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The Cambridge Chronicle.

JOSEPH R. ECCLESTON,] [Editor & Proprietor

NEW SERIES—VOL. 9. CAMBRIDGE, MD—SATURDAY MORNING, JANUARY 17, 1846. NUMBER 1

TERMS.

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POETRY.

For the Chronicle.

THE DELUGE.

BY J. C. D.

The sun arose in splendor, and threw back
Night's sable curtains from the eastern sky,
And spread its cheering beams upon that sin
Curs'd world—yea rose to set *no more* on them.
They all pursued their avocations as
Before, nor thought for once, perhaps, that *that*
Should be the day to seal their destiny
To all eternity. They built—tore down.
Around the nuptial board might have been seen
The happy bride, whose brow was deck'd with
A golden wreath—and silks most gay embraced
Her slender form: and crimson flush'd her cheeks,
As flattering congratulations fell
Upon her ear. And others, eager to
Supply the proud demands of sense, sought out
The place of vain amusements, where they plung'd
In pleasure's vile, deceitful tide. And some,
Again, look'd with deriding gazes on
The skilful architect and thought
Him *mad*—his works all foolishness and loss
Of time. So things went on until at last
The holy man of God—his wife—his sons—
Their wives, went in the finished well built ark,
To 'scape the wrath of an offended, sin
Avenging God.

Then from the west,
A cloud, though small, was seen to rise and spread
Itself from west to east, from north to south,
Until the wide-spread canopy was dark
With clouds; and from the fate-seal'd world were hid
The Day-King's beams. A darker aspect still
Pervades the sky as hours roll on: till, from
The darken'd chambers of the West, the low,
Suspicious voice of thunder, falls upon
The ears of that unhappy race, which warn'd
Them of a storm approaching fast—and that
Succeeded by the lightning's vivid fire—
Predicting by its stroke athwart the sky,
That in concealment were dread thunder-bolts,
All quick to fly at the command of Him
Who holds them in his hands.

The word was giv'n:—
The windows of the heavens were open'd wide,
From which streamed down the fatal element.
The fountains of the deep were broken up,
When belched forth this instrument of God
To slay the world. The waters spread and rose,
'Till the whole surface of the earth was hid;
And death, unmoved by this scene of wo,
Stood staring all his victims in the face
With a triumphant air: and all;—yea all,
Save "eight," then found a watery grave.

Amid
This picture of despair, we see the babe,
As though 'twas conscious of its fate,
Hang closely clinging to its mother's breast,
And lisps for the last time the name of "Ma,"
And cries for rescue, when its plaintive voice
Is answer'd by the fainting echoes of
Its dying mother's groans; or by a serge,
In fury sweeping o'er the forms of both,
And sinks them in the bosom of the flood.

We see the frightful forms
Of men, of women, children, eager to
Ascend the craggy summits of the hills
And mount to 'scape the wrathful waters, when
The rising ocean drives a madden'd wave
Against their forms, and them against a rock,
And sends them groaning senseless down to swell
The numbers of the dead.

We see the dead—
The carcasses of small and great, of rich
And poor—the servant and the master—the
Oppressor and the prisoner—*all* now
Together float upon the surface of
The flood of wrath—*all found a common grave!*
But yet, amid this scene of death, we see
The Ark ride o'er the watery wastes, 'midst
The falling rain, the rolling thunder, and
The lightning's glare, and still bears onward to
Some destined spot its valu'ble, precious,
Immortal treasures, SAVED.

MAXIMS AND PROVERBS.

A bad workman quarrels with his tools.
Bad books are the public fountain of vice.
Change of fortune is the lot of life.
Debt is the worst kind of poverty.
Empty vessels make the greatest sound.
Fair and softly goes far in a day.
God helps those who help themselves.
Hearts may agree though heads differ.
Idle people have the most labor.
Jests, like sweatmeats, have often sour sauce.
Keep not nor covet what is not your own.
Lazy folks take the most pains.

The most important portion of the Governor's Message containing the present condition of the finances of the State, and the suggestions and recommendations of the Gov. was published in our last. The remaining portion, treating of the condition of our public works, Oregon, &c. will be found below.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

(CONCLUDED FROM LAST WEEK.)

I will now proceed to the consideration of the relations of the State to the various works of internal improvement, with which she is connected, and to which you must look for a portion of the revenue required to meet the demands of the Treasury.

I will transmit to you the annual report of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company, and also a supplemental report received from that company, giving a detailed account of their proceedings under the act of the last session, chap 281, entitled "an act to provide for the completion of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal to Cumberland, and for other purposes."

Prior to the approval by me of the guarantee, required by the 3rd section of that act, I was furnished by the company, *at my request*, with the written opinion of J. V. L. McMahon, Esq., in regard to the legality of the forms of guarantee which had been adopted by the company and submitted for my approval. The supplemental report will give you full information of the security which was given, and will furnish the evidence of sufficiency upon which my approval was based.

This report will also convey to you the gratifying intelligence that since the guarantees were approved, the company have *contracted* for the completion of the canal to Cumberland, for a sum less than that limited by the provisions of this act.

It is certainly a cause of congratulation that this this vexed question, which has for years rested as an incubus upon the legislation of the State, may now be considered as settled. In a few years what is now conjecture will be settled by experience; and the interesting problem to the people of Maryland will be solved, whether the annual interest of $400,000, with which the State is now charged for the expenditure on account of this work, will be met by the profits of the work, or continue a perpetual charge upon the people of the State.

In my opinion, the wisdon of the legislation of your immediate predecessors will be vindicated by the result; and the people of Maryland will be at least partially relieved from the taxation consequent upon the advances of the State to this work.

There are some, I know, who are opposed to the completion of the canal, upon the ground that a portion of the trade which literally belongs to our own commercial emporium, would thereby be withdrawn to the District cities.

This argument concedes that the canal, when completed, will relieve the State; for *the State being entitled to the entire tolls of the canal*, it is manifest that any amount of transportation on it, which would operate injuriously to Baltimore, must necessarily yield a corresponding revenue to the State; and the issue which is raised by this argument is, whether the people of the State will submit to perpetual taxation to the amount of $400,000, the annual interest on the investment in the canal, or risk this conjectural injury to the trade of the city of Baltimore. But this view of the question is too narrow, and those who use it are attempting to raise a question of antagonist interest between the city of Baltimore and the residue of the State, which can be productive of no good, and which may be the occasion of much evil.

There is no man in Maryland who can entertain a more *thorough conviction* than I do, that the prosperity of Baltimore is *essential* to the prosperity of the residue of the State, and of the equal truth of the converse of the proposition, that the prosperity of the residue of the State is equally *essential* to the prosperity of Baltimore. I am therefore convinced that any policy which would paralyze the energies of the one, would operate destructively upon the interests of the other; and it follows that no system of legislation can be right which looks exclusively—separately—to the interest of either.

The people of Maryland when, through their representatives, they entered upon the system of internal improvement, in the prosecution of which the public debt has been incurred, designed to develop the resources of the whole State. The system was not devised—this immense outlay of the public treasure was not designed solely to develop the mineral resources of Allegany, or to afford to the farmers of the upper counties a more accessable or better market, or to throw into the lap of Baltimore the rich products of that fertile region—these were mere incidents of development, the mere consequences of the system—looked to *only as incidents* to the great object of the statesmen who originated this system.

The people, in approving of the system devised, looked beyond the limits of Maryland for the sources of wealth and prosperity which were commensurate with the magnitude of their undertaking.

The Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, the Baltimore & Ohio Rail Road, the Baltimore and Susquehanna Rail Road and the Susquehanna and Tide Water Canal were all designed to have their western termini beyond the limits of the Statel and Baltimore city was designed as the eastern terminus of all except the last. We then looked to the *great west* as the source from which was to come the passengers and trade, that were to remunerate us for this vast outlay required for the completion of this grand system; and we must now look to the same source, or abandon the only object which could justify the magnitude of the original design.

In reference to the western terminus, the destiny of the canal may now be considered as fixed; it must for our day and generation continue within the limits of our State; but its eastern terminus will conform to the original design, if there should be any foundation for the apprehension of those who now oppose its western extension.

We must consequently look to the Baltimore and Ohio Rail road, and its extension to the Ohio river, as the only means of securing to the State the great advantages which were contemplated from the gigantic scheme, in the prosecution of which the means and credit of the State have been for the time so completely exhausted.

It will be your duty to consider whether you can render any assistance to the company in obtaining from our sister State of Virginia, *a right of way*, that this road may through her territory reach its original destination, the Ohio River. The importance of this extension at this time not only to Virginia and Maryland, but also to the country, is greatly increased by the present critical position of the foreign relations of our country.

Since the adjournment of the Legislature, the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road Company have, as authorized by the law of that session, reduced the fare for the transportation of passengers upon the Washington Branch of the road; and I have great pleasure in communicating the fact that this experiment has resulted in giving to the State for the last three months, an increased reveuue of $1 279 47.

During the past fiscal year, the State received from the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road Company, for the State's one-fifth of the gross receipts for the transportation of passengers on the Washington Branch the sum of $58,699 48, and for the same period for dividends $48,000, making an aggregate of receipts from this company of $86,699 48. By law the sum of $34,069 36 is appropriated from the State's revenue from the road to the free school fund; and the balance $52,630 07, is applicable to the demands upon the treasury.

I have received and will transmit the annual report of the Baltimore and Susquehanna Rail Road company. The large investment which the state has in this work will render your attentive supervision of the proceedings of this company a matter of interest to yourselves, and of duty to your constituents. The serious indisposition under which I have suffered since the report was received and my incessant occupation in preparing this communication, have prevented my examining the report with the care which its importance merits.

During the past fiscal year this company has paid to the state the sum of $20,000, and in my opinion you may expect from the same source for the current year a larger sum by at least $5,000.

I have received no communication from the Susquehanna and Tide Water Canal Company, but I have the pleasing intelligence to communicate, that during the past fiscal year this company has paid into treasury the sum $74,800 leaving unpaid for its entire liabilities to the State for that period the sum of $9,750. You may I think for the current year rely upon receiving from this company the entire amount of its liabilities for that period.

I am still impressed with the importance of having a Board authorized to supervise the vast interest of the State in her various works of internal improvement; but I will not again press the subject upon the attention of the Legislature.

It is certainly assential to the interest of the State, that *some agent* of the State, should be clothed with the power to control the tariff of tolls established by each company so as to keep them all above the *revenue standard:* and I submit the subject to your consideration as one well worthy of your attention.

It will be necessary that one or more Warehouses should be built in the city of Baltimore for the reception and inspection of tobacco. The inspection has increased during the present year, about twenty thousand hogsheads, and the amount paid by the inspectors for storing the tobacco, which they could not stow in the public Warehouses, has greatly exceeded the interest on the cost of such buildings as are required. If no untoward event should occur to impede the progressive improvement of the country, the city of Baltimore will, in three years, be the largest tobacco mart in the world; and the number of hogsheads inspected at the State Warehouse in that city will reach one hundred thousand.

I have received and will lay before you the last report of the Directors of the Maryland Penitentiary, which will give you full information of the present situation of that institution; and I particularly invite your attention to the conflict which is supposed to exist between the act of 1836, chapter 156, and the act of 1839 chapter 37, that the proper legislative remedy may be applied. This institution has ceased to be an expense to the State, and I am warranted in expressing the opinion that for the past year it has been as judiciously managed in view of the moral improvement of its inmates as any similar institution in the country.

In reference to this subject, I must ask your examination of the existing criminal law of the State, in regard to the punishment of slaves. By the act of 1809, chapter 138, slaves were punished as other persons, by confinement in the Penitentiary; but by subsequent legislation, and as the law now stands, no slave can be confined in that institution, and in regard to slaves, whipping or transportation is substituted as the punishment for all that class of crimes for the commission of which all other persons are confined in the Penitentiary for periods varying from two to twenty years. If, therefore, under the existing law, a person, *other than a slave*, is convicted of murder in the second degree, or any other crime of like magnitude, such person is punished by confinement in the Penitentiary for a period of not less than ten nor more than twenty years; whilst the slave who is convicted of the like offence can *only* be punished by *transportation*—that is, by substituting for his *master in Maryland a master residing beyond the limits of Maryland.*

The glaring inadequacy of this punishment must render comment unnecessary. In another view this inequality and inadequacy of punishment operate against the slave. From the origin of the government, it has been customary for the Executive where persons are sentenced to death, or whose guilt he may entertain doubts, or where mitigating circumstances may exist, to pardon upon condition of confinement in the Penitentiary for such period as he may designate. It will be seen that the Executive, under the existing law in the case of a slave, would be compelled either to order the execution of the sentence of death, or to substitute *transportation* which would neither be considered by the slave or the community as any punishment whatever.

I have adverted more fully to this subject because I am placed at this time in a peculiar position. At the last term of the Charles County court, a negro slave was convicted of the crime of *insurrection*, and sentenced to be hanged. I at first delayed the execution of the sentence, to see what would be the verdict and sentence in the case of his associates. The greater portion of the slaves who were engaged in this outbreak were without trial sold by their Masters, and have been taken out of the State; and a free negro indicted with the slave in question, as the leader in this affair, was convicted of a minor grade of the same offence, and has been sentenced to the Penitentiary for the period of *forty years.*

A memorial very numerously and respectably signed has been presented to me, asking the transmutation of the punishment in this case. If I possessed the power to commute the punishment from death to confinement for life in the Penitentiary, I would not hesitate to do so, but the existing law furnishing no alternative between the punishment of death in such a case and an entire exemption from from all punishment, I determined to submit the case to your consideration, with the earnest request that you will authorize me to commute the punishment in this case, *with the assent of the convict* from death to confinement *for life* in the Penitentiary.

By resolution No. 64, of December session, 1842, the Governor was directed to distribute to the levy courts of the several counties, one standard of the several kinds of weights and measures, which should be received from the United States under the act of Congress of 1836. Under this resolution his Excellency, Governor Thomas, appointed J. H. Alexander, Esq., the agent of the State to receive the standards from the United States, and to prepare copies of each for distribution. The required number of "standard yards" have been completed and delivered by Mr. Alexander to me for distribution among the several counties; and it is due to the agent of the State, that this "measure of length" should be inspected by you, that its mechanical finish and accuracy may be appreciated. The construction of the standard copies of the weights and capacity measures, have not been commenced, and cannot be undertaken without further legislation. By the resolution above referred to, the Governor was undoubtedly empowered to appoint and pay an agent to prepare the different standards which he is thereby directed to distribute—the appointment of Mr. Alexander was consequently legal, and the expense which has been incurred by him in the prosecution of the work of the State, together with a full and liberal compensation for his services, now constitute one of the obligations of the State, which she has the ability to discharge, and one which I should have ordered to be paid, if I had possessed power to do so. The Constitution of the State, as amended by the act of December session, 1843, ch 339, and confirmed by the act of 1844, ch. 86, "prohibits any money being drawn from the Treasury of the State, but in consequence of appropriations made by law." Under my construction of this clause of the Constitution, I possessed no power to direct the payment to this agent of the State, either of the expense incurred or of the compensation manifestly due to him for his services as agent. I most respectfully submit the entire subject to your consideration, with the request that you will pay for the work so far as it has been executed, and give such specific instructions in reference to the construction of the other standards contemplated by the resolution of 1842 as to you may appear right. I have received from this agent of the State, an able and highly interesting report *on standards of weight and measure*, which I submit for your consideration; and I also submit his account for expenses incurred in the execution of that portion of the work already completed.

I have also received a communication on the subject from A. D. Bache, Esq., the United States superintendent of weights and measures, informing me "that a large balance, intended for the adjustment of standard weights and capacity measures, to be furnished this State under the act of Congress, is now ready for delivery;" and suggesting the propriety of having a suitable building erected for its reception, and appending a drawing of a small building, which would be appropriate for that purpose. This communication and drawing I also submit as a part of this very interesting subject.

The duty is imposed on me by the acts of 1827, chap. 140, and 1839, chap. 28, to report to you what amount has been expended within the past year, under the provisions of those laws, for the education of the indigent blind, and deaf and dumb. During the period indicated, the sum of $1,244.99 has been paid for the education of the deaf and dumb.

I have received, and will communicate to you, a very lucid and detailed report of the committee of the legislature, appointed under resolution No. 60 of December session, 1844, "to examine and burn the bonds certificates or other evidences of indebtedness of the State, as directed by resolution No. 8, of December session, 1840."

This report of the committee contains valuable information upon the important subject of their labors, and will, I am sure, secure from you the consideration it merits.

I have received and will transmit, various communications from many of our sister States, for each of which I ask your respectful and early consideration.

I cannot conclude this communication without adverting to the present critical position of the relations of our country with Great Britain, resulting from the claims of the two countries to the Oregon Territory.

I do not believe that a war between the two countries can *properly*, or in accordance with the public sentiment of *either* country, arise in the adjustment of this question. I have every confidence that the President of the United States is *sincerely* desirous to preserve *peace*, if *peace* can be maintained consistently with the honor and rights of the country. In my judgment, it would be inconsistent with the wisdom and prudence manifested by our Government, in the precautionary measures taken against Mexico, where by the peace of the country was preserved in the settlement of the Texas question, and repugnant to the opinion we should entertain of the capacity of our Government, to believe that war can immediately result from the conflicting opinions or action of the two Governments upon this question. No administration which has ever had the control of the Government, could stand against the general indignation which would follow the loss of life and property, consequent upon a war with Great Britain, entered upon without warning, and without any the slightest preparation for defence.

No part of the Union would, in the event of war, be more exposed than Maryland; and if you should have less confidence than I have in the wisdom of the Federal Executive, it will be your paramount duty to make some provision for placing our State in a posture of defence.

If you should entertain upon this momentous subject, an opinion different from mine, the thorough reorganization of the militia system will be imperatively required.

But may not this question be settled without injury to the rights of this, and consistently with the honor of both countries?

If contrary to our expectations, Great Britain should finally reject this very liberal compromise offered by our government; would it in your judgment be injurious to the rights, or inconsistent with the honor of this country, to agree that this question of title should be settled by arbitration?

The diplomatic correspondence upon this question, between Mr. Packenham and Mr. Buchanan, has made a powerful impression upon the public sentiment of the country, and I believe that now the almost universal opinion is entertained in this country, that ours is the *better title* to the *whole territory.* What objection then, can exist on the part of the government, or people of this country (who concur in the opinion that our title is well founded) to the submission of this question to the arbitrament of well informed men, the citizens of some other country, who would have no interest in the controversy, and who would be guided solely by the desire to decide the question according to right and justice! Would not the portion of the territory already offered by our government as a compromise, be more than could be assigned to Great Britain by any arbitrators who would be selected? The President in reference to this question, is, I am persuaded, only *anxious to do right;* and to meet the expectations of the country. If then you should concur with me in opinion, that the acceptance by our government of a proposition to arbitrate this question, would not conflict with the rights, or be derogatory to the honor of our country; might not the expression of that opinion, as the sentiment of Maryland in the contingency of such an offer being made by Great Britain, have some effect upon the counsels of the Nation, and consequent influence in preserving the peace of the country!

In conclusion, permit me to assure you, that entertaining the most implicit confidence in your patriotism and judgment. I shall cooperate with you to the utmost of my ability to promote the welfare of our constituents; and in *peace or war*, to maintain the honor of our State.

THOMAS G. PRATT.

LET OUR FARMERS THINK OF THIS

A correspondent of the New York Morning News, speaking of the great evils that cause the condition of the great mass in Ireland to be what it is, mentions that the whole extent of Ireland amounts to a little more than twenty millions of acres, and the population to nearly nine millions. Deducting bog land, marshes, swamps, &c., there is considerable less than two acres to each inhabitant. There are immense entailed estates by absentee landlords, but so embarrassed by the extravagance of their proprietors that no improvement can be undertaken in them. They are mortgaged, and nearly all the income is absorbed to pay the interest and settlements. An immense quantity of land is held by a few, thus leaving many as tenants to eke out on an acre or half acre a miserable existence. There are thousands who envy the possessor of a farm of five acres. The rents vary considerably, but the lowest is far too high. Three pounds per annum is considered a fair price, and the tenant who can obtain a lease, esteems himself most fortunate. Sometimes a landlord gives an acre to a cotter to manure and he is to have the crop of potatoes that grow on it. The crop once in he quits the field. The huts are paid for in addition. Many have huts of one party and the field of another. Many of the cotters are changing every year. The floating population seeking land is so great, that the rent asked, no matter how exorbitant, is readily granted, the people expect by hard work and privation to pay it. Agriculture is carried on by main strength. Few of this population eat the year any thing but potatoes, and it is really astonishing to see a people suffering such daily privations, so light hearted and good natured. This is certainly a most unstimulating diet, and the people who live under such circumstances, cannot be to highly praised. The population living in this manner is nearly three millions. We say, let American farmers think of this.

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