

WESTERN DEMOCRAT.

A Family Paper, devoted to State Intelligence, the News of the World, Political Information, Southern Rights, Agriculture, Literature, and Miscellany.

BY JOHN J. PALMER, Editor and Proprietor.

CHARLOTTE, MECKLENBURG COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA.

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LOWRIE & ENXINS, Book-Sellers, Charlotte, March 4, 1856.

FASHIONABLE TAILORING. THE subscriber announces to the public generally, that he is now receiving a large assortment of new

Cloths, Cassimeres and FESTINGS, for Gentlemen's wear, and will be sold for Cash at a small profit, or made to order according to the latest styles. Shop next door to Elm's Grocery Store.

D. L. REA, Feb. 16, 1855.

REMOVAL. R. W. Beckwith has removed his Jewelry Store to No. 2, Johnston's Row, three doors South of Kerr's Hotel.

Feb. 16, 1855.

News of the Day.

THE TERRIBLE MASSACRE ON THE Isthmus.

FURTHER PARTICULARS. We have further particulars of the dreadful massacre on the Isthmus between the Americans and natives, a brief account of which was given last week. The following version of the murderous affair was furnished the New York Tribune by a passenger, and its correctness is fully corroborated by the accounts of the Panama journals:

On the afternoon of the 15th of April, the passengers per steamer Illinois arrived at the rail road depot at Panama, on their way to the steamer J. L. Stephens, but owing to the low tide they were detained on shore. A portion of the passengers by the Cortez from San Francisco were also stopping at the several hotels in the vicinity of the depot. There could not have been less than 1,000 or 1,200 Americans congregated about the rail road terminus. About sunset a difficulty occurred between one of the Illinois' passengers (a notorious character from New Orleans, known as "New York Jack") and one of the negroes, which was freely joined by friends on both sides, and a general row now commenced. Pistols, bowie-knives, swords, muskets, clubs and rocks were freely used, and with deadly effect. The Americans were generally unarmed, having only a few small revolvers, and, consequently, after a short struggle, had to yield the ground. The natives were reinforced by large numbers. They now made an attack upon the different hotels and drove all the inmates out, many of whom sought safety, as they supposed, in the depot building.

About this time the police (God save the term!) was called in requisition; but instead of attempting to restore order, it is positively known that a portion of them joined the negroes and made the assault upon the depot. The police and negroes fired upon the crowd, and drove every man, woman and child from the building, who, in their flight, ran in every direction—some to the boats, and others to the thick brush and woods, where they remained during the night, and with the expectation of being murdered when daylight appeared. A large number were fortunate enough to get on board the small steamer, and were conveyed to the J. L. Stephens. After the natives had accomplished their work of death, and dispersed all from the ground, they commenced plundering the baggage and destroying everything to be found in the hotels. The passengers, in their sudden flight, left and lost everything. After plundering all to be found in the hotels, the black mob attacked the depot building, which contained a large amount of luggage and treasure, all of which the rascals obtained. They then commenced to tear up the rail road track, and to pull down the telegraph poles, and destroyed both rail road and telegraph offices. They were aware that the express goods would be brought over from Aspinwall that night, and had laid their plans to seize them.—They tore up the track in the vicinity of the depot, in order that the engine might run off; but through the exertions of Mr. Williams, (a conductor on the road), the express train was stopped by his signals before reaching the fatal point, and the lives of those on board and the goods were saved, and the train put back to Aspinwall, where it remained at the time the Philadelphia sailed.

I have no means of knowing the number killed and wounded. There were twenty-five Americans found dead, immediately around the depot in the morning, most of whom were passengers from the Cortez, but this number is probably not half that were murdered.

During the night some scattering Americans were picked up from time to time by the police, and escorted to the gates of the city, but with the requisition of from \$5 to \$20 each for so doing, and in several instances they were robbed of all money, watches and other effects found upon their persons, and their lives threatened in case of resistance.

Soon after the commencement of hostilities the Governor of Panama and the American Consul were on the ground, but their exertions to quiet the riot proved ineffectual. The Spanish portion of the inhabitants of Panama were much frightened. Every house and place of business was instantly closed and barred, and but few ventured out upon the balcony during the night.—The hotels in the city were closed and guarded until morning.

The writer says it is believed by many that \$100,000 in money and effects was lost by the passengers. He gives a list of over 50 sufferers, principally cabin passengers, whose aggregate loss in money, clothing, jewelry, &c., amounts to \$41,336. Among them are Samuel M. Waggoner, of Baltimore, the heaviest sufferer, who was robbed of \$4,000 in money, and \$600 in clothing, jewelry, &c.; A. Douglas, of Baltimore, robbed of \$1,340 in money and \$280 in clothing, &c.; C. Loveday, of Baltimore, robbed of \$250 in money and \$500 in clothing, &c.; W. W. Williams, of Tennessee, robbed of \$100 in money, &c.; A. A. Lochler, of Philadelphia, \$350; B. H. Johnson, wife and two daughters, of Illinois, \$4,800;

Mrs. Scofield and four daughters, of California, \$2,050, and G. W. Ingersoll, of Ohio, \$30.

The storage passengers, it is said, have generally refused to make known their losses until they see what action our government will take in the matter.

It is stated that only one lady and two children were killed. Mitchell Betters, of Vermont, who was killed, was robbed of \$2,000.

Among the wounded not mentioned yesterday were Joseph M. Parker, Bangor, Me., cut with a machete on the head—skull fractured, and a stab in the loins; A. W. Selover, Providence, R. I., shot through the lungs with a musket ball; A. Lante, Swane Strong, Maine, shot in the shoulder with a musket ball, which passed down into the kidneys; Patrick J. O'Neil, San Francisco, gun shot through the body, and a gash on the head with a machete; Nathan Preble, Hancock county, Ohio, cut in the face very badly with a machete.

One account says that but few of the natives were killed, while another states that about 40 of them fell. A correspondent writes that an attempt having been made to get the passengers who were in the vicinity of the station on board the little steamer, the natives formed a guard at the beach, and stripped men, women, and children as they approached, taking the women's rings from their fingers and ears, and their pins from their cuffs and bosoms.

The treasure brought down by the Cortez was not looted before the riot, and was thus saved. At the Ocean House and the Pacific Hotel all the baggage was scattered and more money taken in proportion because many of the inmates of those houses were returning Californians. There was among these also a large amount of valuable baggage, consisting of jewelry, trinkets, crape shawls, &c.

The next morning the rioters, being wearied, and many of them drunk, lay in the huts and boats asleep, and order was partially restored. The Cortez passengers were hurried off early to Aspinwall, whence they embarked on the 17th on the steamer Philadelphia.

The British consul was active in assisting the American consul and others in restoring order.

GEN. WALKER—COSTA RICA—ENGLAND.

The intercepted correspondence, captured by Gen. Walker, between the Costa Rican and the British Governments, puts a new phase on Central American affairs, and must tend greatly to exasperate an already excited feeling against the intriguing policy of England. In utter disregard of our neutrality laws, and in violation of the spirit of the Monroe doctrine, England is engaged in a most covert attempt at colonizing still further on American soil.

The correspondence is published at length in the New York Herald, and shows that Lord Clarendon freely offered 2,000 smooth bore muskets to the Costa Ricans at a certain price, but as Wallerstein, an agent of the last named government observed, with much sang froid, "NOTHING IS SAID ABOUT THE TIME OF PAYMENT!"—This can mean nothing else than that England never meant to demand any payment for them, but to that extent purchase the good will of the Costa Ricans, in order that she might the more successfully carry on her vile schemes of intrigue against the policy and government of the United States.

Wallerstein tells Gen. Mora, in his correspondence, of the "affable manner in which Lord Clarendon spoke" to him, and of his "manifestations of sympathy and friendship for Costa Rica," clearly indicating the true, the interested feeling of the British government. We make an extract from Wallerstein's letter, dated London, Feb. 26, 1856, to Gen. Mora, the commandant of the Costa Rican forces:

"When I was telling Lord Clarendon that Costa Rica already had an army of 300 men on the frontier of Nicaragua he was much pleased, and said 'that was the right step,' and I am persuaded that my having made that insinuation is one of the reasons for giving us the muskets. The questions pending between this country and the United States are very complicated, but there will be no war, for this reason, that the gentlemen in the great republic observe that although the British nation do not boast or say much on the subject, they are determined to punish the Yankees very severely for the least insult to the national honor.—To the eyes of the whole world—of this country in particular—a war between the two nations would be one of the worst of evils; but to Central America the case would be very different, as Walker and his associates would soon be kicked out of Nicaragua."

Coupled with this we have the intelligence that an English fleet will be immediately sent to the Pacific coast of Costa Rica.

These despatches show the temper of the British Ministry in terms of unequivocal import, and give the lie to all the canting friendship that has professed from time to time, fully exemplifying the force of the stop thief proverb. Whilst the British Ministry have been railing and charging our government with unfriendly feelings, they have been secretly at work, and the more to be denounced because of their sneaking, covert and thief like stealth. The British and

French soldiers discovered fighting under the Costa Rican flag shows that there are other filibusters besides Walker and his followers!

Whilst we deprecate war, and still hope that better counsels may prevail, that public sentiment in England will be powerful enough to correct the insidious policy of her Ministry, it is quite possible that "Central America may become the Crimea of this Continent," in which event we should not be without our gain; inasmuch as a contest with a foreign foe would at once cement the bonds of our Union, and rivet together sections of the country whose fastenings have not only loosened, but well nigh rusted in twain, by a causer that has been cherished rather than remedially extirpated.

DISAPPOINTMENT AT PEACE.

The London Morning Chronicle says: "The English have come out of the struggle with a vague but irritating notion that they have not given any one a sound thrashing, and that all the millions spent upon their naval and military preparations have been so much money absolutely thrown away." The London Sun of the 14th ult., has a long exhibition of the bitterest spleen on the subject. The Morning Herald of the same date says: "We have expended our millions for nothing; not even to be indemnified for the expenses of the war." The French are amused at the "groans of the Britons."—They have reason to be satisfied with their share of glory, but at what a cost of human life has it been achieved! The French loss of men is estimated at a hundred and thirty thousand, not including the terrible mortality in the last three months from typhus fever and other camp diseases.

STEAM POWER ECLIPSED.—The London Morning Chronicle announces an important discovery. It is stated that a great experiment was recently tried at Vincennes in the presence of General Lahitte and the officers of the fort. The secret of compressing and governing electricity is at length discovered, and the power may, therefore, now be considered as the sole motor henceforward to be used. A small mortar was fired by the inventor at the rate of a hundred shots a minute—without flashing, smoke or noise. The same power can, it seems, be adapted to every system of mechanical invention, and is destined to supersede steam, requiring neither machinery nor combustion. A vessel propelled by this power is said to skim the water like a bird, and to fear neither storm nor hurricane. The inventor has already petitioned for a line of steamers from L'Orient to Norfolk, in the United States, which passage he promises to accomplish in eight and forty hours!"

MARTYRS OF THE REVOLUTION.—A correspondent of a New York journal, referring to the movement of Southern ladies for the purchase of Mount Vernon, recommends to the people of New York an enterprise which appeals more directly to the citizens of that State and city. He states that near Hudson Avenue, Brooklyn, is a little piece of ground, faced by a stone wall, and crowned by a rotten wooden building, beneath which repose the bodies of eleven thousand men, martyrs of America during the Revolution. It is where the famous Jersey Prison Ship was anchored during the War. The writer calls upon the ladies of New-York to lead the way in a movement for removing these bones to a sepulchre worthy of such great sacrifices and of the mighty name of America.

AN ENTERPRISING NEGRO. Negroes generally have not the capacity or industry to acquire wealth, under any circumstances, bond or free. Occasionally, however, as in all general rules, we find an exception. A correspondent (W. H. Bower) of the Saturday Evening Post, says:

"I have read in your paper an account of a free negro in one of the free States, who, by his industry, had accumulated several thousand dollars worth of property, and raised a large family. Reading this reminds me of a case in South Carolina, which deserves notice. A negro man, by name William Ellison, was bound out by his master to a gin-wright, in Winnsborough, S. C. During the time of his apprenticeship he was allowed, by his master, to do extra work; and from his industry and economy he laid up sufficient money to purchase his freedom from his master. About thirty years ago, he came to Statesburg, Sumter District, S. C., and commenced gin making and repairing, and in a short time he was able to purchase his wife and children. And the last time I was in South Carolina, in the year 1845, William Ellison owned 40 or 50 negroes, (among them 15 or 20 workmen,) a large cotton plantation, and owns nearly half of the town of Statesburg; and I expect by this time (if he is living) he is worth eighty to one hundred thousand dollars. William Ellison is respected by all classes of citizens, and is honorable in all his dealings."

In 1850, the population of the United States, will be equal to that of Great Britain, 30,040,000 souls. In 1800 that of Great Britain numbered three times our population; but in 1900, if this world of ours lasts so long, the relative proportion will be exactly reversed. Nothing like the growth of Young America!

BARNUMISM.

Barnum, deprived of the fruits of his former labors, by being out-witted by a brother Yankee clock vender, has put his wits to work to "raise the wind" once more. He has performed many wonders, but the greatest of all is his new enterprise. It consists in nothing less than passing down the Niagara cataract, in a vessel constructed for this purpose. This vessel is a ball of gutta percha, thirty feet in diameter, supported in its interior by hoops, rings of steel, and wood. Strings of gutta percha, coming from four points of the rings, meet in the centre of the sphere, where they are fixed to a coat of mail of the same material.—This is so fixed that a man buckled in it, hangs, supported by the four strings, safe in the middle of the ball. At the lower end of the ball, where the lower part of the mail is directed, some lead is put, so that swimming in the water the head side will be turned upwards. In this upper part there is a hole which may be opened by the person in the interior. The ball is so strong, as to sustain without danger the shock of the fall. On account of its size it cannot sink, nor can the person buckled in the coat of mail suffer any harm from the violence of the fall. As soon as the ball, after its fall, has found its centre of gravity, its inhabitant unbuckles himself, opens the flap, and gets out of the hold, waving the United States colors under the applause of some 50,000 or 100,000 spectators, whom Barnum intends to assemble, one dollar each, upon the occasion of his first performance. From every such performance a gain \$20,000 or \$30,000 is to be counted on, since from all parts of the Union spectators will flock to the cataract of Niagara. Barnum is about to make an experiment with a dog. If that animal arrives all right below, a nigger will be engaged for the next experiment. If that one arrives equally safe, the Yankee undertakes the first serious passage himself.

IRANISTAN DESERTED.—A correspondent of the Springfield (Mass.) American, who has just been to Iranistan, the late palace seat of P. T. Barnum, says: "A visit to Iranistan, where Barnum lived so lately in all his glory, affords an excellent text for a sermon on the mutability of all mundane affairs. The grounds are neglected; the hothouse has received no more care this winter than enough to keep the plants from freezing—the fountains have forgotten to play—the flowers are coming out amid heaps of leaves and rubbish, which have not been cleared away, and a rail bars the entrance to the deserted palace, whose figurative latch string always used to be out. The robins and sparrows hold undisputed possession of the grounds. Aladdin has lost his palace for a time."

JENNY LIND AND BARNUM.—Jenny Lind has written a private letter to a lady of Philadelphia, in which she deeply sympathizes with Barnum in his financial troubles, ascribes to him the most noble qualities, and expresses her intention of placing a sum of money at his disposal.

Mrs. Jerusha Palmer, for many years publisher of the Mount Holly (N. J.) Mirror, and mother of V. B. Palmer, Esq., of Philadelphia, died in Mount Holly on Saturday night. She was 90 years of age, and was, with one exception, the oldest resident of Mount Holly.

SPIRITUALISM. The Newburyport Herald says: The Spiritual Rapping phenomena are creating quite a sensation in the south part of this county. In Lynn they are said to be received, as from the spirits of the dead, by a majority of the people of that city. At a lecture on the subject, in Marblehead, by Allen Putnam, Esq., of Roxbury, 700 persons were present, and that was all the house would hold. In Salem this spiritual theory has been so extensively embraced by some of the most sober-minded and learned men—including quite a number of professional gentlemen—that it has become a matter of serious disturbance in religious circles; the clergy of the evangelical denominations are awakening to its prevalence and church action is being had on the matter.

It is not surprising that a people capable of being infatuated with the miserable humbuggery of Spirit Rapping, should be anti-slavery fanatics.

APPALLING CATASTROPHE.—The new suspension bridge over the falls of Montgomery above the Niagara Falls, gave way on the morning of the 30th ult. The whole structure, with a man, woman, horse and cart, were carried over the falls, and went down the cataract a distance of 250 feet.

The Lynchburg Virginian records the sale of a number of servants there, on Thursday, at the following high prices:—Shadrach, about 70 years old, \$100; Samuel, \$2,124; Mac, \$2,110; Willis, \$1,900; Pamel, aged 25, \$1,610; Peter, \$1,400; Robin, \$1,250; Charles, \$1,580; Jack, \$1,770; Woodson, \$1,320; John Mac, \$1,640; Pleasant, \$1,500; Dice, \$1,275. The average price is over \$1,400 each, and the aggregate amount, \$19,825. They were all bought by citizens of Lynchburg.

The Wheeling Argus reports that a small comet has been seen there, as well as at Wilmington, N. C., for several nights.

POLITICAL.

SOUTH CAROLINA AND THE CINCINNATI CONVENTION.

The South Carolina Democratic Convention met in Columbia, on Monday last.—Twenty-three districts were represented. The proceedings were very harmonious.—Hon. F. W. Pickens was elected Chairman. Mr. Popenheim offered the following resolution:—

Resolved, That this Convention, placing the fullest confidence in the sound conservative principles that will govern the action of the Cincinnati Convention, recommend to the delegates composing this Convention, the call of public meetings in their several districts to receive the report of their delegates after their return from Cincinnati, and to take such action as will secure the support of the people of South Carolina, and to take such action as will secure the support of the people of South Carolina to the nominee for the presidency of the Cincinnati Democratic Convention.

The resolution was adopted. Mr. Orr being called upon, addressed the Convention. On behalf of the State the following delegates were appointed to attend the Cincinnati National Convention; Hon. F. W. Pickens, Ex-Governor J. L. Manning, Hon. A. G. Magrath and Gen. J. M. Gadsberry. The following were appointed from the Congressional Districts: from the first, B. H. Wilson and C. W. Dudley; from the second, W. D. Porter and C. Macbeth; from the third, Hon. J. D. Allen and Col. B. H. Brown; from the fourth, P. S. Brooks and C. P. Sullivan; from the fifth, Hon. J. L. Orr and James Farrow; from the sixth, Hon. F. J. Moses and E. G. Palmer.

Mr. McGowan, from the Committee on Resolutions, reported the following resolutions, unanimously adopted by his Committee, representing the spirit of various resolutions submitted to them:

1. Resolved, That a proper administration of the affairs of the Federal Government must depend upon a careful regard, on the part of each of its branches, for the limitations upon their powers, imposed by the Constitution of the United States, and a due respect to the reserved rights of the several States.

2. Resolved, That the principle of the equal rights of the States in the view of the Constitution, and of all laws based upon it, constitutes the fundamental condition upon which the Union was formed, and can alone be maintained.

3. Resolved, That we recognize in the removal of the Missouri restriction upon the equal rights of the slaveholding States, a practical acknowledgment of that great principle upon the part of the Federal Government, and deem this a proper occasion to render our support and assistance to the Democratic party in the nomination and election of a Presidential candidate, who may represent the late action of that party upon this question, and whose claims of success may be made to depend, not upon a combination for the spoils of office, but upon a fair representation of the great issue which is to be joined between the friends of the equal rights of the States, and a strict construction of the Constitution, and those who are opposed to both.

4. Resolved, That in conformity with the request of our sister State, Georgia, "to cooperate with her" upon this subject, this Convention deem it fit and proper at this time that in waiving for the present all objection to its organization and mode of proceeding, should be represented in the National Democratic Nominating Convention, upon condition, in the language of our friends of Georgia, that said Convention "shall adopt a platform of principles, which shall, amongst other things, include in substance the following propositions: 1. The recognition and adoption of the principles contained in the Kansas and Nebraska act, and in conformity with these principles, that the people of Kansas have the right, when the number of their people justifies it, to form a Constitution with or without slavery, and be admitted into the Union upon terms of perfect equality with the other States. 2. That neither the Missouri Compromise nor any other anti-slavery restriction shall hereafter be extended over any territory of the United States. 3. The prompt and faithful execution of the fugitive slave law, and its prominent continuance upon the statute book.

5. Resolved, That the inflexible devotion to sound constitutional principles of Franklin Pierce, as evinced in his annual messages to Congress, and his adherence to the equal rights of all the States in sustaining the doctrine of Congressional non-intervention and non-interference on the question of slavery in the common territories of the Union, entitle him to the gratitude, confidence and cordial support of all true constitutional Democrats.

6. Resolved, That Franklin Pierce is the first choice of this Convention for President of the United States, and that thorough identification in sentiment and opinion with the principles embodied in the foregoing resolutions is a pre-requisite, indispensable to our support in any candidate of the Democratic party.

Mr. Meetez moved that the vote be taken on the resolutions separately; when each was passed and the whole adopted.

Hon. P. Soule lectured in New Orleans on Monday night last, on events now transpiring in Central America.