A C R Shaw

Rec 527

Oregon Spectator

"Westward the Star of Empire takes its way."

Vol. II, Oregon City, (Oregon Ter.) Thursday, Oct. 22, 1847. No. 23.

The Dignity of Labor.

There is no surer mark of the progress of any people in the arts and sciences of civilized life, than the estimation in which labor is held among them.

In the ruder stages of society, personal prowess and physical vigor constitute the standard of worth. As civilization advances, skill in arms and martial accomplishments, become the chief recommendations to honor and distinction; and finally, the march of mind through a multitude of agencies, the chief of which is the press, establishes the great truth, that excellence consists alone in a combination of mental power and moral virtue. It may provoke a smile to think that mere physical power should have ever been the measure of a man, and that his character should have been estimated by the number of pounds he could lift, the distance he could jump, or the force with which he could hurl a stone. Yet notions far more rediculous, if possible, prevail at the present day. How many young men are there, who estimate their gentility by the smoothness and whiteness of their hands; whose standard of manhood is the length of time they can waste in idleness, the number of cigars they can smoke, the quantity of champaign their heads will bear, and whose highest ideas of worth is the amount of money they can squander. How many young ladies are there too, who, reared in luxurious ease and refinement, have no higher standard of worth than the amount of costly silk and lace they can exhibit, the quantity of jewelry with which they can catch the vulgar eye, and dazzle the perceptions of the weak and thoughtless. It may appear a matter of small consequence, what opinions such persons may entertain of labor, or those who perform it; but the disesteem of labor, is the unerring mark of the tyrant: in every period of the world, a contempt for labor and the most abject slavery on one hand; and the most oppressive tyrrany on the other, have existed together. The ancient Lacedemonians may serve as one example. No people ever more utterly despised labor; it was consigned to the hands of their Helots, who were, in consequence, the most abject and degraded slaves. Persons who thus despise labor, and contemn the laborer, may not know, or may not care, what miseries they inflict upon society, by thus striving to overturn the basis of republican liberty and social prosperity; but neither their ignorance, nor wilfulness, can palliate the guilt of such efforts. The direct tendency of their example, is to degrade the majority of mankind, and to render labor less honorable than their own "masterly inactivity." And suppose, for a moment, that it should prevail so far as to make the mechanic ashamed of his tools; lead him to repudiate his trade and forsake his shops; how are men's wants to be supplied? Evidently by compulsory labor: the poor, driven by necessity, must become slaves to the rich, thus widening the invidious distance between them, until the reward of the laborer's toil shall be a scanty subsistence at the discretion of the master. This is one effect; and it is easy to see what others must follow. Perhaps one of the most cutting rebukes ever given to this spirit of aristocratic arrogance, was administered by that great man, Chief Justice Marshall. A gentlemen recently settled in Richmond as a merchant, went to market carrying his own basket. He observed, however, other gentleman attended by servants, making purchases, and felt a little ashamed of his position. Turning to an old man, whom he saw rather rustily dressed, and lugging a well-filled basket, he asked him to take his also. "Certainly, sir," said the old man; and taking the merchant's basket, carried it to his residence. The gentleman offered him a quarter for his trouble, which was refused. This created some surprise, and led the merchant to notice where the old man went. Passing on, the old man stopped at a house which had been pointed out to him as the residence of Judge Marshall. "Ah," said he, "that accounts for his refusal of the money, he is Judge Marshall's servant." In a little while, the merchant received a polite note, requesting the pleasure of his company to dinner at Judge Marshall's. On arriving at the door, the very same old man answered his summons, and showed him into the drawing room; but imagine his surprise, when the old man seated himself on a sofa, and commenced one of his animated and delightful conversations, with the freedom of a master, and the wisdom of a philosopher. At first, he thought it strange [illegible]; but probably he had imbibed something of the master, for whose appearance he was waiting with such exciting anticipation. But he soon began to see his error. "I owe you an apology, sir," said he to the Judge. "It matters not," said the Judge, "we will take a glass of wine, and become better acquainted, and less ashamed of helping ourselves." And thus it has been, in all ages of the world, that the truly wise and great have sought honor from labor. The apostle Paul thanked God that he had not lived an idle drone; that he had not been a burden to any; but had worught with his own hands: and his divine Master set the stamp, the signet of dignity upon labor, and made it inherent and inalienable. What are lands and mines, and forests and streams, until labor has given them value? Cheerily work on, then, thou man of toil; for although the pride of some, and the indolence of others, may throw an unequal burden on thee, it can bring no disgrace; *that* belongs exclusively to the other side of the house; for though affluence may exempt its possessor from the necessity of toil, it can give no right to despise labor, or degrade thee. He who fulfills the great condition of existence, to "eat his bread in the sweat of his face," is the truly honest man; the man of true honor and worth; and such art thou!

The Printer.—'I pity the printer,' said my uncle Toby. "He's a poor creature," rejoined Trim. "In the first place," continued the Corporal, looking full upon my uncle, "because he must try to please every body. In the negligence of a moment, perhaps, a small paragraph pops upon him; he hastily throws it to the compositor, it is inserted and he is ruined to all intents and purposes."—"Too much the case, Trim," said my uncle, with a deep sigh; "too—much—the case." "And please your honors," continued Trim, elevating his voice and striking into an imploring attitude, "this is not the whole."—"Go on Trim," said my uncle, feelingly.—"The printer, sometimes," pursued the corporal, "hits upon a piece that pleases him mightily; and he thinks it cannot but go down with his subscribers. But, alas! Sir, who can calculate the human mind? He inserts it, and it is all over with him. They forgive others, but they cannot forgive a printer. He has a host to print for, and every one sets up for a critic. The pretty Miss exclaims, 'Why don't he give us more poetry, marriages, and *bon mots*?—away with these stale pieces.' The politician claps his specs on his nose, and reads it over in search of a violent invective; he finds none, takes his specs off, folds them and sticks them in his pocket, declaring the paper good for nothing but to burn. So it goes. Every one thinks it ought to be printed expressly for himself, as he is a subscriber; and yet, after this complaining would you believe it, sir," says the Corporal, clasping his hands beseechingly, "would you believe it, sir, there are *some subscribers* who do not hesitate to cheat the printer out of his *pay!* Our army swore terribly in Flanders, but they never did any thing so bad as that." 'Never!' said my uncle Toby, emphatically.—*N. & M. Gaz.*

A Religious Courtship.—A young gentleman happened to sit at church in a pew adjoining one in which sat a young lady, for whom he conceived a sudden and violent passion, was desirous of entering into courtship on the spot; but the place not suiting a formal declaration, the exigency of the case suggested the following plan:—He politely handed his fair neighbor a bible open, with a pin stuck in the following text—2nd epistle of John v. 5th:—"And now I beseech thee lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment unto thee, but that which we had from the beginning, that we love one another." She returned it, pointing, Ruth 2nd and bowed herself to the ground and said unto him, why have I found grace in thine eyes, that thou shouldst take knowledge of me, seeing I am a stranger?" He returned the book pointing to the 12th verse of the epistle of John:—"Having many things to write unto you I would not write with paper and ink, but I trust to come and speak face to face." From the above interview a marriage took place the ensuing week.

Farewell to the Bottle.

Farewell—a long farewell,
Thou mirth-creating spell,
No more to thee
My songs shall be,
Drinking, singing,
Glasses ringing,
More on mine ear,
Shall never hear.
My spoon ash past
And now at last
There comes a calm
A hallowing balm,
For pains and aches,
For feverish shakes,
And all the maddening train
Of ills that ever fill the brain,
When whiskey's fumes o'er reason mount,
For now that evil working fountain
Hath ceased to charm me with its liquid glow,
And reason o'er the bottle's whimsies mounting,
Leads the calm mind to a more pleasant fount,
That gives a clearer view of every thing below.
Yet, there were raptures, I can ne'er forget,
And many moments o'er the goblet's brim unwasted,
For friendship's ardour sparkles through them yet,
And makes me scarce regret the draughts I've tasted;
While all the unclosed fondness of the soul
Was breathing fragrance round the joyous bowl—
And smiles I've loved, and hearts that I have tried,
Have beamed, and beaten gladly by my side;—
And yet, amidst the bliss, there ever was alloy,
For wretched morn's repose has followed evening's joy.
No more the clouds of shame shall gather near
In darkling shadows on the enfrenzied brow;—
But clear and calm, the soul shall, through the eyes,
Speak her thoughts, nor know her being to despise.
No more the MAN shall sink beneath his sphere,
And make each lowlier living thing his peer;
But proudly keep the place he was assigned
CREATION'S LORD AND BROTHER OF MANKIND!
And will not friendship shed a brighter flame,
When reason speaks the justice of her claim?—
Will not AFFECTION have a steadier glow,
Unheated by the fitful wine cups's flow?—
Yes—yes, I feel that Pleasure's purest glance,
Comes with the peaceful sound of TEMPERANCE.

Bathing in Wine.—It is not generally known that wine *baths* are quite common in France—nevertheless such is the case. The duke of Clarence is not the only gentleman who has enjoyed an immersion in Malmsey. Punch has tried it with the very best Sherry. Only imagine! Punch—the veritable English Punch—swimming in French wine, and kicking and plunging, and laughing, until the tears ran down his cheeks, and never thinking of expense—a five franc piece!

"What! a five franc piece for a tub full of wine? Hurrah! *Vive la France!*"

"Gently—gently. At least *fifty* others bathed in the same wine—*after* Punch. The keeper of the *bagne* had a preference for Punch, and gave him the first dip. *After* him came fifty others—making in all *fifty* five franc pieces. A good price for the tub."

"The wine was then thrown out?"

"Not at all. Not so, by any means."

"What then?"

"Bottled, of course!"

"Bottled! And for what purpose?"

"Why for drink, to be sure."

"Drink! Who would drink such stuff?"

"Why the English do—the Yankees do! The latter import it in large quantities. It is a great favorite in Yankee-land."

Now, dear wine-drinking friends, anti-temperance friends, when you next smack your lips over a glass of champagne or burgundy, reflect that a Lyonese alderman may possibly have bathed in it, and see if the reflection will assist you in appreciating its flavor.

☞ Col. Cushing has given a good pair of boots to each soldier in his regiment.

"Pa[illegible] received a few days since [illegible] friend in Ohio, from [illegible] extract. The good[illegible] wisdom, and the fine tur[illegible] made a deep impression up[illegible] may be useful to young men [illegible] young men, who [illegible] and character for [illegible] and of our [illegible]

"We have [illegible] all [illegible] no [illegible] house [illegible] well [illegible] house, because we [illegible] true and only principle [illegible] honesty and independence [illegible] There is nothing like this in the whole mass of inventions to secure ease in living. It takes but one half the money, one half the time, one half the patience, one half the foresight—not a cent of interest—pays 100 per cent. in hand, and needs no [illegible]

"This is the principle for a young man to follow. It needs a little moral courage to go it strictly—but "Pay as you Go," has made all our honest men—has made nearly all our *great fortunes*—has made small capitalists millionares; and if it has not made Christians, it has obviated *heaps of sin*.—Now I have based my out door operations on this principle, and I find it [illegible] pervading the household *minutiæ*; [illegible] in every corner, and when the work is fully spent and *fully paid for*, we [illegible]

"Pay as you Go," is much neglected as a practical principle; the enterprise of life seems to overbear it—and ambition, too impulsive and too proud scorns the simple rule of rectitude; but whoever courts and submits to its formal exactions need not envy the *great man's* fireside or the rich man's pocket. It is and shall be the basis of my plans, and although I do not expect to convince the world, I feel in this principle a substantial investment of happiness that "pays as it goes," and returns at the end, the capital undiminished."—*Ex. Paper.*

Valuable Receipts.—Below we give the fruits of some years' industry in collecting useful receipts. Many of them will be found exceedingly important. Try them.

In preparing for a ball, it is better to put on a coat before buttoning it. Gentlemen who adopt this course will find that the job can be much sooner finished than by adopting a mode directly the reverse. If particular despatch be desired, at the same time, never attempt to draw on a boot over the head. One half the time that operation will be found exceedingly difficult to accomplish.

After joining the temperance society, great care should be observed in the choice and quality of drinks. Brandy if taken in moderate quantities, will be sure to cause intoxication, much sooner than cold water. A temperance man should not be seen in the street very drunk in less than two or three weeks after he has taken the pledge; when he finds 'too heavy a brick in his hat,' he should remain at home.

Immediately after purchasing an umbrella, be careful to have the initials of your name engraven on the handle, as that is sure to prevent its being stolen. Nobody would think of erasing your initials.

It is an excellent notion when you fall down in the street, to pick yourself up before going much farther. If a person wishes to make rapid headway, the perpendicular position is infinitely preferable to the horizontal.

If badly bitten by a surly cur, turn instantly and bite the dog, in illustration of the maxim "the hair of the dog will cure the bite."

A very good way to cure yourself of a habit of snoring in your sleep, is to sit up all night playing cards.

One of the most effective means to preserve shoe leather ever tried, is to walk upon the head.

Extraordinary Case of Human Goodness.—The Pittsburg Gazette has a reader, who for the past 51 years has paid his subscription yearly in advance.

☞ Why must your nose necessarily be in the middle of your face? Ans: Because it is the *scenter*.