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SATURDAY, - - DECEMBER 7, 1895

LINCOLN'S LESSON FROM THE COUNTRY PREACHERS.

The first chapter in the Lincoln Series in McClure's magazine makes the impression of a story too much told. Great as the interest in the emancipator is, so much repetition, print and reprint, wear off the nap, so to speak, and leave the great figure in threadbare garments. It will be just as well if no more guides rise up for a while to conduct us in and out of Tom Lincoln's wretched cabins in Kentucky and Indiana. The public has seen enough, for some time to come, of their doors without doors, windows without glass, floors without stick or splinter of wood, chambers without beds, and of their one-legged stools, no-legged tables and bow-legged dogs. In all hero worship ample room must be given for the imagination, for that is one of its essential elements.

But what is said in the article of the country preachers is significant. They were the first public speakers whom the little boy, who was to go from a Kentucky cabin to the White House, heard. From these came the first impression of the great struggle going on in the world, that it is a conflict between right and wrong. No doubt that they were unlearned enough, that their utterances were crude, their elocution full of backwoods awkwardness, their gestures wild as winds in the tree tops, their voices stentorian, their illustrations often lurid, and their arguments without threads, links or line-fences, but there must often have been the transparency of sincerity, the eloquence of earnestness and the power of soul-felt convictions. Voices they were in the wilderness, but voices to the human conscience, and although they may have reasoned of righteousness and judgment to come in a way which would offend the dilettanteism of the present day, yet as they set God and heaven on one side, and sin, Satan and the world of darkness and despair on the other, the child Lincoln saw the line between the two, the eternal cleavage between right and wrong, God and Satan, heaven and hell.

Then and there came the conviction that there can be no compromise between the two, that the separation between good and evil must go on until there is a great gulf fixed. This conviction grew with his growth, ripened with his intellect, fruited with his experience, declared itself in the "higher law," formulated itself in the never-to-be-forgotten utterances that "a divided house cannot stand," that "a country cannot be half slave and half free," that "you can repeal the Missouri Compromise and the constitution, but you cannot repeal the moral nature of a man," and at last it made him president and emancipator. For who doubts that it was Lincoln's moral clearness and moral force added to his intellectual clearness and ability that gave him the nomination for the presidency? The seed which the Kentucky preachers planted in the young mind may have been no larger than the grain of mustard seed, but it grew until it became a great tree and all the honors of the nation and the fame of ages lodged in its branches.—Advance.

MORE ABOUT THE MESSAGE.

Tacoma Union: In the case of President Cleveland's message, read to congress yesterday, it may be said of it, from a non-partisan standpoint, that it is disappointing to the country.

Seattle Post-Intelligencer: As was to be expected, Mr. Cleveland insists that our revenue receipts have nothing to do with the maintenance of the gold reserve, on the difficulty of preserving the integrity of which he writes at length. In holding this view he very plainly misses the fundamental trouble with the treasury, probably for the simple reason that he doesn't care to view it in the right light.

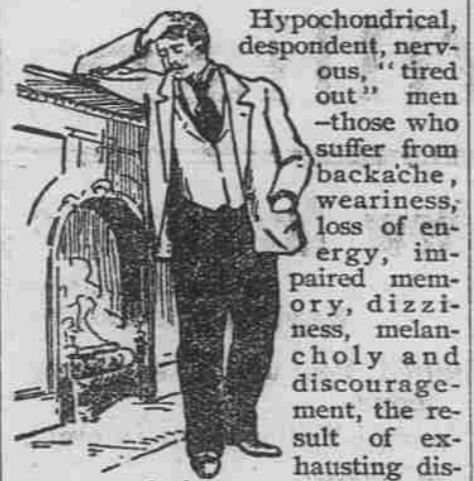
Tacoma Ledger: Mr. Cleveland points with pride to the fact the Argentine Republic "recognizing the value of the large market opened to free importation of its wools, under our last tariff act, has admitted certain products of the United States to enter at reduced duties." What these products are, or what the value of this trade is to us he does not say. But the effect of the law, so far as we are concerned, has been to reduce our wool clip by 100,000,000 pounds per year, and to reduce the price by 50 per cent.

Oregonian: The people of the United States do not believe that the more they import from foreign countries the better for their own country; that the more nearly they reduce their labor to the

conditions of labor in foreign countries, the better for themselves; that cheap foreign goods are more to be desired than good prices for our own products, or steady employment of our own labor at good wages. But with Mr. Cleveland and his political family, comfortable in possession of office and wealth, theory has run away with fact, and cheapness has become the sole principle of their economic statesmanship. The theory makes China, exemplar of cheapness, the model for the world.

A Society Event.

With an ideal hostess, an ideal house, charming entertainment and a most sumptuous luncheon, the lady friends of Mrs. Daniel French spent a never-to-be-forgotten afternoon on Friday. From the moment of entering the hospitable house to the moment of departure, was one continuous round of enjoyment. Giving answers, found on a penny, to questions from the score cards was the main occupation of the afternoon, and from the peals of laughter it was very evident that the guests entered fully into the fun and appreciated the novelty of the idea. Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Eshelman and Mrs. Hostetter had the most correct answers and drew lots to see who should carry off the beautiful prize. Mrs. Eshelman's star was in the ascent and she captured the silver bon bon basket to always remind her of the wisdom of carrying one's wits about with one. There were present, Messrs. Lord, Condon, Myers, Wilson, H. S. Wilson, Herbert, Schenck, Snipes, Thornbury, Sinnott, J. W. Condon, Fish, Glenn, Garretson, Taylor of Wallula, Houghton, Hostetter, Doane, Crandall, Truman Butler, S. Bolton, Pease, Lewis, Huntington, Cushing, A. R. Thompson, Eshelman, Haight, Curtis, Winneck, Biggs, Laughlin, Hal French, Sheldon, Kinnersly, Brooks, Price, S. French, Peters, Lytle, Crowe, Shackelford, Miss Rach and Miss Irene Adams.



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