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## THE POLK COUNTY TIMES

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### THE POET'S CORNER.

#### WINTER.

He comes! the tardy winter comes!  
I hear his footsteps through the night!  
I hear his vanguard from the heights  
March through the fire with muffled drums!

His naked feet are on the mead;  
The grass blades stiffen in his path;  
No care for child of earth he hath;  
No pity for her tender seed!

The bare oaks shudder at his breath;  
A moment by the stream he stays—  
Its melody is mute. A glass  
Creeps o'er its dimples as of death!

From fettered streams and blackened moor  
The city's wails he silent hears;  
The mansions of the rich he fears;  
He storms the cabins of the poor!

The curtained couch, the glowing hearth,  
The frost-rimmed graybeard's power defy;  
He comes as he hurries by—  
And strikes the beggar dead to earth!

The forests grow at his command  
Who saith: "He lendeth to the Lord  
Who giveth to the poor!" Your heard  
Is his, ye stewards of the land.

Here is your mission! ye who feed  
Your lavish fires! Not afar,  
But at your door your hearthens are!  
God's poor—your Creditor's. Take heed!

The path is long to Pagan shores;  
Their skies are gray; God's o'er all;  
The winter's deadly harvests fall  
Around you! Deal your Master's stores.

### GENERAL MISCELLANY.

#### A LOVER IN THE CLOSET.

A short time since a very enterprising young merchant, who is the happy possessor of a wife as beautiful as heart could desire, had occasion to visit Mobile. He was gone but a week, and returned sooner than was expected. Reaching home at an early hour, when the gray of the morning was mingling with the shades of night, he of course found the family all in bed. Proceeding directly to his wife's apartment, he rapped for admission, at the same time announcing who he was. At the mention of his name he thought he detected a smothered exclamation of surprise, and then some one got hurriedly from the bed and sought refuge in a closet adjoining his bed room. All this he heard distinctly, as he waited in the cold, with the demon of jealousy tugging away at his heart. There was some one in his wife's room; there could be no doubt of that; and some one had sought refuge in the closet; that was equally clear. Who else could it be but a lover? Mad with jealousy, furious and indignant, he could scarcely wait for the door to be opened before he burst into the room and made for the closet. His wife interferred and begged that he wouldn't open the door concealing the disturber of domestic peace. He dashed her aside furiously, but she clung to the tails of his coat. The strain made upon these useful appendages at last compelled them to give way and the angry benedict threw wide open the door of the closet, and lo! instead of the cunning libertine, his eyes rested on one of the prettiest girls imaginable. She was passing the night with his wife, and trying to avoid meeting him in deshabille, brought about a rather embarrassing denouement. The gentleman, however, it may be as well to state, prosecuted his searches no further, and instead beat a hasty retreat.—New Orleans Picayune.

When a maiden gets married she finds a management life.

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

[CONCLUDED.]

#### WICKEDNESS OF CITIZENSHIP.

The unsettled political condition of these countries less fortunate than our own sometimes induces their citizens to come to the United States for the sole purpose of becoming naturalized. Having secured this, they return to their native country and reside there, and without disclosing their change of allegiance they accept official positions of trust and honor which can only be held by citizens of their native land. They journey under passports describing them as such citizens, and it is only when civil discord, after, perhaps, years of quiet, threatens them, or threatens their property, or when their native state draws them into its military service, that the fact of this change of allegiance is made known. They reside permanently from the United States; they contribute nothing to its revenues; they avoid the claims of its citizenship, and they only make themselves known by asking for our protection. I have directed the diplomatic and consular officers of the United States to scrutinize carefully all such claims of protection. The citizen of the United States, whether native or adopted, who discharges his duty to his country, is entitled to complete protection and should have a voice in the direction of its affairs. But I shall not consent to impair a sacred right by conferring it on fictitious or fraudulent claimants.

#### EMIGRANT PROTECTION.

On the accession of the present Administration it was found that the Minister of North Germany had made a proposition for negotiations for a convention for the protection of emigrant passengers, to which no response had been given. It was concluded that to be effected, all the maritime powers engaged in trade should join in such a measure. Invitations have been extended to the cabinets of London, Paris, Berlin, Brussels, The Hague, Copenhagen, Florence and Stockholm, to empower their representatives at Washington to simultaneously enter into negotiations, or conclude with the United States conventions, identical in form, as to the construction of the parts of vessels to be devoted to the use of emigrant passengers; as to the quality and quantity of food; as to medical treatment of the sick during the voyage; in order to secure ventilation; to promote health; to prevent interruption and to protect families. Also, providing for the establishment of tribunals in the several countries for enforcing such regulations by summary process.

#### MANUFACTURES.

Your attention is respectfully called to the law regarding tariff on Prussian hemp, and to the question whether to fix the charges on Prussian hemp higher than they are fixed upon Manila, is not a violation of our treaty with Prussia, placing her products upon the same footing with those of the most favored nations. Our manufactures are increasing with wonderful rapidity under the encouragement which they now receive, and with improvements in machinery already effected, and they are still increasing, thus causing machinery to take the place of skilled labor to a large extent. Our imports of many articles must fall off largely within a few years. Fortunately too many manufactures are not confined to a few localities, as formerly, and it is to be hoped that they will become more and more diffused, making the interest in them equal in all sections. They give employment to hundreds and thousands of people at home, and retain with us means which otherwise would be shipped abroad. The extension of railroads in Europe and the East is bringing into competition with our agricultural produce that of other countries. Self-interest, if not self-preservation, therefore, declares in favor of caution against disturbing any industrial interests of the country. It teaches us also the necessity of looking to other markets for the sale of our surplus.

#### ASIAN AND SOUTH AMERICAN RELATIONS.

Our neighbors south of the United States, and China and Japan, should receive special attention. It will be the endeavor of the Administration to cultivate such relations with all the nations as to be entitled to their confidence and them interested; as well establish better commercial relations through the agency of a more enlightened policy than that heretofore pursued. Towards China—it is due to the capacity and efforts of one of our own citizens—that the world is about to commence largely increased relations with the populous and hitherto exclusive nation. As the United States have

been the initiators of the policy, they should be the most earnest in showing their good faith and making it a success. In this connection, I advise such legislation as will for ever preclude the enslavement of the Chinese upon our soil under the name of coolies, and to prevent American vessels from engaging in the transportation of coolies to any country, or tolerating the system. I also recommend that the Mission to China be raised to one of the first class.

#### THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.

On my assuming the responsibilities of Chief Magistrate of the United States, it was with the conviction that three things were essential to its peace and prosperity, and to the fullest development. First among these is strict integrity in fulfilling our obligations; second, to secure protection to the person and property of the citizens of our common country, wherever he may chance to move, without reference to original nationality, religion, color or politics, demanding of him obedience to the laws and a proper respect for the rights of others; third, the union of all the States, with rights indisputable by any but Constitutional means. To secure the first of these, Congress has taken two essential steps in declaring by joint resolution that the public debt should be paid principal and interest, in coin. Second, by providing the means for paying the principal. However, we could not secure the object desired without the proper administration of laws for collection of revenues, and the economical disbursement of them. To this subject the Administration has most earnestly addressed itself, with results, I believe, satisfactory to the country. There has been no hesitation in changing officials in order to secure the efficient execution of the laws; sometimes too, where in a mere party view, the political results that were to follow, from any hesitation in sustaining efficient officers against remonstrances wholly political. [Lucid.]

It may be well to mention here that embarrassment may probably arise from leaving on the statute book the so-called Tenure of office acts, and to earnestly recommend their total repeal. It could not have been the intention of the framers of the Constitution, when providing that appointments made by the President should receive the consent of the Senate, that the latter should have the power to retain in office persons displaced by federal appointment against the will of the President. The law is inconsistent with a faithful and efficient administration of the Government. What faith can the Executive put in officials forced upon him; those, too, whom he has suspended for that reason? How would such officials be likely to serve the Administration which they know does not trust them. For the second requisite to our growth and prosperity, time and a firm but humane administration of existing laws, amended from time to time as they may prove ineffectual, or harsh, or unnecessary, are probably all that is required. The third cannot be obtained by special legislation, but must be regarded as fixed by the Constitution itself and gradually acquired in by the force of public opinion.

#### INDIAN AFFAIRS.

From the foundation of the Government to the present, the management of the original inhabitants of this continent (the Indians) has been attended with continuous robberies, murders and wars. From my own experience upon the frontiers and in Indian countries, I do not hold either the legislation or the conduct of the whites who come nearest in contact with the Indians to be blameless. The deeds of the past, however, cannot be undone, and the question must be met as we now find it. I have adopted a new policy towards these wards of the nation. They cannot be regarded in any other light than as wards. It has been attended with fair results so far as tried, and which, I hope, will be attended ultimately with great success. The Society of Friends is well known as having succeeded in peace with the Indians in the early settlement of Pennsylvania, when their white neighbors of other sections were constantly embroiled. They are also known for their opposition to all strife, violence and war, and are generally noted for their strict integrity and fair dealing. These considerations induced me to give the management of a few reservations of Indians to them, and to throw the burden of the selection of agents upon the Society itself. The result has proved most satisfactory. It will be found more fully set forth in the report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and of the Superintendents. For Indian Agents, not on reservations, the officers of the army were selected. The

reasons for this are numerous. The Indian Agents are sent here or there; troops must be sent also. The agent and commander of the troops are independent of each other, and are subject to orders from different departments of the Government. The army officer holds a position for life—the agent one at the will of the President. The former is personally interested in living in harmony with the Indians and the establishment of permanent peace, to the end that some portion of his life may be spent within the limits of the civilized section. The latter has no such particular interest. Another reason is an economic one; and still another is the hold which the Government has upon the life of the officer, to secure a faithful discharge of his duties in carrying out a given policy. The building of the railroad and the access thereby given to all the agricultural and mineral regions of this country, is rapidly bringing civilized settlements in contact with all the tribes of Indians, and no matter what ought to be the relations between such settlements and the aborigines, and one or the other has to give way in the end. A system which looks to the extermination of a race is too horrible for any nation to adopt, without entailing upon itself the wrath of all Christendom, and endangering in the citizen a disregard for human life and the rights of others, dangerous to society. I see no substitute for such a system except in placing all the Indians on large reservations as rapidly as it can be done, and giving them absolute protection there as soon as they are fitted for it. They should be induced to take their lands in severally, and to set up territorial governments for their own protection. For full details on this subject, I call your special attention to the reports of the Secretary of the Interior and the Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

#### WAR DEPARTMENT.

The report of the Secretary of War shows the expenditures of the War Department for the year ending 30th of June, 1869, to be \$80,844,042, of which \$23,882,810 was disbursed in the payment of debts contracted during the war, and is not chargeable to current army expenses. The estimate of the army for the next fiscal year is as low as it is believed it can be. The estimates of the bureau of officers has been carefully scrutinized, and reduced wherever it has been deemed practicable. If, however, the condition of the country should be such, by the beginning of the next fiscal year, as to admit of a greater contraction of troops, the appropriation asked for will not be expended. The appropriation estimates for river and harbor improvements and fortifications are submitted separately. Whatever amount Congress may deem proper to appropriate for these purposes will be expended. The recommendation of the General of the army that appropriations be made for the forts at Boston, Portland, New York, Philadelphia, New Orleans and San Francisco, if for no others, is concurred in. I also ask your special attention to the recommendation of the General commanding the military division of the Pacific for the sale of the seal islands of St. Paul and St. George, Alaska Territory, and suggest that either it be complied with or that legislation be had for the protection of the seal fisheries, from which a revenue should be derived.

The report of the Secretary of War contains a synopsis of the heads of bureaus of the commanders of the military divisions of the districts of Virginia, Mississippi and Texas, and the report of the General of the army in full. The recommendations therein contained have been considered, and are submitted for your action. I, however, call special attention to the recommendation of the Chief of Ordnance for the sale of arsenals and lands no longer of use to the government. I also recommend the suggestion of the Secretary of War that the act of the 3d of March 1869, prohibiting promotions and appointments in the staff corps of the army be repealed. The extent of country to be garrisoned and the number of military posts to be occupied, as the rule, is the same with a reduced as with a large one. The number of staff officers required is more dependent upon the latter than the former condition.

#### THE NAVY.

The report of the Secretary of the Navy accompanying this shows the condition of the navy when this Administration came into office, and the changes that have been made since. Strenuous efforts have been made to place as many vessels in commission, or render them fit for service if required, as soon as possible, and substitute the sail for steam, while cruising, thus materially reducing the expenses of the navy, and

adding materially to its efficiency. Looking to our future, a liberal though not extravagant policy toward this branch of the public services is commended.

#### THE POSTAL SERVICE.

The report of the Postmaster General furnishes a clear and comprehensive exhibit of the operations of the postal service and of the financial condition of this branch of the public service. The ordinary postal revenues for the year ending June 30, 1869, amount to \$18,444,501, and the expenditures to \$23,669,181, showing an excess of expenditures over receipts for the previous year amounting to \$6,487,992, the increase of this department's revenues for 1869 over 1868, was \$2,051,909, and the increase of expenditures was \$9,675,938. The increased revenue of 1869 exceeded the increased revenue of 1868 by \$996,336. The increased expenditures in 1869 were \$2,527,570 less than the increased expenditures in 1868, showing by comparison this gratifying feature of improvement, that while the increase of expenditures over the increase of receipts in 1868 was \$2,439,535, the increase of receipts over the increase of expenditures of 1869 was \$1,084,371. Your attention is respectfully called to the recommendation made by the Postmaster General for authority to change rates of compensation to the main trunk railroad lines to coin for services for carrying the mails; for having post routes now executed; for re-organizing and increasing the efficiency of special agents; for increase of mail service on the Pacific, and for establishing mail service under the flag of the Union on the Atlantic. And especially do I call your attention to his recommendation for the total abolition of the franking privilege. This is an abuse from which no one receives a commensurate advantage. It reduces the receipts for the postal service from 25 to 30 per cent, and largely increases the service to be performed. The method by which postage should be paid upon public matter is set forth fully in the report of the Postmaster General.

#### THE PUBLIC LANDS.

The report of the Secretary of the Interior shows that the quantity of public lands disposed of during the year ending June 30th, 1869, was 7,666,152 acres, exceeding that of the preceding year by 1,010,400 acres. Of this amount 2,899,544 acres were sold for cash, and 2,737,165 acres secured by the homestead laws; the remainder was granted to aid the construction of works of internal improvements, approved to the States as swamps, and land warrants and scrip. The cash receipts from all sources were \$4,472,986, exceeding those of the preceding year \$2,840,140.

#### PENSIONS.

During the last fiscal year 23,196 names were added to the pension rolls, and 4,896 dropped therefrom, leaving at the close 187,963. The amount paid to pensioners, including the compensation of disbursing agents, was \$28,428,684, an increase of \$441,152 on that of the previous year. The munificence of Congress has been conspicuously manifested in its legislation for the soldiers and orphans who suffered in the struggle to maintain that unity of government which makes us one people. The additions to the pension rolls of each successive year since the conclusion of hostilities results in a great degree from the repeated amendments of the act of the 14th of July, 1867, which extended its provisions to cases not falling within the original scope. The large outlay which is thus occasioned is further increased by the more liberal allowance bestowed since that date upon those who in the line of duty were permanently or wholly disabled. Public opinion has given an emphatic sanction to these measures of Congress, and it will be conceded that no part of our public burden is more cheerfully borne than that which is imposed by this branch of the service. It necessitates for the next fiscal year an addition to the amount justly chargeable to the naval pension fund, of an appropriation of \$20,000,000 during the year ending September 30, 1869.

#### THE PATENT OFFICE.

The Patent Office issued 13,762 patents, and the receipts were \$636,349, being \$213,036 more than the expenditures. I would respectfully call your attention to the recommendation of the Secretary of the Interior for uniting the duties of supervision of the education of freedmen with the other duties devolving upon the Commissioner of Education. If it is the desire of Congress to make the census, which must be taken during the year 1870, more complete and perfect than heretofore, I would suggest early action on any plan

that may be agreed upon, as Congress at the last session appointed a committee to take into consideration such measures as might be deemed proper in reference to the census, and to report a plan. I dissent from saying more.

I recommend to your favorable consideration the claims of the agricultural bureau for liberal appropriation. In a country so diversified in climate and soil as ours, and with a population so largely dependant upon agriculture, the benefits to be conferred by properly fostering this bureau are incalculable.

I desire respectfully to call the attention of Congress to the inadequate salaries of a number of the most important officers of the government. In this message I will not enumerate, but will specify only the Justices of the Supreme Court. No change has been made in their salaries in fifteen years. Within that time the labors of the Court have largely increased, and the expense of living have at least doubled. During the same time Congress has twice found it necessary to increase largely the compensation of its own members, and the duty it owes to another department of the government deserves to and undoubtedly will receive its due consideration.

There are many subjects not alluded to in this message which might with propriety be introduced, but I abstain, believing your patriotism and statesmanship will suggest the topics for legislation most conducive to the interests of the whole people. On my part I promise rigid advocacy of the laws and their strict enforcement.

U. S. GRANT.  
Washington, D. C., Dec. 6, 1869.

#### THE "JEFFERSON CHEESE."

The last number of Littell's Living Age contains an interesting article of Elisha Burritt's from the Gentleman's Magazine, on the great cheese which the people of Cheshire, Massachusetts, made for Thomas Jefferson. Elder John Leland was a great pulpit politician in those days, and preached to the people of Cheshire such stirring Jeffersonian democracy that for generations they never voted anything but a straight democratic ticket. When Jefferson was chosen President after a contest of tremendous excitement, Elder John Leland proposed that his flock should celebrate the victory by making for the new Chief Magistrate the biggest cheese the world had ever seen. Every man and woman who owned a cow was to give for this cheese all the milk yielded on a certain day—only no Federal cow must contribute a drop.

A huge cider press was fitted up to make it in, and on the appointed day the whole country turned out with their pails and tubs of curd, the women and girls in their best gowns and ribbons, and the men in their Sunday coats and clean shirt-collars. The cheese was put to prayer, and hymn-singing, and great solemnity. When it was well dried it weighed 1600 pounds, and as it could not be trusted on wheels, it waited till mid-winter, when it was placed on a sleigh and Elder John Leland drove with it all the way to Washington. [There was more snow you see in those times than there is now.] It was a journey of three weeks. All the country had heard of the big cheese and came out to look at it as the Elder drove along. When he got to Washington Mr. Jefferson received him in state, made a speech, and in the presence of the heads of departments, foreign ministers and other distinguished persons, cut the cheese and served some of it around with bread. Then he sent a wedge of it home to the makers, and when it arrived they also ate it in state. We are further informed that the cheese was very good.

Ten years ago a young man named Quackenbush drove a lot of cattle to New York, sold them and was robbed of the money, and went to California leaving his friends to think he was dead. There he and two others formed a partnership, agreeing that in case of death the survivor or survivors should have all the Company property. They went to Australia, where last year his two partners died, leaving him \$150,000. He sailed for Liverpool, intending to return to his early home. He died at Liverpool on his arrival, and his friends inherit his wealth after long believing him dead.

An incorrigible wag, who lent a minister a horse which ran away and threw his rider, thought he should have some credit for his aid in "spreading the Gospel."

Some ladies use paint as fillers do rosin—to aid them in drawing a bow,