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OUR NEXT PRESIDENT.

"But he is too young." This is the final, and nearly the only argument, which I have heard any one offer against the election of Mr. John C. Calhoun to the Presidency. "He is too young," say many who admit that he is in every other respect well qualified for that responsible station. Is youth a crime? Is not a man ordinarily in his prime at forty-five years of age? Would it not be desirable to have a President in the prime and glory of his days? Mr. Calhoun, if elected, will only want one month of being forty-three years old, at the time of his inauguration. If the circumstance of age might be regulated by our choice, we could not wish the next President to be older.

"But after eight years we shall need Mr. Calhoun for a President, more than we now do: let him wait, and he shall, undoubtedly, have the next turn." So say some; but if Mr. Calhoun is now better qualified for the office than any one of the other candidates, why not elect him, and trust in Providence to furnish us with some suitable successor? The sources of life and wisdom are not likely to run dry in our country in eight years; and at that time, and perhaps even four years hence, some greater man than Calhoun may enjoy the confidence and favor of the nation.

The writer has been personally acquainted with Mr. Calhoun since 1802; and can attest, that while a member of Yale College, he was a firm republican in his principles and manners; was one of the best scholars in a class of about seventy members; enjoyed the confidence of all who intimately knew him; and sustained a strictly moral and honorable character. His sterling integrity and decided republicanism he has ever since maintained. For promptitude and decision of character, combined with eagle-eyed prudence, he is excelled by none of his competitors. His honorable independence of conduct in public life has gained him many friends and admirers—even among his political opponents. He crouches to no man; is the tool of no party; but is courteous to all. With the whole routine of business at the seat of government he is better acquainted than any one of our public officers; and although called to disburse millions of dollars, through several hundred agents, the funds of the War Department have been managed by him with as little loss as those of any extensive mercantile house in Philadelphia. He is economical, by being accurate and cautious in his dealing, and liberal only when the public is thereby enriched. He is not of the do nothing party, I admit, and sorry should I be to have a President, who, for the sake of being lauded for his frugality, would suffer our most important national defences, and means of aggrandizement, to perish. The man who would suffer a good house to rot down over his head, because it would cost something to keep the roof in a sound state; and the politician who would waste millions of treasures by not expending a few hundreds to preserve them, would be fools alike.

Mr. Calhoun has always been an advocate for universal suffrage. Can the same be said in truth of Mr. Crawford? But the former gentleman is at the same time sensible, that the universal exercise of the elective franchise can be productive of the public welfare among a well informed people alone; and therefore he would have the means of knowledge universally diffused, and, so far as possible, a good education in the common branches of learning the birthright of every citizen. This has brought against him the accusation, that he desires a splendid government, from some who do not consider, that wisdom and virtue are the foundation of our republican institutions; and that ignorance and vice support the thrones of tyrants. When useful human knowledge shall cease to be generally diffused among the people of the United States, we may bid adieu to civil and religious liberty. Were the American people as ignorant as the great mass of the people in Spain and France, we might at the present moment, instead of freely discussing the question "who shall be our next President?" be under the necessity of receiving from some falsely called Holy Alliance, some monarch like Louis the gross, or Ferdinand, the petticoat maker.

None but a well informed, can be a virtuous community; and republicanism, without common sense and common honesty among our electors, would appear only in the horrible anarchy of the government of the guillotine. Besides, it would be easy to show that the public expenditures which Mr. Calhoun has advocated and promoted have been productive of a great increase of wealth to the union; and will be not only a considerable saving but finally an emolument to the government itself. How much better is his plan of civilizing the Indian tribes, than any other mode of treating them which has hitherto been adopted! Under the patronage of Congress, and the immediate and wise control of the Secretary of War, there are at present about two thousand Indian children in the different missionary schools, engaged in learning not only the common science, but all the most useful arts of civilized life. Principally under his auspices, some of the Indian nations have begun to cultivate their lands, establish county limits, erect court houses, and govern themselves according to the pattern of our republican states. This mode of keeping our Indian neighbors at peace, cost far less than those expensive Indian wars to which the nation has formerly had recourse. Thirty years more of such training as Mr. Calhoun has now commenced, will probably civilize all the wandering tribes within our national boundaries; and render further appropriations for their instruction, for treaties with them, and for defence of our frontiers against their barbarous incursions, entirely needless.

The manner in which Mr. Calhoun has disbursed the appropriation of ten thousand dollars by Congress, for the promotion of civilization among the savages of our wilderness, evinces his sound policy, and deserves the thanks of every good man.—Instead of setting up independent establishments, two of which would have exhausted the whole appropriation, he has co-operated with the missionary establishments of different religious denominations; and has employed their teachers; thereby bringing to the aid of the government the individual charities of the religious community. He is neither afraid nor ashamed to have his opinion known that Christianity and civilization flourish best together; and he will employ the most efficient agents in promoting the public service, even should they be religious institutions. If he is to be blamed at all in this matter, it is for impartiality to all religious denominations; for even the Romanists have received assistance in their operations among the Indians.

Our excellent military school at West Point, the preservation of our fortifications in the best order, the present state of our small army, and the useful exploring expeditions sent out by him, all are arguments to prove that Mr. Calhoun, if elected, would make such a president as would honor the United States, and one whom the free and sovereign citizens of this happy country would delight to honor.

He would be, I am confident, not the exclusive and bigoted chief ruler of any one political party, but the republican father of all patriotic and virtuous men of the Union. CLERICUS.

FOREIGN.

FROM ENGLAND.

By the arrival of the packet ship Columbia, Capt. Rogers, from Liverpool, we have intelligence from England seven days later than was before received. The Columbia sailed on the 2d November, and our files of papers are to the first of that month.

General Riego has been tried and condemned to death—Cavia was his Judge. The crime in the act of accusation against him was, for having voted as a Deputy of the Cortes, the deposition of the King, and the nomination of the Regency.

On the authority of the London Courier, it is stated, that France is to continue the military occupation of Spain to a certain extent, and until the government of Ferdinand is entirely and firmly re-established. In pursuance of this plan, Cadiz will be occupied by 10,000 troops; Madrid by 5000, and 15,000 will take up positions along the line of the Ebro. One great point, says the Courier, which it is intended to accomplish, if possible, is the entire disbanding of the Spanish army, as now constituted, and to re-model it upon a totally different system.

The Madrid dates are to the 20th of October, when the emigration of those who were employed under the Cortes, still continued. 350 families had left Madrid, and many others were preparing to set off. Passports for foreign countries are refused; in consequence of

which, the greatest confusion prevailed. The fate of Ballasteros was not known at the capital of Spain at the last dates: it is stated, in a letter from Madrid of the 19th, that his army had not been disbanded. A letter, however, from Paris, of the 25th, says, that the disbanding of Ballasteros' army is effecting without experiencing any of the obstacles which were apprehended. All the Ministers, except that of State, had arrived, and scarcely a day passes without a new decree being issued.

A private letter from Madrid, dated the 20th, states that the strong representations made by M. de Chateaubriand, through M. de Talara, and the still stronger remonstrances of the Duke d'Angouleme, have had the desired effect on Ferdinand: the sentences of the Regency are not confirmed, and the execution of his own decrees are suspended. It is whispered, that the Duke explicitly declared, in his remonstrance, that, if his Majesty did not revoke the decrees, which were calculated to produce civil war, he would withdraw all the French troops, and leave him entirely to his own resources. Ferdinand, it is said, was fool-hardy enough to say, "let them withdraw, I am powerful enough without them;" but his Minister Confessor thought otherwise; and though he was the first to suggest the plans of vengeance, he now felt alarmed for the consequences and the safety of his own dear person, which would inevitably be one of the first victims of popular vengeance.

Advices from Bayonne of the 18th of October, state, that the King was to leave Seville about the 18th of this month. "Several Decrees were preparing, but they are not to be published till the result of the order is known, which has been sent by the King to the Constitutional Commanders of the fortresses, especially those in Catalonia, respecting whom some apprehensions are entertained. The first of these decrees grants a general amnesty, but in the Neapolitan manner; a great number of individuals, who have acted a prominent part in the Constitutional Government, are outlawed, and many others condemned to exile, or to punishments more or less severe.—Among the former are the leaders of the insurrection in the Isle of Leon in 1820; all the violent Deputies, and some Political Chiefs. Riego, therefore, would be sacrificed. A second decree orders the pacification of all the Civil authorities, and the suppression of the Constitutional army; no officer shall be admitted into the royal army till he shall have purified himself (purificado) in one of the Councils of War, which shall be formed for that purpose. A third Decree expels from the Spanish dominions all foreigners, of whatever nation they may be, who may have taken part in the revolution, or supported or served the cause of the revolutionists. A fourth Decree convokes the ancient Cortes of the kingdom, and fixes the mode of election. A fifth gives splendid recompenses to the French Generals. The publication of these Decrees is deferred, in the expectation of receiving every moment the answer of the Constitutional Chiefs who have not yet submitted.

The accounts from Cadiz, state, that M. Donnay had taken the command of that city; part of the French troops left the city on the 10th.

A despatch arrived at Paris on the 19th, announcing that the forts of Urgel were taken the day previous.

The Courier of the evening of the 30th, contains advices from Paris to the 29th. A private letter, written on the 28th, states, that, on that day, a considerable panic had been created among the speculators in the funds, by various reports; among them, was the rumor of the immediate departure of M. Villele from the French capital. There seemed to be little doubt entertained as to the intention of the King to dissolve the chambers. The Oriflamme, however, states, positively, that the intention had been abandoned.

Among numerous decrees issued by Ferdinand, since his arrival at Seville, are the following:—For a funeral service to be performed in all the churches in the Kingdom, "for the repose of the souls of those who have died since the 7th of March, 1820, in the support of God's cause, and mine!" For the formation of a junto to select such books "which are proper to form men who may be worthy supports of the altar, the throne, and the country!"

By the last accounts from Paris, neither Mina nor Rotten had surrendered. The Inquisition is re-established; and the General of the Capuchins appointed Grand Inquisitor.

If the account which we find in the Morning Chronicle of the 30th of October is correct, it would appear that the Emperor of Russia is turning his attention to the affairs of South America. The Chronicle states, that the Emperor Alexander has recalled all his accredited

agents from the Brazils, and an expedition is forthwith to be forwarded from Spain, under the flag of that nation, against the REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA.—This expedition is to consist of 12,000 soldiers, nominally Spaniards, but fitted out at the expense of France, attended by French artillery, and engineer officers. Some other English papers, in alluding to this subject, remark, that England will make a stand against any attack on South America by Russia. The Duke of Belluno has refused the appointment of Ambassador to the Court of Vienna.

The coronation of Pope Leo XII. took place on the 29th of October.

The King of Portugal has prohibited the entrance of all foreign newspapers into his kingdom.

The great Council of Geneva have passed a law, suspending the liberty of the press, for one year.

On the 9th of August, a fire broke out in the establishment belonging to the United Brethren, at Sarepta, by which three-fourths of the whole settlement were laid in ashes.

Accounts from Stockholm, of the 10th of October, mention that Mr. Hughes, the American Charge d'Affaires, would set out in a few days for St. Petersburg, on a mission to the Russian Government.

The Banks of Bristol have followed the example of the Bank of England, and are discounting at four per cent.

FROM MEXICO.

Declaration of War by Mexico against Spain.

The unexpected commencement of hostilities by the Governor of the Castle of San Juan de Uloa, against the town of Vera Cruz, has compelled the Supreme Executive Power to adopt measures consequent on an aggression unprovoked by its inhabitants, and warranted by no political considerations.

1st.—It is ordered that all political and mercantile relations with the Spanish nation cease.

2dly.—That, using the lenity dictated by the philanthropic principles of the Mexican nation, it is ordered that all Spanish vessels immediately leave the ports of Mexico, without proceeding, as the Government might, to embargo or confiscate.

3dly.—That the same conduct be pursued with all Spanish merchantmen that may arrive in these ports from Europe in the space of four months, a time sufficient to allow this resolution to be known on that continent, and of forty days from Havana or any other Spanish port of North America.

4thly.—That all vessels arriving after the expiration of those periods, will be treated according to the laws of war, (if before it be not terminated) as will be, from this moment, all armed vessels.

5thly.—That, after the period of four months, the productions of the Spanish soil will not be admitted to an entry under any flag whatever.

By order of H. S. H. FRANCISCO JOSE BERNAL. Mexico, 1st Oct. 1823.

Extract of a letter dated Vera Cruz, Oct. 12.

"This is the 18th day that the castle of S. Jean de Uloa has bombarded this town, in order to extort provisions. Balls and shells have been playing pretty thick about our heads day and night. Gen. Lawana has acted a most villainous part; he only gave us three days' notice. Capt. Roberts, of the English frigate Tyne, has done every thing he could to obtain an armistice, in order to allow time to remove the great amount of English property in the stores, but in vain—the old fool who commands the fort, seems determined on his own destruction, and that of the city. The town is now nearly deserted, but still an immense property remains, which only can be got out with the greatest difficulty and damage. We have nearly all our goods off, on the way to Xalapa, where a deposit is established, and the Custom House removed.

"The Castle now acts the part of a pirate.—Letters and newspapers have heretofore been taken from vessels, but now private merchants, who had fled to the castle for security, are detained as prisoners, with their money and property.

in command, had made considerable progress in the attack upon Porto Cabello. The town and all the approaches had been taken. The Spanish garrison had been forced to retire to the fortress in the Island, upon which a battery of twenty-four guns and two thirteen-inch mortars played almost incessantly. On the 5th of October a division of two thousand men, under the command of Col. Lyster, marched from Caracas to reinforce the besieging army, and captain Cotteral, of the Eagle, speaks of these troops in terms of the highest admiration as to their appearance and discipline. Two sloops of war, which blockaded the harbour of Porto Cabello, and a naval expedition, to attack the place by sea, was fitted out at La Guayra and Cumana. The ship which had arrived from Holland is to lead in the expedition. She is a fine ship, one of those built by Napoleon, and carries sixty guns.

FURTHER FROM COLOMBIA. The following is an extract from one of several letters received by a gentleman in Baltimore.

La Guayra, 11th Nov. 1823.—13. "My letter of yesterday informed you of the fall of Porto Cabello. The importance of this news you know how to appreciate; though but two days old and our hearts still full of joy for the glorious event, we already turn our attention to the future, and speak of repairing the fortifications, which have suffered by the siege, and of putting not only this important Fortress, but the entire of our coast, in a state capable of giving our enemies, should they dare again to attack us, a warm reception. I hope the merchants of the United States will open their eyes, and place a proper value on this last victory. Porto Cabello will, in a little time, be a great depot of commerce, as it has behind it a country that will yield to none, in richness of soil, climate, and produce, of the highest value—but more of this at another opportunity.

You will see by the papers that the appointments of Revenga, Mendez, and D'Everaux, to some of the European Courts, have been revoked. From the transactions connected with Zed's loan, it was thought right to recal Revenga, and at the opening of the new loan, and the settlement of the former one, to have an Ambassador in England who would stand clear of all claims and engagements, and who would thus be able to act in a spirit unfettered and impartial. Mendez, after his many years residence in Europe as an agent of the Republic, declared his desire of returning to enjoy liberty at home, and General D'Everaux expressed a disinclination to go to Russia; in consequence of which he has obtained another important mission, and set out on the 18th of September from Bogota, to embark at Cartagena for the United States, where, perhaps, he will have arrived by the time this reaches you."

CONGRESS.

Monday, Dec. 1.

This being the day established by the Constitution for the Meeting of the Eighteenth Congress, at an early hour a large majority of both Houses were assembled in their respective Chambers, where the following Proceedings took place:

SENATE.

The Hon. Mr. GALLISARD, President pro tem. took the chair, and called the Senate to order, at 12 o'clock. The usual orders for the appointment of chaplains, for supplying the members with newspapers, and for the appointment of joint committees on enrolled bills, were severally passed.

Tuesday, Dec. 2.

The following communications, received from the Secretary of War, were read, and ordered, with the accompanying papers, to be printed:

WAR DEPARTMENT.

December 1st 1823.

Sir: Agreeably to the resolution of the Senate of the United States, passed on the 1st of March last, directing the Secretary of War to report, during the first week of the present Session of Congress, the number of Revolutionary Pensioners in each state, at this time on the list, and the amount of money received or receivable in each state, on account of Revolutionary Pensioners, I herewith transmit a statement showing the number of such Pensioners in each state and territory of the United States and the sum receivable annually in each on account of said Pensioners.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully your obedient servant, J. C. CALHOUN. Hon. JOHN GALLISARD, President pro tem. Senate U. S.

DEPARTMENT OF WAR.

3d March, 1823.

Sir: In compliance with a resolution of the Senate, directing the Secretary to inform the Senate of the original amount of a judgment, lately obtained by the United States, in the District Court of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, against Colonel William Duane