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BY WILLIAM L. ADAMS.

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The Oregon Argus.

—A Weekly Newspaper, devoted to the Principles of Jeffersonian Democracy, and advocating the side of Truth in every issue.—

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Are you Happy--Fully Happy?

About five years ago there was published at Lausanne, Switzerland, a pamphlet with the above title. It is constructed very ingeniously, and a summary of its contents cannot fail to be instructive. We copy from the Ladies' Repository:

Eight gentlemen, old friends, enjoying a good reputation as honorable and upright men, are traveling together. While on their excursion, they address to one another this question: "*Are you happy—fully happy?*" Each one of them speaks from the heart with frankness, and without reserve; and the following are the answers which they respectively give:

THE BANKER.—"I have acquired, by long and honest endeavors, a large and brilliant fortune. All my wants are easily satisfied without diminishing my capital or my income. I fear nothing for my terrestrial future. My funds are placed in stocks of a reliable and solid basis. The poor envy my lot, while the wealthy admire the success of my operations. I possess an amiable family. My wife and my children combine to spare me the least degree of trouble, and to render agreeable each day of my life. Nevertheless, I am not fully happy. There is one thing which troubles me, which poisons my joys, and which casts a funeral pall over the decline of my life; that one thing is the thought that all these goods, these riches, this dear family, these sweet affections, are transient, perishable, and that very soon I shall lose them forever. My heart is sad and cast down."

THE COLONEL.—"I have known the glory of arms, and the intoxicating triumphs of war. How has my heart swelled with pride, when, at the head of my soldiers, I have prostrated the battalions and scaled the ramparts of the enemy; or when, after the victory, I have beheld my name cited with honor in the bulletins of the commander-in-chief! It seemed to me that no human destiny was more noble than my own. But now a terrible sentence re-echoes in my ear. One day, after a deadly combat, I walked over the field of battle. Seeing an officer weltering in his blood, I endeavored to lift him up. 'Thank you,' said the dying one, in a languid voice; and turning his head he continued, 'Thank you; but it is too late! we must all die; think upon it, think upon it!' And with his last sigh he uttered this solemn sentence, 'We must all die!' It has fastened itself to my memory like an implacable fury, from which there is no deliverance. I have some moments of joy; but, alas! my friend, I am not fully happy."

THE DIPLOMATIST.—"Honors have been heaped upon me in my long career. My country, to which I have rendered some service, has generously recompensed the zeal which I have employed for its interests and dignity. Public gratitude has met me at every step; and the testimony of esteem is greater than I could have expected ever to merit. The poor have been the object of my charities. I have fed them, and clothed them; and they have not been ungrateful. Notwithstanding, I want something; I know not well what it is; but my heart is empty. Often I feel myself unquiet, oppressed, discontented, without any apparent cause for sadness. I have vague desires after an ideal something which I can not reach, and all my honors are insufficient to cure the secret malady of my heart. No, my friends, I am not truly happy."

THE POET.—"In my youth the Muses were prodigal of their sweetest smiles. I loved to pursue my delightful reveries in the cool retirement of the leafy woods, or on the flowery banks of the streamlet. I soared like an eagle above all the little interests and the frivolous passions of the world. My poetical inspirations were received with universal applause. My name was heard in the most obscure hamlets of my native land; and the fair and beautiful in the public places whispered as I passed, 'It is *the poet*.' Many, very many, assured me that my glory was *immortal*. But what is *such an immortality?* If these are dreamers, or rather fools, who demand nothing more, I leave them to their folly. I aspire to another immortality. The vain incense of men does not satisfy me. I look at *final results*—at the only true reality; and, having no positive assurance of that final result, gentlemen, I declare to you with candor, I am not fully happy."

THE MAN OF THE WORLD.—"For myself, I have not such bitter complaints to make. I try to laugh at everything. My wisdom consists in looking on the bright side of things. It is true that I have sometimes the *ennui*; but what signifies that? I endeavor still to be gay. I go to the theater, to balls, to concerts, and to all sorts of amusements which I find. The best philosophy is to amuse one's self as much as possible." "But," demanded the diplomatist, "when old age, sickness, and adversity come upon you, what will become of your pleasures and amusements?" "Then," replied the worldling, with evident embarrassment, "I will submit to my destiny." "But," continued the diplomatist, "in this uncertainty, are you fully happy?" "No," replied the gentleman of the world, in a deep, low voice, "and, if you absolutely wish that I should confess to you, I avow to you that I am not fully happy."

THE OLD LAWYER.—"I have reached the age of three-score years and ten.—Health, fortune, reputation, domestic affections—all these I possess. When I was in the midst of business, overwhelmed with continued occupations, and not having a moment for reflection, I sighed after the time when I might take repose. 'Ah!' I often said to myself, 'what a sad life is that of the advocate! Always processes, always feverish excitement, and heavy labor. But patience and courage! I will acquire by my economies an easy fortune, and I will enjoy perfect contentment before the end of my career.' Well, my friends, I have reached the object of my desires; no more pre-occupations; no more tangled and painful cases. I have as much leisure as any one can wish; but, notwithstanding, contentment is not my heritage. The hours seem to me so long; when I have read my books and newspapers two or three hours, I have enough of them, and I do not know what to do with the rest of the day. My existence is monotonous, withered; and I should be telling an untruth in saying that I am fully happy."

THE RELIGIOUS PROFESSOR.—"For myself, I have sought my strength and my consolation in religion. I believe in the holiness of the law; I believe in the justice of God; I believe in the final judgment. But my conscience is not tranquil; I do not possess the peace of the Gospel. Death, which is stealing on, fills me with inquietude and fright. Every day I read my Bible, and pray with regularity. On the Sabbath my place is never empty in the house of God. I can assure you that I attend most faithfully to all the ordinances of the church. Nevertheless, trouble and anguish accompany me everywhere; I always see in God a severe and angry Judge; and the thought of appearing before his tribunal, with my innumerable sins, fills me with an insurmountable anxiety. No, I am not fully happy; I am not happy at all."

THE CHRISTIAN PHYSICIAN.—"My dear friends, your avowals have caused me no astonishment. The Bible and experience are united in teaching that neither fortune, glory, honors, genius, nor anything else of this world, can render us fully happy.—God has created our hearts for himself, and so long as they are not given to him, they are filled with uneasiness and anguish. I have gone through the same experience as yourselves. In my youth I adopted the principles of materialism; and notwithstanding the success which I obtained in my profession, I tasted no happiness. But, by the grace of God, I have been snatched from those desolating doctrines. The reading of the Scriptures showed me that I was a sinner; and this conviction was my first step in the new way. Since then I have turned my eyes to 'Christ and him crucified'; and a penitent trust in my blessed Savior has given me a peace, a contentment, a joy 'which passeth all understanding.' I fear nothing; I know the crown of righteousness is reserved for me in heaven." "You are then *fully* happy?" said one of the company. "Yes, my friend; I confide in the love, in the fidelity of God, who has given for me his Son, his own Son, in order that I might be rendered happy in this world and in that which is to come." "You therefore do not fear the end," said the Colonel. "No, my dear brother; for that which you call the end is for me *the commencement*."

THE BIRD OF PARADISE.—There are few birds that have more deceived and puzzled the learned than this. Some have described it as an inhabitant of the air, living only upon the dew of heaven, and never coming down to earth. Others have acquiesced in the latter part of its history, but have finally cut off its legs before they brought it to market. Thus concealing its greatest deformity, they considered themselves entitled to rise in their demands when they offered it for sale. One deceit led to another. The buyer, finding the bird without legs, naturally inquired after them; and the seller as naturally began to assert that it had none. Thus far, the European was imposed upon by others; in all the rest he imposed upon himself.—Seeing so beautiful a bird without legs, he concluded it could only live in the air, where legs were unnecessary. The extraordinary splendor of its plumage assisted this deception; and, as it had heavenly beauty, so it was asserted to have a heavenly residence. Hence its name, and all the false reports that have been made concerning it.

Error, however, is short-lived, and time has discovered that this bird not only has legs, but very large, strong ones, for its size. Soon after this discovery was made, this harmless bird was branded with the character of being rapacious, of destroying all birds of smaller size, and from the amazing rapidity of its flight, as well qualified for a vast deal of mischief. The real history of this pretty creature is at present tolerably well known; and it is found to be as harmless as beautiful.

There are several species of the Bird of Paradise. Some of them are as large as a pigeon, though in reality the body is not much greater than that of the thrush. The tail, which is about six inches in length, is as long as the body. The wings are large, compared with the bird's other dimensions. The head, the throat, and the neck, are of a pale gold color. The base of the bill and side of the head and throat are surrounded by black feathers, which are as soft as velvet, and changeable, like those on the neck of a blackbird. The hinder part of the head is of a shining green, mixed with gold. The body and wings are chiefly covered with beautiful brown, purple, and gold feathers. The uppermost part of the tail feathers are of a pale yellow, and those under them white and longer than the former, for which reason the hinder part of the tail appers to be all white. But what chiefly excites curiosity are the two long, naked feathers which spring from the upper part of the rump, above the tail, and which are usually about three feet long. These are bearded only at the beginning and the end; the whole shaft, for about two feet nine inches, being of a deep black, while the feathered extremity is of a changeable color.

This bird, which for beauty exceeds all other species of this genus, is a native of the Moluccs Islands. There, in the delightful and spicy woods of the country, these beautiful creatures fly in very large flocks, so that the groves which produce the richest spices, produce the finest birds also. The inhabitants themselves are perfectly aware of the great beauty of these birds, and give them the name of "*God's birds*," as being superior to all others in existence. They live in large flocks, and at night perch on the same tree. They fly very rapidly, and are almost continually on the wing, in pursuit of insects, which form their food.

A CAUTION TO CONCEITED YOUNG MEN.—A young medical student from Michigan, who had been attending lectures in New York for some months past, and considered himself exceedingly good-looking, knowing and fascinating, made a dead onset upon the heart and fortune of a blooming young lady who was boarding in the house with him. After a prolonged siege, the lady surrendered. They were married on a Wednesday morning. That same afternoon, the "young wife" sent for and exhibited to the astonished student a "beautiful little daughter," three and a half years of age. "Good heavens! then you were a widow!" exclaimed the astounded young man. "Yes, my dear, and this is Amelia, my youngest. To-morrow, Augustus, James and Reuben will arrive from the country, and then I shall have all my darlings together once more." The unhappy youth replied not a word. His feelings were too deep for utterance. The next day the "other darlings" arrived.—Reuben was six years old, James nine, and Augustus a saucy boy of twelve. They were delighted to hear that they had a "new papa," "*because they could now live at home, and have all the playthings they wanted!*" The new "papa," as soon as he could speak, remarked that Augustus and James did not much resemble Reuben and Amelia. "Well, no," said the happy mother; "my *first* husband was quite a different style of man from my *second*—complexion, temperament, color of hair and eyes, all different." This was too much. He had not only married a widow, but was her third husband, and the astounded step-father of four children.—"But the fortune," thought he; "that will make amends." He spoke of her fortune. "These are my treasures!" said she, in the Roman matron style, pointing to her children. The conceit was now quite taken out of the young Michigander, who, finding that he had made a complete goose of himself, at once retired to a farm in his native State, where he could have a chance to render his 'boys' useful, and make them sweat for the deceit practiced upon him by their mother.

☞ The London Times thus caricatures our Congress:

"In Congress, on the other side of the great sea, our transatlantic cousins manage these matters expeditiously. When a proposition is brought before the House of Representatives at Washington, any honorable gentleman to whom it may be obnoxious may defeat it—1st, by knocking down the proposer on the floor of the House; 2d, by slipping across the House with a friend, and caning or cowhiding both the proposer and seconder; 3d, by a rush of all the nays at all the yeas, and by a general 'scrimmage;' 4th, by speaking against time to avoid an immediate decision, and, during adjournment, by pistoling or knifing at the bar of an hotel the proposer and all members who may seem disposed to lend him serious support. It is quite clear that, by this mixture of force and reason, quicker results are obtained than by our own more wearisome forms."

FOREIGN EMIGRATION.—The falling off in the number of emigrants this season is very marked. The total arrivals of emigrants at New York for the present year up to May 5th, were 12,487, against 35,497 for the same period last year. At this rate the emigration for the present year will be less than 30,000.

The report of the Commissioner of emigration for April shows that 2,171 passengers were from Liverpool, 51 from London, 94 from Glasgow, 659 from Havre, 195 from Bremen, 616 from Hamburg, and 34 from Antwerp. Five steamers brought 1,577 passengers, and 15 sailing vessels 2,880.

PUGH AND THE PRESIDENT.—Senator Pugh, of Ohio, has only been in the Senate a short time, but he has gained a celebrity which some of his brother Senators fail to achieve after a decade of service.—He is quite young, and is known as the "talented young Senator from Ohio." He is, perhaps, the most Democratic Democrat living. He believes in the party, and —nothing else. He sticks to the party platform, is faithful to the party's interests, advocates all party measures, and supports the party's President.

But it appears that the President is as faithless to Pugh as Pugh has been faithful to the President. Through the whole of the fierce and desperate Kansas battle, the Senator stood by the President like a brother, and did nearly as much as any other man in Congress to secure the passage of the English Bill. But when, in return for his arduous services, he desired to advise the President in relation to some Ohio appointment, the President insultingly turns on his heel, and tells the "talented young Senator from Ohio" to go about his business. The Washington correspondent of the New York Times says of the quarrel:

"The difficulty which has occurred between Senator Pugh, of Ohio, and the President, is apparently irreconcilable, though efforts have been made to patch up a peace. The quarrel has gone so far that Pugh declares he will never again enter the White House while Buchanan is President, and the President is reported to have said that he regards Pugh as no better than Hale."

☞ Says the Louisville Journal - "The Philadelphia Pennsylvanian says that all parties have cause to thank the President. If ever the American party thank him, it will be for the good service he has done in breaking up the Democracy."

☞ The St. Louis Democrat refers to the result of the late municipal election in Philadelphia as an evidence of the prodigious power of the Lecompton fraud. It says:

"The Republican candidate for Mayor was elected by 4,300 majority. Last October the city gave Wilmot, the Republican candidate for Governor, 10,001 votes; Hazelhurst, American, 14,335; Packer, Democrat, 27,749. Combined majority against the Republicans, 32,083. Republican gain since Lecompton was introduced, 36,383!"

THE SECOND REVIVAL.—A correspondent of the Newburyport (Mass.) Herald, a Democratic paper, writes as follows recently from Milwaukie, Wisconsin:

"Milwaukie has been visited by two revivals: one of religion, by which a great and good work has been accomplished; and the other in politics, which have become sounder, purer, and better. Lecompton has done the work for Democracy here, as everywhere I have been, in passing through eight States of the Union within three months. This fact will show it:—Mr. Buchanan carried Milwaukie by 3,400 majority; but on the 6th inst., at the charter election, the Anti Lecompton ticket swept the field almost without a struggle. So it is all through Wisconsin, and all through the Northwest. It is difficult to find a man, the office-holders and a few of the Irish excepted, who will own that he ever was a Democrat. With one voice they say that Mr. Buchanan's administration is a decided failure, and his measures are not to be indorsed by the freemen of such a country as this."

AN INCIDENT.—A Washington correspondent of a New York paper writes under date of the 10th of May:

"There is a spicy story going the rounds, to the effect that one day last week a Western office-seeker, who has been here a long time, and who has been finally disappointed, called on the President in a rage, and, after indulging in some pretty sharp language, seized Mr. Buchanan by the collar, and shook a brawny fist under his nose! The venturesome individual was of course immediately collared and kicked out of the White House. The incident is not believed by some of Mr. Buchanan's Pennsylvania friends, because they say he could and would have floored the disappointed pugilist himself, which he did not do."

☞ Hon. Eli Thayer, a member of Congress from Massachusetts, in a recent speech, alluding to some assaults which had been made on the history of his native State, said, "There are some things which I never attempt to defend. Among these are the Falls of Niagara, the White Mountains of New Hampshire, the Atlantic Ocean, Plymouth Rock, Bunker Hill, and —the History of Massachusetts!"

A SNOB.—Senator Hammond, who in his recent speech stigmatized the laboring classes of the North as "the mudsills of society," and as "white slaves," is the son of a man who, in his younger days, was a worthy and industrious butcher, and afterwards a worker of a saw mill. "Degenerate son of a noble sire."

SALES OF PUBLIC LANDS.—The sales of public land for cash during the last quarter were large. The proceeds were $3,056,236. This gratifying result was wholly unanticipated by the Secretary of the Treasury, who in December estimated the total receipts from this source at $3,000,000 for the nine months folllowing the 30th of September.

Up to this time no sales have been made of the reserved alternate sections withdrawn from private entry by the laws authorizing grants for Railroad purposes, but when they shall become open to purchase, the receipts from that source must be very heavy. The quantity of land thus reserved is not far from fifteen millions of acres. It lies in the States of Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas and Louisiana, and the Territory of Minnesota. The minimum price is $2 50 per acre, and as the lands will be in great request, it need excite no surprise if from this source alone twenty millions of dollars flow into the Treasury within the ensuing year.

The proceeds of land sales in Wisconsin during the present quarter will be very heavy, the lands previously offered for sale, but withdrawn pending the adjustment of the grants for railroads, having been this month restored to private entry. Great public sales of land will be held in Iowa in June, in Kansas in July, and in Nebraska on the 6th of September. I am informed at the Land Office that the quantity thrown upon the market in Kansas is three and a half millions of acres, and in Nebraska two and a half millions. During the coming summer twenty-three millions of acres will be offered in California.

THE U. S. SENATE.—The Washington correspondent of the Albany Evening Journal writes as follows of the leading members of the U. S. Senate:

"If a close student of character and a general reader of political biography were asked to designate the five chief men of the Senate, I think he would promptly name Seward, Douglas, Crittenden, Hunter, and Toombs. Of these, Seward and Hunter are the most philosophical thinkers, and the most polished rhetoricians. Their speeches will be permanently incorporated among the 'Works' of American Statesmen. Seward's will live longest, because they are intrinsically the ablest, and discuss topics of the mast enduring interest to mankind.

"Douglas and Toombs are the keenest, strongest debaters; and, in impressing an immediate auditory, are the most effective speakers. Of these two, Douglas is the more subtle, terse, compact, and pointed. He has more intensity but less fertility of mind than Toombs; but the Illinoisan's mail-coat is closer wrought than the Georgian's; so, though he is equally daring and vigorous in onslaught, he is less liable to be pierced with the weapon of his foe.—Indeed, in a hand-to hand forum, Douglas probably equals any man of the times.

"Crittenden is in most respects not a whit behind his compeers. He is not so philosophical as Seward, nor so classical as Hunter, nor so dextrous as Douglas, nor so impassioned as Toombs; but, in calm argumentation, loftiness of conception, majesty of mein, and, warmed with his subject, in power of appeal and glow of imagination, to this day, though silvered over with age, he sustains the reputation he won in early manhood as second only to Clay among the orators of the Southwest. It is always a rich intellectual treat to hear the Kentucky chief in high Senatorial debate."

THE EFFECTS OF GOLD.—The present state of the money and commercial world is fraught with interest in respect to the future influence of the continued influx of the precious metals. When the discoveries were first confirmed in 1849, the world was filled with discussions upon the probable effect of the new supplies upon the price of produce. If gold was to become very cheap, all other articles would be relatively high. Thus all debtors would find their burdens lightened, and all creditors and annuitants would find the purchasing power of their incomes annually declining. Silver would, it was thought, rise relatively to gold, and reassume something of the proportion it held before the discoveries of Peru. These ideas generally prevailed, and induced Holland to demonitise gold—adhering to silver. Ten years have now passed, and $800,000,000 of gold has been added to the world's gold! yet prices generally are no higher than before. Silver holds the same relation to gold that it did, and money within six months has been higher in the open market than it ever was before. Thus all the prognostics upon the gold influence seem to have failed. The stream of gold has not lowered its value, although fed from the three new sources of Russia, Australia, and California. The question then recurs, will it so continue? will gold continue to flow in and swell to overflowing the vaults of the banks without ultimately producing the effect anticipated?

If we look back upon the events of the last ten years, we shall find that they have been such as to counteract powerfully the influence. The discovery of gold followed a disastrous famine, when still larger amounts of capital were destroyed and gold hoarded. The advent of the French Empire was followed by a large absorption of capital, in the shape of goods by the gold countries. The Russian war followed, swallowing up immense other sums, and still greater ones were put into railroads—in America, in Western Europe, and in India. At the same time the harvests again failed. All these circumstances were productive of high prices, and these prices drew produce from Asia, for which silver was sent back in large masses. The effect of sending away silver was to reduce the mass of money relatively to commodities. All these circumstances have caused gold to fail of its effect. The large losses by war, bad harvests, and railways, could not have been met, but from the results of the extraordinary productive industry stimulated by the anticipated effect of gold. The reaction has now come. All commodities are abundant, and gold—while accumulating in swelling masses—is still pouring in, the harvests are good, peace undisturbed, and prices moderate. What will now be the effect of $800,000,000 more gold added to the world's stock in the next ten years? There would seem to be little doubt but that the effects formerly anticipated are now to be realized to some extent, and when confidence in this fact once more revives, the activity of business will compensate for the present stagnation.—*United States Economist.*

A GREAT GUN—KILLING MADE EASY.—The Buffalo Express tells of a warlike invention just brought out in that city which is of an extraordinary character, provided it possesses all the qualities represented:—It was tested yesterday afternoon in a vacant building on Washington street, between Senaca and Exchange streets. The piece is a beautiful little brass gun of the usual shape, mounted on wheels, and so constructed that a rotary cylinder constitutes the breech, which contains four charges, replenished by means of a hopper, and fired as rapidly as a man can work an ordinary lever backward and forward. The piece is discharged by electricity, and from this results an important and valuable discovery, which was developed after the completion of the piece.—By means of the battery and wires connecting with the cylinder by which ignition is caused, the cylinder becomes perfectly electrical, *which keeps it as cool as if continually bathed with ice.* Some two hundred rounds were fired yesterday in rapid succession, at the rate of 80 rounds per minute, at the end of which time, without using the swab once, the breech was much colder than when the firing commenced.—The rapidity of the firing was much retarded by the bad quality of the cartridge in use, but such as it was, it was sufficient to demonstrate the complete success of the invention. Even 20 rounds per minute would seem to be sufficient for all reasonable or unreasonable purposes for that matter; but we entertain no doubt that with cartridges properly prepared, the inventor's expectation of 60 rounds per minute will be fully realized. We understand that as soon as all arrangements are completed, the inventors will proceed to Washington and lay their plans before the government. The necessary steps have been taken to secure Enropean patents, and when all is complete, and the machine is in operation, we do not believe that nations can hereafter *afford to go to war.*

SPAIN.—It is confidently predicted by American residents in Spain that a respectable republican Government will be organised in that country within a year.—The Democratic forces are well organized, understand each other, and have agreed upon a declaration of principles on which they will establish the new Government. These are entirely republican, and include the equality of the citizens, universal suffrage, freedom of the press and of speech, and religious freedom, with the severance of the connection of church and State. Whether the people of Spain are prepared to organize and sustain such a Government may be doubted, but there seems to be a strong conviction that the attempt will soon be made, and that it will be a formidable one.

The New York Tribune publishes a Madrid letter, containing a manifesto of the Spanish Republicans, which embodies their preparation for a revolution, which is proclaimed to be at hand.

☞ The Paris correspondent of the N. Y. Commercial says: "An immense activity reigns in the maritime ports of France, and no nation of the world is increasing its naval strength at the present moment with the same rapidity as this country.—Its army now numbers 620,000 men, and its navy is very nearly, and will soon perhaps be quite, equal to that of England."

SOMETHING WRONG.—The Paris correspondent of the New York Times writes:

"A singular discrepancy is shown by the last census of France. Thus in 1856 the population of the empire stood: Of the male sex, 17,794,946, of whom 9,972,232 were unmarried, 6,686,223 married, and 836,509 widowers. Of the female sex, 17,988,286; of whom 9,851,795 were girls, 6,948,825 married, and 1,087,583 widows. How are we to reconcile this discrepancy? 261,861 more wives than husbands! The bureaucrats of the statistical department scratch their heads over this strange anomaly in the figures, and don't see how to find the clue to it.

POPULARITY OF ORSINI.—Madame Orsini has left Paris to return to the Italian village, where she has long been a schoolmistress. It is stated that the subscription in Italy and England for Orsini's family exceeds a million of francs.

☞ If a fee of fifty cents was charged to see the sun rise, nine-tenths of the world would be up in the morning.