks will not pay specie to other Banks it would be rashness in those Banks to pay specie to them, as they cannot make a discrimination in those which they will pay, the only alternative is to concur with the Government Banks in the general suspension.—Our Phiadelphia Banks saw this. They thought it useless to carry on so unequal an intercourse, in which they were to pay to New York, while New York refused to pay to Pennsylvania, for if the Pennsylvania Banks paid while those of New York did not, the whole revenue would have been turned into Pennsylvania notes and specie demanded.

In the midst of these disorders the Bank of the United States occupies a peculiar position, and has special duties. Had it consulted merely its own strength, it would have continued its payments without reserve. But,

1st. Like all other Pennsylvania Banks it owed a duty to the citizens of our own State; and it was not disposed to stand aloof from a general movement of the other state institution, which however it might regret, it could not censure.

2d. It was not inclined, moreover, to discredit, by a refusal to receive it, the paper of the other State Banks which had ceased to pay specie, still less to force its Pennsylvania debtors to pay their debts in specie, when other citizens in other States were allowed to pay in a less costly medium; thus breaking down for the benefit of other States, the merchants and manufacturers and mechanics of Pennsylvania.

3d. While the vaults of all the other banks were closed, the Government of the United States would have no resource to procure specie, but the Bank of the United States, which ought not to assume the risk of being the only source of supply for bullion to the Government and the land offices as well a for exportation.

4th. The Deposit Banks of the Government would not pay their debts to the Bank of the United States. Why then, should the Bank of the United States pay to these Institutions on account of the Government, specie for their notes, when these very Banks would not pay their own debts? There would have been an equal want of reciprocity and of justice in such a proceeding.

There was another reason against it, final and decisive. From the moment that the Deposit Banks of New York failed to comply with their engagements, it was manifest that all the other Deposit Banks must do the same, that there must be a universal suspension throughout the country, and that the Treasury itself, in the midst of its nominal abundance, must be practically bankrupt.

In such a state of things the first consideration is how to escape from it—how to provide at the earliest practicable moment to change a condition which should not be tolerated beyond the necessity which commanded it. The old associations, the extensive connections, the established credit, the large capital of the Bank of the United States render it the natural rallying point of the country for the resumption of specie payments. It seemed wiser therefore not to waste its strength in a struggle which might be doubtful while the Executive persevered in its present policy, but to husband all its resources so as to profit by the first favorable moment to take the lead in the early resumption of specie payments. Accordingly, the Bank of the United States assumes that position. From this moment its efforts will be to keep itself strong, and to make itself stronger—always anxious to assist in recalling the currency and the exchanges of the country, to the point from which they have fallen. It will co-operate cordially and zealously with the Government, with the Government Banks, with all the other Banks, and with any other influences which can aid in that object,

In the meantime, two great duties devolve on the Banks and the country.

The first regards foreign nations—the second our own. We owe a debt to foreigners, by no means large for our resources, but disproportioned to our present means of payment. We must take care that this late measure shall not seem to be an effort to avoid the payment of our honest debts to them. We have worn, and eaten and drunk the produce of their industry—too much of all perhaps, but that is our fault, not theirs.—We may take less hereafter, but the country is dishonoured unless we discharge that debt to the uttermost farthing.

The second duty is to ourselves. We should bear constantly in mind that the step which has been taken is excusable only on the ground of an overruling necessity. We must not make the remedy itself a disease. It must not be the pretext of extravagant loans or issues. These are already sufficiently inflated, and if we have voluntarily removed the most familiar and established check upon all issues, their immediate convertibility into coin—it is our duty to substitute some effectual restraints which may enable us to restore the currency without delay or difficulty to a safe and wholesome condition. The result of the whole is, that a great disaster has befallen the country. Its existence thus far is only a misfortune,—its continuance will be a reproach, from which all true men must rally to save her. We must try to render it as short as possible, waiting patiently and calmly for the action of the Government, and in the mean time diminishing its dangers by great prudence and forbearance. For myself, you know how zealously I have labored to avert this misfortune. With not less anxiety shall I now strive to repair it.

With great respect and regard, yours

N. BIDDLE

Hon. J. Q. ADAMS, Quincy, Mass