[illegible] Society. When it [illegible] seen either of them, Mon[illegible] was the response.

"I fear they are slain. They were the last to join us, and having had no experience, I fear they have had some misfortune come to them. Now, my friends, there is no need that we meet so frequently as perils attends our steps. In seven years from this hour meet me, as many of you as are living, beneath this oak, or, if it stand then, in my father's old hall, in Rue de Maitre!"

"*We will be there!*" was the unanimous reply of the dark group of young men around him, who had, by their deeds of blood, shaken Europe to its centre, and made the fair fields of France a Golgotha, and its gorgeous capital a crimsoned Acceldema.

At that moment the tramp of many feet reached their ears. They beheld moving towards them from all sides masses of troops, encircling them as the Indian hunters surround and contract their forces upon the hunted lion and bear.

"We are betrayed!" cried Pierre Robert. "The traitor Jean de Lorraine!—Behold him in the advance. He dies by my hand. Save your own lives, or sell them dearly!" A hurried drawing of swords, [illegible] of deep oaths, and an attack was made at a great outlay of silence, when the [illegible] enlightened publicpoundy [illegible] thous. "The [illegible] man," [illegible] a great authority, "[illegible] Jry, [illegible] Hy [illegible] Cleth liberal things and in his nothings shall he [illegible] land." The text has been fully verified in the success of the Ladies Book and it shall serve as the guide of the editors future course.

In addition [illegible] attempt to form a p[illegible] of former years, [illegible] tree. The troops, a regiment, [illegible] and strong, with one hundred cavalry, rushed in upon them at the bayonet's point, shouting, "*A bas les assassins! Mort aux diables!*"

They rushed on like the waves of the sea. In vain did the assassins display the most extraordinary valor in a desperate defence. They were cut down and overran with a relentless tide of vengeance, and not a prisoner, save their chief was captured. He was taken in the very act of torturing the young noble, Jean de Lorraine, who led the soldiers to the rendezvous. But Loraine, who had proved himself true to his country, though false to its foes, with great skill and courage disarmed him, and secured him, like a lion taken in the toils.

Thus terminated the existence of the most extraordinary society ever known on earth; and for its destruction humanity was indebted to the brave Jean de Loraine, who joined it by initiation; but when he learned the horrible character of the combination, and discovered in these men the secret assassins who had appalled France and astonished Europe by the boldness, extent, mystery, and sanguinary nature of their deeds, he resolved to betray them to the Police. He did so the very night after their separation. But before they could all be arrested, it was necessary to wait patiently till the year and day expired, when they would be again found assembled together in the wood of Bologne.

The result is known to the reader, whom we have been entertaining with no idle fiction, but presented before him a narrative founded on facts, which are recorded on the Police records of Paris. It will also be seen there that Pierre Robert was tried and guillotined, the third day after his arrest, meeting his fate with firmness, expressing his wish that the Bourgeois of Paris had but one head, and that it could be laid on the scaffold, underneath the axe, by the side of his own.

Jean de Loraine was rewarded by the government with the rich estate of his noble ancestors, and the fair hand of Antoinette d'Angoulene, one of the fairest high born maidens of the realm of France.

But the fate of Racine, Vinet, and Lescelles, two more of the absent confreres, who shall narrate the causes of their absence at the Louis' Oak?

A manuscript, filed in the archives of the Prefect's Palace, at Paris, unfolds the cause, and at the same time reveals one of the most touching and terrible circumstances which the imagination can conceive to have been the offspring of so infernal a Society as that of the Thirty Confreres. It may be the subject of a future chapter.

---

## SPEECH OF MR. GENTRY,

### OF TENNESSEE,

*In the House of Representatives of the United States, Dec. 16, 1846, on the resolutions to refer to different committees the President's Message.*

The Administration prints, says the "Richmond Times," have made a great deal of unnecessary clamor about the uncompromising character of Mr. Gentry's late Speech against the President's course, in regard to the Mexican War. The "Alexandria Gazette" treats the matter very justly, as follows:

*Mr. Gentry's Speech.*—The Speech of Mr. Gentry is gall and wormwood to the Administration, and is objected to in some other quarters, too, as unnecessarily harsh. We cannot say, as a general rule, that such productions are particularly to our taste; but in the present case, we pardon something—by much, "for the spirit of LIBERTY." It is well that we should have some freely spoken, bold and intrepid Representatives on the floor of Congress, and these are not to be at all times "mealy mouthed," or over nice in their phrases.

Let it be recollected, too, that the organ of the Government had presumed to stigmatize one of the great parties of this country—a party every day spending its treasure, and, by its members, pouring out its blood in this war with Mexico—as the party of "National Disgrace," and that the President even had called traitors those of that party who dared to question the wisdom of his measures, or the effects of his policy. Under such circumstances, a gallant Whig Representative, when he rose to repel such calumnies, and to vindicate himself and his party from such foul and unjust assertions, could not stop [illegible] weapon [illegible] or to [illegible] might on [illegible] and not hurt. It was not the object of Mr. Gentry.—[illegible] blow, accomplished his object when he gave the first blow, and hurled back upon him who had been applied to them, the epithets which he or can always [illegible] hand defence from its satellites and wor[illegible]ers. They can afford to be "choice in [illegible] language."—Sometimes, to enter the arena be ready, prepared for the dust of the combat.

Mr. GENTRY said it had not been his intention to address the House on the subjects in the Executive communication at the present time, but to wait till a more advanced period of this session, when a more angry question should come before them. At such a period he had purposed to present somewhat at large his views on this subject of the Mexican war. But his course had been changed, changed in part by the remarks of gentlemen in the debate yesterday, and in part, and indeed chiefly, by the denunciations contained in the message against those who belonged to the same political party with himself.—The language held by the President in the part of his message alluded to, had induced him to alter his purpose, and to speak now. And he spoke now more for the purpose of showing that he was not afraid to speak than for any thing else.

The President of the United States in his message, to both Houses of Congress, has descended from the dignity of his high station, and violated the propriety of his office by assuming that all who dared to [illegible] the propriety of his acts in [illegible] during the present war, [illegible] and comfort" [illegible] consent. The qu[illegible] tled by M. R. Smith. [illegible] his own opinion, honestly [illegible] M. R. Smith compromit. A. M. BENSON.

[illegible] ay. 11, 1846.

[illegible] KE this method to offer my sincere [illegible] tions of Smith & Benson's [illegible] ing some of the statements [illegible] leave to indent in the late message. He joins with the President on the point of veracity. The President declared that this war had not been undertaken for conquest. Mr. G. believed otherwise. An executive message was a solemn State paper, and it should be of such a character as to command the belief of all. As a member of a co-ordinate branch of the Government, he ought, certainly to give credit to statements officially made by the chief Executive officer of the Government, and an apology was due for not believing him.—Mr. G. must therefore refer to facts to show why he could not believe. What had happened in regard to the Oregon territory? The President had told the two Houses of Congress, in his first annual message, that our title to the whole of Oregon was "clear and unquestionable."—All must remember the course of things but a few weeks before the project of the British Government was submitted to the President, and by him submitted to the Senate of the United States. Who could forget that he had told a member of this body that he should maintain our rights up to the parallel of 54° 40' at all hazzards. And the Secretary of State had at the same time declared that he would lose his right arm before he would sign a treaty recognising the parallel of 49° as our boundary. And a Senator, known to be high in the President's confidence, had said that if the President should ever consent to take the line of 49°, he would damn himself to so deep an infamy that the hand of resurrection could never reach him. All this must be fresh in the minds of all who heard him. Well; the British Minister submitted the project of a treaty establishing 49, as the boundary. Did the President reject it?—No; he sent it to the Senate, declaring that, if following the bent of his own will, he should have rejected such an offer, but that it was a matter of too much consequence for him to act on it without asking the advice of his constitutional advisers, (well knowing when he said so what their decision would be, for a majority of two thirds had already expressed themselves in favor of the boundary of 49°,) and he finally signed a treaty establishing the line. But, further than this, our Minister to the Court of St. James had recently returned from his mission abroad, and being invited to a public dinner to be given in his honor, he had said in his reply that, before he left the United States, he had possessed himself of the views of the American Government and that, in laboring to get the line of 49° agreed upon as a settlement of the difficulty, he knew that his course was acceptable to the President and his Cabinet.

Now, in view of facts like these, would not the most zealous friend of the President be disposed to excuse Mr. G. for being a little skeptical in regard to official statements, when he had no proof of their truth but the declaration of the President of the United States?

He believed, himself, that the present war was waged for conquest. The proofs were abundant, and perfectly conclusive; nor would the people be at any loss to find them. Congress were bound to examine and them, and every freeman was bound to do the same.

Mr. G. would here take the liberty of reading one document. It was a report from the War Department, dated the 23th of June, 1846. [He here read the letter of Secretary Marcy respecting the regiment to be sent round Cape Horn, to consist of persons of good habits and various pursuits, who might be discharged in any foreign territory if it should then constitute a portion of the United States; if not, then at the nearest point within the territory, &c.]

Does this look like repelling invasion? Did it? Were men to go to California to repel invasion—to compel indemnity?—Mexico had no army there to fight; no forts to take; nothing but a wild country sparsely inhabited. What was this picked regiment to go there for? The people would have no difficulty in understanding such a fact; and all the sophistry of the President in this long message (and what was the public on earth, were called to submit without a struggle to lawless power and were almost denied the humble privilege of a grotest. But it could not be. The American spirit yet lived in the breasts of the American people. And the Democratic party could not, they dared not, to assume that the President was necessarily right, let him do what he would.

The general rule was, that it was expedient and wise, when the nation was engaged in a war constitutionally made, that all debate about the expediency or propriety of the war should cease, and that all should unite to bring it to an honorable conclusion, and, when that was accomplished, then to hold the public functionaries engaged in originating and prosecuting the war to a strict responsibility. That was the general rule and therefore, Mr. G. had heretofore felt reluctant to speak of this Mexican war lest it should be thought that we should be [illegible] because he had hoped he knew not when [illegible] have peace. But now He did not know for [illegible] was to return.—was waged, nor had the [illegible] ends the war by which they could disc[illegible] any other such circumstances, he held it. Under duty of a representative in that [illegible] be speak out freely his sentiments, both respecting the course of the Executive, and respecting the origin and conduct of the war. He held it to be his duty to support and maintain the rights of the legislative branch of the Government. The President was only an executive officer; nor could he rightfully wield any but executive power. As commander in chief of the army and navy, he was but the agent of the people, to do that which the Legislature, as their organ, declared to be their sovereign will. He had, as President, no right to make war but for objects previously sanctioned by the legislative authority. Had this President engaged in that sort of [illegible]

---

STATE OF NORTH [illegible]

McDowell County.

Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions. Fall Session 1846.

[illegible] in question, originating and continued levied on Lands, were guilty of affording "aid and [illegible] to the enemies of the United States;" which seemed purposely taken from the legal definition of *treason*; and his friends, in the debate of yesterday, if not called upon, had volunteered to reiterate the same charge against every independent American freeman who should have temerity (and as they seemed to think that insolence) to call in question the conduct of the Chief Magistrate.

Mr. G. said he had chosen to express his sentiments now, simply in order to bring himself within the range of these denunciations. He chose to identify himself with those who were thus accused. Why, sir, (said Mr. G.) we are put upon our mettle: and if, after such language, we should decline to speak here on any and every subject connected with the Executive and this his war, we may subject ourselves to the charge of having our lips paralyzed by fear. We are called on to maintain our rights as freemen, or basely to surrender them through dread of Executive power. Therefore I shall speak.

Mr. G. said it was not his intention to go elaborately into the constitutional questions, or questions of the law of nations, which had been discussed here by learned gentlemen who had taken part in this debate. He spoke that he might announce his own opinions, not to treat theirs with disrespect. He held an opinion which seemed to be controverted by some gentlemen here, that a man might be loyal to his country and yet opposed to the President. He did not hold it to be just that the true and only test of patriotism was fealty to the President of the United States. He could imagine a set of circumstances,—nay, circumstances now existed, when a man could uphold the cause of his country and yet strenuously oppose the Executive. It seemed to him that great mistakes had been made here on the doctrines of the law of nations; and the positions taken seemed to show that we had become so degenerate that we had so far fallen from the high virtue of our patriot ancestors, as to suppose that the President of the U. States was the Government of the United States, and was possessed of unlimited power.—We are rapidly advancing toward that maxim of royalty that "the king can do no wrong," and that none could be patriots who did not shout hosannahs to whatever he might choose to do. Men might perseveringly vote supplies for the war; nay, they might wet with their best blood our battle fields but if they did not [illegible] the spirit and with all the servility of a spaniel, approach the throne, crawl to the foot of power, and there laud and justify all its deeds, whether good or bad, they were no better than traitors—the enemies of their country. If sentiments like these were to prevail, free born American citizens must surrender all their rights to freedom of speech, ay, even to liberty of thought.—Let those whose inborn servility of soul qualified them for such employment, go and offer their homage to the Executive.—He trusted there were those in the house who felt that they had higher duties and a nobler destiny. They stood here, not to praise the Executive, but to maintain the constitution. His continued prescription was of more consequence than any other question that could arise. He would take the liberty of assuming that the ambitious schemes of a President of the U. States might be the source of more real danger to our Republic and its liberties than an army of one hundred thousand invaders. These would be met at every pass, and driven back with ignominy whence they came. But who could give us back our lost liberties, our violated constitution?—When a petty usurper had come into power without the will of the people of these States, and almost without the wish or knowledge even of his own party, and without qualities in his own character to command the respect even of the meanest persons in the country, men were not wanting to shout acclamations to all he did and all he said. History told us of nations who had lost their freedom in former ages: but who, in their strength to maintain it, had immortalized their name by deeds of noble daring, and by patriotism the most self-sacrificing. They lost their liberties only because they were overwhelmed by power which they could not resist. But we, citizens of the freest Re[illegible]

---

[illegible] brought about by an unconstitutional [illegible] the President of the United States. He said that the country between the Nueces and the Rio Grande was subject to negotiation, but the President [illegible] to it by force of arms. Mr. G. insisted that this was an act of provocation calculated and intended to produce war; and it did produce it. It was a practical evasion of the constitution which reposed the power of war and peace in the Representatives of the People alone. A large discretionary power was necessarily left in the hands of the President and by the abuse of this he might bring on such a state of things that Congress could exercise no free volition in the case, but must declare war or suffer the country to be insulted. This was now the controversy between the President and the People of the United States.

Mr. G. here quoted the letter of Mr. Calhoun when Secretary of State, admitting the country between the Nueces and the Rio Grande, to be properly a subject of peaceable negotiation between the United States and Mexico.

Mr. G. said he would greatly like to know what instructions had been given to Mr. Slidell, when sent to negotiate on the subject of boundary, when at the same time our navy was stationed on the Mexican coast and Gen. Taylor ordered to the Rio Grande. Had he been instructed to insist on the cession of the Californias or of New Mexico? When those instructions should be submitted to Congress they could better determine whether this was undertaken as a war of conquest or not. Mr. G. regarded it, however, as certain that Mr. Slidell had been instructed not to agree to any treaty of boundary which did not include California, and perhaps New Mexico also.

The President seemed to have thought that a be only struck an imposing blow and made a strong military demonstration, that the Government of Mexico would be demanded, and thus his name and Administration would become glorious in history; but the war had lasted longer than he expected. Why had he sent armies into California and New Mexico? Did not this plainly show it was territory that he wanted?

The gentleman from Illinois, (Mr. Douglass,) a distinguished leader in the Executive ranks, and a learned jurist to boot, had stated to the House that, by the mere fact of conquest, New Mexico and California became part and parcel of the United States; that we had a perfect right to set up government over them; and further, that if a treaty of peace should be made without specific boundaries, all we had conquered would of course be annexed to the territory of the United States, and once taken, it could never go back but by an act of re-cession of by a re-conquest.

Now, Mr. G. had no doubt that this foreshowed the actual plan of the Administration to get rid of all difficulties and obstacles that sometimes attended the consulting of a legislative body. But it would not go. Even the more honest part of the Democracy themselves would never stand that. Old Virginia would not stand it. There was too much of patriotism, too much of the love of liberty yet remaining to sanction so gross an infraction of the constitution.

But his colleague, (Mr. Stanton,) a gentleman personally and politically associated with the President, had told the House that the President did not desire unjustly to wrest from Mexico any of her provinces; but that those who opposed the war were opposed to an event which was to constitute the great feature of this age, viz: the annexation of California; and that the man was blind who did not see that events all tended to such a result. [Mr. G. here quoted the report of Mr. Stanton's speech.]

To what result? Obviously (according to the language) to the unjust and unauthorized wresting of California from Mexico.

Mr. STANTON. Does my colleague mean to say that that was my meaning?

Mr. GENTRY. According to the language it must have been.

Mr. STANTON. Then the gentleman has scarcely a correct understanding of the English language.

Mr. GENTRY. That may be true. I am unlearned; but I submit to the learned here whether that it is not the import of the language used.

Mr. STANTON here explained. When he said things were tending to such a result, he did not mean the unjust and unauthorized annexation of California, but simply the annexation of a large portion of the Mexican territory.

Mr. GENTRY supposed that the gentleman only meant that we must indemnify ourselves for the expenses of the war; and to do this we should be obliged—most reluctantly obliged—to annex some of her provinces, though the whole nation was opposed to it. Yes; the President had not made war for conquest; not at all. But he found conquest in his path, and he could neither get over it, nor get round it; so he even picked it up. Now, Mr. G. insisted that no such annexation could take place without an act of the Legislature or a violation of the constitution. If it was the desire of the people that these provinces should become a part of the United States, let them say so. But they had not, and they would not. The President was a usurper, and they were traitors to their country who did not so regard him, when he attempted thus, without authority of law or constitution, to annex vast territories to this Union, greater than the entire area of the original States. He was a lawless usurper; and if the members of that House sanctioned him in proceding like these, they were unworthy of the seats they occupied; they were no patriots, and guilty of the highest treason against their country. It was their duty to resist the encroachments of Executive authority.—Those encroachments always had been made, and always would be, when not resisted by the patriots who witnessed them.

But he had not time even to glance at [illegible] the points which he could desire to [illegible] the present Administration [illegible] had been guilty of manifold crimes against the constitution, as well as against [illegible] prosperity and liberty of their country. [illegible] could any excuse be found for them [illegible] that urged by the divine Saviour in [illegible] of his crucifiers "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do." [illegible] doubted whether this Administration [illegible] enough to comprehend the vast [illegible] dependent dangers on which they were [illegible] the country.

[illegible] President was going to conquer [illegible] of country, larger than the thirteen States, and add it to this Union. Did any man know what he had intended to do [illegible] the two millions of dollars he had asked the House to appropriate for [illegible] expenses? A good Democrat had moved a celebrated resolution on the occasion prohibiting the purchase of any territory with the money, unless slavery was to be excluded from it. Surely, the people must [illegible] and if they shut their ears to the bearing such a resolution [illegible] were bound to anticipate the dangers which threatened them and to call the people to the rescue. Their dearest interests were about to be put in peril by fools and traitors. Would the Northern States consent that slavery should be established in these new provinces? Certainly not. They were to have at the extreme South a region of free States. What would the people of that South say to that?

Did not gentlemen see the difficulties which day in prospect before us? What was the President going to do with these provinces when he got them? This question of slavery had been left by our Revolutionary fathers at the time of the formation of the constitution, and even then it was one of the utmost difficulty. It came up again on the admission of Missouri and then it shook the deepest foundations of this entire Union. Nor was the storm averted but by the efforts of that disinterested patriot to whom the country owes so much of its prosperity. Should it be brought up again in this new form, [illegible] to produce the wreck of all our [illegible] These men in power were evidently trying to build up the South at the hazard of the Union itself. There were had men among us who desired its dissolution, and, unless Congress put a curb into the mouth of this petty tyrant, (and, as his side of the House could not do this alone, he invoked gentlemen on the other who loved their country to aid in the work,) we might anticipate consequences more disastrous than any thing that had occurred to us since the adoption of the constitution.

Mr. G. was against annexing any portion of Mexico by conquest; such a proceeding was at war with all the principles of our Government. The only source to derive authority to do this was to be sought in the expressed will of the people to be annexed. How could we, in conformity with the doctrines of our own constitution and the Declaration of Independence, force a particular form of government on any people against their will? Where was the President authorized to empower Com. Stockton and Gen. Kearney, his officers, to give constitutions to California and New Mexico, and to appoint there he read over the names of Officers appointed, some of whom, he said, he was utterly unable to pronounce) subordinate officers in these governments?

While the President assumed the Rio del Norte as the boundary of Texas from its mouth to its source, he at the same time congratulated Congress on the conquest of New Mexico and the capture of Santa Fe, though a large portion of the province as well as its capital, lay east of that river, and of course (according to him) within the State of Texas. Here was the President establishing a government and appointing all its officers within a sovereign State of the Confederacy; or else he was assuming the Rio Grande as the Texan boundary contrary to truth and fact. The message left him in this dilemma. As to Texas having once constituted part of Louisiana what had that to do with the present question touching his usurpation in forcing us into a war without consulting Congress? The Texas we admitted was revolutionized Texas, and her boundary no further than she had been able to establish and enforce her jurisdiction by the sword. At the point her territory terminated.

Mr. KENNEDY, of Indiana, did not suppose it very material to that Committee to know whether he had intended to speak on the occasion or not. The gentleman over the way, however, had informed them that he had not intended to make a speech now, but was induced to do so that he might bring himself under the denunciation of the President of the United States. And did the gentlemen, then, intend to "give aid and comfort to our enemies?"—It was against such persons only that the President's denunciation had been directed. When Mr. K heard the gentleman say this, he thought that, if such was his object, he must be possessed of nerve, both moral and physical, equal to all that he professed. For a man to avow that the object of his speech was to give aid and comfort to the enemies of his country, proved that he had never indeed—

Mr. GENTRY inquired whether the gentleman was meaning to speak of him?

Mr. KENNEDY said, as he had declared his object to be to bring himself under the denunciation of the President, and the President had denounced only those who gave aid and comfort to our enemies, he inferred that such must be the gentleman's object.

Mr. GENTRY said his object had been to show how much he despised and scorned him.

Mr. KENNEDY, resuming, said he, though the gentleman might have display[illegible] some ability in giving aid and comfort to the enemy, he exhibited a great want of [illegible] in doing it; and thought if Mr. [illegible] might show great zeal and courage [illegible] the field of battle, her friends always [illegible] little chill in their movement on the [illegible]