

# THE WILMINGTON GAZETTE.

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[10TH YEAR.]

## FROM THE KENTUCKY GAZETTE.

The following letter was communicated to the editor by Allen B. Magruder, agent of the United States for the investigation of land claims in the western country of Lower Louisiana.

BELLEVUE, Opelousas,  
In Lower Louisiana, July 2, 1806.

DEAR SIR,

I have been engaged for a considerable time in collecting materials for a minute and accurate description of the delightful country where I reside. My public engagements, however, have precluded me from acquiring that extensive information, which I am anxious to diffuse, through the medium of your paper, for the benefit of those who may be inclined to remove to this part of our dominions. What knowledge I have obtained, with respect to the advantages of this country, has been, in some measure, derived from undoubted collateral authority, and much of it from my own personal observation.

The subjects upon which I shall touch, are of a general nature; but they are communicated with that candor and sacred regard to truth, which every man should feel when he attempts to prescribe the means of promoting the felicity of others.

I have looked enough into society to know, that our countrymen are fond of new territorial positions; and having heard that many of them in your state, were inclined to emigrate to this country, I cheerfully embrace the earliest opportunity to give them all the encouragement in my power. It is not my intention, however, to invite them to a change of situation, where long establishment, the acquisition of wealth, and the enjoyment of property, have afforded the means of living comfortably, where they are. In such cases a change would doubtless be imprudent; because, in calculating the chances which fortune yields, of rendering our condition in life better, by frequent changes of either occupation or position, I am apt to believe, that the result would be in favour of permanent local establishments, and employment, where life could be passed away in the enjoyment of an agreeable mediocrity of fortune, equally exempt from the cares of a useless and redundant opulence, and the wretchedness of poverty and dependence.—My communications are particularly addressed to those, who have not been placed in this happy condition; to young men who have to make their way in the world by enterprise and industry, and to those whose fortunes are not sufficient to maintain and portion out a numerous family of children in circumstances that may place them beyond the temptations of vice. To such, I cheerfully offer my hand, to conduct them to an asylum, where the greatest degree of happiness can be acquired and maintained upon the cheapest terms.

The western parts of Lower Louisiana, compose, without doubt, the most charming portion of the American continent, north of the equator. The climate is uncommonly healthy, for these latitudes. It is soft, mild, and delightful beyond description. The heat of the spring and summer months, is most agreeably tempered by refreshing breezes from the Gulf of Mexico, which increase in proportion as the seasons become more sultry. The autumnal & winter months partake, in a great measure, of the soft temperature of the preceding portions of the year; and are attended with but very little snow or sleet. The advance of the seasons is, in general, very gradual; and therefore, prepares the human body for the change of atmosphere. In fine, I perceive no causes in nature, from which, we can rationally deduce any effects of climate or situation, prejudicial to health in this part of America. Upon diet, exercising a peaceful mind, and a pure atmosphere, depend the blessing of a long and happy life. Common industry will procure the two first, so as to render them in every respect salutary; good morals will secure the second, and nature has furnished the last.

In the same manner, that we are to judge of the state of morals in a nation, from its code of criminal laws, so are we to judge of the impressions of climate upon the human system, from the state of medicine in any particular country. There are few physicians here; and so very seldom is their medical aid required, that none of them attempt to live merely by their professions. In Kentucky your physicians are numerous; many of them live upon their avocational revenue, and some of them have grown wealthy by the practice of physic.

The western country of Lower Louisiana lies exceedingly level, with few diversifications of hill and valley. The lands are uniformly fertile; the soil being from ten to twenty feet deep in many places; composed of a dark grey loam, with a foundation of sand, very soft and porous, and admirably fitted for the labor of the hoe and plow. Two thirds of these regions are level prairie lands. The others are forest land, well timbered with every kind of wood, that may be employed in all useful and ornamental architecture. Scarcely any forest lands, except the swamps,

are unfit for cultivation. Some of the prairies are very rich, and all of them sufficiently so, to yield profitable crops of cotton, and many other useful commodities.

I have reason to believe, that most of the land titles here, will be confirmed by Congress. It is the object of an equitable and enlightened government rather to consult the happiness of the citizen in deciding upon his claims, than to acquire large portions of public lands, by oppressive laws, or rigid adjudications. In this case, the purchaser will, in most cases, be sure of procuring a fee simple estate. It is true, that there will cases present themselves, where, from the cautious method of laying out lands under the Spanish government, some interferences will be discovered. These will be subject to the control of our common courts of judicature. The mode of adjustment however, under our laws, will be so very simple, that none of those long and tedious litigations, with respect to real property, in many parts of the United States may be apprehended here.

The best lands, with the most undoubted titles, can be procured in most parts of the country, upon the lowest and most desirable terms. Most of these are situated upon navigable water courses, which interlock with streams of superior magnitude, that five hundred acres of land, even in a commonly advanced age, situate, in many parts of the Western States would yield, a sufficient fund for the purchase of five hundred acres a piece, for a family of six or seven children, in Lower Louisiana.

The above described lands will yield to the hand of cultivation, profitable crops of cotton, rye, oats, hay, grass of various kinds, tobacco, particularly suitable for the Dutch, the French and the Baltic markets, and indigo; all of which will flourish well upon portions of ground selected from the general mass of territory, best adapted to the nature of each of those commodities. Our principle staples here, however, are cotton and cattle. The raising of these, far exceeds, in point of profit, every other article that is produced in the country. In good seasons a negro man will yield from his labour on a cotton plantation, from 250 to 300 dollars, net profit. The stock of a cotton estate will double itself every three years, the stock of a vachery, every four years. Cotton, at market, will average one year with another, from twenty to twenty-five dollars per hundred.—A man is growing wealthy, when he receives fifteen dollars per hundred every year, at market. Bees will average from ten to 12 dollars per head. Nothing can be more valuable than this kind of property. There are men here, who make every year from five to 1500 calves; and this remarkable product is attended with such little expence, that it is too trifling to admit into our calculations on this subject. Cows, except barren ones, are never sent to market; but the male bees, at proper periods, are selected from the herd, and driven by land to markets that are always ready to receive them.

There is no country in America, so suitable to a young beginner, or a man in moderate circumstances, as the western parts of Lower Louisiana. This description of men have nothing more to do, to fix themselves comfortably in life, than to purchase a small piece of land on the edge of a prairie, and go to ploughing immediately for corn, or cotton. It is true, that in many places fencing will be necessary. The mode of laying out lands in this country, will always enable him to procure a plenty of the best timber, for all the purposes of a plantation. Very large crops, however, have been made, in such situations, without any kind of enclosure. The next object of a planter in this respect, would be, to purchase a few cows, in order to lay the foundation of a vachery. To support this vachery, as I observed before, as well as a sufficient number of horses, very little trouble or expence is necessary. The prairies and the wood lands, at every season of the year, yield an ample supply of strong provender, to keep them in tolerable order.

Society here, is agreeable, but not very refined. It will become more improved every year; and I have no difficulty in believing, that whenever the singular advantages of this charming country are known to our countrymen, that it will assume the most desirable form, in point of social happiness; become the resort of men of letters and character; the abode of genius and the arts, and the asylum of republican virtue, when corrupt societies have forgotten its influence.

Richmond, Sept. 9.

An occurrence has taken place in this city, of considerable use to the medical world.—Its importance may be estimated by the single fact, that it satisfactorily decides the long agitated dispute of the origin of the yellow fever. All doubt, all disputation, all cavilling—must yield before it.

The question is, whether the yellow fever of our cities is of *foreign* or domestic origin; whether it is imported from the West-Indies, or generated by the noxious air of our towns. The last has been the general opinion. It was evident that if the fever could be im-

ped, it might be conveyed from one person to another, or from place to place. But experience has proved that it was "communicable in the country, either by persons under the disease, or by goods carried from diseased places." Was it then reasonable to suppose, that a fever which could not be communicated from the town to the country, could be carried from one country to another; from the ports of the W. Indies to those of the United States.

It must be admitted, however, that this fact is not of such a direct and overwhelming kind as to put down all opposition. Ingenuity has eluded but not destroyed its force. It is contended that the noxious miasma only acts in large cities, where the atmosphere is so impure as to be thrown into a state of noxious fermentation, or where human bodies are so enfeebled by the impurity of the air as to be predisposed for its action. When transported into the country the atmosphere is too pure to admit of its operation. It has no nucleus to receive it. It is without that train of favourable circumstances which must concur and assist its virulence. The air is too pure to be thrown into fermentation, and man too healthy to be predisposed for its action. "It is for this reason," say the advocates of imported fever, "that it is not always communicated from the town to the country. We admit that the fever is not alone sufficient to produce its full effect in towns; but we contend, that when it does appear in our cities it must owe its first germ to foreign importation."

But the following incident is of a kind to remove all opposition.

The city of Richmond at this time enjoys an almost unexampled share of health. Bilious complaints have by no means an uncommon fatality. Rocket's landing, our only depot of foreign trade, is not peculiarly afflicted by any species of sickness; much less, by any of an uncommon appearance.—Will the advocates of imported fever then believe, that at this very moment it has appeared in the Penitentiary; at some distance from the center of the city, on the very skirts of the country, insulated from every other building, and on the opposite side of the town to Rocket's landing? Such however is the melancholy fact.

That the fever of the Penitentiary is the yellow fever of our cities, is decided by the two experienced and ingenious physicians who have attended it. Its symptoms are the same in kind, though infinitely less in degree: the pain in the head—the red eye—the skin of a hue much darker than gold—the black vomit, or black faces, according to the course of the bile. In the only case where the patient has fallen a victim, the sensibility of the stomach was so excessive, that by gently touching the region of the stomach, it produced the hiccup so symptomatic of the complaint.

Where is there a fact more conclusive as to the origin of the yellow fever, because so little confused by the operation of contrary causes? It would almost be a miracle, had the imported germ of the yellow fever visited the Penitentiary. Here are a set of men almost completely cooped up from the rest of the world. The turnkeys; the respectable superintendent of the Penitentiary; his whole family are healthy. The guard, who traverse the outside of the building, are too far removed to communicate the contagion. Few persons have access into the building; no one can enter it without a permit from two inspectors; no one, who has visited it lately, has exhibited the symptoms of the fever. The building is too completely cut off from the city, to receive the noxious contagion in a tainted stream of air. And whence was this stream to blow? There is not a single corner in the city where the fever has peeped forth; not one person who has fallen beneath it.

There seems not a deficient link in this chain of proof. Every thing is complete—every thing conclusive. It is scarce possible that the fever could approach from without; it must therefore have been generated from within. But here are sufficient causes for its production; desponding minds; the want of exercise; the want of something to exhilarate the spirits, and put the torpid functions into motion; the damp weather succeeding to a season of unexampled drought; the long train of inconveniences inseparable from a state of confinement and labour. When causes like these exist, why seek for its origin in the West-India market, whence no infected vessel had arrived; or in a city not yet visited by a single symptom?

Two advantages may be expected to result from this discovery. Physicians being no longer puzzled about the general origin of the fever, will be at liberty more freely to trace the particular circumstances which generate it within our country; and to apply the fruits of their investigation to removing its causes. Another advantage is, that we may succeed in diminishing "the burthen of quarantine at home as well as abroad."

But let not our distant friends indulge the slightest alarm about the consequences of this

\* President's message at the opening of the last Congress.

fever. We pledge ourselves as to the spirit of the following facts:

That not more than 6 or 7 of the convicts have symptoms of the fever;

That one only has died whilst others are convalescent;

That the fever of the Penitentiary, though similar in its general symptoms, is comparatively innocuous to that of our large towns. The only victim who has yet fallen beneath it, lingered as many as twelve or thirteen days, whereas in Philadelphia it was not uncommon for them to sink in 24 hours. Of such unequal virulence is the same fever at different places?

That there prevails not the slightest alarm among the inhabitants of this city:

That a few have even visited the Penitentiary for the purpose of inspecting the disorder, so perfectly were they convinced of its harmlessness;

And that the best established opinion is, that the fever is not in the least infectious; that it rather passes from the air to the patient, than from the patient to the air; that even in that case it does not immediately operate, but that it requires time to break down the tone of the body, ere it can produce its effect.

Enquirer.

BOSTON, September 18.

## ARGUMENTS AGAINST PEACE.

The British press, in discussing the important subject of Peace has furnished innumerable arguments, and much ingenious inquiry and speculation, on both sides the question.—Among the arguments opposed to the return of that desirable blessing, are the following:

"If Mr. Fox flatters himself, that any display of confidence, any surrender of conquests, will induce Buonaparte to adopt a system of moderation, and of real peace, he is most egregiously mistaken. Facts, and the experience of innumerable events, demonstrate this position, beyond all possible contradiction."

"It can never be sufficiently urged, that peace is desired by Buonaparte, only, as it will furnish more vigorous means of war."

"Buonaparte desires peace, in order to recruit his finances and his navy. A soldier in the cabinet—as in the field, he appreciates every thing by its utility in war; and much as he affects to value commerce we shall see him in the midst of peace, continue to keep half a million of his subjects armed, and abstracted from the pursuits of industry."

"The balance of advantage, in the present war, is, in every respect favorable to Great-Britain. To France, war with Britain has become an inglorious, and a hopeless contest. Her fleets have either been destroyed, captured, or are accounted fortunate, if returning from a fruitless enterprise they reach their own harbour in safety."

"To Britain, war against France, has been a series of brilliant successes."

"France, irresistible by land, becomes inactive and languid, when the operations are consigned to sea. England is triumphant on the ocean, and reaps all the glory of the active warfare."

"The advantages of a peace to France are incalculable. It will relieve her from a disastrous contest, it will restore her colonies, revive her expiring commerce, recruit her exhausted finances, create innumerable seamen, and re-establish her navy in its former splendour. But which of these benefits will England reap from a termination of the war? Our trade, our finances, and our navy, are flourishing beyond example. Will our security be increased by peace, or our burdens considerably lessened? In former times the advantages of peace were solid and immediate.—Fleets and armies were disbanded on both sides, and the burdens of war ceased with the signature of the definitive treaty. At present there can be no important reduction of our war establishment. We must continue armed, and bear the burden of war in the midst of peace."

The undersigned his Swedish Majesty's commercial agent general, near the United States of America, requires that the printers throughout the United States will publish for the information of merchants and others concerned, the following note from his Swedish Majesty's grand marshal of the kingdom of Sweden, count de Fesen, dated Stralsund, the 17th May last, with the proclamation referred to, of the 27th of April, do.

RICHARD SODERSTROM.

Philadelphia, Sept. 15, 1806.

Note.—Communited by order of his Swedish majesty, to the ministers of the two allied courts (Russia and Great-Britain) accredited near the king.

In consideration of the various motives, detailed in the note of the undersigned, dated the 27th of April last, he has the honor by the express order of the king his master, to inform Mr.

that his majesty has thought it necessary to order out the squadron equipped at Carles Croza, for the purpose of blockading all the ports of his Majesty the king of Prussia, on the Baltic, from the front