

W A S T E  
P R O D U C T S O F T H O U G H T.

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*I n a u g u r a l a d d r e s s*  
*to the*  
L I T E R A R Y U N I O N.  
1884.

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*by*

G. V. B l a c k, M. D., D. D. S.

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Upon ass<sup>e</sup>ntion to the throne, to the presidency of the Union, the person so raised above his fellows, if it happens to be at the time of the annual<sup>w</sup> meeting, is puffed up with pride; as he well may be: for a great honor has been conferred on him. He expects to be called <sup>up</sup>on for a speech; And do not all the Unionists love to make speeches? Certainly. Isn't it one of the objects of the Union, to cultivate speech making? Therefore, when I found myself elected President, at the time of our annual<sup>J</sup>, hurried away to the Stationers and purchased a "Roll" that I might fit my speech to paper, and look at it, and enjoy the sensation it might make - upon my own mind, - in advance; knowing full well that this is - sometimes - the greatest sensation that an Inaugural speech makes.

Therefore I appear with the Roll in my hand, and hold it up before you, that all may see it, and know that I have a speech to make; as all <sup>Who have</sup> ~~my illustrious predecessors~~ <sup>gone this way before me</sup> -- who were fortunate enough to ~~be elected at the time of the annual~~ -- have had.

I suppose a proper subject for such a speech would be the glory of being elected President at such a time;--but I happen to remember that one of my predecessors has said<sup>N</sup> that the glory was not in being # elected President, but in being a member of the Union; and spoild that subject.

Then, I suppose I might make my speech on the glory of being a member of the Union. And it is a glorious Society. It holds 52 meetings per year, and does not fail<sup>X</sup> because Barnums show or a snow storm, the Negro Minstrells or some renowned Divine, the 4th. of july or a revival, happens to be in town. No, The good old Union<sup>N</sup> is sol<sup>X</sup>id, and steady, in its goings and comings. All honor to the Union. But then all have talked about that, and I could say nothing that has not been said.

Again, the Union takes up and settles all questions that may arise in Church or state, of war or peace, questions foreign, or questions domestic, But all know of that also, and all that

know about that also. And all that is worth saying on ~~all~~ these subjects, has been said, and the subjects settled, in the Union.

Thinking, is one of the ~~peculiarities~~ <sup>Specialties</sup> of the Union. And after the Union has thought so much, and so continuously, and so variously, and so vigorously. — and as, under these circumstances it is so very difficult to make an advance in thinking, --and <sup>since</sup> ~~as,~~ where so much thinking has been done, very much of the

WASTE PRODUCT OF THOUGHT has been thrown off, it might be well to take that as our text.

Thinking may be compared with living. The animal lives by gathering food, taking it into the stomach, and digesting it, — converting it into ~~into~~ <sup>into</sup> pabulum for the nutrition of its tissues; — to the building of the formed material of its bodily structure. This remains for a time, and, as new material is continually being gathered and appropriated, the old must give place, and

be eliminated as waste product.

It is much the same with thinking. Facts serve as the proper food for thought. These are gathered, and taken into the mind, ~~and~~ rolled about, and digested, ~~and~~ converted into ~~the~~ pabulum, and built into the formed material of wisdom. But the structure of wisdom does not remain the same, any more than the structure of the animal body. As new wisdom is built up, the old must give way as the waste product of thought.

In this way the animal frame is ~~being~~ continually being reconstructed by the addition of new increment, and the elimination of waste products. Just so in the world of thought. -Wisdom is being continually reconstructed by the addition of fresh increment derived ~~derived~~ from thinking, and must eliminate waste products.

The world of wisdom cannot live, and thrive, by thinking the same thoughts, or by redigesting the same facts, any more than the animal can live by <sup>re-</sup>digesting the same matter. As the animal must have new and

fresh food for digestion in order that its tissues may be furnished with pabulum fitted for their nutrition, so must the mind have new fact for digestion by thinking, in order that it may form the pabulum for the proper, and healthful, nutrition of wisdom.

and digestion,

Without the continuous gathering, of new fact by thinking, the world of wisdom grows anaemic--become starved for the want of proper nutrition; as we see it when we look back over the dark ages. And, if it had not had a food tonic administered, in the shape of new and appropriate facts, gathered, and digested, by the thinking, of such men as a Luther, or a Newton, whose thought may be regarded as furnishing the pabulum for the building up of the--then anaemic--wisdom of world, it might have died of pure inanition--of starvation.

When we turn to the old civilizations of the far east--to the Chinese--we see a nation whose wisdom is starved for the want of new thought. There has been

an attempt to reuse the old waste product of thought, which has continued until the wisdom of the nation has become anaemic--all progress has stoped--Finally, there is an attempt being made to administer a new food supply by the digestion--the thinking, of Europeans. If the wisdom of the nation shall live, it must eliminate the old waste product of thought, and add fresh increment to its wisdom by new thinking, based on new facts, furnished by the worlds inquiry.

In Hindostan, there are great heaps of the waste products of thought gathered in the old Temples, and treasured in the tissue of the anaemic wisdom of this ancient <sup>Much as</sup> poeple. The old Vedas, will have to give way before the ingathering, and digestion, of new facts-- new food material for the nutrition of the wisdom of this people--and be eliminated as the waste product of thought, or the nation, as such, must die. For as it is a law of life, that no creature can live without the elimination of its waste products--the casting out of the old used material--so the wisdom of any time

or country, must eliminate the waste product of its thought.

In Egypt, we find immense piles of the waste products of thought, in the shape of great Temples and pyramids, which ~~have~~ <sup>been reared</sup> as the product of the thinking--the monuments--the formed material of the wisdom of a great people of the past. But they have been eliminated as the waste products of thought, by the advancing wisdom of the world. They can be of no use to the present, except it be such parts as have so mouldered, and changed in form, that they are capable of being redigested by thinking--capable of being again worked into new pabulum--into new forms--for the nutrition of the advancing wisdom of the age. But the danger is that they will prove harmful, rather than beneficial; for it is a law of nature that waste products are poisonous.

This does not argue that this wisdom was not good in its day--that the wisdom of the time did not serve

this ancient people well--indeed we may know from the character of the waste product, that the thinking which served in the preparation of its pabulum was strong and vigorous; and that wisdom grew and flourished. the world can have no standard of fact, digested, and assimilated, that can support wisdom unchanging, and permanent; any more than the animal can find, digest, and assimilate, a food that will support its tissues without fresh increment, and waste product. Every age must eliminate much of the thought, <sup>of the age</sup> that preceded it.

Yet it is not all that is old, that is waste product of thought. There are certain proximate principles of the animal frame that are fixed and permanent; around, and in, which the pabulum of nutrition plays, and is controlled, and directed; which may, <sup>Change</sup> in the elements--in the matter that compose them, but which, in themselves, are fixed, and unchanging, so long as life shall last. Of such is protoplasm. Of such is albumen.

Just so there are fixed products of thought--principles discovered by thinking, and builded into

*fixed material*

the ~~tissue~~ of wisdom, around which plays, and is controlled, and directed, the thinking of the ages; which may change in the terms employed to express them, but in themselves are fixed and unchanging, to all eternity. Of such are the laws of mathematics, Of such is the law of gravitation, Of such is "do unto your neighbor as you would have him do unto you."

*F* But as the animal may select hurtful foods, so the mind may think hurtful thoughts. Hence sickness may occur--intestinal commotions will be reproduced, and, the hurtful substance will be thrown off, with a return to health. Yet it is not every thing that creates intestinal commotions that is really hurtful, in the end. When <sup>u</sup> Martin Luthur threw out his thought, rich and powerful for the nutrition of the, then anaemic, wisdom of the world, it was so stimulating that there was strong symptoms that it would be rejected. It was too rich for the age. But Luthur was one of the heroic Doctors, and he forced it down, believing that if the crisis could be passed it would be good for

the patient. The illness was desperate, and the good old Doctor saw that it was kill or cure; but had the confidence to push the remedy; and the results have proved that it was good. Very many cases might be sighted, if I had the time, all going to show that our strife in thinking, adds fresh increment to the wisdom of the world; and gives it healthy tone, and Vigor, by the elimination of the waste products of thought.

There are some classes of mental food--so called that are but slightly nutritive, or, possibly, not nutritive at all. These are the "thinkings" based on (vague conceptions) (to the building up of myths) (the one-ness, and two-ness) and leading (high up to the nothing-ness) instead of <sup>on</sup> well observed fact, and leading to the building up of wisdom.

These, however, are not all to be condemned at one sweep, without consideration. The wisdom of all ages has had some of this interwoven in its structure, and I don't know that the world is much the worse for this kind of diet, after all. It often serves as a

kind of condiment to thinking, as the pungent properties of certain plants serve as condiments to digestion; rendering it more vigorous. (I may say that it is now considered as established, that the vegetable alkaloids used as medicines, as Morphia, Strychnia, &c. the pungent substances used as condiments, are the waste products of the plants that produce them. And that alcohol acetic acid, &c. are the waste products of certain microscopic plants.)

As these pungent properties, and alkaloids, are found to be the waste products of the plants that produce them, so are these (ancient Mythologies ) the waste products of the wisdom of other ages,

As the waste products of plants may, in proper quantity, and well timed, serve as correctants, and stimulants to <sup>the</sup> digestion, and assimilation, of the better food material for the nutrition of the tissues; so (Mythologies ) may these ancient (philosophies) serve as stimulants to thinking--when not in too large doses--and the bet-

ter conversion of the more stable food of the mind into pabulum for the nutrition of wisdom.

In the Union, we are pretty safe from the poisonous effects of the waste products of thought. We gather, digest, and convert into pabulum, vigorously--by thinking--from the food material being gathered by the world at large. We have a generous diet, as the report of the Secretary will show. We are in no danger of becoming anaemic, for the want of food material. And, if we find that any one of our membership happens to imbibe too freely of the waste product of thought, from the Vedas, we administer a corrective, (fixed material) perhaps the (alkaloid) of the Platonic philosophy. If any one becomes giddy from having drunk too freely of the waste product of thought, from Plato, we find a suitable antidote in the active principle of Darwinism. And, for Darwinistic drunkenness, we have found a (fixed material) sovereign remedy in full doses of (the waste products of orthodoxy. Thus, we maintain the vigor of our membership.