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Letter from Rev. Dr. Hoge. 142 MILES FROM THE "LIZARD." 309 miles from Southampton.

To-morrow afternoon we expect to be on land. We hope to reach Southampton by 6 P. M., and the next morning take the early train for London. I pray that these calculations may prove true, for I am heartily tired of the sea, as it has now been fifteen days since we left St. Thomas, and twenty-six days since we left Havana.

Our passage thus far has been for the most part a boisterous one. We have encountered heavy gales from the Northeast, which have greatly retarded our progress. We were due in Southampton yesterday, the 23th, and now we cannot get in before the evening of the 30th, and the rough weather we are having to-day may keep us back still longer.

But notwithstanding adverse winds and currents, we have had a comfortable time in some respects. A ship like this, in a little world, affords food for thought, and sometimes for amusement. Coming, as the Tasmanian did, from the tropics, she brought among her passengers none from the United States, and few from the Confederate States.

You will perhaps wish to know how the passengers spend their time during these long voyages. There are three popular ways of passing away the tedious hours—viz: in eating, sleeping and card-playing. The first consumes a large portion of the day. Coffee is brought to the state rooms every morning at 7 o'clock; at 9 comes breakfast; at 12 lunch; at 4 dinner; at 7 tea. From tea until 11 o'clock, when all the lights are extinguished, card playing is the almost universal amusement.

I have spent four Sundays at sea during this voyage. I sent you an account of our service on the steamer Conway, between Cuba and St. Thomas, in my last letter. On both of the succeeding Sabbaths I officiated on this ship, and on last Sabbath preached twice. I had heard that the captains on these British steamers always read the service themselves, unless an Episcopal minister was on board, and that they never invited one of any other denomination to preach. My experience of the matter has been very different. The captain of the Conway invited me to conduct the whole service, and so did the captain of the Tasmanian, in the most cordial manner possible.

On the second Sabbath, at the request of the sailors, I preached to them in the fore-castle in the afternoon. Several of the officers, however, and of the passengers attended. I enjoyed preaching to the sailors, as it reminded me of my services in the camp with the soldiers. I felt it a great privilege to present to them the way of life through Christ, and to witness the seeming interest with which they listened to the appeal with which I closed my sermon.

A day or two after, the captain came to me and said, "we owe you two guineas." "For what?" I asked. "It is our custom," he answered, "to pay every clergyman a guinea for each service he holds on this ship, and you have held two." I told him to dispense with the custom in my case, but he said it was a regulation of the company, and that the purser was required to pay and enter it on his books. I then consented to receive it, on condition that I dropped it in the box, at the head of the companion way, on which I had been printed. "For the relief of the widows of the men who die in the service of this company," the captain thanked me, for what he called a very liberal donation, from which I infer that the contributions to this object are usually very moderate in amount.

One of the strangest incidents, so far as I have been concerned, on this voyage, was my being invited by the officers of the ship and several of the passengers, to deliver an address on the causes of our separation from the United States; the prospects of our Confederacy, &c. Finding that there was great curiosity on the subject, and a real desire to obtain correct information about our condition, I consented, and a week ago to-day I delivered an address of an hour and a half in length in the main saloon, and I think I never spoke to a more attentive audience. An officer of the English navy took notes of the whole discourse. Many of the English passengers afterwards told me that I had corrected in apprehensions under which they had labored, and given them a clearer idea of our position than they had been able to form before.

1st. That the disruption was caused by factions and disappointed demagogues. This I disproved by giving a history of our State Conventions; showing how they were made up of judges, lawyers, planters, divines, men from every honorable calling in society, men who deliberated gravely, and long—especially in the case of Virginia—the meetings being opened daily with prayer, and the final vote made by our best and wisest men, in full view of the solemnity of the act they were performing.

Next I showed what efforts we had made for peace—South Carolina sending commissioners to Washington before Buchanan's term expired, proposing an amicable adjustment—the purchase of United States property within her borders, &c. and the delegation sent from Virginia, during the session of the Convention—the efforts of the peace Congress, &c., all unavailing to arrest the bloody edict of coercion.

That they bear their sacrifices cheerfully, parents giving not only contributions in the way of money, and supplies, but mothers giving their sons with the spirit of the Spartan mother who said to her son on going to battle, "Return with your shield, or on it." 31. The character of our volunteers; yearning for home and peace, yet resolved never to have either at the price of submission. 4th. The religious element of our army, and the gift of many of our highest officers. I gave them a sketch of Jackson and Lee—and closed with good wishes for the Governments represented before me, and for my hearers individually.

Head winds prevented our arrival at Southampton until this morning. We ran into Southampton just as another heavy gale was rising. Signals were made to outward bound vessels in the channel not to leave port, in consequence of the storm just coming in from the sea. How grateful I felt to have escaped it, and to be permitted to step on shore again. Our detention at the Custom House was brief, and we took the 3 o'clock P. M. train for London; arrived at 6; and drove directly to the Colonnade Hotel, where I am now writing, well, and I trust devoutly thankful to God for all his preserving care during the long and perilous voyage. Having spent four Sabbaths at sea since I left home, I anticipate with great pleasure the privilege of spending to-morrow in circumstances more favorable to the right improvement of the day. It is my purpose to hear Dr. Combing in the morning, and to attend the afternoon service in Westminster Abbey.

Extortion. NO. VI. ITS EFFECTS. Before proceeding to consider the Objections that can be raised against all these reasonings, and which will lead us into the profounder regions of the whole discussion, it is proposed to add to the arguments from reason that have been thus far advanced, those from expediency; in other words, to state the practical effects of extortion, and under six heads, viz: (1) its Financial, (2) National, (3) Social, (4) Personal, (5) Military, and (6) Religious effects; and in the distinct order in which we have thus announced them.

I. First, its Financial effects. A nation can carry on a war like this only in two ways, either first, by paying as it goes, or second by promissory pledges that are to be used instead of treasure. France tried to do the former, and succeeded to some extent. We think all men will agree that we have to do the latter.

Issuing paper, therefore, our finances plunge at once into what the physicians call a state of unstable equilibrium; that is, into that singular point in which price and currency begin to work with each other. It is that tantalizing state in which most people are convinced that if any thing could but keep down the price, government would not issue more notes than by future taxation it could pay, and therefore, that the longest war could be triumphantly maintained, if the people would but put faith in the stability of the State, and treat its obligations as answering to the amounts that it will hereafter be called upon to redeem.

Now till this be done, or (most serious of all, and in a high degree most probable) if this be not done, then we are left to time, and the advent of an early peace as our only hope of arresting the disaster; and in that case how desperate the part that the extortioner acts in ruining the currency.—He began the process of decline before any one else was scarcely thinking of it. He started the rail car in its treacherous descent. And to this day, as 'confidence' looks at the most prominent objects in the field, it is his exorbitant rates that attract most attention; they are the most shocking rates and breed most alarms, and in that baseless condition of the currency that have tried to picture forth, they give it the rudest likeness, and will have most to do with quickening its journey into ruin.

The vast majority of chargees, as we have already said, may be entirely proper, but then what is more startling still, they have been made proper by the work of the extortioner. It is he that has raised the rates, till more right doing men have been obliged to ask them. It is he that has enlarged the leak, till it has flowed into all the compartments of the vessel. And though by our very statements, as above, it proves to be the case that prices would have ruled high at any rate, he has made them rule higher, and has inflicted the startling blows that have been felt upon the credit of the nation.

It is easy to see therefore the National effects. We shall go out of this war with a great national debt. With our sparse population and dearth of pecuniary capital, it will be, as is often said, a delay of our noblest undertakings for many a long year to come. The net work of railroads, that might have been run over all our States, the tapping of the West, the championship of the Sea, will all be things that will have to be waited for under these perpetual taxations. Men will have to go to their graves, and a new South will see the glories of our destiny. This could be borne like any other hardship of the war; yet not so easily, if it were the work of the extortioner: if a few men threw the stone into the lake, which sent the circles of discredit all over the Confederacy; if they piled the debt; if they put on the last burdens that made it press the most; nay, if they started so early in the race, and kept so steadily on in advance of the more deserving of the people, that it may be said—These were always most in view when confidence most was weakened during the continuance of our struggle, and these were the cases that alarmed the public mind when every thing was shaken, and had most to do with the heavy aggregate of the debt when peace came to cut short its accumulation.

These are the views that we present under the most favorable aspect of our condition. But alas! what if we have no public debt! What if we plunge into that last and most dreadful catastrophe of nations, entire and remediless repudiation! What if the legislature proposes no check, and the car goes thundering on, and takes the last leap into the gulf of national disgrace forever! It is but a question of time, if Congress keeps off her hand, and the war continues, and these worms still gnaw upon the heart of the community, the panic will grow worse at last. Baskets full will have to be given of these Confederate notes, as in old Colonial history. The extortioners long ago will have fixed their gaiters, as they are doing in the reality of the country, and will stand up side by side with the best and truest of her citizens; and unless there is a God in heaven, it may hardly be known that these are the men who, if they had kept their hand off from these unfortunate rates, might have allowed the whole contest time to complete itself, before such a fatal catastrophe, and might have avoided quickening the result, so that it might never have reached those most terrible ratios of progression.

Moreover, battles must be fought when this war of our independence has been completed. We have a weak point in our midst, as concerns the opinion of Christendom. And though God is writing on the very frontals of the sky his teachings in respect to this domestic institution, man must have his period for each particular insanity.—The South has to outlive the fanaticisms of the people; and as bloody wars now follow, as almost a fashionable cause, religious and moral questions, and that on both sides of the sea, bloody fights may be enkindled, and with other than our own Northern foes, if Spain and we are nearly the only portions of the race that are marked with the belief that slavery is consistent with the doctrine of religion.

Now this is a high vocation, if we are fit for it. Truth crushed to earth will rise again. The eternal fears of God are hers! and if we land with our trust some generations hence upon a better arena of history, and when the world shall have unlearned his sad mistake in respect to the keeping of this helpless people, it will be well; but how sad a start in this battle of morality, if we begin with a wretched repudiation.

III. And this leads us in the third place to speak of the social effects. Aristocracy is as much a need of a social state as commerce or the division of labor. It is the throwing up of the land above the dead level, that would make it a desert or a marsh, and giving us a water shed to enrich and fertilize the territory. Aristocracy will exist; and as long as one man strives harder than his fellow, and Providence discriminates events, there will be aristocrats, and it is felt that no one will deny the position that if we are to have them, it is better to have them in some degree worthy to enjoy their elevation.

Now one sees at a glance the effect of the evil we have been considering, upon the aristocracy of the country. It new-forms it just like a social earthquake. Now if it were the mere upheaval of valleys that had long time lain at the foot, and bringing down mountains it might be a fair exchange, but what if neither mountains nor valleys of generous sort are raised up, but the meanest spots of God's earth; in other words if this war is to make a spurious and mean aristocracy at the South; if there is to be a winning process, and men too noble to stay at home, or to exert, are to go down, and men quite greedy to do both are to go up, then what sort of an aristocracy shall we have in this Southern country?

We do not doubt that God in his justice will do right in the final end; nor the truth of his word that "Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished;" but what sort of an evil must that be which depends upon the sheerest judgments to set right a result which otherwise would be perfectly dreadful all over the land!

IV. Then in the fourth place, the Personal effects will now appear in altogether a different light. It is the good who are suffering. When extortioners teach that the sufferings of the people have not really increased, the reason is that it is the good who are suffering; men who are in hopes of getting over the worst, and are therefore saying very little about it. Beggary is the only public suffering. And as beggary is a point to which the men who have fought these battles are slow to arrive, the very heroism of the South is concealing its distress. It will only be known after the war what some men have endured. And as old paupers are stepping forward

for the relief, pauperism, as it superficially appears, is unusually provided for, while suffering, and that on the part of the noblest in these States is deepening, and growing bitter day by day.

V. We speak, therefore, fifthly, of certain Military effects. Courage as it existed at the South is a treasure too great to be estimated by any standard of values. It is our army, and navy, and money, and munitions of battle all combined. The world has never seen the like of it. It has made our generals—like the firm wind in the sails of a ship that makes the pilots' art easy. It has been stubborn like the courage of the Dutch, and yet furious; it has been intelligent; and a cry of anguish has gone up, that such soldiers should be sacrificed even for our liberties.

It is a shame to abuse such courage, though it be too generous to resent it. And fighting as our soldiers have with such uncomplaining fortitude, exhibiting this marvellous dash in taking batteries, when too hungry almost to stagger along the way, feeling the hardships of the service, till spectators of their squalid looks begin to doubt whether they can feel as all, it seems hardly a human act to oppress them with anything, and above all with that keepest pang of hearing from their families either of their beggary or ruin.

Moreover, it is not only a shame, but is there not some danger? We are trading upon our last hope, when we are trading upon the courage of our people; and if they learn to look with more bitterness upon the Yankees they have left at home, than upon those that meet them in the fight, it may at least take off that last edge of spirit, every atom of which is needed for the liberties of our country.

Moreover, the enemy learn everything in our midst. If they hear of these extortionate rates; if they catch from deflated prisoners in their moment of despondency some murmurs of complaint; if they hear of the condition of our currency; if they draw from the state of our supplies, ideas of our power to hold out, which hoarding rather than scarcity may easily have produced, it may all have this military effect,—of actually continuing the war, and of course, therefore, of occasioning the famine that otherwise we might be able to spare.

The poor soldier, though he gives his life in this conflict with no better monument than that to the "Unrecorded Dead," nevertheless has a vindication on high; and if our Southern land grows too effete in selfishness, and too extreme in these plans of being rich, that are built on the courage of the poor, the scale will turn. We rejoice in what we said in the beginning, that there are few of these extreme oppressions. But alas! so great is the influence even of one—that in Virginia, this great State, and in the East or in the West, whichever it may chance to be—or in Richmond, or in Staunton, or in any centre of the people, one fair transgressor, to excuse men on the road to sin, is an incalculable ill to bring down the unnumbered judgments upon the hearts of the Confederacy.

So little does a man know his influence, that we believe there are single men, who, if they had acted differently during this war, would have altered the prices-current of the States; would have made less the emissions of the government; would have made different the behaviour of whole tribes of the more respectable of the business men; would have protected the citizens of the counties where they lived; would have done honor to God, and would have left a name to their family and race, that would have been a far better legacy to them, than the spurious wealth that can be wrung unfairly from the wants of their victims.

VI. Then, lastly, the Religious effects. These are obvious. If our church is to be born with a false new life, she must shake off from the beginning any such things as these. She must not lower herself to any such standard, unless to realize the scandal of her enemies. If principles which these acts would contemplate as allowed, are to rule in the churches of our Confederacy, then indeed Christ is made a minister of sin, and that power which elders have and officers of the church, and which they have slowly acquired as the fruit of the purity of others, will have become a great engine of transgression, a means of giving confidence to sin, when no other support could so readily sustain it.

ALAMBY. As Ye Go—Preach. In the cars, on the boat, in the stage, in large companies or small. Every man has a soul. The Gospel of salvation is to every creature.

The commission binds every Christian to make it known; opportunity creates obligations; don't let it pass, it may never come again. "By inattention," said the faithful Henry Martyn, "I lost the best opportunity I had for a long time for usefulness in India."

A word fitly spoken or in season, is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.—Prov. xxv: 11. A single word may arrest attention.

Lifting up his hands in exclamation over a dying man who had been in his company a few minutes before, said Dr. Chalmers, "never before in my life did I see the force of that text, 'Preach the word—be instant in season and out of season.' Had I spoken to him of his soul and eternity, it would have been considered out of season—but it would have been in season." We never have seen the idea, as ye go—preach carried out so fully as in the life of the late Dr. John Breckenridge. In the pulpit he preached—

Your mind what is best and most prudent. "The church seldom needs a bride, but often a spur. Many are fruitful in objections, but barren in actions, rich in wet blankets, but poor in Christian love." The motive power is the same as Paul's. "The love of Christ constraineth us."

POETRY.

FEAR NOT. [The following is remarkable as having been often sung by Gustavus Adolphus with his army. It was composed by Altenberg, and bore the title, "A heart-cheering song of comfort on the watchword of the Evangelical Army in the battle of Leipzig, September 7th, 1631, God be with us."] Fear not, O little flock, the foe Who madly seeks your overthrow. Dread not his rage and power: What though your courage sometimes faints His seeming triumph o'er God's saints— Lasts but a little hour.

Be of good cheer; your cause belongs To Him who can avenge your wrongs; Leave it to Him our Lord. Though hidden yet from all our eyes He sees the Gideon who shall rise To save us, and His word. As true as God's own word is true, Not earth or hell will all their crew Against us shall prevail. A just and by word are they grown: God is with us, we are His own, Our victory cannot fail.

Amen, Lord Jesus, grant our prayer! Great Captain, now Thine arm make bare; Fight for us once again! So shall thy saints and martyrs raise A mighty chorus to thy praise, World without end. Amen.

CHILDRENS' COLUMN.

A Happy Meeting.

BY PHILIP BARKETT. But a short time after the memorable battle of Bethel—now a sacred name in Southern hearts and at Southern homes—I was standing at the door of my tent in conversation with the hero of that first victory which crowned our arms. We were encamped on the beach just below the hills of Yorktown;—above us as far as the eye could reach, the white-roofed tents, filled with strong arms and stout hearts, stretched over those noted plains; at our feet the calm, placid waters of the lovely river long bright and beautiful in the sun-light of the opening day.

There was one other who made up our little circle. He was a gallant young soldier who for six long hours stood at his gun as the whizzing iron torments of shot and shell upon the shattered ranks of the enemy.

His form was erect, his keen gray eye as piercing as that of the eagle's; his brow was bronzed by long exposure to the heating rays of a hot Peninsula sun; his cheek was stained with powder; yet he seemed to feel a conscious pride in being even "a private in the ranks" in this gallant little band which had first met and beaten the enemy on Southern soil.

The attention of the gallant officer, whose name is now familiar as household words to every child in our Confederacy, seemed drawn towards the young soldier, as he stood silently listening to his remarks on the deepening interest of our soldiers in religion, and the pleasure he explained at the large turn out of his regiment the night before to hear the "Gospel of the Son of God."

There evidently were features in that noble young face which he had seen before.—Warily pressing the rough hand of the soldier—boy, said he to him, "Are you not the little B. who was once a member of my Sabbath school class in Lexington, Va?" At these words from his dear old teacher, whom he had felt a delicacy in approaching, the young man's heart seemed to beat with inexpressible delight, while his cheek glowed with unusual warmth, and a bright tear added a new lustre to his clear eye.

It was beyond a doubt the happiest meeting I ever saw. For long years they had been separated. They had both, though in far different positions, passed through the iron-hail which rattled all around them behind the earthworks of Bethel. God had taken care of them; for "He was there, though they knew it not." When they parted, this gallant young soldier was a wayward, thoughtless boy. Now they met both fighting under the same banners—they were soldiers of the Cross, and soldiers of the Confederacy. Both of these soldiers have passed unharmed through nearly all of the battles of our revolution. The teacher has risen to the highest positions of our army; the scholar still stands by his gun, though both he and it have seen two long years of hard service, and most of all, stands by the Cross of Christ. This little incident, my dear young friends, is full of interest and instruction. It teaches how wonderful are God's dealings with us; for he had strangely preserved through many years, and at last brought together a teacher and his scholar who had almost entirely forgotten each other. It should also impress upon your minds the great value of the instructions which you are receiving from your teachers, and that you should always cherish the strongest love for them. To the teacher, it is full of comfort, "In the morning sow thy seed," and leave the rest with God. To those who think it impossible for the soldier to be a Christian, we would say, "If General Hill thought it a pleasure and a privilege, amid the din and tumult of war to recognize an old Sabbath school scholar, surely it is time for cavaliers to be silent on this subject; for with him, as with another, one of the heroes of this war, also a teacher in this same school, consistent piety has not been found at all incompatible with the duties of military life." Rural Retirement. Lunenburg, Va. Acquaint yourselves with your selves.