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"Our Queen and Constitution."

[By James S. Segee.

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MISCELLANEOUS EXTRACTS.

POPERY.

The following incident in the life of the Rev. Thomas Jordan, a converted Roman Catholic, will be found touching and interesting:—

"To show something of what some, in passing from Popery to Christianity, have been doomed to endure, I may refer to my own personal experience. Father N. R. denounced me as a young heretic from his altar. My parents being, hitherto, in good repute with the priest, and in his circle of friends, he pointed to my course as disgraceful to the family.— Having returned from hearing Father N's harangue about my apostasy, their countenances became altered towards me; their manner and words went only to say:—'You have brought reproach upon us; you have provoked the priest to anger,' and as Father N. expressed it from the altar,—'Some awful judgment will come upon him.' This was followed by a heart-touching address from my dear father.— Fixing his eyes pensively on me for some time he addressed me to the following effect: Well my dear boy, little did I suppose I was rearing you for such a work as this, but painful as I must feel it, painful as must your mother, your sisters and your brothers feel it, duty must rule our feelings. You shall have one month to consider, and make up your mind to one of two things—that is, when that month is ended you must quit my house and the family for ever; and be disowned by us; or otherwise kneel before the priest, ask his pardon, promise future obedience to him, and submit to such terms of reconciliation as he chooses to prescribe."

This memorable month of awful suspense passed away. I was allowed to sit at table; but father, mother, sisters and brothers, declined any conversation with me, according to the council of Father N. This period of probation being ended, a beautiful spring morning dawned upon the land; everything around seemed vocal in the praise of their Maker; but there was one spot where the death-blast of Popery had rolled and banished all joyful emotions—every prospect was pleasing and only man was vile. When the breakfast table was removed my dear father spoke to me with a touching earnestness and tenderness, and said:—'Now, my dear son, I hope you have seriously considered and made up your mind, as the given time has expired.' I replied:—'Dear father, pray do not insist upon my doing so, as I cannot do it.' So the alternative was again uttered by a father loving and beloved—that of submission to Father N., or leave the house! The Spirit of God gave strength in this trying moment. Memory recalled many great and precious promises, and I resolved through the grace of God, to leave my father, mother, sisters and brothers, and all my earthly prospects, to take up the cross and follow Jesus, to cast myself on the providence of God. Penniless as a pilgrim, having collected a few articles of clothing for my journey and with a heart depressed by trouble, I stood for a short time to gather strength to bid farewell, as I then supposed to the family. With eyes streaming with tears, I tremulously uttered a farewell, when my dear mother exclaimed:—'Ah, Tommy, my darling son! and swooned and fell, as if dead on the floor.

All hastened to her aid, giving a look as if to say, This evil you have brought upon the family. I awaited the recovery of my mother; then my father addressed me, and referred much to my mother's fondness for me. At last he said:—'Can you assign to the priest any

feasible reason to justify your course latterly?' I replied that I could, but that the priest was overbearing and lordly in his manner; he would not listen to my reasons, although I am sure that I am right in all my differences from him. He then replied:—'If I get the priest to talk with you, and to prove your new opinions to be erroneous, will you then consent to submit to him?' 'Get the priest and I'll try the case before you.' He said: 'If the priest will not do so, or fails to convince you of your errors, I shall not force you from my house, nor blame you in future.' I consented to meet Father N. on these terms. Father gave notice of the arrangement made to the priest; but the priest objected to my appearing except in the attitude of a penitent—to answer his questions, and ask none!

Displeased and disappointed with Father N. my father returned, saying:—'Tommy, you shall not gratify him by abandoning your father's house, but you must put up bills for a meeting at the Chapel-gate next Sabbath, and then and there tell all your reasons for becoming a Protestant; and while doing so, I shall protect you from any outrage. And after that you shall be at the freedom of your own will as to the religion of your own choice.' I accepted my father's proposal. Rumor said the priest would work a miracle to convince me. Crowds were collected by this rumor. I asked the priest to answer my reasons for leaving his church; he walked by, however and declined to reply before the multitude.

I addressed the people for nearly two hours, from a platform erected near the Chapel-gate by my father. The immediate effect of this occurrence was the conversion of two Roman Catholics, who had come expecting to see the heretic defeated by reason and miracles. One of those converts said in the hearing of the multitude,—'Not a miracle, did they, after all; and from this moment I renounce the Roman Catholic Church.' A second voice followed, saying,—'So will I.' Both left the Church of Rome that day. One of these died in the faith of the Gospel; the other is still living in the profession of the Bible. From that day, more than ever I found it my duty to preach the Gospel publicly, and from house to house, and that Popery is a delusion, a mockery, and a snare. And through the grace of God, I continue up to this present, saying none other things than that which the Scriptures declare for the salvation of sinners, and, I feel thankful to God, to have witnessed the conversion of many Roman Catholics in Ireland, since these occurrences, among whom I reckon my father and mother and brother with his family, consisting of eight persons snatched from Popery. Some of these have died in the faith; others still living, and come to America.

It is now thirty-four years since my conversion: about thirty years connected with the Independent churches and preaching the Gospel and seventeen since I received my ordination, by the laying on of the hands of the Presbytery, assembled at Belfast. The calamity that has fallen on all classes of interests, through the famine of 1846-7, so changed the circumstances of Ireland, that I felt it my duty to emigrate to this free and happy country, where I expect to spend my days in laboring for the cause of my Redeemer, trusting to the favor of ministerial brethren, and to that of the Society in particular, to enable me to accomplish this object.

I beg leave to subscribe myself,

Yours fraternally

THOMAS JORDAN.

REV. DR. BAIRD.

OPENING OF THE U. S. CONGRESS.

MESSAGE OF PRESIDENT FILLMORE.

Congress was opened on Monday and the message of the President read. It commences with a notice of the Presidential election which he says was "effected by the independent suffrages of a free people, undisturbed by those influences which, in other countries, have too often affected the purity of popular elections."

The second paragraph returns thanks to Providence for an abundant harvest, and for peace and prosperity.

The third paragraph pays a high tribute to the late Hon. Daniel Webster, Secretary of State.

The fourth paragraph relates to the fishery difficulties—firmness of the British Ministry—their satisfactory explanation—their subsequent wish to effect an arrangement, which was prevented by the opposition of the colonies—the prospect of reciprocal privileges—and the desire that Conventions may be held, during the winter, between the two countries, which will be subject, however, to the final decision of Congress.

The fifth relates to the uneasy condition, and the irritation and alarm on the part of the Cuban authorities. The Captain General of Cuba has no power to treat with foreign governments, nor is he directly under the control of the Spanish Minister at Washington, and it is hoped his refusal to permit mails and passengers to be landed in certain cases will be adjusted by the Government of her Catholic Majesty. It is then stated that early in the present year, official notes were received from the Ministers of France and England, inviting the Government of the United States to become a party to a tripartite Convention, each power to disclaim now, and for the future, all intention to obtain possession of the Island, and should bind themselves to discountenance all attempts to wrest it from the power of Spain. This invitation was declined, for reasons not stated, but the Ministers of France and England were assured that no intention was entertained by the United States of taking possession of Cuba, but that on the contrary, it was considered by the U. S. Government that its incorporation into the union would be fraught with peril, bringing as it would into the Republic a population of a different stock, speaking a different language, and not likely to harmonize with the rest of the Union.

The sixth refers to the Tehuantepec difficulty with Mexico.

The seventh alludes to the difficulty between the Republics of San Juan de Nicaragua and Costa Rica—the Convention between Great Britain and the United States in regard to it—and the refusal on the part of Nicaragua to accept the proposition of the United States in regard to the opening of a Canal.

The eighth alludes to the acknowledgment of the claims of citizens of the United States on the part of the Republic of Venezuela.

The ninth refers to the Revolution in Buenos Ayres, and the prospect of a negotiation for the extension of commerce with Great Britain, France and the United States.

The tenth paragraph states that a treaty of commerce has been concluded between the Union and the Republic of Uruguay, which will open to the Americans a country of great extent, and unsurpassed in natural resources, from which foreign nations have been hitherto excluded.

The eleventh acknowledges the undisputed right of Peru to the Lobos Islands—expresses satisfaction with the course pursued by the Pe-

ruvian government, and a willingness on the part of the United States to repair the temporary wrong they have inflicted.

The twelfth glances at the settlements on the shores of the Pacific, and a new direction to commerce on that Ocean. The Japanese difficulty is also touched on, and the assurance that the mission to that nation is for no other purpose than the opening up of commercial relations, which will be enjoyed by all maritime powers.

The thirteenth relates to the condition of the Department of State, the Department of the Interior, the State Department building, and the Archives of the Government.

The fourteenth states that the receipts into the Treasury, exclusive of trust funds, for the year, ending 30th June, were \$49,728,386 89, and the expenditures for the same period \$46,007,896 20, of which \$8,455,815 53 was on account of the principal interest and the public debt, including the last instalment of the indemnity of Mexico, under the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, leaving a balance in the Treasury of \$14,633,136 37 on the 1st of July. The value of foreign merchandise imported was \$207,240,101, and the value of domestic productions exported was \$149,861,911; besides \$17,204,026 worth of foreign merchandise exported; making the aggregate of the entire exports \$167,065,937; exclusive of the above there was exported \$42,507,285 in specie, and imported from foreign ports \$5,262,643.

The Fifteenth refers to his previous message in regard to the defects of the tariff, in which he states that his opinion in that respect is still the same. Most of the gold, as soon as it arrives, finds its way to Europe in payment for goods purchased. In the second place, as the manufacturing interests are broken down by competition with foreigners, the capital invested in them is lost, and thousands of honest and industrious citizens are thrown out of employment. In the third place, this destruction of the American manufactures leaves the foreigner without competition, and he raises the price of the articles sent to the United States, as may be seen by the very high price of iron. The manufacturers require an amount of capital and practical skill which cannot be commanded unless they are protected from ruinous competition from abroad. The defects in the Tariff law, he says, creates a tendency to break down the high moral character of the merchants, defraud the Government of its revenue, to break down the honest importer by a dishonest competition, and transfer the business of importation to foreign and irresponsible agents—hence the adoption of specific duties is recommended.

The fifteenth relates to the Indian difficulties.

The sixteenth is a report from the General Land office.

The seventeenth refers to the census returns and the apportionment of representation.

The eighteenth recommends that provision be made by law for the publication and distribution of an analytical digest of all patents that have been or may hereafter be granted for useful inventions.

The nineteenth alludes to the appropriation for an Insane Asylum for the District of Columbia.

The twentieth refers to the Mexican boundary survey.

The twenty-first invites the attention of Congress to the interests of the District of Columbia.

The twenty-second states that the inland Indians on the frontier have been effectually restrained.