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From Arthur's Home Gazette.

MR. SNOW'S MISFORTUNE.

BY PAUL CREYTON.

"What ails you to-day, George?" asked Mrs. Jameson of her husband, a respectable merchant, as he came home one day with a thoughtful brow.

"Ails me?" repeated Mr. Jameson with a smile. "Nothing. I am well"

"But something has surely happened to disturb you," insisted his wife, with a look of solicitude.

"O, nothing of consequence I assure you," replied the merchant. "Is dinner ready?"

"Nearly so, George."

Mrs. Jameson said no more, but she could not avoid scanning her husband's features, as he paced the floor with his hands behind him. When he went to dinner, it was without an appetite, and with pain his affectionate wife saw the dishes pass away from him, scarcely tasted.

"Dear George," said she, when they were once more alone, "you know I never pry into your business matters with idle curiosity, but I like to know when any thing perplexes you, so that I may share your trouble. If anything preys upon your mind, I beg of you to confide in me."

"You are kind and reasonable," replied Mr. Jameson with a sad smile. "I give you credit for that rare quality—that genuine good sense—which those women want who desire to know more of their husban!'s business than they do themselves. Besides, I know from experience that when I make you a confidant of my troubles I always bear them with greater fortitude. Your sympathy is worth everything to me. But this matter which perplexes me to-day, I am almost ashamed to confess even to you. However, if you wish it, I will open my heart to you, and perhaps you can advise me."

Mrs. Jameson placed her hand affectionately on her husband's shoulder, and looking up into his eyes, as he sat by her side on the sofa, encouraged him to proceed.

"You remember Mr. Snow?" asked the merchant.

"Perfectly well," replied Mrs. Jameson. "He failed, I think, and went away."

"Yes, Sarah. He failed, and his creditors, of which I was one, could get only fifty cents on a dollar. I lost five hundred dollars through his misfortune."

"Misfortune?" repeated Mrs. Jameson, inquiringly. "If I remember rightly, you said at the time of his failure, that you thought him dishonest."

"So I did," replied Mr Jameson, passing his hand across his brow. "And I treated him accordingly. But on reflection, I can't say I ever really thought him dishonest. I called him so in my own mind, to excuse myself to my conscience, for my hard treatment to the poor man.—He was young—just embarking in business, and lacked experience rather than honesty. I now feel sure that such was the case—and yet we, his creditors, stripped him of everything! This is what troubles me! I am afraid we did not do right. Something tells me that *I* did not act on the principle of doing to others as I would have others do to me."

"But this thing happened two years ago!" exclaimed Mrs. Jameson. "What can have brought it so forcibly to your mind to-day?"

"A sight which haunts my imagination continually!" replied her husband. As I was going down State street this morning, I perceived a rough-looking, shabby dressed individual, whose strange appearance fixed my attention. His beard was long, and he wore an outlandish hat, which would have become a Jack-tar much better than a citizen of Boston. But judge of my surprise, when, on a near approach, I recognized the features of Edwin Snow! In spite of his long untrimmed beard, I knew him; but he did not appear desirous of being seen, for he passed by without giving me a word or a look."

"Poor man!" exclaimed Mrs. Jameson. "Perhaps he felt humiliated—he formerly dressed so neatly, and made such an elegant appearance!"

"I assure you, the sight caused me a pang!" pursued the merchant. "He was certainly a talented man—and now I believe him perfectly honest. I am pained, when I reflect that he might have become a merchant of high-standing and usefulness, had his creditors, instead of conspiring to crush him, endeavored to assist and encourage him to make another effort.—All the time, I excused myself with the reflection that all his property would be taken, whether I came in for my share or not; but I was in a position that would have enabled me to loose all the debt without feeling it; and it does seem hard to strip a poor man of everything, although the law warrants the step."

"Dear George!" said Mrs. Jameson, "I respect you for the manly regret you feel on Mr. Snow's account; but you should not let this matter trouble you. It is not too late to assist Mr. Snow even at this time."

"I will find him out, and make some reparation for the wrong I have done him, at all events," replied the merchant.

And he left the house.

Arrived at his counting room, Mr. Jameson was not a little surprised to find a letter from Mr. Snow, which had been received during his absence. On the evening he showed it to his wife, and asked her opinion of its contents.

"He requests you as one of his old creditors to meet him at Mr. H——'s office tomorrow morning at ten o'clock," said Mrs. Jameson. "It is probably to represent his circumstances to you, and obtain assistance in some new enterprise. I would advise you to go by all means, George, and do something for him if you can."

Mr. Jameson was of the same opinion with his wife, and accordingly, on the following morning, he went to meet his old debtor, at the time and place appointed.

It was scarcely ten o'clock, however, when the merchant entered Mr. H——'s office, where he found several other merchants, whom he remembered as the old creditors of Mr. Edwin Snow. This last individual was not present, but precisely at the moment when the old South clock struck the hour, Mr. Snow entered.

His personal appearance had not been materially changed since the preceding day; but the same outlandish hat, coarse, heavy coat, and untrimmed beard astonished the band of creditors.

"Gentlemen," said Mr. Edwin Snow, doffing his hat, and bowing to the company, "I thought it might be pleasant to meet old friends, and I have taken the liberty of inviting you here. I wish to say a few words to all of you; and fancying that you might not fancy talking to me in the street, I concluded to make use of my friend Mr. H——'s office on this occasion, having none other at my command."

The effect this speech produced on the creditors was remarkable. Mr. Howard rapped his snuff-box violently, as he always did when displeased. Mr. Hughes, a pompous merchant, put on his hat, with an air of offended dignity. Messrs. Warner and Wright looked at each other significantly, with dubious shakes of their respective heads. As for Mr. Jameson, that gentleman advanced to meet Mr. Snow, took his hand, which he pressed warmly, and expressed, in delicate terms his feelings on meeting him again. Mr. Snow thanked him, smiling good humoredly; and forthwith requested his friends then and there present, to seat themselves, and listen as patiently as they could to what he had to say.

"Two years ago," said the young man, having astonished the company, by producing from a side-pocket a huge silver watch, attached to his person by a rude gold chain of corresponding dimensions, hitherto concealed under his clothes.—"Two years ago, I met with misfortunes, which placed all my property at the mercy of my cred[illegible] My misfortune, gentlemen; was [illegible]d by yourselves.—All I pos[illegible] not sufficient to pay you more [illegible]l per centage of what I owed you. But one portion of my misfortune no one could share. Besides being stripped of every thing in the shape of worldly goods, I was also robbed of a reputation, which I prized more highly than all. It was remarked by some, that I was dishonest, and stories about failing with money in my pocket, were circulated rather freely! Under this circumstance, I thought it expedient to leave the town; for I could do nothing here. Mr. H——, kindly loaned me a sum of money, without which, I might have been reduced to beg; and by his advice, I went to California.—You perceive, gentlemen that I have not yet shaken off my California rags," added Mr. Snow, glancing at his rough habiliments. "Well, I have come back, purposed to redeem my reputation, and do an act of justice to those who suffered through my failure. Gentlemen," pursued Mr. Snow, opening a desk, and producing therefrom a number of odd-looking bags, each of which was labelled, "I have cast up my accounts with each of you, as you will perceive by those papers. If there is any mistake you will inform me"

"Mistaken," exclaimed Mr. Jameson, looking in astonishment, first at the paper which had been presented to him, and then at Mr. Snow. "Why, sir, you owe us nothing—our accounts were settled according to law."

"The law can never settle a debt of honor," answered the returned adventurer. "It is my wish and design, gentlemen, to pay you the balance of what was justly your dues at the time of my failure.—Please put your names to these papers, and here is your money already counted out for you."

The merchants with whom Mr. Snow was dealing, were men accustomed to take things coolly, and to contemplate the most unexpected events without betraying surprise. But Mr. Snow had the merit of moving that equanimity, which was so seldom disturbed. Wonder opened their eyes, and a sudden appreciation of Mr. Snow's merits opened their hearts. They congratulated him on his success as an adventurer, declared their admiration of his character, and scrupled at receiving the proffered sums. Mr. Snow insisted, however, and they needed not much urging.—The little bags were distributed, together with invitations to dine with the Californian, at his hotel, on the following day; so that each of Mr. Snow's old creditors went away with a bag and an invitation.

Mr. Jameson went away with something more. No lesson that he had ever learned impressed him more deeply than that taught by the returned adventurer, whose "good for evil" was so well calculated to heap coals of fire on the heads of his ancient creditors. Mr. Jameson writhed under the silent rebuke administered by Mr. Snow, and went home that afternoon with a more thoughtful brow than he had worn the day previous.

"It is not that I do not rejoice in his good fortune," said the merchant, recounting the sequel of Mr. Snow's history to Mrs. Jameson; "but I cannot express how much I should have preferred handing over to him five hundred dollars to receiving the same amount from him. This honorable act, contrasted with our former treatment of him, speaks the more forcibly in condemnation of the rapacity, cruelty, and hasty judgment which we are too apt to exercise towards those who are unfortunate."

On the following day Mr. Jameson dined with Mr. Snow, who related his history for the entertainment of his guests, explaining how, in a straight forward, earnest, laborious manner, he had accumulated a competency; and who, by his affability, generosity, and frankness, taught them all a good lesson, which cannot be too often borne in mind by those who have the poor and unfortunate in their power.

Dinner to Daniel Webster,

BY THE MEMBERS OF THE MARYLAND STATE CONVENTION.

The dinner, given at Annapolis, on Monday afternoon, by a number of the members of the Maryland State Convention, in honor of the Hon. Daniel Webster, for his noble defence of the Compromise measures—his inflexible devotion to our glorious Union—and his transcendant talents as an American Statesman—was a grand affair and a most worthy tribute to a sincere patriot, on the part of the good old State of Maryland. The following account of it we copy from the Patriot:

The dinner was served up in splendid style by Col. Walton, of the City Hotel, and reflected the highest credit upon the *cuisine* of that establishment. The table was loaded with all the delicacies of the season—every thing to tempt the palate and please the most fastidious taste was displayed.

Ex-Governor Sprigg presided, assisted by ex-Governor Grason and Gen. B. C. Howard, as vice presidents. Mr. Webster was seated to the right of the President, with Chancellor Johnson and other guests. On the left were Governor Lowe, and ex-Governor Pratt, U. S. Senator from Maryland.

After ample justice had been done to the viands on the table, the cloth was removed, and the President proceeded to read the toasts. The first was:

The President of the United States,

Which was received with much cheering.

Governor Sprigg, in rising to propose the name of the honored guest, took occasion to remark upon the important services Mr. Webster had rendered to the country in the different stations he had been called upon to fill, and said that he was eminently entitled to all the honors in the power of the country to confer. He concluded by proposing:

Daniel Webster—Maryland shows her attachment to the Union by honoring its ablest defender.

This toast was received with loud and prolonged applause. After the cheering had subsided—

Mr. Webster rose and said, that he appreciated from his heart, the honor which had been conferred upon him by the representatives of the people of Maryland—one of that glorious constellation of States which had stood up together in 'the times that tried man's souls,' to achieve the independence of which we are now the recipients, and which, he trusted, we should long continue to enjoy.

Mr. Webster referred to the early history of the country, and said that we could not too fully appreciate the blessings handed down to us by our forefathers. Washington, with all his sagacity and all his wisdom, did not conceive that the destiny of the United States had been reached; nor did he, when he retired from the Presidential chair, cease to fix his eye upon the interests of his country. Washington, in his farewell address said he retired from the Presidential chair, having performed the work which he had been called upon to fulfil. But, said Mr. W., emphatically, he has never yet performed the work assigned him, nor will he until the end of time. He will work ever in that sacred work, unless his name is obliterated from the records of time.

I think, said Mr. Webster, I hear him say in the words of his farewell address, "Be happy—resist with care the spirit of innovation upon the principles of government, however specious the pretext; attend to every admonition which would enjoin a strict adherence to the principles upon which that government is founded." I hear him say now, if it were permitted him he would appear before the people as he appeared to the country, in its most trying time—as he appeared at the head of his army when leading them to battle against the enemies of freedom—and say to all Americans and lovers of their country and its institutions, "Hold on, by every means, to that country which cost me and my compatriots seven years of toil and struggle." (Great cheering.) Our country, said Mr. W., consists of that glorious constitution under which we have lived, for a period of more than half a century; and America, with her mass of population, is the great Babel of those who have gone before us.

After dwelling at some length upon the character and services of Washington, Mr. Webster said he hoped he would be pardoned for interrupting the thread of his discourse at this moment, by proposing, from the fullness of his heart, the following toast:

The Glorious and Immortal Memory of Geo. Washington.

[This was drunk standing and in silence.]

Mr. Webster resumed: In the lapse of years, said he, it may very possibly happen that the exact principle of Union may not be always understood alike; and it would not, therefore be amiss to refer to the objects for which the Colonies were united, the limitations assigned them, and the principles which should govern for their perpetuation.

Mr. Webster then entered, at considerable length, into a review of the general principles which had brought the Colonies to throw off the yoke of allegiance to Great Britain, and dwelt upon the various causes which led them to confederate together.—He said they were governed by a spirit of liberality and justice, which actuated both North and South, and the good faith with which both parties entered into the compact of confederation, was the great cause which led to the securing of that independence which we now enjoy. At that period, said he, the North and the South were, as now, governed by different systems; but each section was willing that the other should not have their peculiar rights and privileges interfered with, but that they should be governed in such manner as would best enhance and protect the interests, of all. The North, at that time, was perfectly aware of the existence of slavery in the South; and although there might be some who deprecated that state of things, yet they were perfectly willing to accept the South as a sister and to take her to their embrace. The obligation to keep that compact is as great now as then, and it should, and he had no doubt would be, strictly adhered to.

Mr. Webster then spoke of the adoption of the compromise measures, and said he looked upon them as the great saving point, as the great check upon the agitators, who would be glad to dissolve the Union. Any State, [said he emphatically,] North or South, which departs in the least iota from the spirit of these measures, is disloyal! [Great cheering.]

Mr. W. said, we have seen at the North some excitement on the great and agitating questions of the day; we have seen also, at the South, something of the same excitement; and secession from the Union was threatened by some as a remedy for their imaginary evils. What said Mr. W., will they secede from? Where will they secede to? He thought that they who talked of secession had great fatality of mind—that their minds were entirely diseased; and, in the language of Holy Writ, "they know not what they do." [Much applause.]

While, said Mr. Webster, he maintained inviolate the adjustment measures of the last Congress—while we hold no parley—and I shall hold no parley—with those who seek to break down the bulwarks with which they are surrounded—and while we faithfully carry out the principles of those measures, there is no fear of the Union. [Great cheering.] He held the strict carrying out of those measures to be of the highest importance, and every energy of every true citizen should be bent in order to secure their full accomplishment. [Applause.]

Mr. Webster said: Mr. President, I may not have been born to fulfil any particular destiny—I may not have any particular mission to fill on earth: but this much I will say, I am bound to uphold, with every energy of mind and body, the constitution of this country. [Immense cheering.]

Mr. W. referred in eloquent terms to the celebration which was held in the city of Annapolis on the occasion of Washington delivering up his sword and commission to the American Congress; and said that that occasion was one which would live long in the memories of all Americans, for the patriotic sentiments which it called forth. The second toast drank on that occasion, and which was received with so much feeling and gratification, was in the following words: "The United States—may their confederacy endure forever."—He would in conclusion, give as a sentiment, though with some slight difference in language—

The Constitution of the United States—may it endure forever.

Mr. W. took his seat amid immense cheering.

[The above is a mere abstract of the remarks of Mr. Webster. Mr. Webster occupied about thirty-five minutes in its delivery, and was frequently interrupted by the applause of the company, who appeared to have caught the same spirit and love of Union which animated the distinguished statesman.]

William McNier, Esq., offered the following toast:

Daniel Webster, our patriotic Secretary of State—a man who has no other hope than for his country's good—nor does he wish any "higher law" than his country's constitution.

Mr. Webster briefly responded.

Gov. Lowe, in response to a complimentary toast, made some eloquent remarks, touching the eminent services rendered by the great man, in whose honor this festivity was given, and alluded, in glowing terms, to the inestimable blessings we enjoy, with his fervent wishes for their long and happy continuance.—He concluded with offering the following:

Daniel Webster and Henry Clay—

Which was received with much applause.

The following toast was offered:

The Senate of the United States—the rights of the State and the integrity of the Union have sure protection in its wisdom and firmness.

Mr. Pratt, after the toast complimentary to the Senate of the United States, said: Mr. President, I find that I am expected to respond to the sentiment which you have just offered; but sir, permit me to assure the company that after the very eloquent speeches which they have heard, I will not trespass upon their patience. I must however, sir, be allowed to say that it affords me very sincere pleasure to be permitted to unite with you in evincing respect for the patriot and statesman, who is here as your guest. The services of Mr. Webster, to which you have referred, and which have been the immediate cause of your invitation to him, were services rendered to the *whole* country, and he is your guest, at the capital of Maryland, by the invitation (without distinction of party) of the representatives of the people of Maryland, because his patriotism has not yet been limited by the State which he has represented, or by the section of country from which he comes.

He is, Mr. President, properly here the guest of a Southern State, because the United States is *his country*, because the United States *is the country* to which he has declared *his* allegiance, and devoted all the energies of his vast intellect. I am pleased, too, Mr. President, that the invitation which gives us the pleasure of this meeting should have emanated, as it has, irrespective of party; for, sir, if we may now congratulate ourselves upon the safety of our country, we should ever remember, that the threatened danger has been arrested by no party, or party men, but by the united efforts of those of the democratic and whig parties of the country, who have been most trusted and honored by each.—If, sir, a citizen of Annapolis [illegible] be permitted to say so, I thi[illegible]y bearing upon appropriately selecte[illegible]g.—Annapolis, now the ca[illegible]ars, and of Maryland, was, prior to t[illegible] only the capital of the then province of Maryland, but socially, and in point of political influence, was, as your distinguished guest has intimated, the capital of all the British North American provinces. Mr. Webster has referred to some of the historical reminiscences attached to the place, and I beg leave, sir, to refer to others, which I have heard here spoken of, and which I had hoped he would have also referred to. Here, then, sir, at Annapolis was held the first council, composed of delegates from several of the then British Provinces, to deliberate and decide upon the necessity of resistance to the encroachments of the crown. Here also, sir, if I am correctly informed, (and no one can more readily put me right than the distinguished gentleman before me,) was committed the first overt act of what was then called treason, by the open and forcible resistance of a statute of Parliament; and here, Mr. President, in the Senate Chamber this day visited by your guest, occurred one of the most memorable and extraordinary events recorded in the history of the world—the surrender by Gen. Washington to the civil authorities, of that sword with which he had achieved the independence of his country.

I have learned, Mr. President, in the past twelve months, a lesson, which this meeting is well calculated to enforce. I have learned, sir, to rid myself of much, I hope of all that political *party* asperity which I fear I have heretofore almost cherished as a duty. How, sir, could it be otherwise? I have followed the lead of men of the democratic party, and stood side by side with them in support of the measures to which you sir, have referred, and to which, in my judgment, you have correctly attributed the present existence of the Union. And here, Mr. President, I am surrounded by many whose moral and social worth have been always appreciated by me, but with whom I have never acted politically, assembled together to do honor and express respect for Daniel Webster. And, Mr. President, we may all well unite in paying this homage to such a man.—For, sir, if there is a statesman in the United States who may be considered above party, and for whom all may express respect and admiration, that man is Daniel Webster. Sir, in all questions in which his country is involved, he knows no party. As he himself has said, he was born an American, he has lived an American, and he will die an American.

Permit me, Mr. President and gentlemen, to offer a sentiment, which I know will meet the approbation of your guests, and which I hope will also be favored by your approval. Gentlemen, the time has now come, when the true conservative men of all parties should unite, for the sake of the Union. I propose, sir,

The Union—We will stand by *all* who stand by *it*.

Hon. Wm. Cost Johnson gave the following, which he prefaced with some appropriate remarks:

Gen. Cass and other compeers—patriots and statesmen.

Gen. B. C. Howard, on being called upon, made some brief remarks, alluding to the position which South Carolina occupied during the Revolution, and contrasted it with that she now occupied, when she would be the first to sever the bonds which united the States in one common brotherhood. He offered the following sentiment:

South Carolina—May she cast a long and lingering look upon the campaign of 1776.

J. W. Crisfield, Esq., offered the following:

The Chancellor of Maryland—The enlightened jurist and statesman—he has honored his State by his devotion to her service.

Chancellor Johnson, responded to the toast in eloquent terms. He alluded to the occasion of the present assemblage, and to the guest whom it was intended to honor. He referred, in glowing terms, to that occasion when Mr. Webster, whilst occupying a seat in the Senate of the United States, and when the compromise measure was under consideration, rose in his place, and in tones of burning eloquence, asked his countrymen then and there assembled, to 'hear him for his cause,' and which act of compromise gave rise to this, of doing honor to the distinguished guest. Chancellor J. also referred to the good services rendered by Gen. Cass, Gen. Foote and others, who went into the fight with the determination of bringing out the measures we now enjoy. He also referred, in merited terms of praise, to the active exertions of Senator Dickinson, of New York, and said if he had had a seat in the Legislature of that State, when the late election of U. S. Senator came on, he would have voted for him in preference to the whig candidate, if there was any doubt of the orthodoxy of such a whig on the great question of the Union of the States, which he regarded as of paramount importance to any of the political questions of the day. He also referred in eloquent terms to the "Sage of Ashland," and said that on all occasions he had stepped forth as the "great Pacificator." When, thirty years ago, the black flag of Africa interposed its front, threatening to sever the Union, Henry Clay came to the rescue and saved it. The great man, on all trying occasions, would ever be found where the blows fell thickest and fastest. The names of those who contributed by their voices and votes, to the settlement of the [illegible]compromise measures, will live forever in the hearts of their countrymen. He concluded by offering the following sentiment:

Our Distinguished Guest. When the names of his calumniators shall have passed into oblivion, his memory will be cherished as the constituonal lawyer of his day, unsurpassed in his advocacy of Republican institutions, and of the Union of these States.

Col. Jenifer, upon being called upon, appropriately responded.

Hon. W. Cost Johnson rose, and prefacing his toast with some beautiful and classic remarks, proposed—

The health, the long life, and the prosperity of Daniel Webster.

Mr. Webster said, in response, that he thought it was best for him to retreat under the banner of the unity which prevailed, and would retire by bidding them "good-night."

He then left amid the applause of the company.

G. C. Morgan, Esq., offered the following:

The Judiciary of Maryland—whatever difference of opinion may be entertained as to its organization, the value of its administration is appreciated, and its purity is without stain or reproach.

Judge Chambers responded in some brief remarks. He said that he had sat for many years in the Senate of the United States, and listened eagerly to the words of wisdom and truth that fell from the lips of the distinguished guest who had just taken his leave. He believed, as solemnly as he ever believed in any fact recorded in history, that the mission of Daniel Webster on earth was emphatically to defend the Constitution of the United States; and every heart would respond to the truth that no man had ever more faithfully and fully fulfilled his mission. Judge C made some allusions to the Constitutional Convention now sitting at Annapolis, and said he would conclude by offering a constitutional sentiment:

The Union of the United States.

Several other speeches were made, when, at an early hour, the company separated, all highly pleased with the occasion which called them together.

"I don't like this telling about what people give to this and that object," said a penurious person; "what I give is *nothing* to nobody."

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