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## Democracy Teaching by Example.

FROM "BLACKWOOD."

In Austria absolutism has its choice between concession and destruction. In Naples and Rome the alternative was neglected, and the attributes of despotism have vanished, as the coins in the Eastern story turned to withered leaves when the magic spell ceased. Over the semi-barbarous peoples of Russia and Turkey the ruling power is still absolute. Judging from these facts taken alone we might infer that absolutism is only possible in the absence of intelligence. But in France we see a people boasting to be more advanced in civilisation than Germans or Italians apparently content to be ruled with a rod of iron. And we know that the reason why such a state is possible to them is, that they have learnt by a tremendous experience to dread the excesses of liberty more than the excesses of power. The empire is not loved, and could not endure, but that there is a class of order in France that prefers its self-republicanism. Yet in choosing between the principles whose conflict is represented in the upheavings of society in the present century, the friends of democracy might retort that system they plead for has never, in France, had a fair trial, and that the excesses of liberty there were owing, not to any vice inherent in the principles of the Revolution, but to the natural violence of the rebound from previous tyranny and long misgovernment; and that for these excesses despotism itself was thus ultimately responsible. Thus it would have been still possible for them to dream of their ideal, but that America has furnished the example necessary to supplement former experience. Here we saw the liberty which enthusiastic sages imagined, realized under the most favorable conditions. A century of mild rule had fostered the principles of freedom planted by the Pilgrims, who had gathered there amid the abundant crop of the great civil war of King and Parliament. The independence of the Confederated States, caused from a struggle in which there was nothing exaggerating, from whence the machinery of law and order emerged unharmed, and which had secured to the new nation respect at home and abroad. There was no old nobility to be swept out of the way, and to bear to other lands the tale of spoliation and of wrong. When the royal authority disappeared, there was a clean page to write the constitution. It was framed with deliberation; the deficiencies of the existing Confederation served as a warning, its merits as an example; and the chief who, at the outset, presided over the destinies of the Republic was a man of pre-eminent influence, great good sense and remarkable moderation. The nation thus provided with all political safeguards, commenced its career on a throne where no rival powers existed to perplex or disturb, and where limitless territory and inexhaustible supplies of material wants were security against the poverty and discontent which form the severest trial and knottiest problem of governments. Yet thus dandled and nursed—one might say coddled—by Fortune, the spoiled child Democracy, after playing strange pranks before high heaven, and figuring in wild and unexpected disguises, dies as shepherly from lack of vitality as the oldest of worn-out despots.

Amid the crash and chaos of governments and peoples, England still rears her head a landmark for the wreck of nations. The constitution, whose origin goes beyond the ancient records of the state are still fresh, vigorous, and elastic, maintaining freedom amid the rush and whirl of this age as it did five hundred years ago. We still offer to the political Edipos the grand enigma whose solution is liberty; while the constitution framed in the time of our fathers, by the light of all experience, to be the shame of the past, the glory of the present, the example of the future, is gone like a bubble on the stream. From our own history we learn how liberty can come to make her home with a people. She does not seek to rise by a sudden bound on the ruins of despotism, for that we know leads only to anarchy and through anarchy back again to despotism. She establishes herself by steps slow and successive. Her path, like the path of a planter, is the result of opposing forces. It is process of winning privileges from the governing power, and of maintaining them when won, that constitutes liberty. And when all are won—when the governing power is bankrupt—then liberty has already perished, leaving only a shadow which a breath will dissipate.

But when a people already free from restraint take counsel how to produce that balance of powers whose regulated vibrations shall define the bounds of liberty, the process that we have passed through is exactly reversed. With us it was at first the people's scale that kicked the beam. In this other case, it is the scale of the Government that dies upward. The people now have

not to take, but to give. Power is not to be won from the government, but conferred upon it; and the people are much more apt at taking than giving power. And this is the case which American institutions illustrate.

That the people shall bear their full share in legislation, and that the laws so made shall be impartially administered, are important steps towards good government, but still only steps. The laws so made must be executed with certainty and promptitude. But a government that rests only on the moral influence derived from the support of the people, can be efficient only so long as the nation is of one mind respecting the laws that are to be executed. Laws framed for the general benefit are frequently opposed to the desires and interests of classes or sections of the community. The suppression of discontent must be provided for; unpopular taxes must be levied; and to this end, the executive must be armed with material force. For a government that depended only on moral support would, in the case of contending interest, be dependent on a majority; and if before acting, it should wait to ascertain and appeal to the majority it would never act at all. Its action must be independent of all disturbing influences; and thus a strong executive becomes an essential condition of liberty. But a government that is independent and strong may assail liberty; and how to prevent that is a problem that we have practically solved by committing to the government the power of the sword, and retaining for the people the power of the purse. The strength of our executive needs not to be exactly defined, because the force necessary for the defence of the country will always be more than sufficient for the assertion of the laws. But in America, where no foreign enemy was feared, and where, consequently, the people must tax themselves for the support of the executive with the single object of internal government, the measure of strength that should be allotted was much more fully calculated. And the limitation of the powers of the President and the mode of his appointment, formed, accordingly, the grand difficulty of the framers of the constitution.

It is impossible to doubt that those ten men intended to allot due influence to each power of the state. It is true, the foundation they professed to raise it on was what they somewhat paradoxically termed the sovereignty of the people. But, whatever meaning they may have attached to the phrase they certainly would not have interpreted it to signify the supremacy of the mob. There were men among them—Washington himself for instance—proud, dignified, even aristocratic in temperament, severe in discipline, and of steady judgement; and such are not friends to the domination of the many. And one especial object of their labours was to remedy the want of a permanent executive power in the existing confederation of states. But the spirit raised in the revolution was too strong for them. The doctrines of the freedom and equality of all men, however servile in a revolt against monarchy, were found very embarrassing in the effort to frame a strong government. Men who had borne a considerable part in the revolution were bound to show the world a constitution not only more perfect, but also essentially different, from that which they had repudiated. Thus, whatever their natural predilections might be, their own successes dictated their course. Moreover, a powerful influence was exercised on them by the States legislatures, too jealous of the executive that was to be paramount, to permit it to be strong. These considerations obliged the constructors of the Union to cast their weight into the scale with the sovereignty of the people. They treated their President as a very disagreeable necessity. They restricted his powers, not only by narrow limits, and by check and countercheck, as on the exercise of authority but by the conditions of office. The man thus to be elevated from amongst the people was, in four years, to sink back again amongst the people. No opportunity would thus be allowed for him to extend his powers beyond their limits by his personal influence. To confer on him the appearance of independence, they caused him to be chosen by electors, who were presumed to be free in their judgement. But when the electors themselves came to be elected, who had already made their own selection of a candidate for the presidency. "Experience," says Dueran, an American writer on jurisprudence, "has proved that the electors do not, in fact, assemble for a strictly free exercise of their own judgements, but for the purpose of sanctioning the choice of particular candidates previously designated by their party leaders." In some instances the principles on which they are constituted have so far forgotten that the individual opinion of the elector has submitted to the dictation

of those by whom he was chosen; and, in others, the electors have even pledged themselves beforehand to vote for a candidate prescribed to them by the managers of their party; and thus the whole foundation of the elaborate theory on which this part of the constitution was built has been subverted in practice.

## FROM "DIXIE'S LAND."

We copy the following from the Halifax Morning Journal:—

We are indebted to the politeness of a friend for a copy of the Charleston Daily Mercury, of Oct. 25th, brought from Charleston by the Confederate man-of-war *Nashville* to St. George's, Bermuda, and from thence to this port by R. M. S. *Delta*. It affords us an opportunity, not often obtained, for a peep behind the curtain, and a view of matters and things in "Dixie's Land," which is rendered the more interesting, as we can place no reliance on any information concerning the war, which comes through Northern channels.

## BEAUREGARD'S REPORT OF THE BATTLE OF MANASSAS.

The official report of the battle of Manassas has been published. The Mercury says:—"It was mistakenly believed that we had under Gen. Beauregard from 41,000 to 60,000 troops. Gen. Beauregard's report states that at the battle of Manassas there were but 28,000 men in the Confederate Army. Of the 28,000 there were but 7,000 immediately engaged. The United States authorities admit that they had 50,000 men in the field. Gen. McDowell, in his official report, states that 18,000 men crossed Bull Run, and were engaged. This would make the proportion nearly three to one, besides an immense body in reserve. General Evans in his recent gallant victory at Leesburg where there were three to one, only reported the presence of our daring and successful."

## THE EXPECTED BATTLE ON THE POTOMAC.

In the discussion the probability of a battle upon the Potomac, the Mercury says:—"Will General McClellan, after the defeat of his troops at Bethel Church, Bull Run, Manassas, and more recently, at Leesburg, the Grand Army of the Confederate States, on their chosen field, behind their entrenchments? To us it appears absurd to expect it; and yet, it will not be more absurd than the whole war."

## FROM THE STATES.

(NEW YORK, Nov. 13.)

Official advices from the Expedition state that the defenses of Port Royal were captured on the 7th inst., after a smart action of four hours with but little loss to either side. The Federals only 30 in killed and wounded and the Confederates about 50.

The Federal troops landed at Beaufort on Saturday and found the town deserted, the Confederates having retired on Charleston taking with them everything of a useful or needful nature.

The Confederate force engaged was but 800, the main army at defenses of Charleston.

Supposed that Federals will not advance on Charleston until further reinforced. The Expedition lost five vessels in the great gale, all were more or less damaged.

The Nova Scotian arrived at Father Point on the 12th inst.

Political news unimportant. Cotton declined 3d. Consols 93½ a 63½.

## THE STORM AND FLOOD AT HATTERAS ISLET.

—The late storm the land forces at Hatteras Islet were engaged in a serious contest with the elements. On Friday evening a gale sprang up, which continued to increase in fury every moment until morning, when it assumed the form of a perfect whirlwind, accompanied with rain, which at times fell in torrents. The correspondent of the New York Tribune thus describes the scene which followed:—

"About 3 o'clock this morning the waves from the ocean began to sweep over the island (half a mile wide) into the sound, and before daylight those two bodies of water were united. Not a spot of land was to be seen. All the lower portion of the island, were Forts Hatteras and Clark are situated, was under water, and so sudden was the up, having so violent the storm, that all chances of escape were cut off before the morning light came. It was utterly impossible for any assistance to reach them from our fleet, so terrible was this Hatteras storm. And it was not until a breaker swept across the island, carrying men, tents, shanties and every creeping thing with it, that the soldiers were aware of the presence of a great flood. Men were suddenly washed out of their beds and found all their clothes (what few had

undressed) borne by the water to the sound. Live stock—such as pigs, chickens, horses, cattle, dogs, cats—and cooking utensils, lumber, drift-wood, boxes, barrels, trunks, shanties, were carried forward, together with men on them and in them, some jumping out of windows, some cutting their way through the roof, others jumping into the water, which in many places was over their heads in depth, and making for a box or barrel in order to reach the roof of a shanty still standing. Officers on horses were riding or swimming through this moving mass, giving orders to this floating army of men, who, with a gun in one hand and with the other hanging on to some kind of an object kept themselves above water. The most mournful sight of all, however, was to witness the moving of the sick, some whom were in a dying condition, before the storm came. They were carried on cots from place to place on the shoulders of men who were wading through water nearly neck deep. It was also a sad sight to witness such a destruction of property. At the wharf where all the government property is stored, a destruction took place. Provisions of every kind were soon afloat—barrels of crackers, bread, sugar, pork, beef, molasses, beans, potatoes, fish, boxes of candles, soap, clothing, and in fact everything, required for an army was seen to go with the flood, with the buildings containing them in a very dilapidated condition.

Between Fort Clark and Hatteras, a new inlet, some six feet deep, was formed during the night, and now it is a vast sheet of water between the two forts. Fort Hatteras now stands isolated from the land, and will be swept entirely away in the next severe storm, its sandy walls having already commenced to crumble."

## THE FEMALE PRISON IN WASHINGTON.

The "House of Correction," as the female prison is called, is still an existing institution in Washington. Mrs. Greenhow is still in close custody. Mrs. Hassler has been released upon her taking a stringent oath of allegiance. Mr. Oberdonk, of Louisiana, who was arrested in Chicago, was recently transferred to quarters with Mrs. Greenhow, and she now awaits her release with much impatience. Mrs. Posay is also a prisoner, and she has for company her daughter, a beautiful girl of fifteen, and her little son, five. She and her husband were recently arrested near Port Tobacco, Md., on a charge of giving the rebels information of the arrival of our troops, displaying signal lights. Mr. Posay is in the old Capitol Prison.

A LION AT LARGE.—A lion, which was being transported in a wooden cage from a travelling menagerie, in Hamburg, a few weeks ago, managed to break loose and get out of his temporary prison. The ferocious brute immediately fell upon one of the three horses that were attached to the carriage, and commenced tearing him to pieces. The driver, who was upon one of the two others, sat still in blank amazement at the sight, which was declared by many spectators—who, by the by, were all out of harm's way—among the finest they had ever witnessed. In a moment, the driver of a second menagerie wagon, who happened to be just behind, came up, and calling out for a rope, which was fortunately at hand, approached the lion, and with great nerve and coolness, fastened it round his throat. The infuriated beast, who was already feasting on his victim, disdained to take any notice of the daring act. Soon, however, the sling was fastened round the neck of the destroyer, and with the help of half a dozen of the bolder lookers on, the animal was dragged by the side of the wagon, and ignominiously secured. The horse, in spite of its fearful wounds, was not quite dead when released. The town, or that portion of it, at least, where the lion performed this unusual act, was thrown into no little commotion during the period while his majesty was at large.

## THE RAILWAY ACCIDENT.

### Inquest on the body of George Hughes:

Held before A. D. Allan and John S. Patterson, Esquires, Justices of the Peace, on the 6th day of November 1861, at Canterbury, in the County of York, upon view of the body of George Hughes, found dead.

The following Jurors were sworn, viz.,—Peter Ross, Bernard Gorman, Thomas Panter, John Sinclair, John French, Geo. Gibbs, Richard Stork, W. Hawkins Joseph Harvey, E. Watson, Thomas Hawley, Philip Fowler. The first witness was

W. H. Topham, sworn.—Yesterday morning, November 5th, at 10 minutes past 10, gave Geo. Hughes an order that as soon as he had delivered the material that had on train he was to run earth from cutting near How's house to a temporary bridge on the North

side of Ballast Pit; balls gave him orders to tell John Sinker, the foreman in charge of ballast train, where he should be working that he John Sinker should ballast on the south side of the ballast pit.

Question—Did you give any orders for the engine Rose, to leave her section allotted for her to work on yesterday?

Answer—I did not. The foreman of the ballast train, has it in charge, and receives instruction from me. The instructions from the Manager (Mr. Osburn) through Mr. Jack, were forbidding any Shanty goods or provisions being brought by the ballast train. Question by the Jury—Is there any other person to give orders but Mr. Topham to the ballast engine at the time she is running ballast?

Answer.—Not without written or verbal instructions to the foreman, or Mr. Kendrick.

Question by the Jury.—What is Mr. Jack's occupation?

Answer.—Conductor of the ballast train.—The Conductor is employed by the N. B. & C. Railway Company.

Howard Sawyer sworn. Question by the Jury.—Who invited you on the engine Rose, yesterday 5th November?

Answer.—Mr. Kendrick first, and then Mr. Jack.

Question.—Who was there in your party?

Answer.—Three ladies, a boy, and my brother.

Question.—Were you aware of any danger, or of meeting with any other engine?

Answer.—I was not, until we passed the temporary bridge, where I saw the gravel; I was aware of the other train, the Thistle Engine, coming down as far as the temporary bridge.

Question.—Were there any cars attached to the Rose?

Answer.—Not that I was aware of.

Question.—Did you hear the Driver make any remarks of any danger going up that far with the Engine?

Answer.—No I did not.

Bartholomew Donohugh sworn.—Am driver on Thistle engine, No. 3; employed by Superintendent at St. Andrews to work for Walker Johnston & Co.

Question.—Who did you receive orders from not to allow any person to ride on the ballast train?

Answer.—From Mr. Jack and from Mr. Osburn. I am supposed to obey orders from the Manager.

Question.—Were those orders contradicted by the Manager?

Answer.—No they were not. The Station Master, Mr. Ironsides, told me that I could take what I liked, that they (the Company) had nothing to do with that part of the Road from Canterbury Station upwards while that part of the Road was under construction.

Question.—What position does Mr. Jack hold over you, on your train the Thistle engine?

Answer.—Nothing that I am aware of, except he gets orders from the Manager, or Mr. Jones, the Chief Superintendent, to go down, or something like that.

Question.—Do you consider yourself in duty bound to obey Mr. Jack's orders, when you are working on your ballast train?

Answer.—I think that I would, I was on my part of the Road, at the time of collision, when George Hughes was killed. George Hughes was on my train at the time he was killed; I was then working under his orders, and I think this accident, (the death of Geo. Hughes) would not have happened, if the Rose had been on her own section.

Peter Halloran, sworn.—I am driver of engine Rose, No. 3. Yesterday, 5th, was ballasting at the cutting north of How's, in the forenoon. At noon I told the foreman of the train I was going home to dinner.

He said that was all right, and told me to bring the men and tools on my return down to the ballast pit. In the afternoon I commenced working north of the ballast pit. I have been in the habit of receiving instructions from Mr. Topham and Mr. Kendrick to run parties both north and south of the pit during the time of loading or unloading the train. On yesterday Mr. Topham gave me orders to run him and Mr. Belcher down to Craig's bridge, in the forenoon. In the afternoon Mr. Kendrick gave me orders to run, while my cars were loading some parties up to Ballast. I did so, as I got no instructions whatever that he was running down to the temporary bridge; and had been in the habit of working on that part of the road for two weeks before this time.

Question.—Who requested you to run up the line?

Answer.—Mr. Jack first, my answer to him was, that I had not time. After I got the cars in the pit, Mr. Kendrick told me run those parties up to Ballast. I was going near 20 miles an hour, when we met. I saw the body of George Hughes and believe that this deadly was caused by this collision.

Question.—Did you think that Mr. Kendrick had the power to order you to go with