

# A Reminder of Whittier and 1835

A Rokeby, Neb., reader writes: "When I read that the clergy of Cleveland attended the recent meeting at Rockefeller's residence to show their appreciation of him I was reminded of Whittier's poem, 'Clerical Oppressors.' The clergy of all denominations attended in a body, lending their sanction to the proceedings of a pro-slavery meeting at Charleston, S. C., in 1835. The action of the clergy inspired the poem. Please publish entire poem."

### CLERICAL OPPRESSORS

(In the report of the celebrated pro-slavery meeting in Charleston, S. C., on the 4th of the ninth month, 1835, published in the Courier of that city, it is stated: "The CLERGY of all denominations attended in a body, LENDING THEIR SANCTION TO THE PROCEEDINGS, and adding by their presence to the impressive character of the scene!")

Just God!—and these are they  
Who minister at Thine altar, God of Right!  
Men who their hands with prayer and blessing lay  
On Israel's Ark of light!

What! preach and kidnap men?  
Give thanks—and rob Thy own afflicted poor?  
Talk of Thy glorious liberty, and then  
Bolt hard the captive's door?

What! servants of Thy own  
Merciful Son, who came to seek and save  
The homeless and the outcast,—fettering down  
The task'd and plunder'd slave!

Pilate and Herod, friends!  
Chief priests and rulers, as of old, combine!  
Just God and holy! is that church  
Which lends  
Strength to the spoiler Thine?

Paid hypocrites, who turn  
Judgment aside, and rob the Holy Book  
Of those high words of truth which  
Search and burn  
In warning and rebuke.

Feed fat, ye locusts, feed!  
And, in your tass'd pulpits, thank the Lord  
That, from the toiling bondman's utter need,  
Ye pile your own full board.

How long, O Lord, how long  
Shall such a Priesthood barter truth away,  
And, in Thy name, for robbery and wrong  
At Thy own altars pray?

Is not Thy hand stretch'd forth  
Visibly in the heavens, to awe and smite?  
Shall not the living God of all the earth,  
And Heaven above, do right?

Woe, then to all who grind  
Their brethren of a Common Father down!  
To all who plunder from th' immortal mind  
Its bright and glorious crown!

Woe to the Priesthood! woe  
To those whose hire is with the price of blood—

Perverting, darkening, changing as they go,  
The searching truths of God!

Their glory and their might  
Shall perish; and their very names shall be  
Vile before all the people, in the light  
OF A WORLD'S LIBERTY.

Oh, speed the moment on  
When Wrong shall cease—and Liberty, and Love,  
And Truth, and Right, throughout the earth be known  
As in their home above.

### SOME VAGRANT THOUGHTS (Continued from Page 12)

ing and rubbing down as they did that afternoon. And they got an extra quart of oats, too.

The chores were done up a little earlier than usual that Sunday evening, and long before father leisurely walked out to hitch up the old plow horses you had hitched up the young colts—they were fifteen years old last spring, but still the colts because they were the youngest horses on the place—you had hitched up the colts, I say, and had started off towards Kate Murphy's home, wondering all the way over what you were going to talk about when you got there.

Then the ride to church, the lusty singing, the long sermon, the neighborly conversation—and the long, slow ride home in the moonlight.

O, it makes me sick to think about these so-called "modern ways!"

That was a long, long time ago, wasn't it? Well, it's been fun to even think about those good old times, but it's nearly 8 o'clock and we've got to shave and get ready to go to Mrs. Richley's reception. O, dear! Say, Dot; where'n the world is my dress shirt? Confound the luck, I can't find my shirt studs. I left 'em right here in this tray. This dress suit is getting a little shiny. That means sixty plunks for a new one. Well, well! We wore jeans in those old days, and we had more fun in 'em than we ever had in a swallowtail coat, too.

### Brain Leaks

True love never drags down.  
The poor shot usually kicks the dog.

Those who have suffered know how to sympathize.

Doubtless you have a policy on your life, but how about your soul insurance?

Some women count their jars of canned fruit like a miser counts his gold pieces.

It is far better to do little things well than to be always dreaming of doing big things.

Is a man entitled to credit for being liberal when he freely spends other people's money?

It is so easy to make a child happy that it must be an awfully mean man who will not when he can.

The man who is loudest in his denunciations of hypocrites in the church is usually outside of the church.

It is said that "Opportunity knocks once at every man's door." The trouble is that so many men are "knocking" that they do not hear Opportunity.

There are people who express a willingness to die at the stake for their faith, but who always sift the money in their pockets to get the pennies when the collection box comes around.

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