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MISCELLANEOUS DR. LATHROP'S SERMON.

The following passage is extracted from the interesting memoir of the life of the late Doctor Lathrop, West Springfield, written by himself and prefixed to a posthumous volume of his sermons:

My steady aim in preaching has been to promote real religion in temper and practice, and to state and apply the doctrines of the gospel in a manner best adapted to this age. Keeping this in view, I have avoided unprofitable controversy. I have been careful not to awaken disputes, which were quietly asleep, and not to waste my own and hearers' time by removing imaginary evils or indifferent customs. Among these I have reckoned the fashion of dress. I was once requested to preach against prevailing fashions. I remote inhabitant of the parish, apparently in a serious frame, called on me one day, and pressed the necessity of bearing my testimony against this dangerous evil. I observed to him, that as my people were generally farmers in middling circumstances, I did not think they would lead in fashions; if they followed them, it was at a humble distance, and rather to avoid singularity than to encourage extravagance, at as long as people were in the habit of wearing clothes, they must have some fashion or other, and a fashion that answered the end of dress, and exceeded not the ability of the wearer, I considered as innocent, and not deserving reproof. To this he agreed; but said, what grieved him was to see people set their hearts so much on fashions. I needed that, as modes of dress are trifles compared with our eternal concerns, to set our hearts upon them must be a great sin. But I advised him to consider that, to set our hearts against such trifles was the same sin as to set our hearts upon them; and, as his fashion was different from those of his neighbors just in proportion as he set his heart against theirs he set his heart upon his own. He was, therefore, doubly guilty of the very sin imputed to others; and I desired him to correct his own fault, which he could not but know, and to hope that his neighbors were less faulty than himself, and less faulty than he had uncharitably supposed them to be. I could not but reflect, how easily men deceive themselves, behold the mote in their brother's eye, and considering not the beam in their own.

ON DEATH. The most sensible motive to avert the passions is death. The tomb is the best course of morality; study avarice in the coffin of a miser; this is the man who accumulated heap upon heap, riches upon riches—see a few square inches of earth contains him! Study ambition in the grave of the enterprising man; his noble designs, his extensive projects, his boundless expedients, are all shattered and sunk in this fatal gulph of human projects! Approach the tomb of the proud man, and there investigate pride; see the path that pronounced lofty expressions condemned to eternal silence, the piercing eye that concealed the world with fear; covered with a midnight gloom! the formidable arm, that disturbed the destinies of mankind, without motion or effort! Go to the tomb of the nobleman, and there study quality; behold his magnificent titles, his royal ancestors, his flattering inscriptions, his learned genealogies, are all gone, or going to be lost with himself in the same dust! Study voluptuousness at the grave of the voluptuary; see his senses are decayed, his organs broken to pieces, a body scattered at the grave's mouth, and the whole temple of sensual pleasures subverted from its foundation.

At 12 o'clock this day, the President of the United States, transmitted to both Houses of Congress, by Mr. S. L. Gouverneur, the following MESSAGE.

Fillow Citizens: I have the honor to inform you that the progress of our affairs during the past session, has been such as to give me great satisfaction, and to give me confidence in the future success of our country. I have the honor to inform you that the progress of our affairs during the past session, has been such as to give me great satisfaction, and to give me confidence in the future success of our country.

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By an act of the 31st of March, 1815, so much of the several acts as imposed higher duties on the tonnage of foreign vessels, and on the productions and manufactures of foreign nations when imported into the United States in foreign vessels, than when imported in vessels of the United States, were repealed, so far as respected the tonnage and productions of the territory to which such vessel belonged, on the condition, that the repeal should take effect only in favor of any foreign nation when the executive should be satisfied that such discriminating duties, to the disadvantage of the U. States, had likewise been repealed by such nation. By this act a provision was made to all nations to place our commerce, with each, on a basis which it was presumed would be acceptable to all.

Every nation was allowed to bring its manufactures and productions into our ports, and to take the manufactures and productions of the U. States, back to their own ports, on the same conditions that they might be transported in vessels of the United States; and in return it was required that a like accommodation should be granted to the vessels of the U. States, in the ports of other powers. The articles to be admitted or prohibited on either side, formed no part of the proposed arrangement. Each party would retain the right to admit or prohibit such articles from the other as it thought proper and in its own conditions.

When the nature of the commerce between the United States and every other country was taken into view, it was thought that this proposition would be considered fair and even liberal, by every power. The exports of the United States consist generally of articles of the first necessity, and of rude materials, in demand for foreign manufactures of great bulk, requiring for their transportation many vessels, the return for which, in the manufactures and productions of any foreign country, even when disposed of there at a single sale, may be more especially applicable to those countries from which manufactures are imported, but it applies, in a great extent, to the European dominions of every European power, and, in a certain extent, to all the colonies of those powers. By placing, then, the navigation precisely on the same ground, in the transportation of exports and imports, between the U. States and other countries, it was presumed that all was offered which could be desired. It seemed to be the only proposition which could be devised which would retain even the semblance of equality in our favor.

Many considerations of great weight gave us a right to expect the best of every other power should be extended to the colonies, as well as to the European dominions of other powers. With the latter, especially with countries exclusively manufacturing, the advantage was manifestly on their side. An indemnity for that loss was expected from a trade with the colonies, and, with the great reason, as it was known that the supplies which the colonies derived from us were of the highest importance to them, their labor being bestowed with so much greater profit in the culture of other articles, and because, likewise, the articles of which those supplies consisted, forming so large a proportion of the exports of the U. States, were never admitted into any of the ports of Europe, except in cases of great emergency, to avert a serious calamity. When no article is admitted which is not required to supply the wants of the party admitting it, and admitted then, not in favor of any particular country to the disadvantage of others but in conditions equally applicable to all, it seems just that the articles thus admitted and imported should be carried thither in the vessels of the country affording such supply, and that the reciprocity should be found in a corresponding accommodation on the other side. By allowing each party to participate in the transportation of such supplies, on the payment of equal tonnage, a strong proof was afforded of an accommodating spirit. To abandon to it the transportation of the whole would be a sacrifice which ought not to be expected. The demand in the present instance would be more unreasonable, in consideration of the inequality existing in the trade with the parent country.

Such was the basis of our system, as established by the act of 1815, and such its true character. In the year in which this

act was passed, a treaty was concluded with Great Britain, in strict conformity with the principles of the act of 1815, and in which the British Government, in the West Indies and on the continent, it was extended, the British Government claiming the exclusive supply of those colonies, and from our own ports, and of the productions of the colonies in return in their own vessels. To this claim the United States could not assent, and in consequence, each party suspended the intercourse, in the vessels of the other, by a prohibition, which still exists.

The same conditions were offered to France, but not accepted. Her government has demanded other conditions, more favorable to her navigation, and which should also give extraordinary encouragement to her manufactures and productions, in the ports of the U. States. To these it was thought improper to accede, and in consequence, the restrictive regulations which had been adopted on her part, being counterbalanced on the part of the U. States, the direct commerce between the two countries, in the vessels of each party, has been in a great measure suspended. It is much to be regretted, that although a negotiation has been long pending, such is the diversity of views entertained on the various points, which have been brought into discussion, that there does not appear to be any reasonable prospect of its early conclusion.

It is my duty to state, as a cause of very great regret, that very serious differences have occurred in this negotiation, respecting the construction of the eighth article of the treaty of 1815, whereby Louisiana was ceded to the U. States, and likewise respecting the seizure of the Apollo in 1829, for a violation of our revenue laws. The claim of the government of France has excited not less surprise than concern, because there does not appear to be a just foundation for it, in either instance. By the eighth article of the treaty referred to, it is stipulated that, after the expiration of twelve years, during which it was provided, by the preceding or seventh article, that the vessels of France and Spain should be admitted into the ports of the ceded territory, without paying higher duties on merchandise, than on the vessels of the U. States, the ships of France should for ever afterwards be placed on the footing of the most favored nation. By the obvious construction of this article, it is intended, that no favour should be granted to any power in those ports to which France should not be forthwith entitled, nor should any accommodation be allowed to another power, on conditions to which she would not also be entitled upon the same conditions. Under this construction, no favour or accommodation, could be granted to any power, to the prejudice of France. By allowing the equivalent allowed by those powers, she would stand in those ports, on the footing of the most favored nation. But if this article should be construed, as that France should enjoy of right, and without paying the equivalent, all the advantages of such conditions as might be allowed to other powers by them, then the whole character of the stipulation would be changed, she would be placed on the footing of the most favored nation, but on a footing less than any other nation. She would enjoy all the advantages allowed to them in consideration of like advantages allowed to us, free from every, and any condition, whatever.

As little cause has the government of France to complain of the seizure of the Apollo, and the removal of other vessels from the waters of the St. Mary's. It will not be denied, that every nation has a right to regulate its commercial system as it thinks fit, and to enforce the collection of its revenue provided it be done without an invasion of the rights of other powers. The violation of its revenue laws is an offence which all nations punish—the punishment of which, gives no just cause of complaint to the power to which the offenders belong, provided it be extended to all equally. In this case, every circumstance which occurred, indicated a fixed purpose to violate our revenue laws. Had the party intended to pursue a fair trade, he would have entered our ports and paid the duties; or had he intended to have carried on an illegitimate commerce with the U. States, he would have entered the port of some other power, landed his goods at the custom house according to law, and reshipped and sent them in the vessel of such power, or of some other power which might lawfully bring them, free from such duties, to a part of the U. States.

But the conduct of the party in this case was altogether different. He entered the river St. Mary's, the homely between the U. States and Florida, and took his position on the Spanish side, on which, in the whole extent of the river, there was no town, no port or custom house, and no regularly settled his goods to the inhabitants of Florida, but to citizens of the U. States, in exchange for their productions, which could not be done without a direct and palpable breach of our laws. It is known that a regular and systematic plan had been formed by certain other persons for the violation of our revenue system, which made it the more necessary to check the proceeding in its commencement.

That the vessel had been fitted out more from the Spanish side, and that the party in question, could give no proof of his being a citizen of the U. States, is a circumstance which, in strict accord with the laws of the U. States, would not have comported with a fair policy in Spain herself, to have established a custom house there, since it could have subserved no other purpose than to elude our revenue laws. But the government of Spain did not adopt that measure. On the contrary, it is understood, that the Captain General of Cuba, to whom an application to that effect was made, by these adventurers, had not assented to it. The condition of these provinces for many years before they were ceded to the United States, need not now be dwelt on. Inhabited by different tribes of Indians, and an road for every kind of adventurer, the jurisdiction of Spain may be said to have been almost exclusively confined to her garrisons. It certainly could not extend to places, where she had no authority.

The rules therefore, applicable to settled countries, governed by laws, could not be deemed so, to the deserts of Florida, and to

the occurrences there. Her attention is also, that the territory had been ceded to the U. S. by a treaty, the ratification of which had not been refused, and which has since been performed. Under such circumstances, for such acts committed there, and the U. S. more at liberty to exercise authority, to prevent so great a mischief. The conduct of this government, has, in every instance, been conciliatory and friendly to France. The construction of our revenue law in its application to the cases which have formed the ground of such serious complaints on her part, and the order to the collector of St. Mary's in accord with it, were given two years before these cases occurred, and in consequence of a breach which was attempted by the subjects of another power. Its application therefore, to the cases in question, was inevitable. As soon as the treaty, by which the provinces were ceded to the U. S. was ratified, and all danger of further breach of our revenue laws ceased, an order was given for the release of the vessel, which had been seized, and for the dismissal of the libel, which had been instituted against her.

The principles of this system of reciprocity, founded on the law of the 31st of March 1815, have been since carried into effect with the kingdom of the Netherlands, Sweden, Prussia, and with Hamburg, Bremen, Lubbeck, and Oldenburg, with a provision, made by subsequent laws, in regard to the Netherlands, Prussia, Hamburg and Bremen, that such produce and manufactures, as could not be, or most usually were first shipped from the ports of those countries, the same being imported in vessels wholly belonging to their subjects, should be considered and admitted as their own manufactures and productions.

The government of Norway has, by an ordinance, opened the ports of that part of the dominions of the U. States, upon the payment of no other or higher duties than are paid by the Norwegian vessels, from whatever place arriving, and with whatever articles laden. They have requested the reciprocal allowance for the vessels of Norway in the ports of the United States. As this privilege is not within the scope of the act of the 31st of March, 1815, and can only be granted by congress, and as it may involve the commercial relations of the union with other nations, the subject is submitted to the wisdom of congress.

I have presented this fully to your view our commercial relations with other powers, that seeing them in detail with each power, and knowing the basis on which they rest, congress may in its wisdom decide, whether any change ought to be made, and if any, in what respect. If this basis is unjust or unworkable, surely it ought to be abandoned; but it is just and reasonable, and every change in it will make concessions subsversive of the principles of equality, and tending in its consequences to sap the foundations of our prosperity, then the reasons are equally strong for adhering to the ground already taken, and supporting it by such further regulations as may appear to be proper, should any additional support be found necessary.

The question concerning the construction of the 13th article of the treaty of Ghent, has been a joint act of the representatives of the U. States and of Great Britain, at the court of St. Petersburg, submitted to the decision of his imperial majesty the Emperor of Russia. The result of that submission has not yet been received. The commissioners under the 5th article of that treaty not having been able to agree upon their decision, their reports to the two governments, conformably to the provisions of the treaty, may be expected at an early day.

With Spain, the treaty of Feb 22d, 1819, has been partly carried into execution. Possession of East and West Florida has been given to the U. States, and the officers charged with that service by an order from his Catholic Majesty, delivered by his minister to the Secretary of State, and transmitted by a special agent to the captain general of Cuba, to whom it was directed, and in whom the government of the provinces was vested, have not only omitted, in contravention of the orders of their sovereign, the performance of the express stipulation, to deliver over the archives and documents relating to the property and sovereignty of those provinces, all of which it was expected would have been delivered, either before or when the troops were withdrawn, but detained, since every effort to the U. States to oblige them, especially those of the greatest importance. This omission has given rise to several incidents of a painful nature, the character of which will be fully disclosed by the documents which will be hereafter communicated.

In every other circumstance the law of the 31st of March last, for carrying into effect that treaty, has been duly attended to. For the execution of that part which preserved in force for the government of the inhabitants, for the term specified, all the civil, military and judicial powers, exercised by the existing government of those provinces, an adequate number of officers was appointed, and they were appointed and ordered to their respective stations. Both provinces were divided into a territory, and a governor appointed for it, but in consideration of the difficulty of communication between Pensacola, the residence of the governor of West Florida and St. Augustine, that of the governor of West Florida, at which places the immovable population, each province was principally collected, two Secretaries were appointed, one to reside at Pensacola, and the other at St. Augustine. Due attention was likewise paid to the execution of the laws of the U. States, relating to the revenue and the slave trade, which were extended to these provinces. The whole territory was divided into three collection districts, that part lying between the river St. Mary's and Cape Florida, forming one, that from the Cape to the Apalachicola, another, and that from the Apalachicola to the Perdido the third.

To these districts the usual number of revenue officers were appointed, and to secure the due operation of these laws, a judge and a district attorney were appointed, to reside at Pensacola; and likewise, one judge and a district attorney to reside at St. Augustine, and a specified boundary between them, and one marshal for the whole, with authority to appoint a deputy. In car-

rying this law into effect, and especially that part of it relating to the powers of the existing government of those provinces, it was thought important, in consideration of the short term for which it was to operate, and the radical change which would be made at the approaching session of congress, to avoid expense, to make no appointment which should not be absolutely necessary to give effect to those powers, to withdraw none of the officers from other pursuits, whereby to subject the government to claims which could not be gratified, and the parties to losses, which it would be painful to witness.

It has been seen, with much concern, that in the performance of these duties, a collision arose between the Governor of the Territory, and the Judge appointed for the Western District. It was presumed, that the law under which this transitory Government was organized, and the commissions which were granted to the officers, who were appointed to execute each a branch of the system, and to which the commissions were adapted, would have been understood by the Executive. Much has been said to officers, employed in each branch of the system, and the more so, as there is good cause to believe that each acted under conviction, that he possessed the power which he undertook to exercise. I think it proper to observe that he accepted it with reluctance, in compliance with the invitation given him, and from a high sense of duty to his country, being willing to contribute to the consummation of an event, which would ensure a complete protection to an important part of our Union, which had suffered much, from incursion and invasion, and to the defence of which, his very gallant and patriotic services, had been so signally, and usefully devoted.

From the intrinsic difficulty of executing laws deriving their origin from different sources, and so essentially different in many important circumstances, the advantage, and indeed, the necessity, of establishing, as soon as may be practicable, a well organized government over the territory, on the principles of our system, is apparent. His subject, therefore, is recommended to the early consideration of Congress.

In compliance with an injunction of the law of the 31st of March last, three Commissioners have also been appointed, and a board organized, for carrying into effect the eleventh article of the treaty above recited, making provision for the payment of such of our citizens, as have well founded claims on Spain, of the character specified by that treaty. This board has entered on its duties, and made some progress therein. The Commissioners and Surveyor of his Catholic Majesty, provided for by the fourth article of the Treaty, have not yet arrived in the United States, but are soon expected. As soon as they do arrive, corresponding appointments will be made, and every facility be afforded, for the due execution of this service.

The Government of his Most Faithful Majesty, since the termination of the last session of Congress, has been removed from Rio de Janeiro to Lisbon, where a revolution, similar to that which had occurred in the neighbouring kingdom of Spain, had, in like manner, been sanctioned, by the accepted and pledged faith of the reigning monarch. The diplomatic intercourse between the United States and the Portuguese dominions, interrupted by that important event, has not yet been resumed, but the change of internal administration, having already materially affected the commercial intercourse of the United States with the Portuguese dominions, the renewal of the public missions between the two countries, appears to be advisable at an early day.

It is understood that the colonies in South America have had great success during the present year, in the struggle for their independence. The new government of Colombia has extended its territories, and considerably augmented its strength, and at Buenos Ayres, where civil dissension had for some time before prevailed greater harmony and better order appear to have been established. Equal success has attended their efforts in the provinces on the Pacific. It has long been manifest, that it would be impossible for Spain to reduce these colonies by force, and equally so, that no conditions short of their independence would be satisfactory to them. It may therefore be presumed, and it is earnestly hoped, that the government of Spain, guided by enlightened and liberal councils, will find it to comport with its interests and due to its consistency, to terminate this exhausting controversy on that basis. To promote this result, if friendly counsel, and the government of Spain, will be the object of the government of the United States.

In conducting the fiscal operations of the year it has been found necessary to carry into full effect the act of the last session of congress, authorizing a loan of five millions of dollars. This sum has been raised at an average premium of five dollars fifty nine hundredths per cent, upon stock bearing an interest at the rate of five per centum per annum, redeemable at the option of the government after the first day of Jan. 1835.

There has been issued under the provisions of this act, four millions seven hundred and thirty-five thousand two hundred and ninety-six dollars thirty cents, of five per cent stock; and there has been, or will be, redeemed during the year, three millions one hundred and ninety-seven thousand three hundred and thirty-seven dollars seventy cents, of six per cent, deferred stock, and Mississippi stock. There has, therefore, been an actual increase of the public debt, contracted during the year, of one million five hundred and thirty-eight thousand two hundred and sixty-six dollars sixty-nine cents.

The receipts into the Treasury from the 1st of January to the 30th of September last, have amounted to sixteen millions two hundred and nineteen thousand one hundred and ninety-seven dollars seventy cents, with the balance of one million one hundred and ninety-eight thousand four hundred and sixty-one dollars twenty-one cents in the Treasury on the former day, make the aggregate sum of seventeen millions four hundred and seventy-seven thousand six hundred and fifty-eight dollars ninety-one cents.

The payments from the Treasury during the same period have amounted to sixteen millions six hundred and fifty-five thousand two hundred and ninety-eight dollars forty-