

On Arbor Day, April  
**A BIRTHDAY.** 22, 1901, the editor of  
**THE CONSERVATIVE**  
 reached his sixty-ninth birthday, and,  
 for numerous kind messages from con-  
 siderate and warm-hearted friends, con-  
 gratulating him upon his health, the  
 success of his sons, and his prospects for  
 being still further useful to the com-  
 munity and state in which he lives, he  
 sincerely returns thanks.

The chances for  
**CHANCES.** young men in the  
 United States were  
 never better. All the aged men, all the  
 men in middle life, will soon be marched  
 to their final and everlasting *bivouac*,  
 and their places occupied by the now  
 young men. Brains, integrity and  
 ambitious industry will put the poorest  
 boy in the land at the head of profession-  
 al, commercial or financial life as  
 against the intellectual and moral imbecile  
 begotten in wealth.

**PROTECTIVE TARIFFS AND PUBLIC  
 VIRTUE.**

For forty years, through the enact-  
 ment of protective tariffs, we have been  
 corrupting our public men. Christ,  
 with a profound knowledge of human  
 nature, taught his disciples to pray that  
 they should not be led into temptation.  
 Though professing his teachings, we  
 have given our legislators the power  
 of transferring millions of dollars  
 from the hands of the people to the  
 pockets of the few hundred "Napoleons  
 of finance" by a single congressional  
 enactment. A more stupendous in-  
 strument of corruption was never con-  
 ceived by the perverse ingenuity of  
 man than this power conferred upon  
 congress. Place three or four hundred  
 republicans or democrats of approved  
 honesty in congress, continue them there  
 for a few years, and a considerable pro-  
 portion of their number will surely  
 yield to the temptation to make money  
 out of tariff legislation. So successful  
 have combinations of wealth and avarice  
 been in controlling national legislation  
 that, today, few men think of attaining  
 wealth in great business adventures with-  
 out national or state aid in the form of  
 special legislation. Young men, in fact  
 all classes of men, placing less confidence,  
 than in the olden times, in industry and  
 economy, turn their eyes to legislation  
 as the sure source of wealth, and there-  
 from springs the feverish, speculative,  
 unscrupulous spirit of the day which is  
 sapping and destroying our fine young  
 American manhood.

We might feel more hopeful that there  
 was a favorable outlook for better con-  
 ditions, were it not for the fact that the  
 receivers of the immense profits of the  
 trusts do not hesitate to devote millions  
 of dollars for the campaign disburse-  
 ments of political parties, and for the  
 purpose of misinforming — yes, even

corrupting—the citizen through their  
 paid official newspaper organs. Let us  
 observe for a moment some of the re-  
 sults of these unholy practices. The  
 last century, in its early and middle  
 course, witnessed a glorious young en-  
 thusiasm for the freedom and independ-  
 ence of the individual man, justly  
 ascribing to his independence and liberty  
 the sure foundation of free government.  
 In those days the leaders of political  
 parties had convictions about the origin  
 and province of government over which  
 they fought each other vigorously. All  
 this is changed now. Paternalism, with  
 its weaklings and moral slaves, is upon  
 us. Just in proportion as organized  
 wealth has seized upon government for  
 its own purposes, so has individual  
 character and independence fallen away  
 from its former noble estate. Convic-  
 tions upon public questions, at least  
 among the politicians, no longer exist.  
 Go into your republican or democratic  
 clubs and listen to the talk of the lead-  
 ers, and you will find that they have no  
 higher thought than to quarrel over  
 "which set of maggots shall eat the  
 cheese." Now, turn to the voters them-  
 selves, and you will find that they are  
 inoculated with those pernicious doc-  
 trines, that good times and bad times are  
 the immediate and sole result of party  
 action; that a trust magnate atones for  
 his unjust enrichment by a liberal dis-  
 bursement of his plunder; and that  
 those who profess to believe that public  
 office is a public trust are necessarily  
 hypocrites, doctrinaires, or fools.

Public extravagance is one of the  
 most effectual means of destroying pub-  
 lic virtue; and public extravagance in  
 national matters has resulted, in a large  
 measure, from the fact that the surplus  
 income must be disposed of by one  
 means or another, in order to remove its  
 existence, as an objection to high tariffs.  
 Does any intelligent man believe, for a  
 moment, that our annual pension list  
 would ever have even been as high as  
 fifty million, instead of a hundred and  
 sixty million dollars, had it been neces-  
 sary to raise the money devoted to that  
 purpose by direct taxation? Would our  
 representatives in congress dare to mul-  
 tiply offices, approve hundreds of  
 unmeritorious private claims, enact  
 wasteful river and harbor bills, and  
 squander the public domain, if the  
 national expenses had to be defrayed by  
 an overt, irritating tax, taking the  
 money directly from the citizen's  
 pocket? Every muniment of English  
 liberty is consecrated by the blood of  
 men, who fought against the imposition  
 of an open, unjust tax; while tyranny  
 has ever thriven under the secrecy and  
 mystery of income for government ex-  
 penses, raised by excises and duties.

The fact that a great proportion of  
 the trusts are a direct outgrowth of  
 protective tariffs, is too well known,  
 among intelligent men, to require argu-

ment; but I do wish to urge, with all  
 the earnestness of my being, the danger  
 to the liberty and the independence of  
 the individual man from "these domes-  
 tic spoilers that make us slaves and tell  
 us 'tis our charter." Industrial slavery  
 is only a step removed from political  
 slavery. There is not a man in any  
 humble home in all this land, but who  
 ought to feel aggrieved by the extor-  
 tions of the trusts. "They sip in his  
 cup, they sit at his fire," they follow  
 him in every step of his life and rob  
 him. Dick Turpin was a modest high-  
 wayman. He relieved the traveller  
 upon Hounslow Heath of his pocket-  
 book and his watch; but our modern  
 highwaymen put Dick Turpin to the  
 blush, for they steal the very highway  
 itself, put upon it their steam and  
 electric railways, and, not satisfied with  
 this, they still follow the wayfarer to  
 his home, and there, year in and year  
 out, extort from him tribute upon every  
 piece of coal, or iron, or steel, or wire  
 or tin plate that he uses. Clamoring  
 for aid at home, as infant industries,  
 and appealing to the people's patriotism  
 for support, they sell their goods in  
 every foreign mart of trade at lower prices  
 than to our own domestic consumers.  
 Every true American ought to resent  
 this. The store-keeper who obeys the  
 command of the trust, the glass jobber,  
 who dares not buy plate-glass abroad,  
 because of an intimation that his busi-  
 ness will be ruined, each may trace his  
 lineage back to a revolutionary sire,  
 but it is not of such cowards that liberty  
 is born and perpetuated. Louis Napol-  
 eon did not strangle the liberties of  
 France in a night time. Ere he came,  
 the French people had relinquished  
 their rights of citizenship. Those who  
 live under a representative form of gov-  
 ernment, must rise morally, or they  
 will sink politically. We cannot  
 measure justice by expediency, we can-  
 not sell our souls to materialism, we  
 cannot fold our arms, to sleep and sur-  
 render to the greed of unscrupulous  
 wealth, and still preserve free govern-  
 ment in its integrity. We may give  
 credent ear to the flattery of demago-  
 gues, we may console ourselves with the  
 hope that things are not as bad as they  
 really seem, we may deceive ourselves  
 with the forms of free government long  
 after the spirit of liberty has fled, but  
 if we are to preserve free government,  
 and to act worthily of those who laid  
 its foundations in prayers and in blood,  
 we must emulate them in their hatred  
 of injustice and extortion.

FRANKLIN PIERCE.

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THE CONSERVATIVE has, in course of  
 preparation, an article on "Some Exist-  
 ing Evils of the Present Systems of  
 Taxation," by Judge Orin N. Carter, of  
 Chicago.