

HYMN TO THE FLOWERS

Day-stars! that ope your frownless eyes to twinkle
From rainbow galaxies of earth's creation,
And dew-drops on her lonely altars sprinkle
As a libation.

Ye matin worshippers! who bending lowly
Before the uprisen Sun, God's lidless eye,
Throw from your chalices a sweet and holy
Incense on high.

Ye bright mosaics! that with storied beauty,
The floor of Nature's temple tessellate,
What numerous emblems of instructive duty
Your forms create!

'Neath cloistered boughs, each floral bell that swingeth
And tolls its perfume on the passing air,
Makes Sabbath in the fields and ever ringeth
A call to prayer.

Not to the domes where crumbling arch and column
Attest the feebleness of mortal hand,
But to that fane, most catholic and solemn,
Which God hath planned;

To that cathedral, boundless as our wonder,
Whose quenchless lamps the sun and moon supply;
Its choir the winds and waves—its organ thunder—
Its dome the sky.

There, as in solitude and shade I wander
Through the green aisles, or stretched upon the sod,
Awed by the silence, reverently ponder
The ways of God,

Your voiceless lips, O Flowers! are living preachers,
Each cup a pulpit, every leaf a book,
Supplying to my fancy numerous teachers
From loneliest nook.

Floral Apostles! that in dewy splendor
"Weep without woe, and blush without a crime"
O may I deeply learn and ne'er surrender
Your lore sublime!

"Thou wert not, Solomon, in all thy glory
Arrayed," the lilies cry, "in robes like ours;
How vain your grandeur! ah, how transitory
Are human flowers!"

In the sweet-scented pictures, heavenly artist!
With which thou paintest nature's wide-spread hall,

What a delightful lesson thou impartest
Of love to all!

Not useless are ye Flowers! though made for pleasure;
Blooming o'er field and wave, by day and night,
From every source your sanction bids me treasure
Harmless delight.

Ephemeral sages! what instructors hoary
For such a world of thought could furnish scope?
Each fading calix a memento mori,
Yet fount of hope.

Posthumous glories! angel-like collection!
Upraised from seed or bulb interred in earth,
Ye are to me a type of resurrection,
And second birth.

Were I in churchless solitudes remaining,
Far from all voice of teachers and divines,
My soul would find in flowers of God's ordaining,
Priests, sermons, shrines!

—Horace Smith.
(London, 1812.)

TWO TARIFF LESSONS

Persons who are too busy to take an analytical view of the question are apt to fall into the error of congratulating themselves and the country upon the showing made by the United States Steel corporation in its statement of profits for the fiscal year and the announcement that the United States treasury contains a surplus of \$87,000,000.

The United States Steel corporation boasts of a net profit of more than \$182,000,000 for the year. This stupendous sum represents part of the tribute the people of the United States pay for the perpetuation of a national policy that has long since outlived its day of usefulness, if, indeed, it was ever useful for any purpose save that of granting to the few special privileges at the expense of the great army of citizens who did not come under its beneficent favoritism. The protective tariff made possible the conversion of the steel industry into a gigantic monopoly, and the merging of all the varied interests in that branch of the country's wealth was a natural consequence. No better illustration of the working of this iniquitous policy is needed than the manner in which the great combine, the child of a paternal government and the product of a country's indifference, exacts tribute from the people. It is a well known fact that the steel trust charges American customers more for the products of its mills than it charges the foreign customer, and the protective tariff makes the concern safe in doing it. The American railroad builder pays \$28 a ton for steel rails with freight added, while the same quality of rails are sold abroad for \$19 a ton laid down,

freight free. The steel trust pleads that this difference in the price of its products is due to the competition abroad, which is true only in the slightest degree, for by means of its insidious business methods it has reduced competition to the narrowest limit.

The steel trust simply takes advantage of the power that the protective tariff bestows upon it to mulct the American promoter out of more money than it demands of the foreign builder. The old-time argument is advanced that the tariff is necessary for the protection of American labor, but it is well to remember that American labor gets no part of the enormous sum that is set aside as net earnings of the corporation. This great profit or a good proportion of it, comes from the pockets of the people, and no part of it goes into the pockets of the laborers. It is simply the excess that is levied for the purpose of maintaining a policy that would impoverish a people with fewer resources than Americans possess. The people are beginning to realize that a system that enables any institution to pile up profits of more than half a million dollars a day for every day in the year is a system that is unjust, unwise and undemocratic. Even the firmest advocates of the policy have commenced to notice this growing sentiment, and the politicians whose desire for success overbalances their patriotism are seriously asking themselves whether the tariff is good for another president, meaning that they have imposed upon the patriotic sentiments of the people for success at the polls in times past. The people are not in the humor to be fooled in the same manner again, and they have about concluded that the protective tariff brand of patriotism is not up to the standard of purity.

If any further proof were needed to emphasize the iniquity of the protective tariff, that proof is furnished by the surplus of \$87,000,000 in the United States treasury. This surplus represents the excess of taxes that are taken from the pockets of the people after all the expenditures of one of the most profligate administrations in the history of the country have been paid. It represents the sum of money that is diverted from the legitimate channels of trade and held for no good purpose. The United States needs no such surplus in its treasury. The money should be in the hands of the people, who are its rightful owners, and where it would be were it not for the exactions of tariff that is a menace to the honest enterprises of the land. If this country were a weak and inconsequential nation a surplus might be needed to give it credit with other nations, but no such conditions exist here. The credit of the United States is as good as that of any nation, but the protective tariff has had no part in making it so. Rather the country's credit is good despite such a tariff.

The day is not far distant when the ills from which the country is now suffering on account of the tariff will be cured, and when that time comes American labor, American industry and American commerce will be the beneficiaries.—Fort Worth (Texas) Record.

THE NEW PAPER TRUST

If present plans succeed, the new combination now in progress will control practically all the print paper, manila paper and wood pulp of the northern states. The General Paper company, which was broken up by government prosecution, was a holding concern. The new combination will be an owning company, all of the old mills being absorbed by the issuance of stock in the trust. Thus the same ends would be accomplished in another way, but a way

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