

# NORTHERN STAR, AND FARMERS' AND MECHANICS' ADVOCATE.

DEVOTED TO NEWS, MECHANICS, AGRICULTURE, COMMERCE, MANUFACTURES, LITERATURE, RELIGION, RURAL AND DOMESTIC ECONOMY, ETC.

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## THE ADVOCATE.

### POLITICS FOR FARMERS.

(Continued from our last.)

We have in our own country, two beautiful types of the principles that we teach, in *Pittsburgh* and *Cincinnati*. They have no foreign trade—but lands and houses in them, and in their neighborhood, bear a full comparison with the values of lands and houses at Baltimore, and its neighborhood. The manufactures of Philadelphia, (that is, those supplied with labor and capital, and which centre in that city,) have been estimated at 25,000,000 dollars annually—equal to the full average value of all the cotton exported. Without an interior trade, a city can only be as *Heligoland*, when converted into a nest for smugglers, as the island of St. Thomas is, because a "free port," at which the British islands are supplied with flour, &c.

A more special application of the benefits derived from a prudent division of labor, may be thus shown—

Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut are capable of raising all the bread stuffs, which their people need, and heretofore had a considerable surplus; but, at an early period, they turned their attention much to navigation, and have lately become great manufacturing states. The lands in this district are not well fitted for the cultivation of wheat—but they prefer bread made from it, if able to purchase it. We take of them cotton and other manufactures, oil, &c., and they receive, in exchange of us, not less than the equivalent of 1,500,000 barrels of flour, in bread stuffs, or a much greater value than the whole of our foreign trade in them. This may be called a new business, and is of vast importance to all parties. It is equally profitable to the one, whether a yard of cotton cloth be sold for 6 or 7 cents to go to *Baltimore* or *Lima*—or to the other, if a barrel of flour sells for 5 dollars, to proceed to *Boston* or *Kamschatka*! But there is this imposing advantage—the orders and decrees, intrigues, or caprices, of foreign nations, have no effect over our home trade. Its amount is beyond calculation—and it knits the people closely together. We have seen *Baltimore* brand flour in the midst of the mountains of *Vermont*. Such is the "American System."—This could not have happened, but because of the divisions of labor that we have spoken of.

But, it is said the people would eat as much bread as they now do, were that "system" destroyed. So it may be said that we should require as many shoes, were all the shoe-makers gillotined! But every body knows that it would not be advantageous for the farmer to stop his plough and let his horses remain idle, to make a pair of shoes. If the people on the rich lands of New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia, can "make" wheat cheaper than those of Massachusetts and Rhode Island—and they, of the latter, furnish the other with cotton goods cheaper than they can otherwise obtain them, common sense will teach both the value of mutual exchanges. We have had a mighty outcry about the loss of the West India Trade, and shall have a grand a-do, if it is regained. We believe that the sale of one barrel of American flour has not been lost; because of the loss of that trade—but the general amount of our trade with the West Indies has not been materially affected by an opening or closing of the British Ports.\* But if the sale of all the flour which proceeded (direct) to those ports, when opened, was really to us, the whole amount is less than the demand for flour and corn at the manufacturing town of Providence, in Rhode Island! This will astonish many, but it is the truth notwithstanding. The highest amount of flour, ever exported to the British West Indies, was about 130,000 barrels in one year. In 1826-7—from July to July, 127,150 barrels of flour were received at Providence, with, perhaps, 200,000 bushels of "southern corn," nearly all which immediately passed to the manufactories, for consumption.

We might multiply facts like these

\*We have exported 100,000 barrels of flour more to the West Indies, when these ports were shut than when they were opened—1821 compared with 1825.

without number—but cannot give the room necessary to state them.

Such is the connection between agriculture and manufactures. We shall now notice the folly, or falshood, of those who insist that the laws for the protection of domestic manufactures are "taxes" on consumers—for these laws have had one invariable tendency to reduce the prices of articles protected, without at all diminishing the foreign demand for the products of our soil. In 1823, the year before the "abominable tariff" of 1824, we exported 173,000,000 lbs. of cotton,† and 756,000 bbls. of flour, together worth 25,400,000 dollars; and in 1826, 204 millions of pounds of cotton and 857,000 lbs. flour, worth together 29,150,000 dollars, the quantity and the value being both increased, in defiance of all the awful predictions to the contrary.†

Taxes, of some kind, must be paid. A revenue duty must be collected; but whether a protecting duty super-added, is, or is not, a tax, depends on particular considerations. For example—the duty on a square yard of coarse cotton goods is 8 1-4 cents—but we may buy a square yard of such goods, homemade, for eight cents, or 1-4 of a cent less than the duty. It is impossible then, that the duty is a tax.—The duty on shot is 4 cents per lb. but we can obtain any quantity of shot at 5 cents per lb.—if the duty is a tax, the shot is only worth one cent per lb. and so on. The duty on wheat is 15 per cent.—or 15 cents on every dollar of its cost, as the "free trade" folks say—but is any farmer foolish enough to believe that a tax of the United States is collected on the wheat that he grows and consumes? It is a popular cry, that "duties are taxes: so was the halloo, 'Great is the Diana of the Ephesians.' A falsehood or an idol, placed in opposition to truth, and the ETERNAL PRINCIPLE OF TRUTH! There is a duty of 3 cents per lb. on cotton—is cotton advanced in that amount because of that duty? Pshaw! We cannot dwell longer on such subjects—and must proceed.

**MANUFACTURES OF IRON.**  
This is a leading interest in the United States, and a great supporter of the home market, as every farmer in the neighborhood of iron works, well knows. The following shows that decreased prices have invariably followed increased duties. As to iron manufactures, no patriot will contend that we should be dependent on any foreign nation for them—they are essential to the independence of our own and are without substitutes.

The first encouragement was given to rolling iron by the tariff of 1816, when the duty was fixed at \$30 per ton, and so it remained until 1828, when it was raised to \$37 per ton. In consequence of the act of 1816, fifteen new rolling mills were immediately erected without including the new establishments west of the mountains—and

Sheet iron and boiler plates, (better than the English,) which sold for 180 dollars the ton, eight or nine years ago, may now be had for 130 or \$140 the ton. We speak always of wholesale prices. Rolled round iron has had the same reduction in value.

Small hoop iron, (a new manufacture,) protected by a duty of 3 cents per lb. by the tariff of 1828, and which sold for \$150 a ton a few years ago, is now selling for \$120 a ton.

Braziers' rods, which had never been made in this country until protected by the tariff of 1823, with a duty of three and a half cents per lb. and were sold at \$150 a ton, or 6 2-3 cents a pound, now sell for 135 dollars a ton, or 6 cents per lb. though "TAXED" 3 1-2 cents per lb.

Cut nails were eight cents per pound in 1821, and had an average value of 7 cents until 1828, now sell for 5 1-2 cents per lb. The duty on nails is 5 cents per lb. If the duty is a tax, the value of the nails, is only half a cent per lb.

These and such as these, are the articles of iron best protected—and they show a general decline of about 25 per cent. or one fourth, in price, as compared with their value previous to such protection. On hammered bar iron, the duty was 45 cents the cwt. in 1816, raised to 90 in 1824, at which it remains.

It was worth (the superior qualities,)

†Much the largest amount that we ever had, exported in one year. The average of 1815 to 1822, inclusive, was less than 110 millions of pounds a year.

‡But in the last year we exported 265 millions of pounds of cotton, valued at \$26,575,000. Has the demand and value been reduced by the tariff? It is difficult to resolve what is meant by the "oppressions of the south," and what it has to complain of, because of the progress of manufactures. A duty of nearly 10 millions is levied in England on so much of our tobacco as costs about one million.—The meanness with which the planters of Virginia submit to this, has always excited our curiosity.

\$100 the ton, a few years since, and now sells for only \$85—a reduction of 15 per cent. because of the domestic competition, excited by the tariff.

### MANUFACTURES OF WOOL.

The duties laid upon foreign wool, for the protection of American farmers, (and which we heartily approve of, except as to the coarsest and finest qualities, because we do not produce any of the former, and very little of the latter,) has prevented a large general decline in the price of woollen goods, except in what may be called the medium qualities, which were about 25 per cent. less last year, than previous to the increased duties upon them. The price of wool has advanced, and so have such cloths—but they are still cheaper, of American manufacture, than they were of English product, under a mere revenue duty. The very fine clothes retain pretty nearly their old prices, though rather less. All mixtures of cotton and wool are much cheaper. The "Welsh plains," which averaged at least 65 cents a yard, previous to the tariff of 1824, fell to 60 cents, on the increased duty, as soon as certain of our factories were put into operation. And the article known as "Canton cloths," a much more valuable one than the "Welsh plains," sold last year at from 56 to 60 cents. Their price has since advanced, because the stock of foreign coarse wool is exhausted, and there is no domestic supply. Negro cloths, such as in 1825, 6, 7, and 8, sold for 27 cents—and because a glut, last year, for 22 cents—now sell for 42 cents—for the reason assigned. The South imposed the duty on coarse wool, and will pay it!

It is difficult to fix a determinate descriptive quality of cloths, and so not easy to make out a clear comparison of prices—but it is manifest that their cost has generally declined with the increase of duties on them. The fact is, that the manufacture of a yard of cloth in the United States, now cost less than in England, because of new and improved machinery, not used in the latter country, and which, perhaps, cannot be used, because of the great number of persons that it would throw out of employment. The difference in the cost of a yard of cloth made in the United States and in England, if any there is, is in the difference of the cost of the wool and dye-stuffs used—for the protection of farmers and planters. As before observed, we heartily approve of these duties, so far as they affect articles produced by us in reasonable quantities; but the duties on very coarse and very fine wools and indigo, have a direct tendency to tax consumers of the cloths made out of, or dyed, with these materials. The farmers have had a large advance in the price of their wool, and we are glad of it—we as much wish an advance in the value of cotton.

A great rise in the price of flannels was predicted—but, with two tariffs heaped up on them to increase the price, such as sold for 23 cents in 1828, will hardly bring that sum even now. Last year these goods were at 17 only. This shows that the tariff has no effect on their price. Wool was cheap in 1828-9, and is now more valuable, and so are flannels. Such wool as sold for 18 cents last year is worth 30.

(To be continued.)

### TRIAL OF JOSEPH J. KNAPP.

The Supreme Judicial Court met at Salem, on the 9th inst. The Court was open soon after 10 o'clock, by a clear and sensible charge from Judge Putnam to the Grand Jury, followed by most appropriate prayers offered by Bishop Griswold.

At the motion of the Attorney General, Joseph J. Knapp, Jr. was then arraigned for murder of Joseph White. The prisoner on being placed at the bar, pleaded *Not Guilty*. A jury was then empanelled, and in the afternoon the Attorney-General proceeded to open the case.

The interest taken in the subject is still considerable, though somewhat abated. Knapp seems in good health, and though he has not the imperturbable firmness of his brother, yet his appearance is composed and proper.

On Wednesday morning the Court met at the usual hour of 9 o'clock.

Mr. Webster proceeded to argue the point of admitting the confession made by Joseph Knapp to Mr. Coleman in writing as evidence against the prisoner.

Mr. Dexter replied with considerable acumen and power.

The Court wished for time to make up their judgment on the point.

In the afternoon, the prosecution continued with the examination of witnesses on behalf of the Government. No new witnesses were introduced; and the testimony given did not vary from that given on the former trial, excepting that the inquires were confined particularly to those points which might affect Joseph Knapp

as accessory to Francis, or which might come in confirmation of the confession of Joseph, should the Court determine that that next confession should be received as evidence.

Benjamin White, in the service of Capt. White at the time of his death, testified fully; and particularly as to the condition of the window which was found opened on the morning of the 6th of April; that it was opened from within; the screw unfastened, and the bar which confined the shutter set up at the side of the window stool. He stated likewise the connection of the prisoner with the family of Capt. White; his frequent and familiar visits; his being there at tea the Sunday evening previous to the murder; and when Capt. White himself was absent at tea at Mrs. Stone's, in Chestnut street.

Lydia Kimball, a domestic in the family, testified to the customary disuse of the room, the window of which was found opened; to Mrs. Beckford's having gone, as she understood, to the farm at Wenham, the afternoon preceding the murder, and to her habit of making visits to her daughter residing there.

Catherine Kimball testified to her having been called to lay out the body of Capt. White; of her having been desirous to fasten the door of the chamber, while this preparation was going on, and in this way to discovering that the key was missing from the door, and to her finding a key under the covering of the sofa in the chamber.

Henry R. Deland testified to the same key; to his having tried it, and found that it fitted the lock of the chamber door opening into the front entry.

Dr. Johnson stated the condition in which he found the body; the nature and number of the wounds; the warmth of the body; his opinion at the time that Mr. White might have been dead three or four hours; but that there were no appearance inconsistent with the supposition that the murder was committed at a much earlier hour.

Louis P. Endicott testified to a conversation he had with the prisoner in the early part of the winter, when Capt. White was sick, that the prisoner said to him, if he had been there, Mrs. Beckford would not have sent for Stephen White, because if he, the old gentleman, should die, Stephen White would destroy the notes held against him by the estate, that he had seen a will of Capt. White's; that Stephen White was not executor that John W. Treadwell was sole executor; that there was only one witness to it; and when asked how he knew this, he replied, that black and white would not lie; and when asked if Captain White did not keep his will locked up, he said there was such a thing as having two keys to a lock.

John W. Treadwell was called, and explained the family connexions and relation ships. Mrs. Beckford was the only child of a sister of Capt. White. Mrs. Knapp, the wife of the prisoner, was the daughter of Mrs. Beckford; he further stated that he had once seen a will of Capt. White's but did not remember how many witnesses had signed it, nor the names of such witness or witnesses.

Benjamin Leighton, a hired lad, at the farm in Wenham, was next called and testified as on the former trial, to the conversation between Joseph and Francis Knapp overheard by him at the end of the avenue leading from the farm house to the pasture; when Joseph asked Frank, when he saw Dick; when he was going to kill the old man; and added if he did not do it soon, I won't pay him. He further testified to Frank's coming to the farm very late in the evening about a fortnight subsequent to the murder, in a chaise, with another individual, who remained in the chaise, as he supposed, at the gate, and with whom Joseph went out, and held some communications.

Thomas Hart, another hired man, at the farm, testified to Frank's possessing a dirk, and having one night picked Leighton with it through the bed clothes; and also, to the visit at Wenham, of F. Knapp and another individual, in a chaise in the evening as attested by Leighton.

Mr. Colman was again called to the stand to testify as to the particular conditions stated to the prisoner before making his written disclosure. Mr. Colman averred that it was distinctly stated to the Attorney-General before the pledge was received and to the prisoner before the written confession was made, that if there was on the part of the prisoner any reserve, or withholding, or denial, or contradiction in his statements, if the confession was not full and explicit, if there were any evidence that it was not the truth and the whole truth, the promise of the government would not avail to his safety. Mr. C. said he would not vouch for the verbal exactness of his statement, but this was to the best of his recollections, and he was confident this was the spirit and intent of what was said. He added, that as

it was to him a novel and most painful duty, he felt an extreme anxiety, not to be the dupe of any fraud on the one side, nor to expose himself to blame on the other; and as an evidence of the caution with which he sought to conduct the business, he stated to the Court that he was not content, though he had certainly no distrust of the honor of the Attorney General, to receive a verbal promise of impunity for the prisoner, but required a particular and written assurance, which was given to him by that officer.

Thursday, Nov. 11.

The court met at the hour of adjournment.

Judge Putnam delivered in a most lucid manner the opinion of the court, on the admissibility of the prisoner's written confession given to Mr. Colman, in favor of its admission.

The court considered that there was no obvious distinction between confessions made at the instance of the witness before any pledge of impunity was obtained from the government, and confessions made after such pledge had been given to the prisoner; his security fully provided for and he could be no longer under any external influence of hope or fear to make false disclosures.

Mr. Colman was then called to hand in the confession, and to attest to its genuineness, and the Attorney General proceeded to read it with great deliberation, to an audience listening with an intense interest. A subsequent confession detailing further particulars and given to Gideon Barstow and Stephen C. Phillips, Esqrs. was next read. The fictitious letters addressed to the Committee of Vigilance, and to Stephen White, Esq. were next produced and proved.

The counsel for the prisoner then stated to the court, that as they were in some measure surprised by the statements in the confessions just read, particularly as they were connected with John Francis Knapp, they asked time for consultation as to the course to be pursued. The court considering that the prisoner himself, knowing what he had communicated, and the counsel having had time to anticipate the possible decision of the court on this subject, refused to adjourn, or suspend the cause.

Mr. Gardiner proceeded to open the cause in behalf of the prisoner, dwelling particularly upon the caution with which confessions of a prisoner should be received; and showing that it was an established principle of law, that a person accused as an accessory, had a right, even after the conviction of a principal, to go into the whole subject of the guilt of such principal, and dispute the justice of his conviction, both as it respects the law and the evidence.

Mr. Gardiner argued this point with ability and learning, and occupied the court until the usual hour of adjournment.

If in such a melancholy case as this it is proper to speak of any thing as amusing, we confess we were amused at the adroitness and tact with which the learned Profession are able to rally, to beat a retreat, to proceed to the assault, or to make a diversion at their pleasure, since now the Counsel for the prisoner, by the identical witnesses whom at the former trial they sought to discredit and charged with prevarication and perjury, undertake to establish the great fact which they then so obstinately contested and as they pretended disproved, viz. the presence of John Francis Knapp in Brown-street on the night of the murder.

John A. Southwick, Daniel Bray, Peter E. Webster, Messrs. Myrick, Kinsman and Chase, all of them on a former trial witnesses for the Government, were severally examined and most of them to prove the above fact, and that the appearance at the time did not warrant the suspicion that he was there with a view to render aid to the assassin. Mr. Colman was also called by the Government to state that he found the club by the particular direction of John Francis Knapp; he also stated that at the time he received the written confession of Joseph he inquired of him if he could tell the particular spot where the club was concealed, and he answered that he could not. The testimony given by the witnesses above named did not vary from that on a former trial, except in being less full, though not less decisive. It was not deemed necessary to put so many interrogatories to them as before.

Mr. Dexter then closed the defence of the prisoner and occupied the court until the hour of adjournment.

Whatever may be the result, it will be admitted by all that the prisoners have had every advantage of a most patient and impartial hearing, and have been defended with power, acuteness and learning, and with a fidelity, which, with unpractised minds, may be thought in some instances to have been carried to a doubtful extent.

The Salem Gazette furnishes the following, as the substance of the confessions