

# The Independent.

VOLUME XIV. NEW YORK, THURSDAY, JULY 31, 1862. NUMBER 713.

"But as we were allowed of God to be put in Trust with the Gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing Men but God, which trieth our Hearts."

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## The Independent.

### SIMON THE CYRENIAN.

BY MRS. HARRIET BEECHER STOWE.

"They laid hold on one Simon, a Cyrenian, and on him they laid the cross, that he might bear it after Jesus."—LUKE xxiii. 26.

It has been ingeniously remarked by a certain commentator that all the three great portions of the New Testament would have a representative hand in the death of Christ.

John accused and delivered him, in the person of the Jews; Europe judged and sentenced him, in the person of the Roman governor; and Africa came after him bearing his cross, in the person of Simon the Cyrenian.

There is something significant in the very form of the narrative. "And they laid hold on one Simon, a Cyrenian, and on him they laid the cross." As if one should say, Here is a fellow without a trade, without business—a stray chattel, to be bought and impressed into any service among his betters that may happen to want him. He is good enough to bear the cross—that will just do for him. And so on him they laid the cross, that he might bear it after Jesus.

And so ever since, as ages have rolled on, Africa has been following after, wearily carrying that cross.

We talked once with a slave woman—a woman of noble figure and proportions, and of a soul grand and sweet as ever lived in a womanly frame. She had in girlish formed the resolution of slavery, that she might not be a mother of slaves. Her master had forced her to marry, that she might bring forth children for him to sell. And she had borne eighteen boys and girls, and had seen them sold, one after another.

"Ah, ma'am," she said, "I have borne this heavy cross many, many years." But there was in this great soul, with a full consciousness of her wrong, no revenge, no resentment. She bore the cross silently, in the very spirit of him who went before her.

There came a black man to our house a few days ago, who had spent five years at hard labor in a Maryland penitentiary for the crime of having a copy of Uncle Tom's Cabin in his house. He had been sentenced for ten years, but on his promise to leave the state and go to Canada, was magnanimously pardoned out. Everybody cheated him of the little property he had. A man for whom he had set sixty cords of wood, paid him two dollars for the whole job—another found a pretext to cheat on his little house; and so he left Maryland without any acquisition except an infirmity of the limbs which he had caught from prison labor. All this was his portion of the cross; and he took it meekly, without comment, only asking that as they did not allow him to finish reading the book, we would give him a copy of Uncle Tom's Cabin—which we did.

### THE ENDURANCE OF AFFLICTION.

BY REV. R. E. MATFIELD.

We are apt to rejoice at exemptions from afflictions, and the friends of a man are sure to praise him "when he doth well for himself." But He who knoweth all men, and whose judgment is always according to truth, says, "Blessed are they that mourn." "Blessed are ye when men shall revile you, and say all manner of evil against you falsely for my sake." One of the apostles, who had the mind of Christ, sent to his fellow-servants this greeting: "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations. Blessed is the man that endureth temptation; for when he is tried he shall receive the crown of life." Another apostle declares that if we endure chastening, God dealth with us as with sons; but if we be without chastisement, whereof all (the children of God) are partakers, then are we bastards and not sons. The father of the faithful, after he had patiently endured, obtained the promise; and the Author and Finisher of our faith, "for the joy that was set before him, endured the cross, despising the shame." In proportion as we learn to approve the things that are excellent, we shall be ready to say, "Behold, we count them happy which endure." Not that every affliction brings with it an inevitable blessing; for men sometimes despise the chastening of the Lord, or faint when they are rebuked by him. When Jonah's gourd withered and died, he bowed to the stroke as one from which there was possible escape; but he did it with a very bad grace, and in his vexation and anger wished himself dead. Job was stripped of his property, bereft of his children, tormented by the foolish woman, he had for a wife, and stung by the cruel reproaches of his friends, yet he retained his integrity and said, "Though the Lord slay me, yet will I trust in him. He knoweth the way that I take, and when he hath tried me I shall come forth as gold." The Christian who endures as seeing Him who is invisible, is patient, resolute, and cheerful in all his afflictions, and through all the trials of his faith. His troubles neither destroy his confidence in God, nor cause him to avenge from the path of duty.

To him it is given on the behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake." And it is in this school of trial and suffering that some of the choicest fruits of the Spirit come to ripe and beautiful maturity. Sanctified afflictions strengthen and improve the character as nothing else can. We always choose our cherished and most valued friends from among those who have known adversity. There is a certain strength and firmness of character that is secured only by those who walk through the furnace-fires upon which God's breath doth blow. Even the Captain of our salvation was made perfect through sufferings, and it is enough that the servant be as his Lord. Human nature is like the aromatic shrub, which never diffuses their sweetest odors till they are bruised and scarified. The most Christianlike characters on earth are found among those whose sufferings have brought them into closest sympathy with the "man of sorrows." The cross upon which we are crucified with Christ, lifts us above the world, and close to the heart of God. There

give us for these things—our blundering endeavors were well meant, but they probably did more harm than good. You, dear reader, understand and appreciate the sincerity with which we say this. But the time comes when you are to be taught in another school. The incredible tyrant forces an entrance into your house, robs you of your children, and tramples upon and breaks your heart. And now you wander from room to room in your desolate dwelling, groaning with anguish, and crying to God for grace to save you from utterly sinking under your troubles. From this time onward you are a changed man. Your heart is full of bitterness and sympathy, and you feel yourself drawn toward all parents who have lost children. And on their behalf, there goes up from your closet much prayer; as you never knew how to offer before! Your afflictions have not only made you a better man, but they have prepared you to be a so-worshiper with him who came "to bind up the broken-hearted," and "to comfort them that mourn." There are many important duties to which the Christian is called for which he is utterly disqualified until he is brought through the fire, refined as silver, and tried as gold. These are some of the uses of adversity, some of the benefits of sanctified affliction. Many others might be enumerated, but we desire for the present. The hasty glance that we have taken at the subject leads us to say, "Behold, happy is the man whom God correcteth; therefore despise not the chastening of the Almighty."

### THE ELEMENTS OF OUR STRUGGLE.

BY HORACE GREELEY.

The States now in open and flagrant rebellion against the Federal Union and its constituted authorities are peopled as follows:

States.	Slaves.	Free Persons.	Total.
Virginia	483,993	31,293	1,313,288
North Carolina	331,581	91,588	922,467
South Carolina	402,541	91,217	708,819
Georgia	462,232	94,227	1,037,229
Alabama	435,132	229,161	942,296
Mississippi	478,696	34,169	787,326
Tennessee	275,785	84,056	1,199,251
Arkansas	111,106	76,223	355,425
Louisiana	332,141	104,169	642,429
Florida	61,723	71,880	140,439
Texas	166,863	61,750	625,422
Total	3,514,071	3,308,318	6,822,377

\* Not including the new slavery State of West Virginia.

Besides the foregoing, the Rebellion has large bodies of active sympathizers at least in the Slave States and districts that still adhere to the Union, peopled as follows:

States.	Slaves.	Free Persons.	Total.
Mississippi	478,696	110,718	112,216
Alabama	435,132	89,940	997,536
North Carolina	331,581	211,113	1,112,213
South Carolina	402,541	90,212	572,220
Total	1,647,950	5,708,320	5,187,930

These States have contributed very much more, both in men and money, to the support of the Rebellion than to the counter-support of the Union; but let us estimate them as simply divided or balanced, and add half their population to the Rebel strength accordingly. This will give a total of 6,662,483 free persons, and 3,648,829 slaves—in all, 10,311,312 persons—who back and uphold the Rebellion.

It will be urged that a considerable portion of these are Unionists, to say nothing of the slaves, who cannot have any heart in a cause whose fan-

Rebels saw fit to move quietly and leisurely away, not leaving behind even an exploded gun. For eight or nine months, we had over Two Hundred Thousand soldiers in Virginia, or just upon its Potomac border; and then—when we were by far the stronger party—these was no serious fighting; but the moment a flood in the Chickahominy exposed half our army before Richmond to attack by the whole Rebel strength, there was fighting in earnest, and when a stealthy march of Stonewall Jackson's corps from Gordonsville to Hanover Court-House had given the Rebel main army a decided superiority over McClellan's wasted host, there was steady and terrible fighting until our whole force was driven to the bank of the James. If you want to make a sure guess as to the time of a battle in any quarter, ascertain when the Rebels will be decidedly strongest there—no matter how weak you may be, and you may be sure that a collision is just at hand.

We who earnestly uphold the Union cause are not "Twenty-three Millions." Subtracted from our actual Twenty Millions all who with Vallandigham, Ber. Wood, Gov. T. H. Seymour, Hon. George W. Jones of Iowa, etc., have evinced unmistakable sympathy with the Rebels, in their irregular opposition to the Federal Government, and we are barely Fifteen Millions. Of these, nearly or quite One Million are on the Pacific or in the Territories where they can render little effective aid in our desperate struggle. State the case fairly, and we are at best but Fifteen against Ten Millions; while the latter, as a general rule, only fight when and where they please, unless behind strong breast-works and murderous batteries.

Why is it not "manly warfare" to call the slaves of traitors away from their present coerced and unwilling support of the Rebellion, by profiting them freedom and showing them how to secure it? Does "manly warfare" require us to expose our sons and brothers to needless, wanton slaughter? Have the violators of our soldiers' graves at Manassas, and the murderers of our scalped, writhing, shrieking, drowning, dying sailors at the gun-bolt explosion on White River earned such faint-spiritedness at our hands? Men and brethren! our country has been wantonly, wickedly plunged into devastating, decimating War by the most atrocious Rebellion that ever found ambition concocted. We are engaged in a desperate, doubtful, life-and-death struggle, yet thousands who call themselves patriots and Unionists still paller and higgie as to the propriety of putting forth all our strength, insisting that a part of it will suffice, and that it will be unchivalric to use any more! That is not the spirit in which the Rebellion can be promptly and surely crushed. It is our simple duty to employ every lawful weapon, to put forth all our energy, to leave nothing undone that adds the weight of a single cartridge to the Union scale, and, having thus done our very utmost, commit the issue to God. Let not a single talent be hidden, but let every possible effort be made, until an exulting shout, a fervent thanksgiving, from the friends of Liberty in both hemispheres shall proclaim the triumph and salvation of the American Republic!

### IRELAND FROM A CAR-WINDOW.

BY REV. THEODORE L. CUTLER.

BELFAST, IRELAND, July 15, 1862.

I could not consent to go on to London without festing my eyes on the green of Ireland, and to quit the good ship "China" at the port of Queenstown. We had a charming voyage—the very

streets are fine, but not magnificent; its Phoenix Park has size, but not striking beauty. Sackville street, for width, is what Broadway should have been. The statue of King William is a very different figure from the lean asthmatic who led the terrible charge at Landon, and rods foremost up the banks of the bloody Boyne. The old feud still lives in Ireland. Last evening a large meeting of "Orangemen" was held in Dublin, and drank the old toasts to Protestantism and William of Nassau. By the way, I also saw that "the most illustrious Irishman, Archbishop Hughes of New York," had arrived in town to take part in laying the cornerstone of the new Romish University.

During my hasty run through Ireland I have gathered the following observations.

The crops, now being harvested, are nearly an average. The hay is excellent, as the season has been wet. Potatoes are still the staple product. I saw less bog-land than I expected. In northern Ireland there is better agriculture than in the southern and Catholic counties. The timber is generally short, and to my American eye a dwarfish.

One-half of all the laborers in the fields are women—bale, coarse, and rosy. The cabins of the peasantry have greatly improved since Miss Edgeworth's day; but I still saw some mud or stone straw-thatched hovels, such as no Wisconsin farmer would build for his oxen. In the doors of these cabins sometimes stood Biddy, "the lady of the house;" sometimes the family goat; sometimes a ruddy urchin with a quiet, sportful display of drapery. In the Protestant districts there is but little squalor and no suffering. Godliness is profitable for this world as well as for the world to come.

The religious advancement of the country is astonishing. Too much gratitude cannot be felt toward such revival workers as Drs. Edgar, Gibbon, Cooke, Mr. Stuart, and the late Dr. Murray, whose visit to Ulster in 1859 was a "rain on the tender herb." Here in Belfast the precious influence still lingers. It displays itself in such methods as daily prayer-meetings, and even in placarding the streets with texts of Scripture. In the main street I just saw handsomely printed:

"BROOD THE LAMB OF GOD WEG,  
TAKETH AWAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD."  
JOHN 1. 29.

In the excellent hotel where I am stopping (the "Imperial") a notice is posted that religious worship will take place every evening in the dining-room. Bibles are found in every chamber. Happy is the people who thus honor the Lord.

In Ireland there is much more of cordial sympathy with the American Union than in England. But even here, too many of the influential classes are both ignorant and bitter toward us. Most of the press servilely follow the unprincipled Times. This very day I noticed that many of the journals suppress that portion of the Jura's telegraphic news that is favorable to the North. The most willful blindness abroad. Yesterday's Times announces the pro-slavery meeting in Cooper Institute as a "grand enthusiastic protest meeting!" But I need not repeat what you all know. I account for this willful hatred of us in Britain on three grounds:

1. The aristocratic party love the aristocratic South better than the republican North. They are

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practiced by Gen. Lane or the President. Before leaving here Gen. Lane stated those leading facts to several of his friends. Third fact—in an interview with a prominent gentleman from Kentucky one day last week, the President spoke very strongly of the intention of the Government to destroy slavery in the states where treason was almost unanimous, like Virginia, (not including Western Virginia, Louisiana, Texas, and Arkansas. In these states he admitted there was little hope of developing any Union sentiment till slavery was destroyed. The Presidential order gives countenance somewhat to this idea, as the states above-mentioned are mentioned in it.

These facts are somewhat encouraging, though I do not pretend to deny that one has to marshal them, and look at them in the most favorable light, to be convinced that the President appreciates his position and is resolved to overthrow this rebellion by striking at its heart. This is the dark side of the case—its worst feature—that there is uncertainty as to the course of the President—that proslavery men boast that he is opposed to interference with slavery, while at the same time the radical Republicans rely upon him as certain to act right in the coming year. It is this uncertainty that is killing the nation.

Some of Gen. Halleck's friends assert that he has agreed to sign "Order No. 3," and that he fully understands that the recent enactments of Congress upon the subject of slavery require that he shall take an entirely different course upon that subject. Time will tell.

Jackson is again threatening Washington, but this time he has an earnest man to fight, and one that will not be easily beaten. The section of country now made the theater of strife is one of the finest in all Virginia. The Shenandoah Valley is the garden of the Old Dominion, but the interest of the contest is shifted from it to the region round about Warrenton and Gordonsville. But this country is a delightful one, made up of vales and mountains, rivers and springs, in exquisite contrast and magnificent abundance. A friend who has spent the last fortnight in the saddle near Warrenton, says that there is no country like it, and no exercise like that of a mounted civilian connected with a detachment of cavalry. The dashes through mountain gorges by night, the long races homeward by day, have enough risk in them to stir one's blood to the heat of high health. Sometimes a detachment of half a dozen cavalry companies is called upon to make a dash of forty miles into the enemy's country in a single night. Nations for two days are taken along, and by the end of the second night the party is expected back at headquarters with a good report of railroads destroyed, telegraph wires cut, and rebel stores burned.

Gen. Pope still remains in Washington, but he is constantly over his big map of Virginia. He plans all the excursions into the heart of Virginia, and even times the most of them. As Jackson is known to be near Gordonsville, if he is not this side of it, Pope will doubtless soon be down to meet him in person.

As for slavery in northern Virginia, it is nowhere. The slaves are roaming over the country, caring for themselves, and not even Gen. Halleck dare attempt to return one of them to his master, if he had the inclination. In some of the counties the masters are paying their slaves wages, and promising them free papers if they will only be faithful and help gather the present crops. The slaveholders fear that the army, acting as the mercy of their chattels, and are trying what "emancipations" will do, until the rebellion shall so far succeed that onist and "order" are again restored in Virginia.