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Susan E. Gallagher

Fellow-Citizens of Massachusetts!

READ AND CONSIDER

Last Saturday, the Kidnapper's Counsel, (Seth J. Thomas and Edward G. Parker!) drew up a paper stating "that the person named ANTHONY BYRNES, now and here claimed as a Slave, will be sold by his alleged master for a sum certain, to wit: TWELVE HUNDRED DOLLARS." Saturday night, the money was tendered by Rev. Mr. Grimes and Hamilton Willis, Esq. The Kidnapper's counsel, with Messrs. Grimes and Willis, went to the Office of Commissioner Loring. He drew up papers for the man's release. They all went to the Marshal's Office, to execute the documents, where they met Hallett and the Marshal, who PURPOSELY DELAYED operations until after 12 o'clock, when the deed could not be legally done. The Counsel and the Commissioner agreed to meet Mr. Grimes at 8 o'clock, Monday morning, execute the documents, and release the man. THIS (Monday) MORNING, at 8 o'clock, they were waited on, at the Marshal's Office, by Mr. Grimes. The Kidnapper refused to take the money when tendered to him:

**REFUSED TO SELL THE MAN AT ANY PRICE!
And now declares that he will take
HIS SLAVE BACK TO VIRGINIA!
MONDAY MORNING, MAY 29, 1854.**

THE
T H E O R Y
Edw. OF *Harvey*
MORAL SENTIMENTS,

OR,

An ESSAY towards an Analysis of the
principles by which Men naturally judge
ing the Conduct and Character, first
Neighbours, and afterwards of the

By ADAM SMITH,

AN
I N Q U I R Y
INTO THE
NATURE AND CAUSES
OF THE
WEALTH OF NATIONS.

BY

ADAM SMITH, LL. D.

1828



HARVARD UNIVERSITY, CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

4. A Conference. "The Commercial Spirit of Modern Times, considered in its Influence on the Political, Moral, and Literary Character of a Nation."

CHARLES WYATT RICE, *Brookfield.*
DAVID HENRY THOREAU, *Concord.*
HENRY VOSE, *Dorchester.*

HARVARD COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES, 1837



"Let men, true to their natures, cultivate the moral affections, lead manly and independent lives; let them make riches the means and not the end of existence, and we shall hear no more of the commercial spirit. The sea will not stagnate, the earth will be as green as ever, and the air as pure. This curious world which we inhabit is more wonderful than it is convenient; more beautiful than it is useful; it is more to be admired and enjoyed than used. The order of things should be somewhat reversed; the seventh should be man's day of toil, wherein to earn his living by the sweat of his brow; and the other six his Sabbath of the affections and the soul, — in which to range this widespread garden, and drink in the soft influences and sublime revelations of Nature."

— H.D. Thoreau, "The Commercial Spirit of Modern Times," 1837.



“When we hear it said of a man that Money is the idol which he worships, we figure to ourselves one who is continually striving after something which he is destined never to obtain, and who does not enjoy life as it passes, but lives upon expectation... [W]e imagine him one who is never satisfied with the wealth already amassed, but expects that when arrived at a certain pitch, everything desirable will be within his reach. But alas! when he has reached the summit of one peak, he is only enabled to realize the more fully the immense height of the next in succession.

— David Henry Thoreau, 1835.



Adam Smith
1723-1790

“Consider . . . almost all the greatly unfortunate, and you will find that the misfortunes of by far the greater part of them have arisen from their not knowing [when] to sit still and to be contented. The inscription upon the tombstone of the man who had endeavoured to mend a tolerable constitution by taking physic; ‘was well, I wished to be better; here I am’; may generally be applied with great justness to the distress of disappointed avarice and ambition.”

“Power and riches appear then to be, what they are, enormous and operose machines . . . which in spite of all our care are ready every moment to burst into pieces, and to crush in their ruins their unfortunate possessor. They are immense fabrics, which it requires the labour of a life to raise . . . and which, while they stand, leave him always as much, and sometimes more exposed than before, to anxiety, to fear, and to sorrow; to diseases, to danger, and to death.”

—Adam Smith, *Theory of Moral Sentiments*, 183.

"I WENT TO THE WOODS BECAUSE
I WISHED TO LIVE DELIBERATELY,
TO FRONT ONLY THE ESSENTIAL
FACTS OF LIFE.

AND SEE IF I COULD
NOT LEARN WHAT IT HAD TO TEACH
AND NOT, WHEN I CAME TO DIE,
DISCOVER THAT I HAD NOT LIVED."
THOREAU



[I]t is well that nature imposes upon us in this manner. It is this deception which rouses and keeps in continual motion the industry of mankind. It is this which first prompted them to cultivate the ground, to build houses, to found cities and commonwealths, and to invent and improve all the sciences and arts, which ennoble and embellish human life ... It is to no purpose, that the proud and unfeeling landlord views his extensive fields, and without a thought for the wants of his brethren, in imagination consumes himself the whole harvest that grows upon them. The capacity of his stomach bears no proportion to the immensity of his desires, and will receive no more than that of the meanest peasant ... The rich ... consume little more than the poor, and in spite of their natural selfishness and rapacity, though they mean only their own conveniency, though the sole end which they propose from the labours of all the thousands whom they employ, be the gratification of their own vain and insatiable desires, they divide with the poor the produce of all their improvements.

—Adam Smith, *Theory of Moral Sentiments*, 184.

“[The rich] are led by an invisible hand to make nearly the same distribution of the necessaries of life, which would have been made, had the earth been divided into equal portions among all its inhabitants, and thus without intending it, without knowing it, advance the interest of the society, and afford means to the multiplication of the species.” —Adam Smith, *Theory of Moral Sentiments*, 184.

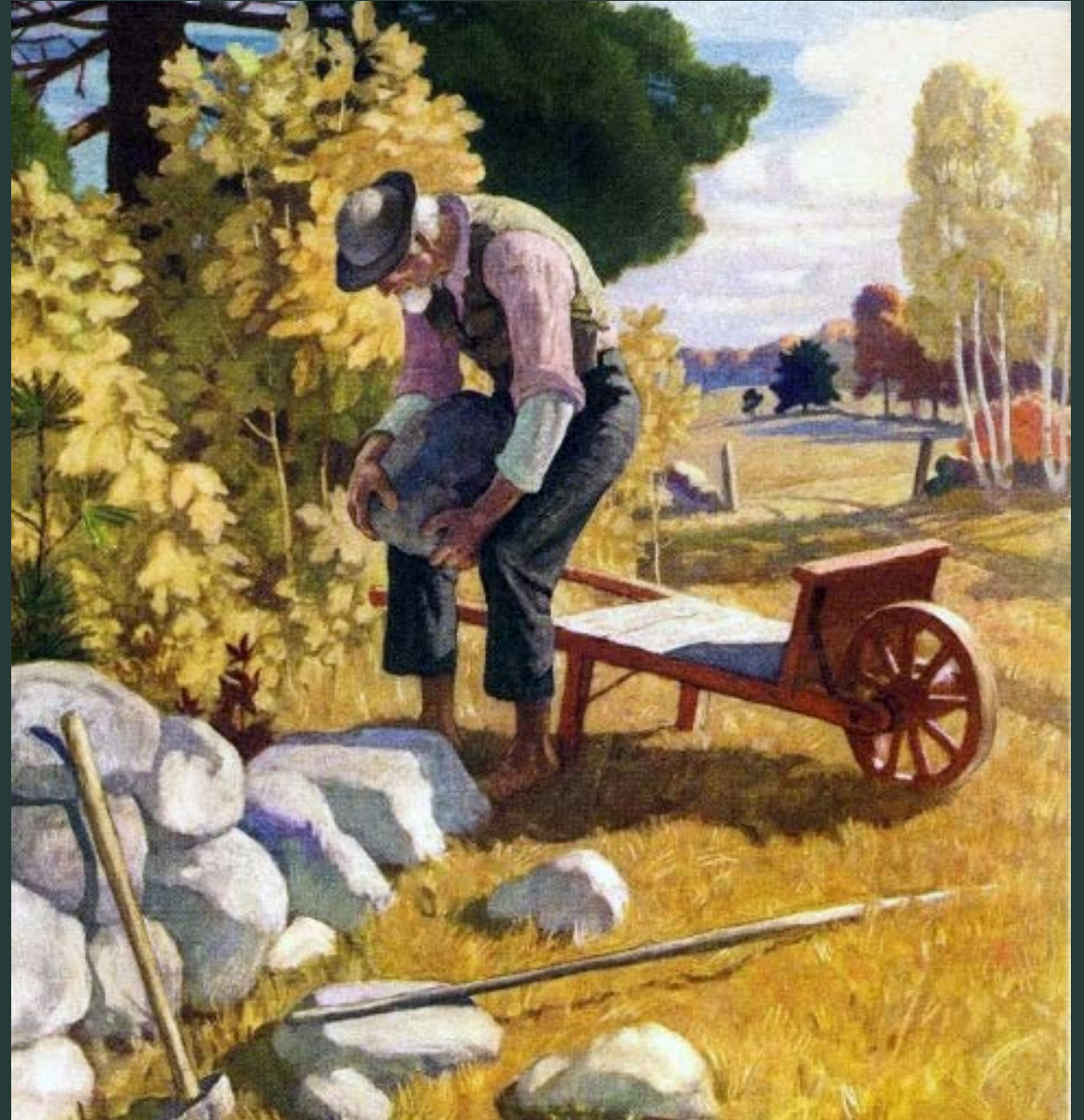
“As every individual... endeavours . . . to employ his capital . . . so . . . that its produce may be of the greatest value; every individual necessarily labours to render the annual revenue of the society as great as he can. He generally, indeed, neither intends to promote the public interest, nor knows how much he is promoting it . . . he intends only his own gain, and he is in this, as in many other cases, led by an invisible hand to promote an end which was no part of his intention.” —Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*, 540.

“But men labor under a mistake. . . .
By a seeming fate, commonly called
necessity, they are employed . . . laying
up treasures which moth and rust will
corrupt and thieves break through and
steal. It is a fool’s life, as they will find
when they get to the end of it, if not
before.”

—Thoreau, *Walden*, 37.

“But lo! men have become tools of
their tools.”

—Thoreau, *Walden*, 37.



SLAVERY IN MASSACHUSETTS.

AN ADDRESS,

Delivered at the Anti-Slavery Celebration at Framingham, July 4th, 1854,

BY HENRY D. THOREAU, OF CONCORD, (MASS.)

I lately attended a meeting of the citizens of Concord, expecting, as one among many, to speak on the subject of slavery in Massachusetts; but I was surprised and disappointed to find that what had called my townsmen together was the destiny of Nebraska, and not of Massachusetts, and that what I had to say would be entirely out of order. I had thought that the house was on fire, and

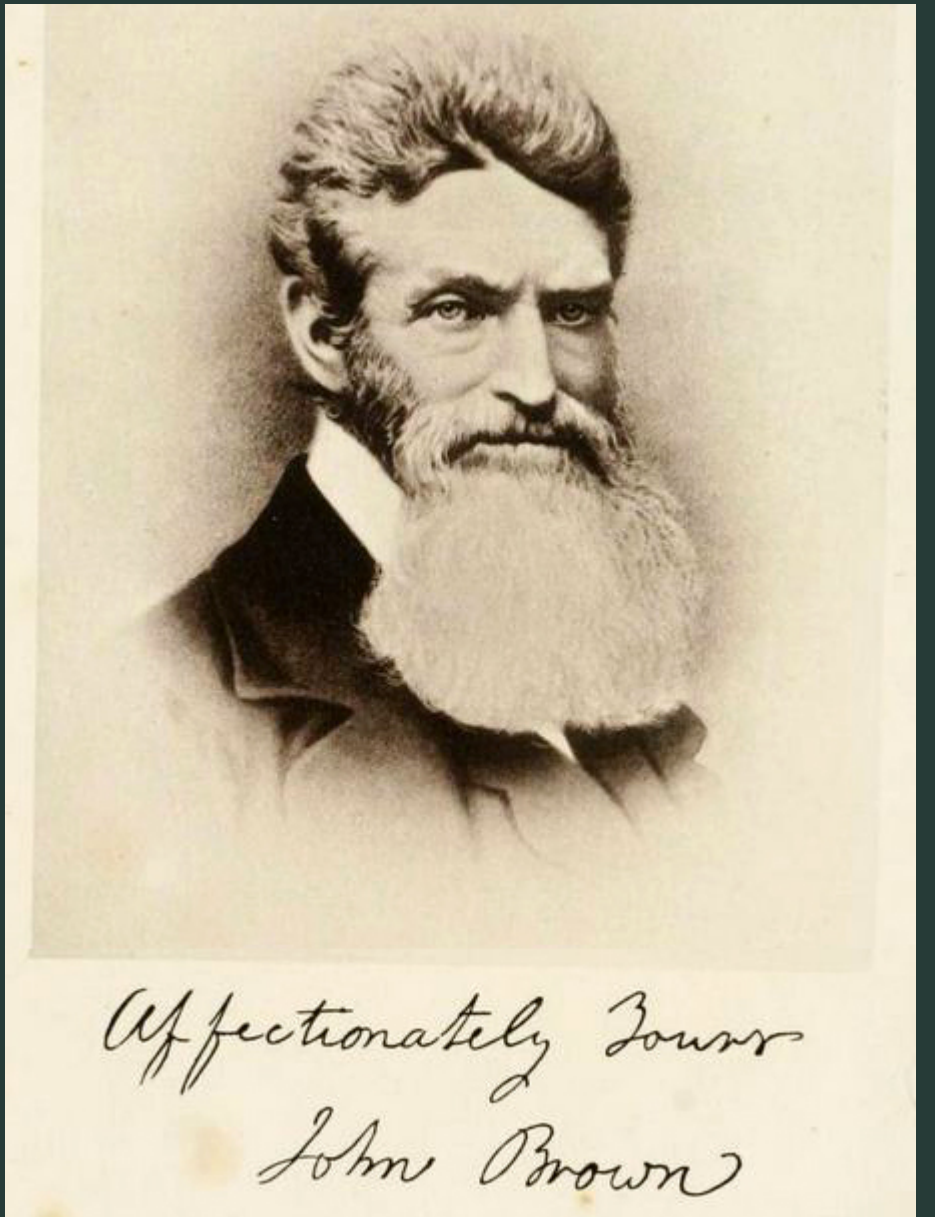
“I had never respected the Government near to which I lived, but I had foolishly thought that I might manage to live here, minding my private affairs, and forget it.”

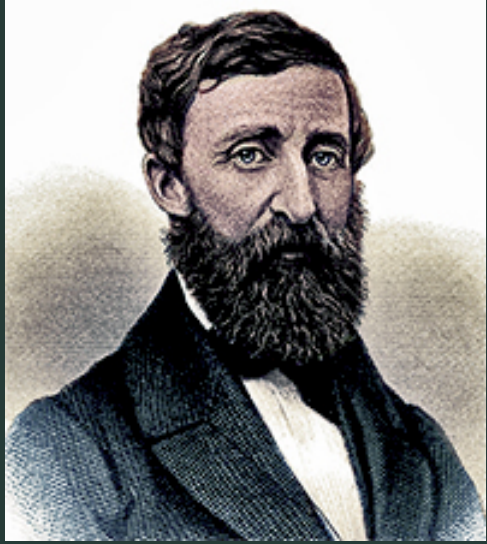
I walk toward one of our ponds; but what signifies the beauty of nature when men are base? We walk to lakes to see our serenity reflected in them; when we are not serene, we go not to them. Who can be serene in a country where both the rulers and the ruled are without principle? The remembrance of my country spoils my walk. My thoughts are murder to the State, and involuntarily go plotting against her.

—“Slavery in Massachusetts”

“These men, in teaching us how to die, have at the same time taught us how to live... It is the best news that America has ever heard. It has already quickened the feeble pulse of the North, and infused more and more generous blood into her veins and heart than any number of years of what is called commercial and political prosperity could. How many a man who was lately contemplating suicide has now something to live for!”

H.D. Thoreau, “A Plea for Captain John Brown”





“Do we call this the land of the free? What is it to be free from King George and continue the slaves of King Prejudice? What is it to be born free and not to live free? What is the value of any political freedom, but as a means to moral freedom? Is it a freedom to be slaves, or a freedom to be free, of which we boast? ... It is our children's children who may perchance be really free. We tax ourselves unjustly. There is a part of us which is not represented. It is taxation without representation. We quarter troops, we quarter fools and cattle of all sorts upon ourselves. We quarter our gross bodies on our poor souls, till the former eat up all the latter's substance.”

— H.D. Thoreau, “Life Without Principle”



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