

The Breath of Roses.

Yet, in ev'ry breeze that blows,
There's the joy of June-time's rose.

Winds, o'er ocean blowing free,
Wake a treasured ecstasy.

Blow! ye tempests! on the sea;
Strain the shrouds and shout to me;

Dash the foam from curling wave;
Belly sails of fishers brave;

Sweep my bark to each green cave;
Drag her masts where storm clouds rave;

Yet, I laugh, O! salt sea-gale!
"Last red rose-time, down the vale,

"Shook, beneath th' umbrageous pine,
"Perfumes from the trellised vine;

"Left me leaning on a rail,
"Where there swung a milk-maid's pail."

That was June-time months ago;
Now I wait where Charles' tides flow,

And the river's briny breath
Coldly whispers: "Love! . . . is death."

Did not thought of rose and rail
Linger, I'd believe the tale.

O'er the lilacs' purple foam
Zephyrs of the spring-tide roam.

Fanning blooms on ev'ry tree,
 wooing skies and kissing me;

Almost won? Ah! one month hence
Brings wild roses by the fence!

'Mong the new-leaved aspen trees
Moves a meadow-travelled breeze,

Musical with pipe of birds,
Wholesome with the breath of herds;

Still, in ev'ry wind that blows,
There's a little of the rose;

Promise of a June to be,
Like that June of memory.

Montreal, Canada.

JOHN STUART THOMSON.

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Forming of the United States Constitution (1778).

ON Dec. 23rd, 1783, after Congress had been assembled at Annapolis, Washington appeared before it and resigned his official position as Commander-in-Chief of the Armies of the United Colonies. He was urged by Gen. Mifflin, of South Carolina, and the officers of this army, to retain this command indefinitely as an offset to the parliamentary arrogance of Congress. But he saw, in the event of this procedure on his part, a long and doubtful struggle with the impending democracy, and the love of peace caused him to persevere in his designs of retiring.

He submitted his account of expenses, however, to the comptroller of the treasury. This account amounted to £11,311 sterling, which he had expended from his private estate.

It was now the time for Congressional revenue, and with a great majority the revolutionary war debt, including the last three months' pay of the officers of the army, was repudiated. By this stroke, Washington and his brother officers were robbed, and Robert Morris, whose entire fortune had been pledged to maintain the public credit, was left to die in a debtor's prison. It is only significant to remark that King William the Conqueror rewarded those who aided him to power in 1066, while the American democracy pursued the opposite course of robbery.

When Cromwell succeeded Charles I. he demanded that the Royalists should not be persecuted. When Charles II. succeeded to Cromwell, his clemency was so great towards the former supporters of Cromwell as to be the marvel of

historians. But when the American democracy in the war of 1776-83 triumphed over the colonial system and British royalty, through the aid of France, Spain, and Holland, and the difficulties that beset British affairs in other parts of the world, the most vigorous persecutions were carried out to annihilate the ancient colonial aristocracy and every sentiment of royalism that existed in the human breast. The loyalists were pursued into exile. The colonial families of distinction that remained, especially in the northern colonies where democracy was strong, were objects of silent political persecution and an unceasing ostracism. Even members of those distinguished families who had assisted the revolutionary party were not exempt. So in the cases of Gov. Langdon and Robert Morris, their loans to the Government were virtually confiscated, and in that of the officers of the continental army their bills for arrearages of pay were repudiated. The holders of governmental bonds on the same principle were subjected to a total loss. Everything was done by the new government to break down the ranks of the ancient colonial society that yet remained in position, that was distinguished by ability, integrity, culture, and wealth. It seemed as though the lower instincts of the people crept to the surface in this matter after 1783 in the United States, as they hurried to a more violent and bloodthirsty expression of the same feeling in France in 1792.

The American colonies, which had been recognized as sovereign states by the Treaty of Peace of 1783, sent delegates to Philadelphia in May, 1787, to draft a constitution for the confederated government. These delegates were not empowered to adopt the constitution they were to make. The adoption or rejection of that constitution was to be left to the government of each colony or state.

From May to September of 1787 the delegates disputed and discussed various schemes of government. The violent opposition of the democracy was here manifested towards any recognition of personal merit in the States, towards hereditary honours, and anything that indicates that inequality which liberty of action always creates.

Alexander Hamilton, one of the ablest of them, advocated the adoption of a constitution similar to that of Great Britain. The President was to have established prerogatives, with the power of appointing the governors of the various States. The Senate was to be similar to the House of Lords, in that it was to represent the meritorious of the various colonies, and the House of Representatives was to be similar to the House of Commons, to represent the commercial and trading classes of the colonies. John Adams, of Massachusetts, repudiated democracy so far as to speak in favour of aristocratic representation. But Jefferson and the Republicans raised such a riot, and enkindled the fire of popular envy and hatred so skilfully, that this plan was rejected.

Then the present Constitution of the United States, with two exceptions of the amendments, which were engrafted afterwards, was adopted—a majority having been secured in favour thereof.

So great was the fear of the various States that a general government, thus formed, might be able, by the aid of a majority in one section, to oppress a minority in another, that the opposition to the Constitution did not end with its adoption.

It was the purpose of those who favoured the establishment of a democracy to compel a democratic form of government in each of the separate States. For this purpose, those who favoured it said: "Individuals entering into society must give up a share of liberty in order to preserve the rest."

In the Virginia Convention of 1788, when the Constitution was laid before that body for its ratification, Mr. Madison said: "On a candid examination of history, we shall find that turbulence, violence and abuse of power, by the majority trampling on the rights of the minority, have produced factions and commotions which, in republics, have more frequently than any other cause, produced despotism. If we go over the whole history of ancient and modern republics we shall find their destruction generally to have resulted from these causes."

Hamilton in the Federalist wrote: "When a majority is included in a faction, the form of popular government enables it to sacrifice to its ruling passion, or interest, both the public good and the rights of other citizens."