



JOHN * MUNCHAUSEN * BAYLESS



AGAIN ON THE RAMPAGE!



SOME fellow, who wanted to get his note renewed, told John that his last paper got away with the old Recorder, and forthwith he swallowed the flattery, swelled up as tight as a toad, and has come again to the front to get his dog-hide tanned into ribbons—some of his best friends say, ***
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* “POOR FOOL!” But John forges to the front heedless of all advice.

The first thing this reformer attempts to discuss, is the profits of the Recorder's Office. John figures out a mighty sum that the Recorder has received, without allowing anything for him to eat, any clothes to wear, any wood to burn, any clerk hire, an occasional bad debt, a thank you job for a cemetery or a church, or in fact, any other casualty known to business—he is like Mrs. Partington's young man, that got \$50 per month; in ten years he ought to have had \$6,000 principal, and with compound interest, \$6,000 more; when lo, and behold, he did not have anything. “What an extravagant young man,” she exclaimed. When some one suggested that perhaps the poor boy had to clothe and feed himself—“Well, Lord me,” she cried out “I had never thought of that.” This is about the fix Philosopher Bayless is in.

Next, the Philosopher alleges that my boy has a note in his Bank, discounted there to pay for his “education.” This is very thin and gauzy; you are not talking to sycophants and hangers-on, who will take at par value any nonsense you may utter; you had better take up that card John, it will not win. Everybody in this community knows that is silly and false. If you are going to discuss with me, please try not to be a fool all the time.

The next topic my friend places under the lens of his Websterian intellect, is the sad calamity that befell the Masons and Odd Fellows, in the burning of the Cassville Building Association Block; the accident occurred while Capt. Bayless was in command of the ship, and he is not man enough to assume the responsibility; he is casting here and there, to find some fellow to share the responsibility with him, and in his extremity he clutches at me. Well, if I am the “SLIPPERY” fellow he calls me I am a very poor hold for him in time of a storm. Nevertheless, as he called upon me, I will tell him all I know about it: The company commenced with 300 shares, at \$20 each=\$6,000; They borrowed \$2,500, paying it off with the dividends of the Company, which increased the capital to \$8,500, or \$28 $\frac{1}{3}$ per share. The Masons held 30 shares=\$850; the Odd Fellows 35 shares=\$991. Mr. Bayless said in the Recorder's Office that he had kept the insurance money out of the dividends at the end of the year, but claimed that he was not responsible, notwithstanding he and his firm held all of the 300 shares except the 65 held by the Masons and Odd Fellows.

Be that as it may; the burning of the buildings left no assets for the company except 70 feet of valuable ground, worth something over \$40 per front foot, or about \$3,000—an equitable division of this property would have given the Masons \$300, and the Odd Fellows \$350. 300 shares at \$10 per share comes to \$3,000—the assumed value of the lot. Mr. Bayless contended that the lot was not worth \$3,000; and with his usual bluff agreed to give or take \$5 per share; of course, he had no idea that any one would take him up and he would not have agreed to it if they had; the result was, his bluff as usual, carried the day, and he got the shares at \$5 each—\$150 for the Masons and \$175 for the Odd Fellows. Counting the capital stock of the Association at \$8,500, the lodges got less than 18 cts. on the dollar for their stock. Now this is a great and sore calamity to the Lodges, and somebody ought to be responsible for it. The Captain of the outfit says he is not, and if he is not, it passes my comprehension to tell who is, if Mr. Bayless is the great and successful business man that he says he is, and rings out the 100 cents on the dollar in all his undertakings; he certainly got a Waterloo of defeat in managing the business of this unfortunate Association.

Mr. Bayless next discusses the fraudulent or forged deed, and he says some old farmer changed the Range, and the Recorder is as much to blame as he was, because he filed it. Is it possible that Mr. Bayless has been in the abstract business ten years and is so ignorant as not to know that the Recorder has no authority to pass on the "validity" of an instrument, but must record everything offered for Record that is acknowledged before a proper officer? To give him the power of rejecting anything he wanted to, would be almost as absolute power as Mr. Bayless tries to exercise in Barry County—the Courts alone can pass on the validity of a deed that is gotten up in the forms of law. We would like for Mr. Bayless to tell us if it was the old farmer that pasted over Mr. Hobbs' certificate of the first record of the deed, and if it was the farmer, or Mr. Bayless, that said on the streets of Cassville, that no one would ever get to see that deed?

Mr. Bayless next touches upon the abstract question. He never wanted any one to furnish a certificate that he had a true and correct set of abstracts for Barry County. He could make more money with them as they are. We do not know how he could do it, unless, as they are he could change them to suit himself; whereas in the other case the law might throw some restraint on him. Nevertheless he tried very hard to beat every candidate that would not sign his petition to have them legalized.

Mr. Bayless next treats us to the history of his political campaign in 1878, how he got 359 majority and I only 61. He does not tell the people that he had only one opponent and I two—a Republican who got 726 votes, a Greenbacker 309, and myself 1096, or 61 over both. The Greenbackers had only a partial ticket in the field, and Mr. Bayless had no Greenback opponent, but is it not a little strange that Mr. Bayless should have been elected by so large a majority in 1878, and the only man that was beat in 1880, even the Judge of the Eastern District pulling through? General Jackson used to say that the sober second thought of the people was always right; the people elected John by a large majority, when they did not know him; after they found him out they did not want any more of him.

Mr. Bayless next compares me Benedict Arnold. Now what sense or point is there in any such rot as this; if a man wants to make an ass of himself by talking giberish and nonsense, why does he not seek a community of idiots and not an intelligent community to display himself. What similarity is there between the character of Benedict Arnold and myself? Arnold was a traitor to his friends, and country. What friends, or what party, or what country, did I ever betray? It goes without saying that I have done more hard work, and more unselfish work for the Democratic Party of Barry County than any man in it. Bayless must surely have meant to compare himself to Arnold, as he of late years generally sits on the fence during a political contest, and at the close tumbles over to the winning side.

He next takes up the subject of "Baylessism." He says it means progress, industry and paying 100 cents on the dollar. This is the side of the picture to be exhibited to the simple minded. The hard-fisted yeomanry of the country look at it from a different stand-point. They think it means only 18 cents on the dollar when the victim can't help himself, that it means bogus warranty deeds, blackmail for title, tampering with old deeds, which the law says is forgery, land piracy, a trampling under foot of the laws of the land, and establishing a one man despotism over the people. These are some of the reasons why the people of Barry County detest "Baylessism" or ill gotten wealth, and why they are determined to overthrow it.

He next discusses the McConnel or Cemetery road, and here the brass in his face is more re-

pulsive than ever. He says by the McConnell deed the twenty feet reverted to him; but the deed said when it ceased to be used as a cemetery road. Bayless fenced it up himself and claimed that it had ceased to be used. It is as if a father was to promise his son a legacy at his death, and the son kills him to hasten the legacy. Does Mr. Bayless think any Court of Justice in the land would sanction such conduct as his! No! The cemetery had lain there for fifty years without any protection, trusting to the charity and honesty of the people to take care of it. Bayless found it without directors or trustees to take care of it, or legally take its part. In this defenseless condition, it could no more defend itself against the veteran land grabber than Mary's little lamb could defend itself against a hungry wolf. But the end is not yet, as Mr. Bayless thinks; the people are going to have a say so in that matter, and their WILL, will be carried out.

Next he has something to say about my doing business for Uncle Billy Earle; that Uncle Billy deposited money in my safe, and could not get it when he called for it, and he thought of prosecuting for embezzlement. Now this is one of Bayless' infernal lies; the low down scoundrel knowing that he has no character himself, tries to blacken other people's good name. In the first place, I never had any safe the whole time I was in business in Cassville, and in the next Uncle Billy Earle or no one else ever deposited a dollar with me "on call" but what he got it when he demanded it. I never used any of his money except what I gave my note for and paid interest on. In January 1879, as I was leaving for the Legislature (revising session of nearly five months), we had a settlement and he took my note for all that I was owing him. After I left I was told he kept his money in the county safe; at all events, he never deposited it with me any more. When I returned I paid him as much as I could on the note, and continued to pay partial payments and interest on it, until he traded it (it being \$180 only) to Dr. Hawkins in a settlement they were making. I paid Dr. Hawkins the cash for it as soon as I could, and now have the note in my possession and have had it for several years. This is the true statement of the matter, and I believe the people will believe me in preference to such a notorious liar as Munchausen Bayless. Long after I quit business, Uncle Billy Earle occasionally came to my house and took dinner with me, and always spoke of me to my friends in the highest terms praise—a thing he would not have done had there been any truth in Bayless' statement. And now Mr. Bayless, as I believe, you have had some experience yourself in the "embezzlement" business; we will have a "show-down" from you. A few years ago, it is said a prominent county official deposited a sum of money with you "on call," and when he went to get it, it was \$100 short. You could not, or would not, give any satisfactory explanation of the deficit, and he told you to your teeth that you had stolen it, and gave you such a cursing as no man before ever had in Cassville, and you submitted to it, because you knew you were guilty and deserved it. I think by the time I get through with you, you will need some of that "bear's oil" oil on your own head.

Bayless says in his dissertation on paying debts, "pay what you can at the time of failure and the balance as soon as you can; anything else is a loathsome repudiation." What a pity it is he did not take this rain-bow view of the case, when he was crowding the Odd Fellows and Masons to the wall and paying them only 18 cts. on the dollar on the whole investment, or paying them \$150 and \$175 for their interest in the real estate of the Association, when he knew very well it was worth double, at least, what he paid them. He snarls at me for not looking after the business of the Association, when he knows, or could know, that I have held no office in the Lodge for 15 years; he knows further that his firm held 235 out of the 300 shares of the Association, and they could have controlled it in any way they saw fit, and it was their business to look after and protect its interest.

A great writer has said, "never have a controversy with a liar; for it never settles anything, and there is no end to it; he can tell them faster than you can run them down, for it is his peculiar trade, and he will always have the last 'you are another.'" The great trouble with Mr. Bayless is, that he has now, and for a long time has had, a most aggravated attack of "big head." Some one to flatter him has told him that he was a good writer, and that has set him to scribbling, and he has not got sense enough to know when he ought to quit. The facts are, that he has not the first elements of a controversialist; he has not the natural ability, he has not the education, and he has not got the equanimity of mind to engage in controversy; he has no fund of knowledge to draw on, and relies entirely on drivel and ribaldry to gain his cause—which always fails with sensible people. For these and other causes he will always be a failure when he attempts to write; but whether he continues to write or not, he should abandon "land piracy and lying"—that will ruin any man. Satan was the first "land pirate and liar;" by lying to our first parents he caused them to lose their beautiful and happy home in

paradise, and "land piracy and lying" have been a bad business ever since, and everybody ought to shun those two great sins

Mr. Bayless theft of the cemetery road was the last straw that broke the camel's back; it was so outrageously illegal, such a flagitious outrage, that it caused the people to look into and examine more closely his methods of doing business; and the result has been, a universal condemnation of his conduct.

In all his letters he throws poverty at me, and says also that I am an aristocrat. In regard to the first I shall not palliate or deny it—contenting myself cheerfully in an humble sphere, preferring it, with conscious rectitude of conduct, rather than to have acquired ill-gotten, stolen wealth with which to oppress my fellow-man. As to his other charge of aristocracy, that is as far fetched and as ill appropriate as his calling me Benedict Arnold; for from my earliest manhood I have been an earnest believer in the principles of the Christian Religion, and the Brotherhood of Mankind; I was taught by pious parents to do unto my neighbor as I would have him do unto me, and to be kind and courteous to all men. These principles have been the rule and guide of my faith and practice thus far through life, and will, I trust, continue so to the end.

Mr. Bayless is very much distressed at my giving in my house and lot at only \$400, though this is fully as high a valuation as others put on their property of the same class—houses larger and better than mine have been given in at \$350. But why does he not practice what he preaches. The capital stock of the Barry County Bank, is \$10,000; and he gives it in at \$6,666, and told a man who was talking of buying some of the shares that they were now worth about 500 per cent., making the capital stock in his own estimation now worth \$50,000, and yet he gave it in at only 13 per cent. of that amount. His stock of merchandise he gives in at only \$10,000, when everyone knows it is worth at least \$25,000. He got \$8,000 insurance and saved at the fire \$10,000 worth of goods out of the brick store alone, to say nothing of the goods lost in the furniture department and the lumber yard. He gave in this statement of amount on hand, before the fire, and it is official. He is a nice chap, indeed, to talk about other people not giving in their property.

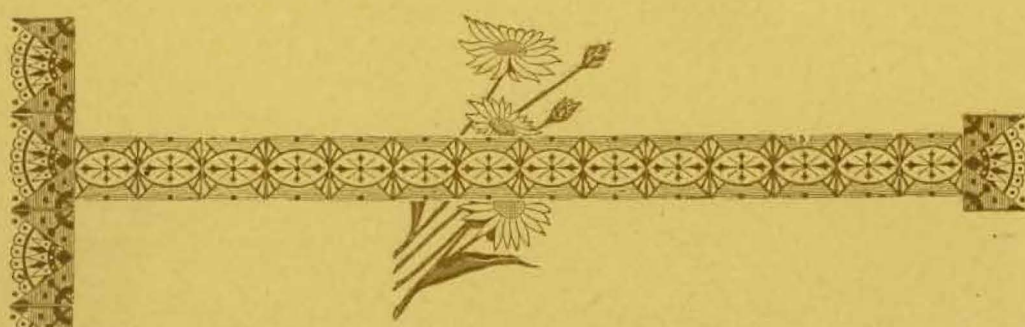
Now in conclusion, I will that I am done with this controversy, unless something new and unforeseen shall come up that may need a reply. I undertook it for the public good, and because I did not like to see one man act the despot and trample the law of the land under his feet, without at least a protest from some one. No intelligent person will say that his letters have shown up any justification of his conduct, or any reasons why the people should submit to his lawless outrages. He has tried to bulldoze from the outset, and run down his opponent with ribaldry and blackguardism, for he knew no sound argument could be offered in his defence. The statements and allegations he has made during the controversy, have been in almost every instance false. I have shown up from the beginning his hypocrisy, deceit, double dealing, and attempts to throw dust into the eyes of the people, to obsnere the true issues. And now, if I have shown up Munchausen Bayless to the satisfaction of the people, I am more than content and happy in the thought that I have at least struck one blow for the overthrow of a corrupt and dangerous tyrant, and one who I believe means to attempt the enslavement and ruin of the people, in so far as their property is concerned.

VERY RESPECTFULLY,

CHAS. S. BRYAN.

CASSVILLE, MO., September 19th, 1893.





John M. Bayless

On the Rampage.

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MR. BAYLESS and myself, having consumed the time and occupied the space, courteously allowed us by the editor of the CASSVILLE DEMOCRAT in discussing the Cemetery Road, Mr. Bayless seeks the CASSVILLE REPUBLICAN for the purpose of continuing his attack on me, and from the secret circulars he is sending out from that office it would seem that, in addition to his other multifarious duties, he had become an assistant editor for the CASSVILLE REPUBLICAN, and is now running that institution. I am now compelled to answer by circular if I reply to him at all. The article of Mr. Bayless in the REPUBLICAN, except in so far as regards its personalities towards me, is simply a rehash of all his former articles about the Cemetery Road; it is merely a repetition of what he has twice said before in the DEMOCRAT. Not one solitary new idea has he advanced upon the subject. The matter was fully discussed then, and there is nothing material to the case to be said now; and I must be excused from going over the same ground now.

In his personal attack upon me he resorts to his own peculiar mode of warfare, which those who know his style easily recognize. He always commences his fight with a big bluff, supporting it by bold and unscrupulous lying, covering you with a perfect inundation of lies—this is his method in the circular under consideration. Lawyers say when he takes the witness stand to swear through court a “land steal,” his method is the same there; the object is to keep you on the defense and to prevent you from exposing and showing him up. His most serious charge against me is my poverty; he vaunts his wealth, and tells in flamboyant style, what he has done for the town. This is now the second time he has had this feature on dress parade. In one breath calls me an aristocrat, and in the next breath he abuses me for having a board fence around my lot. He rails at me because a few inches of my well is in the street, notwithstanding it was there before he was born, and when I bought the place twenty-four years ago I had to pay twenty-five dollars more for it on ac-

count of the well enhancing the value of the property. He says my barn is also in the street; this is positively false. Uncle Billy Hubbert owned the property when the town was first laid out, and he located the corners and lines of fence when I got the place and said they were on the proper lines and they have never been changed since; with the exception of a small curvature at the well, I have only what my deed calls for.

Next he, Bayless, goes into "jim jams" and blows fire from his mouth, nose and ears, about my paying only fifty cents on the dollar on a small portion of my indebtedness when I quit business thirteen years ago. Then he smites on his breast in true Pharaical style, and says, "I thank God I am not as other men, or this poor Publican; I pay one hundred cents on the dollar, except when it come to Mason's and Odd Fellows' property committed to my care, and which I let get burned up, and then I pay only two bits on the dollar." In his further swagger he would have you believe he never made any money in the land pirate business; he never gave bogus warranty deeds to any one, or deeds if you prefer it, that did warrant against any one except himself and heirs, and the fellow he got of. He never blackmailed any one for a title—that is, writing back East for old title deeds, bought for a mere song, putting them on record, and clouding some poor man's defective title, on land he bought in good faith at Sheriff's sale, and when the ten years limit was nearly up, at which time his title would have been perfected in law. He never changed the Range in an old deed, after it had been recorded four years—re-recording it, thus changing the location of the land six miles from where it was originally recorded or located, and which act the Revised Statutes of Missouri, Volume I, Pages 878 and 884, says is forgery in the first degree, and punishable with ten years in the Penitentiary. No, the Pharisee never did any of these things—he is clothed in robes of righteousness; it was those other fellows in the land pirate business that did it, and that ought to wear the striped clothes.

"Well sir, did you pay a portion of your indebtedness at fifty cents on the dollar?" Yes sir, I did, and under the same circumstances would do it again. Wholesale men when in trouble get such favors, and why should not a retail man. The mitigating circumstances, were at that time, that I was hounded to death for money, and could only get it at a high rate of interest. I told the parties interested that if they would give me time they would get their debts in full, but they preferred the quick six per cent to the slow shilling, and I settled with them on their own terms; the notes were theirs and if they chose to sell them at less than their face value, what business was it of Bayless, the spy and commercial agency reporter, to be sticking his nose into other people's business. Other creditors who gave me time, got one hundred cents on the dollar and ten per cent. interest. Several of them are around Cassville, and they will cheerfully testify to it, if called upon.

"But then you lost two jobs whilst drumming—how about that?" Well, what drummer is there, but what some time or other has not lost a job? In my case it resulted in this way; the Houses wished to drop off the greater portion of the territory I was working and it did not pay to keep a man on the residue. "But then you were out of a job when you were appointed Recorder." No, that is a mistake on the part of his Royal Highness. I had a good job, and also the offer of another.

But was Mr. Bayless himself never out of a job? it strikes me very forcibly that he was; when he was beaten for Collector, that good Samaritan, Uncle Billy Earle found him in the ditch, furnished him bountifully with money to start a big store and a bank. It cured John of his poverty, but it gave him a worse complaint, to-wit—the "big head," and now from the gabbing and writing he is doing about this Cemetery Road, I am afraid he will take a worse disease yet, to-wit—the "big jaw."

But Mr. Bayless says he made a bill of \$1,800 with me, and I was not

grateful—leave off about \$500, and you will about hit it; and as to gratitude, I have traded a great deal more with him than that bill amounted to, and some of his own firm say I am as prompt in my settlements as any man on their books.

But Mr. Bayless is vexed with me because I hold the office of Recorder. He grossly and falsely exaggerates the receipts of the office, and says I am the "suppliant blood-sucking vampire" of the country. This is so "highfalutin" I can hardly understand it. Mr. Bayless need not distress himself; there is no responsibility resting on his shoulders for my holding it; as he took every sneaking underhand advantage to try to beat me, and is only mad because he cannot run the office, and I refused to give him an official certificate stating that he held a correct abstract of all the books in the office, in order to have the Legislature make them legal evidence in the Courts. I would not do it because I would have been certifying to a falsehood if I had. He says I have large sums of money deposited in other cities, made out of the Recorder's Office. It is inconceivable how any man who has the slightest regard for truth should utter such an atrocious falsehood as this. Many of my friends know that what little I saved out of the office nearly all of it was spent in giving my cripple boy an education in order to make a living; but who gave this autocrat the authority to demand of people through the public press to know what they do with their own money.

He says I am doing nothing for the school. I have a very vivid recollection of laying him out very flat at one of the annual meetings a few years ago when he was trying to reduce it to a four months term. Then I am not helping about the rebuilding of the town. Well, the Masons think very different about that, and that I have done more than my full share in the re-building.

Now does he, Bayless, recollect, who it was in 1878, as the head of the Democratic ticket, pulled him through to one of the best offices in the county? Was it not the man he is so violently abusing? That was the time when he was so anxious to be one of those "suppliant blood-sucking vampires." The blood-sucking part he still holds on to in another business, and this was the only office he was ever elected to; the next time he got left. Mr. Bayless then professed to be a Democrat. He is now classed as a political Ishmaelite. He is too selfish to belong to any party; he is solely for Bayless, and when any benefits are to be had he trundles himself from one party to the other, doing no work for either, and getting all the favors he can from both. Mr. Bayless, instead of taking a Washington, or Jefferson, for a model, has chosen a Vanderbilt, or a Gould. Vanderbilt, when told that the Public objected to a certain thing, said "the Public be damned." Mr. Bayless, when told that there would be a kick on some of his road changes, said he would "stand the kick." Mr. Bayless is also said to have expressed himself to the effect that Public opinion amounts to nothing if a man has plenty of money. One would know from his acts that he holds those views, without being told so. As I understand it, Public Opinion is the foundation stone of a Republican form of Government, and a man who does not regard it, is not in favor of a government of the people. Mr. Bayless accuses people of being aristocrats, when, by holding such views as he does, he is not only an aristocrat, but a monarchist. He does not believe in our form of Government, he tramples the laws under his feet, merely uses the law to do his "sheriffing" when he thinks it would be a little too dangerous to undertake the job himself; in other words, he only makes a convenience of the laws of the land to oppress other people with, and will not obey them himself. He further tries to ape distinguished men by putting his picture on his bank checks after the manner of Grant and Hendricks on the silver certificates; and he indulges in a good deal of other snobbery and flunkeyism, after the manner and style of upstart plutocracy.

Mr. Bayless, after getting out his article comes out with a small circular, "Facts for the Fair Minded," which all sensible people pronounce the "merest

rot," and sends small boys with it around town, throwing it into people's yards, under cover of night. It is a twin brother of "Food for Thought," that cowardly attack he made upon our representative in the Legislature two years ago, dumping it upon every member's desk, trying to destroy his usefulness as a member of that body; but like most of his other malignant deeds, it came to naught. In his little circular he speaks of me as "A Calumniator Shown Up." In what have I been a calumniator! I spoke of the Cemetery Road steal and said he stole it from the people, and I say so yet; and as everybody knows it is the truth, cannot be a calumny. I can also tell him some other things he has done, which the law does not countenance. He has been guilty of what the law says is forgery in the first degree; and he has been guilty of what the people of this country call in plain language "land piracy;" and he has also been guilty of making to people what is generally called "bogus" warranty deeds. ~~All these charges are dead level facts.~~

He was "whipped out of his boots" in the cemetery discussion, or he would not have tried to magnify into a crime so simple a thing as buying a note or two below its face value; a thing that is done a hundred times a day in any large city, and especially when he did a much worse thing in paying the Odd Fellows and Masons only two bits on the dollar for a debt he was morally responsible for. The people of this country are sorely tired of "Baylessism," or "the one man power." Barry County is not the soil in which "up-start Plutocracy" can flourish; the people want every man to obey the law, with "equal rights for all and special privileges to none."

VERY RESPECTFULLY, Chas. S. Bryan.

Cassville, Mo., August 28th, 1893.

