

The following article written by Henry George appeared in the Sacramento Daily Union signed by "Proletarian." Articles by George appeared in the newspaper from 1866 to 1870. This article appeared in Vol. 31, No. 4805, 22 August 1866.

[For the Union.]

#### THE CLOWN IN THE TEMPLE.

Messrs. Editors: The President's speech which you lately printed in your telegraphic column might make very good reading in another department, were it credited to Orpheus C Kerr, Artemus Ward or Petroleum V. Nasby, and would reflect no disgrace upon the well-earned reputation of those national celebrities. Its broad burlesque and stupendous absurdities; its strokes of satire which recoil with the precision and force of boomerangs; its trenchant bits of truth thrust in so deftly here and there, like keen swords grasped by the blade; the pathos with which it begins and the triumphant egotism with which it ends, bespeak the hand of a master of the ludicrous, and prefixed by a humorous heading would make the reputation of the comic weekly that first published it. Yet, mirth provoking as this production would be in its proper place, as you have printed it it serves only to excite a different feeling. "There is a place for every thing;" but a page of Joe Miller would sound very badly in a solemn judicial decision, and on the steps of the altar the gibes of a clown would arouse only disgust and indignation. While it might be very funny to hear Petroleum or Orpheus declare the Philadelphia Convention a greater body than that which framed the Constitution and asseverate that A. J. might make himself Dictator if so disposed, yet when such assertions come deliberately from the President of the United States it is not all mirth which they arouse. The loyal people will very likely agree with Johnson that he has been "practicing on the Constitution" a long while; and maybe if he don't stop it pretty soon, they may also conclude that he has "practiced" on that instrument about long enough. PROLETARIAN.