



**THE "FREE PRESS,"**

By George Howard,

Is published every Friday, at THREE DOLLARS per year, consisting of 52 numbers, and in the same proportion for a shorter period. Subscribers at liberty to discontinue at any time, on paying arrearages.

Advertisements inserted at fifty cents per square, or less, for the first insertion, and twenty-five cents each continuance.

Letters addressed to the Editor must be *post paid*.

**DOMESTIC.**

*State of Morals in the West.*

The dense population of England scarcely furnishes more instances of bloody violence, than are announced almost every week in the papers which reach us from the Western States. Crimes which sicken the heart, appear to flourish where the greatest refinement of manners might be expected. Assassinations, the courage of cowards, is the order of the day. A physician, protected by the darkness of the evening, murdered a member of the legislature, to gratify his malevolence—the son of the governor of Kentucky, is found with the bloody garments upon him of a stranger, whom he had decoyed, murdered and robbed. Judges and district attorneys, perish in private combat—and the humbler classes of society, follow close in the rear of those savage examples. Surely the West has gained little in civilization since its early history. The wild beasts that inhabited it, might plead instinct for their ferocity—the much abused and insulted savages, no civilized nation dare rebuke, seeing that the most civilized encouraged them to scalp their prisoners, for the cause of religion. But we of the present day, what excuse shall be made for us—none—none. Let us flatter ourselves as much as we please, as being the centre of civilization, where rays are to emanate in all directions for the benefit of mankind: let us send missionaries into the wilderness to unteach the savage the vices which man, in a state of refinement, has taught him. But before they enter on the sphere of their exertions, let them stop, and endeavor to correct those vices which all the advantages of society have proved inadequate to overcome.

Chas. Courier.

The effigy of Henry Clay was burnt at Pittsburg, on the night of the 14th inst. A writer in the Pittsburg Gazette, says, that "the preparations for this infamous affair were made in haste and in secret;" and "that no man having the most remote pretention to respectability or decency, is in the smallest degree suspected of participation in it."

The Huntsville Democrat, pronounces Alexander Pope and Gen. Taylor, Register and Receiver of the Land Office at Cahawba, as swindlers both of private and public monies, to an extensive amount.—The disclosure is made in a communication, which the Editor corroborates.

Petersburg Int.

*Western Lands.*—The very moderate rates at which some of the finest lands in the world, are now selling in Louisiana, is a circumstance not generally known abroad. We have just heard of the sale of 426 acres of land within three miles of the Mississippi and ten of Baton Rouge, for about seventeen hundred dollars. Near 100 acres of the land in question were cleared and partly under fence. There were some buildings on the place and several springs of good water. When the proximity to market is considered, four dollars are certainly far short of the real value of land which yields 250 lbs cotton per acre, and is ready to receive the plough. If the cotton planters emigrating from the impoverished soils of Georgia and the Carolinas knew how low lands are selling in some parts of Louisiana, we think the tide of emigration to Arkansas would be in a great measure, turned this way. *N. Orleans paper.*

*Indians.*—An interesting statement of the superintendants of Indian affairs is among the documents accompanying the President's late communication to Congress on the subject of making provision for the permanent settlement of the Indian tribes on the west of the Mississippi....we glean from this official paper the following facts.... That the number of Creeks located in Georgia and Alabama is 20,000....and that in Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee there are no more than 9,000 Cherokees....the Creeks claim in this State 4,245,760 acres of land and the Cherokees 5,292,160 acres....in all 9,537,920 acres....the Creeks and Cherokee claim in Alabama 5,995,200 acres....and the Cherokees have in Tennessee 1,055,680....So that the Cherokees, with a population of 9,000 souls, are in possession of 9,000,000 of acres, or 1,000 acres for every individual, man, woman and child. The whole number of Indians within the limits of the several states and territories is estimated at 129,266 souls, divided into sixty four tribes and remnants of tribes, who claim 77,403,348 acres of land. The Indians residing in the States of North Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama and Mississippi are estimated at 53,625, consisting of Cherokees, Creeks, Choctaws and Chickasaws, claiming about 33,573,176 acres, including the claim of the Cherokees of 200,000 acres in North Carolina!

*Fire.*—We regret to learn that the British brig Gen. Brock Capt. Whitby, lying below Wilmington, loading for Liverpool, took fire on Saturday night last, and was entirely consumed, with 900 bbls. turpentine, and 200 bales cotton. The 2d mate and two seamen are missing, and it is supposed they were either burnt or drowned.

*Distribution of offices.*—The Editor of the National Gazette "opines" that, in the distribution of Offices by the new President, "the South would be unreasonable to desire any larger portion of office than it has

uniformly enjoyed." We should be glad if this *opiniatre* gentleman would inform us what proportion of civil office under the general government has been for the last five & twenty years enjoyed by the State of North Carolina, for example. What Minister abroad has she filled? What office, except the temporary Commission under an article of the Treaty of Ghent? None: we do not believe there is at this moment, among the two or three hundred persons in office at the seat of Government, with the exception before-mentioned a single citizen of that State. We do not mean, however, to advance the opinion that more of the officers of government ought to be selected from the country South and West of New England, than has lately been. We only say, that in the nature of things, it must be so, particularly in case of a choice of President being made under the circumstance of the late election. The President elect will always be strong at home. It will then be his policy, in the spirit of our government, too, so to distribute the great offices of the government as to conciliate, as far as practicable, the good will of the People of all the States. And what ever the editor of the National Gazette may think of it as a fact that the Virginia Presidents whom he speaks of, have made more appointments to office from the State of Massachusetts, at a distance from the Seat of Government, than from the Ancient Dominion, lying in juxtaposition to it....*Nat. Int.*

On the 15th inst. a large number of the Citizens of Trenton and vicinity, advocates of the election of J. Q. ADAMS, partook of a sumptuous dinner at the Rising Sun Tavern, in honor of his election to the Presidency. The centre of the table was graced with a large Pumpkin Pie, measuring 4 feet by 2.

*Wars and rumors of wars.*—The Philadelphia papers state that orders have been received from Washington, "to finish immediately the U. S. vessels upon the stocks in that port, and to put two more on the stocks. We know not that this is any indication of war: It is the business of wise rulers to be prepared for that evil in the leisure of peace." [Similar orders have been recently issued, we understand, to the other naval depots.]

*What does this mean?*—The Northern Editors are at a loss to understand the reasons of the reported movements in the Navy Department. Orders are said to have been received at Philadelphia for the immediate completion of the vessels of war now building there, and for putting two more on the stocks. The N. Y. American says, that similar orders have been received at the Navy Yard there, and that the *Express* immediately proceeded on to the eastward. The N. Y. Mer. Advertiser generalises the rumor, and reports that orders had been dispatched to the naval depots to prepare for sea with all expedition the vessels of war now lying in ordi-

nary at the several stations. *Why* those orders? Are they issued at the instance of the President, present or elect? To meet any event already known to the people, or some crisis yet to be developed? Is it Spain, France, what is it? Or is it merely the execution of the system for the gradual increase of our Navy? It is only to pursue with spirit the War against the pirates says the Phil. Franklin Gazette.—The Baltimore Federal Gazette, gives us a further rumour, that orders have issued for assembling a strong U. S. squadron at or near Gibraltar.

Another rumour (continues the Gazette) is, that a discovery has been made of the existence of a *secret treaty* between Spain, and some of the Continental Powers of Europe, the conditions of which are calculated to disturb the peace of the world, and that a knowledge of this circumstance hastened the recognition of the independence of Colombia and Mexico by England." For ourselves, we have heard no rumour, and can give no explanation....*Eng.*

**FOREIGN.**

London dates to the 15th January, have been received at New-York; the following extracts are given:

The Paris Journals, which have arrived to a late date, continue to be occupied with the discussions on the step England has taken in recognizing part of the new South American States, and which is described as having caused a great sensation in that capital. It is asserted in a private letter from Paris, that in general this vigorous act of the English Cabinet is the first blow given to the Holy Alliance, and that it is a fact that the cabinets of Madrid, Paris and Petersburg have long been preparing a powerful diversion in S. America; which the sudden recognition of England has now overthrown.

The Paris Quotidienne, of Jan. 10, says that the Representatives of the Holy Alliance met the day before yesterday, and that a note was sent to the Cabinet of St. James, on the subject of its determination as to South America. The Quotidienne says this determination is a strange one; the Etoile breaks out into threats against England. Suggestions are thrown out of a misunderstanding between England and the Holy Alliance, for which it is even said they have been for some time secretly preparing.

*Greece.*—Private letters from Hydra of 2d December announce that a naval action had taken place near Rhodes subsequent to 2d December, in which an Egyptian frigate was burnt and several transports taken.

The fortress of Patras after being blockaded, both by land and sea, is now regularly besieged. Eight vessels detached from the squadron of Admiral Miaoulis intercept all communication from without, by consent of the English, who have recognized the legitimacy of the blockade proclaimed by the Hellenic Government. Cannons and mortars have been landed at the anchorage of St. Andre, and transported to Scotaroni,

where a battery is preparing. The works are directed by European engineers and the artillery supplied by a body of strangers. Ten thousand Greek soldiers commanded by Andre Xaines and Constantine Bozzaris defend the besiege.

On the 27th Nov. Constantine Bozzaris, being informed that Jousouf Pacha had just sent two thousand men from Lepanto, commanded by the celebrated Achmet Pacha, left Sichenah himself for the purpose of encountering them. He came up with them on the plain of Xero Compos, beat them, killed Achmet Pacha, and took away from the Turks the desire of giving further annoyance to the besiegers. The capture, therefore, of the fort of Patras may be considered very near.

*Spain.*—The evacuation of Spain by the French troops has been a signal for the re-organization of the constitutionalists into guerrillas in various parts of that distracted country; and the measures adopting by the government will have a tendency to strengthen and exasperate the people and perhaps produce another overturn in its constituted authorities. The government, it is said, intend to bring to trial all the ex-political chiefs within its power; and the re-establishment of the cursed inquisition is said to be beyond doubt, the decree only wanting the King's signature. Gen. Espagne, commandant of Arragon, has applied to the Minister at War for more troops to restrain the people, who are rising every where, particularly at Lower Arragon. The finances of the government are so crippled, and its treasury so exhausted, that certain officers draw only one third of their pay. Several plans for the relief of the Treasury has been suggested, among others the sale of the seventh part of the estate in mortmain, the property of the Convents. The actual administration are not in concert, one part being advocates for moderate measures, and another and the strongest are their antagonists. The inhabitants are arrested on charges of uttering seditious cries and tried by Courts Martial. The prisons are represented to be full, notwithstanding these Courts "pursue their labors with extraordinary activity." A great number of persons had been arrested at Vich, and their being no permanent commission, a court martial of Royalist Officers, few of whom could read, was formed. This Court, without hearing the witnesses in defence, condemned all the prisoners to the gallies. An appeal from this decision, "which had plunged 200 of the principal families in Vich into mourning," had been forwarded to the Captain General.

Another expedition to South America is talked of, to facilitate which the expences incurred are to have preference to the treasury over every other claim, and one third of all receipts are appropriated for that purpose.

The King's royal family arrived at Madrid on the 13th November.

Paris papers of the 13th Jan. mention the death of the King of Naples and Sicily.