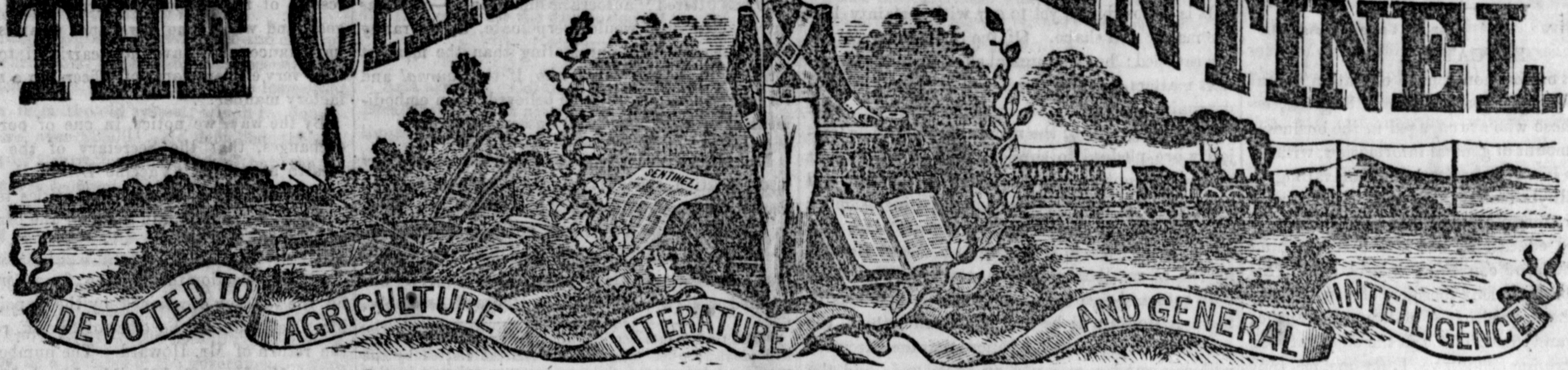


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THE ANTAGONISTIC FORCES IN MAN.

Every man, woman and child, in this well-ordered world of ours, is made up of contraries; and, in proportion as these inconsistencies appear to the eye of an observer, so far does the observed fall short of perfection. But all these imperfections in man have their origin in the mind; for we have come to the conclusion that those who adopt the theory that diet makes man what he is, are belated by dangerous darkness and error: for it is as foolish for us to lay the cause of the Frenchman's vivacity to his eating frogs' legs—thus, imbibing electricity; or the solidity of the Englishman to his subsisting on rare roast beef, and close-grained plum-pudding; or the closeness of the Yankee to his regular Saturday codfish dinners—the salt effectually withering every living principle; or the asperity of nervous, antiquated females, to their vinegar smelling-bottles; or the mildness of little children to bread and milk,—as to charge water on the brain to capillary attraction.

These contraries and inconsistencies are not the consequences of a man's physical being, but of his inner life. Broadcloth does not produce self-conceit in the mind, nor does plaid gingham create modesty; nor can we trace melancholy to the diet on the bread and water of affliction, or cheerfulness to a dinner on the stalled ox,—though each may have to do with these several feelings, and often be the innocent, indirect causes of them.

Every one, at different periods of life, is always wishing that he could do something or other, and yet that he does not accomplish. He wishes, and he does not wish. It is often a wish hidden in the breast, which has not courage to express itself. We think it is not inability that prevents one from striving to gain the object of his desires, but a fear of consequences, perhaps a dread of fearful retribution. Behind his volition there hangs this self-registering thermometer, that acts on his will; and when this thermometer becomes frozen up,—that is, when the will rides rough-shod over the fear of consequences; when the mind has become so callous, the heart so hardened, and the soul so solidified, as utterly to disregard the fear of retribution,—then it is that the representatives of mankind generally find committees of ways and means to accomplish their most iniquitous designs. A person often wills sufficiently strong to speak out his wishes, when a look at his thermometer deters him; but that being out of order, then actions speak louder than words.

Fear seems to be a most effectual prompter to action. We see different kinds of it, but all have the same elementary principle, one common origin. In different persons we find the greatest propelling principle, severally, to be fear of scorn, fear of men, fear of God, and, lastly, very little fear of the Devil. Fear restrains crabbedness, but, by order of Nature's high decree, never cheerfulness. Cheerful hearts make cheerful countenances. The countenance is where the heart peeps out from under its confines of sin, silks and broadcloth.

We often see that the same force holds in check two directly opposite forces. It is a shuttle of the mind that war's both ways, like a peacemaker between belligerents, or like the Dutchman's wagon, that would go either end or sideways. Fear restrains man from being influenced by the motives that hate would place uppermost in his mind. It also checks man in his advances of love (young men particularly)—here again it is fear of consequences; but locomotive love dispels fears. Fear sometimes would excite philanthropy; hate, on the other hand, would encourage misanthropy.

Forces become superior by culture. If one idea is ridden exclusively, it finally gallops off with its owner, and he rides it for life. One man is ill-tempered, and another cheerful, because each exercises and nourishes the feelings and the thoughts by which they are each distinguished. We think the first man was created cheerful; but that he, by his own doings, made himself wretched. But we learn that all things were created for some good purpose, not excepting misanthropes and mosquitoes. Perhaps some may say that nature made some men ill-natured; but we would not like to see nature libelled or labelled in that manner. Who thinks that Nature would be willing to put up a cross, touchy, crabbed, ill-natured, self-conceited thing,—hardly a man,—whose very look into a vinegar-cask would render the liquids unfit for use unless diluted, as a sample of her manufacture? Madame Nature has too much perpendicularity of character for that. It has been well said, "An honest man is the noblest work of God;" and it might have been added, A cheerful one the most sublime achievement of Nature. This principle is happily exemplified in inanimate nature: The earth, during the darkness morose and sullen, sour as actually to be black in the face, and so dreadfully still and solemn that vegetation turns pale with affright—sleeps, grudging a benefit to anything; but, as soon as the sun appears, he makes even the dark earth smile; and new offspring are warmed into being by his genial rays, and numberless creatures sport and bask in his beams. It is because the opposing elements in man are not properly blended that his inconsistencies appear.

The controlling force is different in different men. One man is a sloth; another an exasperated steam-engine. One is a benefactor to his race, and an honor to the age in which he lives; another is a burden to himself, and a disgrace to mankind. One is a worker for good; another an idler for evil.

The proper fusion of all these elements makes the perfect man. It may seem strange, but so it is. We can no more dispense with one of the forces in man, than we can dispense with the mainspring in a watch. We need all the parts to make a complete whole. If we leave out one of the constituents in a machine, it is powerless. So with man; if we leave out one element in his formation, he is not a man, but perchance an orang outang. It may happen that, in this blending process, some forces may disappear; but, taking man as he is now constituted, all are indispensable. Leave out but one part, and you have not the whole, you have not the perfect man.

QUIDAM.

Lima, June 10th, 1856.

General News.

THE PROSPECT OF WAR.—Are our present relations with England of a nature to excite real anxiety? Certain of our contemporaries think so; we do not. So far as regards our own country, nobody imagines that there is a disposition in any section of it to go into war with England. The commercial states of the North desire peace with England because their pursuits are dependent for success on peace with all the world, and chief of all with England their best customer, and because their great cities would be exposed in war to bombardment and destruction. The planters of the Southern States desire peace with England because they cannot afford to sacrifice a trade involving two millions of bales of cotton annually, and because their social condition would make invasion peculiarly fearful. The farmers of the west desire peace with England because war with her would put an end to all that exportation of produce which

has been a source of such profit to them since the repeal of the corn laws. These are all merely material considerations, but there are moral considerations which we trust have twice as much weight. The great body of the American people are utterly averse to a war with England, in sentiment as well as in interest. The act of our Government in dismissing Mr. Crampton has nowhere produced exultation. It has been received with singular coolness, a mere diplomatic solution of a diplomatic dispute. The American people at large cared very little whether Mr. Crampton stayed or went. They never raised it to a dignity of a National question and least of all have they accepted the dismissal as a blow to the national pride of England.

What reason is there to believe that England will take it as such? We are not forgetful that with nations, as with individuals, there are moods of mind when the most trivial motives become powerful. We know that England is armed to the teeth, and that, as men are more prompt to quarrel when they wear swords than they are when their weapons must be deliberately sought for, so nations when fully prepared for action have sometimes found even imaginary affronts irresistible.—But yet it all depends upon the frame of mind.—What evidence is there that England is disposed to quarrel with us? Is it exhibited in the despatches of Lord Clarendon? All admit that these have been in an eminent degree conciliatory. Is it even in the tone of the British Press? That tone has been in general, anything but warlike. A series of offensive articles did at one time appear in the London Times, but public opinion soon constrained a great moderation of tone, and for the last three months much more mildness has been displayed by that paper than by many of the prominent journals this side of the water. There is no reason to suppose that England will make more of the act of Mr. Marcy than it intrinsically is. It is not an insult, for an insult consists in the intention, and this was surely not intended as such. Mr. Marcy gives assurance of his "earnest desire to act with all possible courtesy towards her Majesty's government," and to keep the diplomatic relations between the two countries "upon the most friendly footing." He makes the very importance of this a reason for a personal change in the legation at Washington, and the whole despatch bears on its face throughout, a design to give no unnecessary offence. The act of dismissal is made to rest entirely upon personal grounds, and therefore its form, as well as its intention, make it impossible that it should be treated as a national affront. Another pledge of our pacific spirit is given in the partial acceptance by Mr. Marcy of the propositions to arbitrate the Central American difficulties. He offers to submit the vexed question of the relationship of the Bay Islands to Honduras to the decision of two scientific geographers, and expresses the earnest conviction that the other differences may be brought to a satisfactory issue by further correspondence. The whole tenor of this despatch, like the other, is of the most kindly character, and calculated to assure England that there is no design to touch her honor.

England, besides the moral ties that bind her to keep the peace with us, has three immensely powerful material inducements—first, the destruction of her commerce in case of war, by our privateers on the high seas—second, the certain deprivation of our cotton, which is an absolute necessity to her manufacturing industry—third, the probable loss of Canada. The best military authorities in England agree that it would be impossible to defend Canada without a series of fortifications, such as do not now exist, and which it would require years to construct. Excepting Quebec, hardly anything

worthy the name of fort exists from one extremity of the Colonies to the other. Montreal, Kingston, and Toronto are almost wholly without defence. and Amherstburg, the key to Western Canada and the Lakes, is merely a wretched redoubt. Montreal not only possesses no fortifications, but it is a question for engineers whether it is at all capable of defence; the heights in its rear being too distant to cover completely the town, and presenting great obstacles to their being crowned with works of any magnitude, which would involve an enormous expenditure in their construction. Nothing would be easier than to get the command of the St. Lawrence at Kingston, and thus cut off all communication between the eastern and western divisions of the province.

It is in no wise likely that England will incur the losses and risks incident to a war with us, for the mere sake of vindicating the personal consequence of Mr. Crampton, or gratifying the petty spleen which the French Minister at Washington is known to entertain towards our Government.—There is nothing to justify apprehensions of an approaching rupture.—*New York Courier and Enquirer.*

The London Times says:—

"The American question assumes month by month, with each interchange of communications between the two governments, a more threatening aspect. It really seems as if demands on one side and concessions on the other had reached their utmost limit; as if so much had been conceded in peace, that nothing was left to be grasped by war; as if America had obtained and England had yielded all that the most powerful country could ask—all that the feeblest nation which retained any sense of dignity and self-respect could possibly give up."

"We have apologised for the faults we have committed. We have temperately and fairly pointed out the worthlessness of the proof of other faults, the commission of which we deny, and for which we can consequently offer no reparation. This we have done, but we can do more. The Queen of England has offered to the United States such reparations as one great Power may fairly and candidly make to another; but this nation will never suffer the posture of its Sovereign to be changed from cordial and candid friendship into an attitude of enforcing humility and unworthy deprecation.—This nation would exact a heavy account from any government which it should think has, by rashness or want of consideration for the feelings of its neighbours, compromised the peace of the world; but it will be equally resolute to maintain, if driven to extremity, its honour and independence."

The article concludes with a suggestion that the United States should either send to London a special plenipotentiary, or invest their minister there with full powers amicably to terminate the dispute.

THE CRIMAN TROOPS.—The remainder of the 9th Regiment left for Montreal last evening. As the steamer "John Muir" started, cheers were given by the persons assembled on the wharf, and when she passed the "Resolute" a salute was fired from on board the latter vessel. The Head Quarters of the 9th Regiment will be stationed at Toronto, and the Left Wing, at Kingston. We understand that, on the arrival of the Head Quarter Division of the 17th Regiment, which is to remain in this garrison, an address from the Mayor and Corporation will be presented to the officers and soldiers of that corps.

THE SUEZ CANAL.—This great undertaking is estimated to cost over six millions sterling. A branch canal is to be constructed to unite the main work with the river Nile.