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THE KENT NEWS.

Frustra laborat, qui omnibus placere studet:--"He labours vainly, who endeavours to please every one."

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THE KENT NEWS,
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Edward Mansfield,
[PROPRIETOR.]

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POETRY.

AN HOUR
AT THE OLD PLAY GROUND.

"I sat an hour to-day, John?
Beside the old brook stream—
Where we were school boys, in old time,
When manhood was a dream;
The Brook is choked with fallen leaves,
The pond is dried away,
I scarce believe that you would know
The dear old place to-day.

"The school house is no more, John,
Beneath our locust trees;
The wild rose by the window side;
No more waves in the breeze;
The scattered stones look desolate,
The sod they rested on
Has been ploughed up by stranger hands,
Since you and I were gone.

"The chesnut tree is dead, John,
And what is sadder, now,
The broken grape-vine of our swing
Hangs on the withered bough;
I read our names upon the bark,
And found the pebbles rare--
Laid up beneath the hollow side,
Just as we piled them there.

"Beneath the grass-grown bank, John,
I looked for our old spring,
That bubbled down the alder path,
Three paces from the swing;
The rushes grow upon the brink,
The pool is bleak and bare;
And not a foot, this many a day,
It seems, has trodden there.

"I took the old blind road, John,
That waddered up the hill,
'Tis darker than it used to be,
And seems so lone and still;
The birds sing yet among the boughs
Where once the sweet grapes hung,
But not a voice of human kind,
Where all our voices rung.

"I sat me on the fence, John,
That lies as in old time,
The same half panel in the path,
We used so oft to climb;
I thought how o'er the bars of life,
Our playmates had passed on,
And left me counting on this spot,
The faces that are gone."

RECIPROCITY WITH CANADA.

SPEECH OF MR. PEARCE.

The bill "to admit certain articles of the growth or production of Canada into the United States, free of duty, &c." having been read and after Mr. Dix, of New York, had advocated its passage, Mr. Pearce arose and said: "I feel it to be my duty to withhold my assent to this bill, and therefore very briefly to state to the Senate the grounds of my opposition.

The bill was introduced into the House of Representatives unaccompanied by any report; it passed without any discussion; and I believe, without the knowledge of a majority of the members of that body. It has been brought into the Senate without a report, and no papers accompany it which give us the statistics of the trade between Canada and the United States, or any of those details without which we can not clearly understand the operation and effect of the measure. I think it a very important measure—a departure from the general revenue policy of the country, involving in its consequences, direct and remote, a probable and serious injury to one of the greatest interests of the country—an interest as little or less protected than any other, and quite as much entitled to the benefit of direct or incidental protection as any.

The bill of proposes to allow the importation into the United States from Canada free of duty of wheat and breadstuffs generally, and other products of that country, upon condition that similar articles, the product of the United States, may be imported into Canada free of duty.—Now, sir, there is really no reciprocity in the case; the bill is delusive. If it pass, not one dollar's worth of any of these products can be expected from the United States to Canada. These products are common to both countries, and both have a surplus of them for exportation. Canada is not, and cannot be a market for such products of the United States; while the direct effect of the bill is to give her a participation in our home market. So that there will be no equivolent afforded to us; certainly none to the great grain-growing interest, which is mostly concerned to the legislation on this subject.

It has been hinted that if we pass this bill the navigation of the St. Lawrence will be opened to us. Of this we have no guaranty; and, if we had, however much the navigation of the St. Lawrence may formerly have been desired by us, it is of no importance to us now. Our artificial channels of communication supply us much better than the St. Lawrence can do. And it is of so little value to Canada that she desires to obtain the full use of our routes of transportation; it is clear that it must be of little or no value to us. Formerly, when Great Britain had a system of differential duties, allowing the importation of colonial wheat and flour at much lower duties than those laid upon wheat and flour from the United States, we did export grain to that colony, which passed as colonial produce, and so was shipped to England without payment of the differential duty. But now England has changed her policy, and abolished the differential duty, and all this trade is at an end. My objections to the bill are of two characters. I fear that if it be passed the result will be the introduction of all foreign breadstuffs into the United States free of duty. We have recipocity treaties with many nations—with Russia, Prussia, Austria, Portugal, Sardinia, almost all the German States, and also those of South America. Some of these, as Russia and Prussia, are great grain producing States. Now, the reciprocal provision in all these treaties is, I believe in the same words, with the exception of that with Chili. The treaty with Prussia provides, in the 5th article, that—

"No higher or other duties shall be imposed on the importation into the United States of any article the produce or manufacture of Prussia, and no higher or other duty shall be imposed on the importation into the Kingdom of Prussia of any article the produce and manufacture of the United States, than are or shall be payable on the like article, being the produce or manufacture of any other foreign country."

Now, sir, as soon as we admit Canadian breadstuffs free of duty, Prussia and Prussia, which produce wheat at lower prices than we do, may and probably will demand that their breadstuffs shall come into the United States free of duty—and so we shall have free trade in breadstuffs with all those Powers with whom we have reciprocity treaties. I know it is said in a letter from the Treasury Department, which is brief, meager, and I think very unsatisfactory, that this result will not be feared, because Canada, is a colony of Great Britain, and not an independent Power. But this is of no consequence.—Canada is a foreign country as to us.—Her produce is the produce of a foreign country, though that country be only one of the dependencies of a great empire.—But it is said that this freedom of duty is allowed upon an equivalent, and, therefore, other countries who give no such equivalents cannot claim the same freedom from duty. But it is manifest that if the doctrine of equivolents be correct, Russia, Prussia, and the other Powers will have nothing to do but to enact that American breadstuffs may be imported into these dominions free of duty. Then the objections of a want of equivalents would fall to the ground, and we should have to compete in our own markets with the vast store-house of the Baltic and the Black Sea. Our own Government has given a construction to these reciprocal provisions worthy of notice.

The Senate will remember that in 1831 Mr. Rivers, of Virginia, then our Minister to France, negotiated with that Government a convention which provided for the importation of French wines at very low duties, established by the treaty; and that this was in consideration of the abandonment by France of certain reclamations which that Goverment had formed in relation to the eight article of the treaty of cession of Louisiana. In 1840 we entered into one of these reciprocal treaties with Portugal, the language of which is precisely the same with that of Prussia. And yet, notwithstanding the equivalent in the French convention, our Government thought it necessary to guard against the right or claim of Portugal to the admission of her wines on payment of the same duties as those imposed by the convention on the wines of France. Hence, in the proviso to the third article of the Portugal treaty, it was carefully stipulated that nothing in the general reciproc l clause which I have mentioned "should be understood to interfere with the stipulation entered into by the United States of America for a *special equivolent* in regard to French wines," &c.

In the treaty with Chili it is provided that any particular favor in respect of commerce and navigation granted to any other nation shall immediately become common to the other party upon the same terms.

It seems to be enough to state these provisions of our treaties to show their necessary and inevitable effect. Indeed, the general result which I apprehend, and object to, seems to have been intended and desired by the Treasury Department. In the letter of the acting Secretary of the Treasury to the Committee of Commerce in the House I find this Language:

"Were it conceded that the adoption of this measure, in regard to Canada, a colony of Great Britain, by reciprocal legislation, would render it necessary that we should grant the same privileges on the same terms to several other nations, or to their colonies, during the periods embraced in certain treaties with them, the advantages of such reciprocal introduction of these articles free of duty, by similar enactments, with such countries or colonies, would in all such cases prove highly advantageous to the United States; and indeed the law, in similar phraseology, might be safely and advantageously extended, if the committee thought proper, so as to embrace in similar reciprocal enactments as to all these articles, on the same terms, all the nations of the world.

From this it seems that the treasury Department thinks it would be advantageous to throw open our ports and markets to all the wheat growing countries of the world. This bill, therefore, may be considered as the first movement towards the entire withdrawal of all, even incidental, protection to the grain growers of the United States, while other great interest retain the protection which the tariff of 1846 gives them. I do not think the people interested in the agriculture of the country will be satisfied with this. If they are not to have an equality of benefits, they will insist upon an equality of another sort.—Benefits not generally given must generally be withdrawn; and other interest must abandon the protection given to them.

Certainly there is no equivalant offered by this measure to the agricultural interest. Whatever benefit is to be derived from it will enure to the millers of Northern New York, to Northern railroads and canals, and to Northern shippers and manufacturers; and to them the profit must be much smaller than the injury to the agricultural class. I do not desire, sir, to force up the price of wheat by partial legislation. But surely, in a country like ours, which produces a surplus of twenty to twenty-five millions of bushels of wheat beyond all the wants of our ordinary consumption, we have a right to ask that we may enjoy our home market without competition from other countries on terms such as apply to no other great interest of the country.

Before the act of 1846 the duty on wheat was a specific one of 25 cents per bushel; now it is an advalorem one of 20 per cent., which ordinary makes a duty of about 14 or 15 cents per bushel on Canadian wheat the average price being 75 cents per bushel, as I learn from a work on my table entitled "Canada and the Colonies." It is now 70 cts. as the Senator from Vermont (Mr PHELPS) tells me. There is a very moderate duty, and the rate of 20 per cent, is that which I remember a former Secretary of the Treasury pronounced to be the common and proper standard of a revenue duty. It is less, however than an average of duties under the act of 1846.

The memorial on which the bill is passed states that we have considerable trade with Canada now; and that it would be greater, if that colony had the means of making payments in the United States; and and these they can only have by introducing their produce into our country duty free. In other places we are told that the only effect of denying this measure will be to confine the produce of Canada to their own channels of exportation and that they will still meet us in competition in the various markets of the world without this bill, then they will still furnish the means of paying these importations in our own or other markets.

I suppose breadstuffs to be the chief, if not the only, articles mentioned in the bill as to which the Canada people feel any concern. I have been told so, and I am sure that, if they were stricken from the bill, there would be no interest felt for its passage. I speak, therefore, only of these articles. If the bill should pass, its operation would be injurious in this way The United States produce much more wheat than they ordinary consume, and the surplus is larger than the demand in all the markets of the world.

I have made, from the annual reports on the commerce and navigation of the United States, a table showing the annual exportation of breadstuffs for a period of six years prior to the extraordinary period of 1846—'47, when there was a famine in Ireland and scarcity in England and over the Continent of Europe. In these six years the average of wheat and flour exported from the United States is between six and seven millions of bushels of wheat reducing the barrels of flour into bushels of wheat; while the surplus was certainly twice as much, as is proved by the extraordinary supplies furnished by us to Europe with so much facility during the period of famine and scarcity which I have mentioned. The surplus of wheat grown in Canada for exportation, I find stated in the work to which I have referred to have averaged, during a period of four years, terminating in 1835, about eight hundred thousand bushels. Since that period the population of Canada has increased very greatly, and emigration has gone chiefly to the wheat-growing part of the colony Canada West. It seems to me to be fair to assume that they now have an annual surplus of near two million bushels of wheat for exportation. This may now be exported through our maritime cities, a drawback of the duty being allowed by our recent Legislature, retaining only the small usual per centage. But this, the memorialist says, is inconvenient & cumburous. But it must be manifest that the inconvenience is inconsiderable if the object really be merely to ship through our ports. This measure will enable them to sell for consumption on our Northern seaboard and this would be a decided benefit to them. The St. Laurence is closed half the year by ice, and when its navigation is open the cost of transportation by that route is much larger than from the lakes through New York. The same authority which I before quoted states the cost of getting a bushel of wheat from the Canada shore of lake Erie to England to be about sixty-two and a half cents.

This, then, is a decided advantage, which the grain-growers of the United States have over those of Canada, and this we propose to give up without any solid equivolent.

To what extent this measure will affect the price of flour and injure the agriculturists of our Union I will not venture to predict. But I am very sure that the introduction of even a million of bushels of wheat in a market already overstocked, whether for consumption or exportation, must necessarily reduce the value of the article. Besides, such legislation, on our part, will stimulate the production of wheat in Canada, and make that colony an increasingly formidable rival in this respect. I cannot consent, therefore, to throw away the advantages which nature and the ordinary legislation of the country give us.—At all events, I desire to see what the effect of opening the ports of Great Britain to trade in our grain may have upon this intercourse between the two countries; and in the meantime I hope that our legislation will in no wise be changed.

SETTLING
WITH THE LANDLORDS.

This sublunary sphere, which revolves with such exactness upon its own axis, and, as Mr. Brass expresses it, "comes various games of that sort," has upon its surface a plentiful sprinkling of bad intermixed with the good. The sun has spots upon its disk, and likewise the moon. Why should not the earth? No earthly reason "wherefore not" can be assigned. Countless "Dizzels," "Jeremy Diddlers" and "Becky Sharps," pervaded society, living upon nothing a year in the most luxurious manner. How they do it, reader, you will find by overhauling your "Vanity Fair," a very cleaver book by a man who has studied human nature deeply. Their motto is always "Hey diddle, diddle!" their sole aim to circumvent their fellow men.—With brains to get an honest living, they select rascality and practice it to its fullest extent. Unblushing assurances, with a dashing style and free and easy conversation will frequently carry a man through the world without any other capital as admirably as if he were born with the largest sized silver spoon in his mouth. There is one class of persons, however, that our diddler always has difficulty getting along with; and yet it is absolutely necessary that he should honeyfugle him if he desires to prosecute his other undertakings to a successful issue. That class is very numerous—we mean the hotel and boarding-house keepers. They have been so often "dished and diddled quite" that they keep a wary upon all the great unknowns, shrewd indeed is the individual who can get around them now. An instance was related a short time since where a trick was so cleverly played upon a landlord that it will do to tell in print, as exhibiting what shifts the diddler is sometimes compelled to resort to in order to raise the wind.

Just after the arrival of the morning boat there entered a fashionable hotel in Baltimore a tall handsome-looking stranger, very elegantly dressed, with a splendid cloak thrown over his shoulders, who blandly inquired of the clerk if he could have a good room, and being informed that he could, was soon after domiciliated in one of the best apartments for single gentlemen in the house. The gentleman upon his re-appearence stated that he expected his baggage along in a day or two and that he was also anxiously looking for letters with a remittance of funds. At table the gentleman was perfectly at home called for the best wines in the house, made a vast number of acquaintances, and was esteemed "a first-rate fellow." Other gentlemen drank his wine, smiled and bowed and wondered who the deuce Podgers was. Podgers, for such was the name he registered, was at last set down as a millionaire, and the society of Podgers was a source of great comfort and personal gratification to a number of acquaintances. Podgers borrowed a good deal of money of his friends, and considerable money from the office, and was continually execrating the Post Office Department and swearing to utterly annihilate Cave Johnson the first time he encountered him. At length the maitre d'hotel began to wax uneasy and suspicious. Podgers was running up a confounded stout bill and running down his house at the same time; Podgers had no luggage—Podgers received no letters and no remittances. These thoughts dwelt in "mine host's bosom for some time, until he became very nervous, and determined to have a personal interview with Mr. P., and he accordingly "bearded the lion in the den."

"Take a seat my dear boy," said Podgers, as the landlord entered in an agitated state of mind.

"I'd rather stand, thank you," said the landlord shortly.

"Hooh, pooh," said Podgers, rising and taking up a handful of cigars, "sit down my boy and take a smoke." And he thrust his host in a chair, and tendered him a light.

"I don't half like this, Mr. Podgers," said the landlord, puffing at his cigar.

"Take another, then they are cursed bad cigars, fact!" said Podgers.

"I dont mean the cigars, sir, for they're the best that could be had in the market," retorted the landlord warmly. "I mean your conduct, sir."

"I'm really very sorry, pon my word—not aware of anything I've done, my boy," said Podgers, feeling that a great crisis was at hand.

"I want my bill settled, sir," said the landlord, "and that's the long and short of it. You've no baggage, sir——"

"No, confound those infernal shipping agents of mine," interrupted Podgers.

"You've been talking about remittances and I have not seen a sign of one, continued mine host.

"Curses on that infernal post office department. I wish I had Cave Johnson here now," indignantly uttered Podgers

"And my private opinion is that you're a humbug," forcibly exclaimed the landlord.

"I don't understand you, sir," said Podgers. "An impostor, a swindler!" exclaimed the landlord, who was an old hand at the bellows. "I will give you four and twenty hours more, sir, and if you do not settle I'll have you arrested as a swindler, and in the mean time you will not stir from this room. Your meals shall be served up to you, but to ensure that you do not go, I will retain your pantaloons." In vain did Podgers bluster and remonstrate. The landlord was determined to "stand the hazard of the die," and departed with Podger's continuations.

That Podgers felt very much down at the heel is not to be wondered at, and he threw himself upon the bed cursing his luck and all hard-hearted landlords. The hours waned with their accustomed rapidity, and the clocks of the city struck 12, P. M., when a genteel individual entered the office of another fashionable hotel, and dropping his cloak off his shoulders, inquired it he could be accommodated with a bed for the night and be called very early in the morning, as it was absolutely necessary that he should take the first train of cars He was at once shown to his room and retired to be, putting his boots outside the door.

At the appointed hour he was called, but immediately after the porter had returned to the office the of No. 22 was rung furiously. The waiter appeared and the gentleman inquired for his pantaloons. The waiter knew nothing about them, but search was immediately made for twenty-two's pants. They were not to be found; twenty-two stormed and swore like a trooper; he didn't care so much for the pants, but his purse containing $150 was in one of the pockets. He had been robbed and prevented from going on his journey—he would expose the transaction in the public papers. "Where was the landlord?" "In bed. "Have him out." The sleepy proprietor was ruthlessly hazed out of his warm bed and trotted into twenty two.—He was very sorry indeed he was; gentlemen should bolt their doors inside. He hoped that twenty-two would not make a noise about it, and in order that twenty two might proceed on his journey he would loan him a pair of his own pantaloons and the sum of money he required. Twenty-two was taken with another attack of blasphemy, which threatened the complete annihilation of the entire race of hotel keepers but the paroxysm passed off and he took the pants and the $150, jumped into a cab and proceeded to the cars, leaving his address with his amiable landlord. In a few weeks afterward the hotel keepers met, and in talkins over old affairs, the queer robbery of No. 22 was mentioned, when it somehow came out that "twenty-two" was no other than Podgers in *propia persona, sans culottes*. He had raised the seige, closed the Baltimore campaign and evacuated the city with all the honors of war by means of a pair of breeches.—*N. O. Picayune.*

From the Blue Hen's Chicken.

CALIFORNIA GOLD.

Dear Chicken!—As Gold is all the cry now a days, I beg leave to lay before your readers a few extracts collected from the history of the United States, the National Era and other sources, as well as some remarks of my own.

At present the country is alive with the thousand and one stories of the great plenty of Gold in California. Many of those persons who appear to be so sanguine that they have nothing to do but to go there and dig gold by the cart load, perhaps would do well to read the history of their country and find that they are but the tools of a few designing land speculators, politicians, and military heroes.

If they are not, it would be of no disadvantage to know the hardships, the sufferings, that have been endured by thousands, engaged in similar adventures.

That section of country now included in the states of Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri, Arkansas, and a part of Alabama was formerly called the colony of Louisiana, and belonged to the French.

At one time they were dreadfully afflicted with the gold fever, in proof of this read the following. "The colonists consisted of two classes—those who were unaccustomed to manual labor; but who possessed enterprise, and expected to gather fortunes from the mines of gold and silver they expected to find, and trade with the Indians. The other class, by far most numerous, were poor and idle and expected to live on the bounty of Government. In thirteen years 2500 settlers arrived, and very few ever returned, yet so great were the losses from sickness and vicious indulgences, that in 1712, the colony of Louisiana contained only 400 whites and 20 negro slaves, with 300 head of cattle."

"About the year 1712, wars in Europe demanded all the attention and resources of France; but the king wishing to keep the mining operations going on granted to Anthony Crozat, the exclusive privilege of the commerce of the colony, with the propriety of the mines and minerals he should discover, reserving the fifth part of all the bullion of gold and silver, and the tenth part of the produce of all other mines.

In 1717 he returned this privilege to the crown.

The same year letters patent were granted to an association of gentlemen at Paris, under the name of the "Company of the West."

These letters patent took effect in January, 1718 and were to continue in force 25 years.

They confered on the company the same powers and privileges in Louisiana as had been granted to Crozat, with some additions.

The company was intrusted with the right of the soil by lease or sale.

A company with such extensive powers soon drew the attention of speculators and excited the attention of wealthy capitatists in Paris.

This company was more familarly known as the Mississippi Company.

In 1716 John Law obtained the character for his famous bank; and the prospective income of the mines, lands, furs, and trade of the Mississippi, occupied the place of specie, and were made the foundation of its credit. The next year it was declared a Royal Bank, and its shares soon arose to twenty times their par value. This gilded bubble burst in 1720, leaving deluded thousands penniless. The company created 300,000 shares at 500 livers each; and 300 000 shares at 5,000 livres each—all of which were sold in market, and before completion, the price of stocks rose to an enormous height. The amount of stocks thus created, without taking into calculation the enormous rise in nominal value, amounted to 310,643,148 dollars."

"Such indeed was the phrenzy of speculation that the whole nation, clergy and laity, peers and plebians, princes and statesmen, mechanics and ladies, employed their wealth in purchasing these shares. Its foundation rested on the commerce, metalic riches, and lands of Louisiana. Fancy exhibited the immense mines of gold and silver of the Mississippi valley, sought in vain by the spanish adventurer De Soto, as its basis."

The Spaniards sought for gold every place along the Missisippi valley, but sought in vain. The speculators took up their pens and worked upon the immaginations of the people and succeeded in swindling them out of immense sums—Just so in California, where the Spaniards have been hunting Gold for hundreds of years, the poor blind things do not see it, but we enlightened Americans can go there in immaginain and shovel it up by the ship load. We are dreaming golden dreams, but the sad reality is yet to come. The poor victims who are thus caught in the speculator's trap will sooner or later get these golden scales off their eyes. I as an humble individual give my opinion of this California humbug, for that is the name it will soon have. I consider it as one of the most villainous deep laid schemes to entrap the young and rising generation ever yet laid before the public, notwithstanding it comes out endorsed by James the third, author of the Mexican war.

"The country of Illinois was represented rich beyond comparison, and inexhaustible mines of gold, silver, and precious stones, floated before the disordered imagination of the French. Financial estimates were submitted to the public, offering prospect of unusual gain, and capitalists of every description rushed to the bourse to enrol themselves, as members of the company',

The above is a good picture of California as represented at the present time.—Hundreds and thousands of young men are crazy to go there with the vain hope of digging a fortune in a few days.

Thousands of others are almost broken hearted because they are too poor to go—Poor fellows their poverty is a blessing to them, not to be enjoyed until this golden humbug bursts, which will be in about six months from this time,

James K. Polk and all others engaged