

L. P. Fisher

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SCANDAL.

"A whisper soft broke the air— A soft, light tone, and low. Yet barbed with shame and woe; Now might it perish only there, Nor farther go."

"Don't, Charlie." MRS. M. A. HOLT. "Don't Charlie," came to my ears in a sweet, musical tone, while I was seated in a railway car last summer. I should not have heard the soft, touching voice had it not been very near me.

Several more oaths came from the lips, but the woman remained silent, yet looked so pleadingly at the erring one that I thought, if he had been half human, he would have heeded the mild, loving reproof that was so visible in those tear-dimmed eyes.

At that moment I saw the young husband wink slyly to the man, and they both arose and went into the baggage-car. I understood the movement when I saw a bottle protruding from the husbands' coat pocket.

"Don't, Charlie, don't go," the young wife had pleaded before he got beyond her reach; but he tore himself from her grasp and rushed along. Her eyes filled with tears and a low moan came from her pale lips, and then she bowed her head and wept silently.

He came back in a few moments, with his face flushed still more, and his voice a key or two louder than it was before. He brushed rudely past the wife, evidently to get near the car-window.

"Let me alone, Mag," he said, as she laid her white hand upon his arm. "Women are always in the way," he said, again turning toward the man in front of him.

The wife turned away, and I did not hear her sweet, reproving voice again. How I pitied that, young, loving wife, and how often I wonder, if her sensitive heart must suffer and bleed for many long years! Strange how soon liquor will transform human beings into unfeeling monsters, and chill the ardent, loving nature of a tender husband and loving wife.

The best way to clean a rusty plow is to use coal oil and a soft brick; the oil should be poured on and the iron rubbed with the brick until bright. Strong vinegar can be used sometimes with good effect.

Everybody in Racine, Wisconsin, wants a new hotel. They say the "Huggin House" is "good enough," but the name is too suggestive.

Mrs. Gen. Tom Thumb, who hurt herself by falling down stairs a few days since, has got well and drives out again in her pony phaeton.

Western Granges.

[From the Working Farmer.] We find the following in a paper of great respectability and influence: "The farmers, in establishing their granges, are acting on the well-known motto, that 'Heaven helps those who help themselves.' Thoroughly aroused to their honest grievances, they intend to ignore the politicians who have been for years deluding them with flattering promises never redeemed, and to undertake their correction after methods of their own. In Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, and Minnesota—all great commonwealths—the ruling sentiment is that of irrepressible opposition to all forms of protected monopoly, the tariff being the chief."

The admitted founder of the granges, or rather of the order of the "Patrons of Husbandry," to which the paper quoted from refers, was Mr. Saunders, of the United States Department of Agriculture, the editor, from his official relations with the patent office, became intimate with this excellent horticulturist. Two or three years since, Mr. Saunders explained to the editor, while in Washington, the principles and objects of the Order of the Patrons of Husbandry, then being first organized. The object, as explained by Mr. Saunders, was to give the scattered farmers of the country the elements of union which are found in political organizations, like the national leagues, and in the trade organizations. Mr. S. explained that the ceremonies of initiation, which had proved so attractive in the leagues, would attract the farmers into organizations. His object was to so embody the farmers that they might have somewhat of the power which the trades-union have. But the direction of the power was to be limited to the direct interests of American agriculture.

It is certain nothing could have been farther from the purpose of the founder of the order than free-trade agitation. This excellent organization succeeded, beyond the hopes of its founder. The granges, the name of its separate bodies of the Patrons of Husbandry, became rapidly extended, especially in the West; and then, when the vehicle was mounted and put upon the road, the free-traders came up and exclaimed, "Hurrah for the wagon, and we'll take a ride."

We had intended to give our views of the true interests of the farmers in connection with the tariff policy; but find our ground so well covered by a timely article in that excellent magazine, The Penn Monthly, that we reproduce it as the expression of our views.

THE FARMERS' QUESTION.

The controversy now in process in the West, attracts universal attention. It is a fine opening, some think, for the organization of a new political party; while others are active in perverting it for the purposes of the free-traders. These last are particularly active; and at Chicago, where some of the papers have a mania on this subject, there is a flood of declamation, ostensibly leveled at the wrongs the farmers suffer through the protective features of the tariff.

No doubt, the farmers do suffer very serious losses through the cost of getting to market. It is a result inseparable from the greater fact of having the market at a distance; and it is a law of all markets, that those who have crude products to sell must pay the cost of exchanging them for money and goods wherever the money and goods are to be found. When the market is in England, and not nearer the Illinois farmer must bear the cost of sending to England. When the market is in New York, he has three thousand miles less of transportation to pay for, and some chances to get paying prices. Now, why cannot a little reason be applied to the case,

and a better result hinted at in the way of creating a consuming market, in the cities of Illinois? This is so obvious a truth, and so clear as a mode of relief, that it seems incredible that the farmers do not see it.

In all the West, the demand for manufactured goods is enormous; and so well sustained is this demand, that production could scarcely go amiss in supplying it. Every form of textile fabrics, every form of manufactured metals, plain goods and fancy goods, necessities and luxuries alike, are eagerly sought, and most recklessly bought and consumed, by all classes in the West. Now is the time to inaugurate the thousand and one industries that exist in the East and England, and to establish them successfully in a field from which they never afterwards could be driven. Now is the time for the granges to signalize their organization, by bringing England to their presence and to their feet, by transplanting their industries by which their necessary merchandise is prepared for them, to the water-power and steam-power of the growing Western cities.

Instead of being an argument for free-trade, this revolt of the granges is the most compact and overwhelming demonstration that free-trade is impossible without ruin. At the present, perhaps one-fourth of the western grain and provision growing goes out of the country to find a market in Europe. Half the entire production is consumed in the United States, in sections more or less remote from the State of origin. Three or four times the amount exported is already consumed at home, and in other States than those of production; but the baleful shadow of the foreign market does much to damage and embarrass the home markets of the East. Suppose the present enormous consumption of manufacturing States of the East diminished one half or one-third—as it surely would if the protective features of the tariff were repealed—where then would be the relief of the farmers? Suppose the only competitors in the market to buy corn, flour, or meats were foreign buyers, where would the price be, and what would be left to the farmer, after the railroad was paid? Relief is only to be had by bringing consumers to the farmers' door. Make Chicago, perverse as it is, a manufacturing city. Build in a hundred interior towns, duplicates of the manufactories and workshops of the East; and emulate the fixed and triumphantly successful policy which has made the Eastern cities great. Aid the enterprising man who proposes to establish manufactories, by every means in your power, and assure him that, so far as possible, the national policy shall be sustained, by which alone he can resist foreign competition. Organize for a sensible and practicable business purpose; and by such organization you can remove such exactions as are now onerous and annoying; if any such exist, on the part of the railroad; but do not permit yourselves to be handed over to political schemers, or to free-trade theorists.

Free trade is a sham, a delusion, a mirage, that leads Western people, above all others, to ruin direct, if they follow it. Free-trade makes them go four thousand miles to market, when they should not go out of their own State with the most of it. The railroads will confer a service on the West if they incite home development. Magnificent industries in wool, cotton, iron and copper may as well be started there as in Philadelphia. Here these industries make four hundred million dollars worth of exchangeable products yearly; and as a consequence all classes are prosperous and all markets good. The railroads are badly managed, it is quite likely; but will not the farmers manage better than

anybody has yet suggested to them by creating markets at their own doors, and by exchanging products at the lowest minimum of cost? If they will, they need never regret the movement now made, nor nor even the mistakes into which they may be led by the new infusion of energy which incites them to action.

Value of Fairs.

I cannot too strongly urge upon the farmers and producers of the State the importance of attending the local and State Fairs. These should be great festive days, not only for relaxation and amusement, but for social culture, and to stimulate and excite honorable emulation among producers, in all that relates to progress in their particular department of industry; days for comparing exhibits of stock, grain, manufactures, and other products of the county or State, and to encourage an active and healthy competition which may be productive of great good.

If Mr. A. has a superior animal or article on exhibition, Mr. B. naturally wishes to know how each was produced, so that he can do better in the future. A man who is a mere looker on this year catches the spirit of rivalry and competition, and is stimulated to exhibit next year, and carry off the reward if he can, for no one, possessed of that spirit which should actuate every producer in the State, is content to let his neighbor do better than himself, with the same opportunities. Sec'y Field

WATERING HOUSE PLANTS.

The English Garden is inclined to dispute the rule that water should be given in moderately small quantities and supplied frequently. If the causes of failure where plants are cultivated in windows were minutely investigated, the dribbling system of watering would be found to be the principal cause. A plant ought not to be watered until it is in a fit condition to receive a liberal supply of that element, having previously secured a good drainage, in order that all superabundant water may be quickly carried off. Those who are constantly dribbling a moderately small quantity of water upon their plants will not have them in a flourishing condition for any length of time. This must be obvious to all, for it is quite evident that the moderately small quantity of water frequently given would keep the surface of the soil moist, while at the same time, from the effects of good drainage, which is essential to the well-being of all plants in an artificial state, all the lower roots would perish for the want of water, and the plant would become sickly and eventually die.

Cooking Vegetables.

Why should vegetables be washed in warm water first, then cold, to cleanse them from sand and insects? The hot water, which must be hotter than the tepid, causes the insects and sand to fall out at once. Insects do not always dislike cold water and salt, but hot water kills them. It must be understood that only a small handful of greens or one head of cabbage at a time must be washed, and then instantly thrown into cold water, which crisps and thoroughly cleaves them. Spinach, leeks, celery, and sea-kale are thus rendered very clean, and, moreover, are very rapidly cleansed.

It is worse than useless to attempt to cleanse vegetables in salt and water. The hardness which salt creates in the water prevents all cleansing properties. The salt may kill the insects (it does not always do this) but they stick on hard and fast; the hot water makes them fall out at once, and the cold water crisps and also blanches the vegetables.

CLIPPINGS.

Knox county, Ind., fair is to have a "spelling match, open to the world."

A "honeymoon car" is now running on the Pacific Railway for the purpose of bridal parties.

Bismarck has granted permission to organize Good Templar lodges in Prussia.

A man was recently attacked by a lynx on one of the "additions" to Indianapolis.

The prohibitory law is being vigorously enforced in many of the towns in Michigan.

An old negro woman shouted herself to death at a North Carolina watch-meeting recently.

There are about 10,000 Good Templars and 1,000 Sons of Temperance in the State of Alabama.

Two hundred and twenty-seven distinct varieties of grasshoppers claim citizenship in Colorado.

Kentucky raises an immense hemp crop, but the home consumption is not all that could be desired.

Over two thousand children are organized in the "Cold Water Army" in the State of South Carolina.

The Syracuse Temperance Union are raising money to aid in the enforcement of the Civil Damage Law.

Saratoga has had a dentists' convention, the principal business of which was transacted with tooth-picks.

The Mayor of Lexington, Ky., has issued an order that all the liquor-saloons shall be closed on the Sabbath.

John Mulligan, a well-known minstrel performer, and the original "Bob Bidel" died recently in Chicago.

The statistics of the chewing-gum makers show that Indiana chews five times as much gum as Michigan.

The scalp of a "Modoc warrior killed in the Lava Beds," recently went through the mail to a man at Brattleboro, Vt.

The large supplies of Australian tin now coming into the European markets are reported to be seriously affecting the English tin-mining interests.

'Twas night, A real warm couple stood in the pale, cold moonbeams. Their lips touched, and there was a sound like a cow hauling her hoof out of the mud.

A man on his way to the Columbus State Prison passed himself off as a member of the Ohio Constitutional Convention, and came near making his escape.

A Pittsburgh man rejoices in a wife so affectionate that she always kisses him good-bye when he goes into the barn yard to feed the chickens.

A LONG COMPUTATION.

A New Orleans school has been the scene of a very rare, if not wholly unexampled, performance in arithmetic. The problem was to multiply 9 by 9, and 81 by 81, and so on, using each succeeding product as its own multiplier until the operation should be performed nine times. How stupendous and discouraging the work becomes after a few steps are taken in the process, any one will find who makes the trial. For several years a handsome premium had been offered by the patron of the school for the pupil who should first succeed in accomplishing this feat. At last the task was completed, and the prize, a splendid silk dress, won, after patient labor of three months. The work comprises 263 numeral compounds and 90,000 figures, and the whole covers four or five square yards of paper. It is deserving of remark in this connection, that boys have made less progress and shown less perseverance in working at this problem than girls.