

**American citizens captured near Santa Fe by Mexicans, &c.**

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT. Transmitting the information required by the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 14th instant, in relation to American citizens captured near Santa Fe, &c.

To the House of Representatives of the U. States: I transmit to the House of Representatives, in answer to their resolution of the 14th instant, a report from the Secretary of State, and the papers by which it was accompanied. JOHN TYLER. WASHINGTON, JAN. 18, 1842.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, Washington, January 17, 1842.

The Secretary of State, to whom was referred the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 14th instant, requesting the President to communicate to that House all the information in his possession, which may not be incompatible with the public interest, touching the American citizens captured near Santa Fe, in Mexico, and what steps, if any, have been taken relative thereto by this Government; and also any information he may have, and not incompatible with the public interest, concerning American citizens now British prisoners in Van Dieman's Land, has the honor to lay before the President the papers specified in the accompanying list, and to state that the despatch from Mr. Ellis, numbered 49, which probably contains information upon the subject of the first part of the resolution referred, has not yet reached this Department.

No further information in regard to the subject of the second part of the resolution has been received since the report from this Department of the 16th of July last, which was communicated to the House of Representatives by the President, with his message of that date.

All which is respectfully submitted. DANIEL WEBSTER. To the President of the United States.

Mr. Webster to Mr. Ellis.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, Washington, January 3, 1842.

SIR:—The friends of Mr. Franklin Combs, son of General Leslie Combs, of Kentucky, have applied for the interposition of this Government in behalf of that young gentleman, who accompanied the late Texian expedition to Santa Fe, in Mexico, and is supposed to have been captured, and, if alive, to be held in bondage in that country, with the other survivors of the expedition. It has been represented to this Department that young Combs has never been a citizen of Texas; that he did not repair to that country with any intention of relinquishing his allegiance to this Government, or of remaining in Texas; but that he went thither in the autumn of 1840 upon private business of his father, and for the benefit which he was assured his feeble health would derive from the milder winter climate of that region. He was, however, detained there by both causes until about the time when the expedition referred to set out. This he determined to accompany, merely for the object of confirming his health, and gratifying a curiosity, both liberal and natural, in regard to the unknown lands through which the course of the expedition lay.

As there is no reason to doubt the correctness of this information, you will, accordingly, forthwith make the necessary representation to the Mexican Government upon the subject, with a view to avert from young Combs, if she should be alive, the dangers to which he may be or may have been exposed. You will state that, from the respectability of his family, and for other reasons, there can be no ground for the belief that he would have accompanied the expedition for any other objects than those mentioned; and that if he had been aware that the views of the Texian Government, in despatching it, had been hostile or predatory, rather than friendly and commercial, as they were understood to have been at the time, he would not have gone in its company. If to this it be objected that the expedition was military in its array, and must therefore be presumed to have had warlike designs against the Mexican authorities, it may be answered that the avowed motive of the members of the expedition, in bearing arms, was to ward off the attacks of hostile Indians, and especially of the Camanches, who it is well known, roam in great force along and across the track which was to have been pursued.—This objection would apply with much less, if with any force, to young Combs, as he was no soldier, and had never been one; and, if found with arms, there could in his case be no better ground for the opinion that they were to have been used for purposes of attacks, and not for those of defence, than if he had accompanied one of the caravans from Missouri to Santa Fe, by means of which, as is well known, an extensive trade is carried on between this country and Mexico, to the mutual advantage of the parties.

Although young Combs is the only American citizen who accompanied the expedition for whom the interference of this Government has been asked, it is understood that there was another who as little deserves to be subjected to any penal proceedings on the part of the Mexican Government. This is Mr. George W. Kendall, of New Orleans.

You will press this case with the utmost earnestness on the Mexican Government, as the Government of the United States feels itself bound to interfere, and to signify its confident expectation that the lives of American citizens will not be sacrificed, who have not intentionally done any thing of a hostile character against Mexico.—Even if the conduct of young Combs was indiscreet and ill-judged, yet this Government cannot suppose that the Government of Mexico will treat him as an armed combatant found among its enemies.

You will spare no pains to impress the Mexican authorities with the feelings which would be excited in this country, if any harsh proceeding should be adopted towards this youth.

You will avail yourself of the opportunity of making to that Government the communication, to suggest that, while this Government is well disposed to maintain with strict fidelity amicable relations with the Mexican Republic, and will not attempt to screen from merited punishment any of our citizens who may be guilty of an infraction of the laws intended to preserve those relations, yet that summary, sanguinary, or undue punishment of either Texians or citizens of the United States in Mexico inevitably tends to excite and foment in this country an acerbity of feeling against Mexico which will be much more apt to defeat the supposed objects of those punishments than if the offenders were to have a fair trial, and, if then convicted, were to be punished in some proportion to their offences. You will, however, make this suggestion in a conciliatory tone, without allowing it to be supposed that this Government has any intention to dictate the policy to be adopted by that of the Mexican Republic upon this or any other subject; but, supposing their disposition towards the U. States to be amicable, our wish is merely to point a way by which it seems to us that reciprocal disposition as well as the integrity of the Mexican territory may be more effectually maintained. Accustomed ourselves to regular judicial proceedings, fair and full trials, and mild punishments, the opposites of these, if exercised by other Governments, always serve to check the growth of amity and good will.

Any reasonable expenses which may be necessary to defray the charge of a special messenger from the Mexican capital to the place of captivity of young Combs and his American associates, or for any other proper purposes necessary for their safety and liberation, will be borne by this Government, and will be defrayed by you, and for them you will draw on this Department, specifying in your drafts their purpose, and sending with them such vouchers as you may be able to procure.

The interest which we feel for Combs, whose case has been particularly presented to us, and for Mr. Kendall also, will lead to the despatching of this communication in the way most likely to carry it soon to your hands.

I am, sir, your obedient servant, DANIEL WEBSTER. To POWHATAN ELLIS, Esq., Envoy Extraordinary, &c. Mexico.

P.S. Since the above was written, application has been made in behalf of Mr. J. C. Howard, a youth of nineteen years of age, who was also with the expedition, and who, we are informed, was not a citizen of Texas. You will likewise inquire into his case, and do for him any thing else which you can do with propriety. D. W.

Mr. Webster to Mr. Ellis.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, Washington, January 6, 1842. SIR: I addressed you on the 3d inst., in behalf of Franklin Combs and Mr. Kendall, captured by the Mexican army, with the Texian expedition, near Santa Fe. The object of this is only to say (what, perhaps, you would not have failed to understand) that, if it should be found that other American citizens were made captives, under like circumstances, and with similar claims to immunity and release, you will exert the same interference in their behalf.

I am, with regard, your ob'dt serv't, DANIEL WEBSTER. To POWHATAN ELLIS, Esq., Envoy Extraordinary, &c. Mexico.

Mr. Webster to Mr. Peyton—Extracts.

WASHINGTON, JAN. 6, 1842.

SIR: Your letter to the President, of the 21st of December, has been read by him with great interest and anxiety, although it was not the first communication upon the subject. Letters had been previously received from General Combs, and information communicated from other quarters, upon which immediate steps were taken.—A special messenger has been despatched from this Department, with an instruction to our Minister at Mexico, of which I enclose you a copy. The President will interfere for the life and safety of young Combs, to the full extent of his duty. You must be aware of the delicacy of the question, at least as it presents itself to us, without more knowledge of the facts.

The President wishes the most effectual means taken consistent with justice and propriety, to secure his safety. On the receipt of this, if you should be of opinion that the object in view would be promoted by sending a private agent from New Orleans, to co-operate with the American minister in Mexico, the President is willing that such agent, to be selected by you, should be immediately despatched; and his necessary expenses will be defrayed by this Department. He cannot receive any public character, as we have a minister on the spot; but the President's great desire to do all that can be done, leads him to say that if you think a private agency might be useful, he wishes it to be instituted, and that you would select such person as you deem the fittest for such duty. He the more readily submits this part of the case to your discretion, as before this communication shall reach New Orleans, you may very probably be in possession of much more information than has yet reached us; and there are likely to be many citizens of New Orleans who are acquainted at Mexico.

As this agent will have no public character, he can only act under direction of the American Minister, to whom he will report himself on his arrival. And the main advantage to be expected from such agency is this: that a person of respectability and address, well acquainted with Mexico, its manners and language, and perhaps with its present authorities, and acquainted, also, with the character, family, and connexions of Combs, Kendall, and other American citizens who may be in like condition, may by unofficial means and personal efforts, co-operate usefully with Mr. Ellis. If you think it advisable, on the whole, that such

agent be employed, you will give a copy of this letter as his instructions.

The collector of New Orleans will have instructions to convey Mr. McRae to the fittest port in Mexico, by the revenue cutter or other the most prompt mode; and if you should think it useful that such private agent as is above mentioned should proceed to Mexico, he may use the same conveyance. You will see by the enclosed, that although not applied to by his friends, Mr. Kendall's case has not been overlooked; and it is the President's wish, that if any other American citizen, innocently in company with the expedition, should have fallen into the hands of the Mexicans, an equal interference may be made in his behalf.

I am, with regard yours &c. DANIEL WEBSTER. To the COLLECTOR of the Customs, New Orleans.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, Washington, January 6, 1842.

DEAR SIR: Mr. D. H. McRae is the bearer of a despatch from this Department to Mr. Ellis, our Minister in Mexico. He has left this city for New Orleans by the Southern route. On his arrival, it is the President's wish that you give him the most speedy conveyance, by the revenue cutter or otherwise, to such a port in Mexico as may be convenient for the greatest despatch in the performance of the duty entrusted to him.

I send by this post a letter to Mr. Ellis, to your care, which forward by Mr. McRae if received in season.

Yours, with regard, DANIEL WEBSTER.

To the COLLECTOR of the Customs, New Orleans.

Mr. Alvarez, Consul of the United States for Santa Fe, to Mr. Webster.

INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI, December 15, 1841.

SIR: I address this to you to make known my arrival in the United States. After some repose, which is necessary to recruit my health, impaired by a toilsome journey, I shall proceed to the seat of Government, to lay before the President and yourself the injuries suffered by the Americans resident at Santa Fe and myself, from the hands of the Mexican authorities. At present, I forward\* the accompanying printed narrative, which I find nearly agreeing with the facts as they transpired subsequent to the arrival of the Texian expedition in New Mexico.

I am charged with a statement, signed by the American residents, which it shall be my duty to lay before you as soon as I can be allowed a personal interview.

Your obedient servant, MANUEL ALVAREZ.

To his Excellency DANIEL WEBSTER, Secretary of State of the United States.

\*This paper has not been found with the letter at the Department of State, but is believed to be the same which has appeared in the newspapers.

Mr. Ellis to Mr. Webster.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES, Mexico, December 16, 1841.

SIR: Trusting that the New York packet may not leave Vera Cruz before this communication reaches that place, I avail myself of the occasion to inform you that Brigadier General McLeod, who commanded the Texian expedition to Santa Fe, Mr. Van Ness, his Secretary, Dr. Falconer, Mr. Navarro, thirty officers, and one hundred and thirty-one soldiers, prisoners of war, entered Chihuahua on their way to this capital, on the 22d of November. They were escorted by a guard of two hundred and five men.

In looking over one of the daily papers printed here, I was shocked at seeing the painful intelligence announced of the fate of three of those young men, whose names I have not been able to ascertain. The following is the substance of the publication alluded to by me:

From the Siglo XIX, of the 14th Dec. "We have the pain to announce to the public an act of barbarism, committed by Captain D. Damaso Salazar, who escorted the Texian prisoners to Chihuahua. Capt. Salazar had the iniquity to kill three of these prisoners in cold blood because they had become wearied. It was reserved for Salazar to eclipse the triumphs of Senor Armijo by this cruel and brutal action.—Every one is indignant at such an atrocious act, peculiar only to a cannibal. Don Jose Maria Elias, colonel of the army, and commandant of Paso del Norte, is preferring charges against this barbarous captain; and Senor Conde, Governor of the Department, is very much mortified by such an event, which does so little honor to Mexicans, whose humanity is their principal device.

"We hope that such a scandalous act will be punished with all the severity of the law." This cold-blooded and barbarous act meets with that reprobation and indignation which its atrocity is so well calculated to excite in the minds of all honorable and humane men. The unfortunate Texian prisoners will be here in the course of two or three weeks. I cannot imagine what punishment this Government will inflict on them.

The uniform practice of this legation has been not officially to interfere in behalf of persons who have placed themselves beyond the protection of our Government, by entering into the service of that of Texas. If I am mistaken in this principle of public law, I beg you will be pleased to inform me how far I can proceed, in my representative character, to serve the Texian prisoners.

I have the honor to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

POWHATAN ELLIS. To the Hon. DANIEL WEBSTER, Secretary of State of the United States.

A correspondent sends us the following paragraph, as a specimen of his skill in perpetuating the "transcendental style." As he is but a beginner, we have great hopes of him:

"A canine quadruped performing a cylindrical evolution by an attachment of its extremity to a substantial stationary, is illustrative of the teraqueous body, involving in a circular movement around the circumference of the suspended opaque, celestial luminary."—Boston Mer. Jour.

**Appeal from Mississippi.**

We find in the "Southern," a paper published in Jackson, in the State of Mississippi, the following appeal, in which justice to the Whig party of that State, we feel bound to give a place in our columns:—Nat. Int.

To the Editors of the National Intelligencer, United States Gazette, Louisville Public Advertiser, Richmond Whig, &c. &c. GREETING:

Whereas it is in evidence that you, and each of you, together with almost all other editors in the Confederacy, are in the weekly habit of lavishing upon the entire population of Mississippi, the most detestable epithets, such as "fraudulent," "dishonest," "roguish," &c. &c.: Now know ye, That, whatever may be the character and feelings of certain individuals in this Commonwealth, there is a large minority of voters here, constituting an assemblage of near seventeen thousand, who are not obnoxious to your reproaches. The Whig party of Mississippi, be it known to all the world, stood up manfully at the late election, in defence of the honor of the State, and used every effort to prevent the disgraceful result that has been realized. Although living in Mississippi, those men are really no more responsible to the world for the moral degradation that has fallen upon the State, than are the indignant inhabitants of the other States. And yet such is the character of the denunciations from abroad, that all Mississippians are branded with bad faith and dishonesty. We think that sheer justice demands that all editors who have abused Mississippi, or who contemplate abusing her in future, should so qualify their language as to exclude from censure the class of voters to which we belong. We wish all the world to know who it is that has brought this disgrace upon a sovereign member of the Confederacy. We think it is the right of the Whig party to be forever excepted out of these wholesale denunciations. We are, therefore, gentlemen, really in earnest, when we beg you to lose no time in giving this explanation to your numerous readers. When a whole State is thus denounced, those who do not understand the history of anti-bondism will wrongly blend the innocent with the guilty.—True, the Whigs of Mississippi feel keenly the position of moral degradation to which their beloved State has been reduced by Locofocoism. True, they feel that the name by which this fallen sister is designated will henceforth be synonymous with fraud, however proud and enviable it may once have been. Yet, we have not done this thing! Our hands are not soiled with the disgraceful work! Our garments are not soiled by the moral pollution of wronging men out of the gold they loaned us in time of need. Our voice was raised against this proceeding. Our arm was raised in defence of the honor of the State.—We were cloven down in our position by the superior numbers of our enemies. Shall we, then, (the Whig party of Mississippi,) be herded in a common mass, with those who uphold the anti-bond flag?

As we are included in the appeal above, we take occasion to reply, that, having believed that the act of the constituted authorities of Mississippi, in making the loans now to be repudiated became legally the voice of the State, binding the property of every individual, we rather hastily included the whole of the State in the moral responsibility of the nefarious proposition to repudiate. We see our error, and admit the above appeal—not only as a vindication of the good men and true of Mississippi, but also as a deserved rebuke upon our indiscriminating censure.

That part of Mississippi, with Ex-Governor McNutt at its head, has openly avowed, and boldly defended, the demoralizing doctrines of repudiation, will not escape public censure. There has gone forth a voice of condemnation, which will track them while they have an abiding place on earth, and will attach to their names, and make them exponents of public fidelity.

But we rejoice in the information contained in the above quoted protest. There are many, very many, "sound" citizens of Mississippi, who blushed at the act or rather the attempt, which is pouring disgrace upon their Commonwealth. We hope their voice will be heard; and whether they be more or less, they will have an influence to save the State from infamy.

THE UNHAPPY MAN.—We a day or two since met with a friend who had just experienced some slight difficulty, whose spirits were sadly affected by the circumstance, and who immediately fancied that he was one of the most unhappy men in the world. We listened to his story very patiently, discovered that he had very little cause of vexation, and as compared with general society, he was rather favored than otherwise. The truth is, there are moments in life when most of us feel an unusual gloom and depression of spirits, and fancy that we are especially unfortunate. But if the real sorrows and vicissitudes of our fellow creatures were exposed to us—if we could know all the harrowing circumstances that prey upon the mind of this individual and that—we should discover that all are more or less affected by the ills to which flesh is heir, and that wealth is by no means certain to afford enjoyment to or add to the general aggregate of human happiness.

Fine health, or cheerful mind, and buoyant spirits, are among the greatest blessings that fall to the lot of humanity. The first named is especially precious and valuable; and although as one passes through the streets, it is quite probable that at least one-third of our fellow creatures are troubled with some unpleasant disease, which annoys either constantly or periodically.—These, therefore, who complain of slight ills and who fancy that the world has gone particularly wrong with them, because of some trifling pecuniary loss, or the failure of some cherished speculation, should, if they possess health, bodily vigor and mental activity, discover in these abundant cause of gratitude to Divine Providence.—Phil. Inq.

A salt mine has been discovered in Virginia, between the Clinch mountain and the Blue Ridge, near the line of East Tennessee. The mine is about 150 feet thick, and 200 feet below the surface. This is said to be the first salt mine found in the United States east of the Mississippi and the great lakes. It reposes on a bed of plaster rock. The crystals are slightly reddish, but of excellent quality. It is found, however, more profitable to prepare salt from the water, by evaporation, than to work the mine.

**From New York.**

(Correspondence of the National Intelligencer.) New York, January 20. Dates from Lima to the 10th of October were received in town to-day. They are of some interest, though they cannot be deemed important to the people of this country.

The condition of the Bolivians was reported to be improving. The Chilian and Peruvian Governments had declared against Mr. Calvo, the former Vice President of Bolivia, but who, after the deposition of the late President Velasco, (who, by the way, is denounced as a very great tyrant,) was elected to the "Protectorate," and avowed that he shall not hold the reins of Government; and further, that he shall not be invested with power in or over any of the South American Governments; and notwithstanding, Bolivia elected him unanimously. The allied forces of Chili and Peru have sent out their ships of war, and ordered them to take him, no matter what vessel he may be on board of, or what flag may protect him.

The acts on the part of Chili and Peru have induced the commanders of the foreign squadrons west of Cape Horn to send their ships to the Pacific to protect the flags of their respective nations from insult.—General Santa Cruz was understood to be on the eve of embarkation from Guayaquil for Bolivia; and it was expected that he would soon be announced as the head of that country. The assumed command of Mr. Calvo of the Protectorate of Bolivia was to be temporary, and to last only during the absence of Gen. Santa Cruz.—The hostility of the Peruvian and Chilian Governments to Santa Cruz was said to be based on his alleged partiality for foreigners.

The weather is delightful. It is as soft and as balmy as it was yesterday, and the frost is out of the grounds. The nights, though enlivened by a bright moon, are damp and unhealthy.

New York and Erie Railroad meetings continue to be held in all the wards, and are promotive of much good to the road. Subscriptions to the stock are rapidly being made. The sum asked of the city (\$1,000,000) will undoubtedly be raised.

Last accounts from Albany leave the Legislature of the State engaged in discussing a motion to refund to General Jackson a fine that was imposed on him by Judge Hall, of Louisiana, at the time he placed N. Orleans under martial law. The object may be good, but it appears to me to be a strange species of legislation for this State to indulge in.

No news of importance from the Eastern States. Rumor still continues to murmur something about border difficulties, but I fancy it is all gossip.

The money market continues to be close and restricted. The stock market to-day was rather lively. Indiana Bonds sold for 22 1/2; Indiana Sterling, 20 1/2; Illinois Sixes, redeemable in 1870, 20 1/2.

There is yet much excitement in the public mind respecting the anticipated repeal of the Bankrupt act. All eyes are again directed towards Washington; and the first inquiry of the day is, "Will the Senate go for the repeal?" "Who can answer it?"

The Court of Oyer and Terminer to-day succeeded in getting a Jury empanelled to try John C. Colt. As soon as that end was accomplished, a question of law arose in reference to the legality of the manner of summoning the jurors. The City Hall is crowded in all its departments, so are all the avenues leading to it; and I find it utterly impossible to get in. The populace appears to be less excited to-day than it was yesterday; and yet the feeling evinced is bad enough now. Speculation is very busy in guessing at the result; but I do not feel inclined to say any thing about it.

Just as I got ready to close this letter I was informed that the examination of witnesses had commenced, the legal objections of the counsel for the defence having been overruled.

FROM YUCATAN.—We have dates from Merida to the 10th ult. They render it pretty evident that the independence of Yucatan will amount to nothing—Santa Ana will soon be out of it in a month. Her authorities are now stipulating for a local Legislature, the perpetuity of the Federal system, &c., all which, if granted, will be respected just so long as it places the Central Power to preserve appearances. Texas must look sharp, or instead of receiving any assistance from Yucatan against Santa Ana, she will lose a part of her little Navy by a surprise. The Texas war schooner San Antonio was at Sinal, Nov. 20th.

The Governor of Yucatan has decreed a general pardon of all persons imprisoned in that country, except for murder. Dr. Cabot, the Naturalist, who accompanied Messrs. Stephens and Catwood, has been performing surgical operations for strabismus (squinting) with remarkable success. The disease is very prevalent there.

We find the following in the Providence Journal of Saturday: MR. CATHERWOOD AT URMAL.—We have just seen a letter, dated November 27, written by our friend Mr. Catherwood, at the ruins in Urmal, of the Northern part of Yucatan. This place, it will be remembered by all who have read the late work of Mr. Stephens, was the last place visited and described by these travellers. It was there that Mr. Catherwood was taken sick, and obliged to hasten away, after being but a few hours among one of the most interesting of the ruined cities of that country. He now writes that their party had already been several weeks busily occupied in their researches among the ruins of that place, and that so vast and so full of interest were these ancient remains, that a month longer will be necessary before they can complete their drawings to Chiten. Itz'an and other places in which some remarkable antiquities exist, and which have not yet been described. "In fact," observes Mr. Catherwood, "the whole country is covered with ruins, and our greatest difficulty is, in choosing those of most importance, which will tend to some definite end and where we shall be most rewarded for our labors." Several months he supposes will still be necessary to accomplish their purposes, as they do not intend to let any thing of importance escape their attention. The proprietor of Urmal and of an extensive district of country around, Don Simon Poon, was with our travellers, and had extended to them every facility they could wish in accomplishing the objects of their visit. Dr. Cabot, a young physician and naturalist from Boston, was also with them. This gentleman was actively employed in collecting specimens in natural history, as Mr. Catherwood was in his department of the arts. Dr. C. had already made a fine collection of the birds of the country, and will no doubt bring home the most valuable collection of ornithological specimens ever brought from tropical America.

**COMMUNICATION.**

For the "Messenger." Mr. Editor: Dear Sir—If you should find any thing in this article worthy of insertion in the columns of your valuable journal, you will please give publicity to the same. As education is a subject of the highest importance, and should be the great business of life, I feel confident that an enlightened public would not condemn, but rather be cheered by any information concerning its rapid increase and prosperity.

Horseshoe College, situated at New Market, Jefferson county, East Tennessee, though silent in her operations, bids fair to vie with her sister institutions in the cultivation of the mental faculties of the rising and succeeding generations. At one period, owing to the want of a proper estimation of its advantages and facilities over the common schools of the country, its light almost extinct; but now, under the fostering care and guidance of its revered and beloved President, the abilities of its Professors and Assistant, new light has been thrown upon it, and it has gradually emerged from its once gloomy shades, until enlightened with all its resplendency and lustre, its beams forth from its hallowed walls with the effulgence of day.

The number of students the present session is seventy, and the number is constantly increasing. The present students are from the following States, viz. Tennessee, Kentucky, North Carolina and Mississippi. There are three societies in the College, viz. "Fisk Lyceum" and "Westleyan Amiculus," which are rival societies; the other is the "Calliopean Society," the object of which is to improve its members in oratory, correctness and chastity of style. The two societies first mentioned entered into a collision in a public discussion, on New Year's day. The discussion commenced at 9 o'clock A. M., before a large audience and ended at 9 P. M. In this discussion there was a great exhibition of talents, ingenuity, and tact in debate, as great, if greater, than can usually be found in college polemic societies. The whole terminated to the entire satisfaction and delight of those present. I should not be stating, that the disputants were aided and honored by the presence of a number of the fair damsels of the college and vicinity.

The morals of the students, I think, without hesitation, are better than I ever witnessed at any other institution. As an evidence of this fact, the Trustees have not been convoked for the purpose of trying a student, for two years past, as further evidence of the fact, Gen. William Brazleton gave all the students, without distinction, a public dinner on the day debate above mentioned. The dinner was a most excellent one; and such an one would have done honor to Prince de Joinville, composed as it was of a great variety of dishes, from the most substantial to the more dainty. Gen. Brazleton, in a short but appropriate speech to the students, said that he had given the dinner as a reward to the students for their virtuous conduct and purity of morals.

This institution possesses nearly or equal all of the apparatus essential to the completion of a collegiate course. The situation is very healthy, even for Tennessee. Board can be had at \$1 75 per week, everything, such as lodging, wood, washing, candles, rooms, &c. included.

Professing as I do, to have been a close observer of the management of this institution, and the conduct of those connected with it, I can with a clear conscience heartily recommend it to the confidence of parents and guardians. Yours, &c., SENEX. New Market, Tenn., Jan. 22, 1842.

PRICE'S, FEBRUARY 1, 1842. Mr. D. R. McAnally: Dear Sir, I send you a statement showing the amount of travel which has been on the road subject to toll, from the 24th January up the 1st of February:

Hogs . . . 876 Sheep . . . 311  
Horses . . . 476 Horsesmen . . . 311  
Cattle . . . 316 Waggoners . . . 311

Times are hard and money scarce, and people travel but little. Yours, &c., R. W. BRANK.

FLAT ROCK, JAN. 24, 1842.

Messrs. Editors: The Wonderful Prophet mentioned in your paper of the 21st inst, was dead yet, the cock that crowed thrice, spoken of in the Holy Writ, and still crows and proclaims the day of the Lord, daily.

MILEAGE. Members of Congress receive from the public treasury, 40 cents per mile for every 20 miles for travelling expenses. We believe that is the amount. This is outrageous, in these times when travelling is so rapid and cheap. A member of Congress pays \$4 to travel from Philadelphia to Baltimore—90 miles, and draws \$36 for mileage! He pays \$30 from New Orleans to Pittsburg by steamboat—2000 miles, and the time occupied by 2000 days—he draws \$800! This is robbing the people with a vengeance. Some members take the most circuitous route that their mileage may be increased; a member travelling 200 miles a day makes 80 dollars. A pretty round sum. Some members charge 2000 or 3000 dollars mileage annually! Admitting that the per diem of members of Congress is not so high who will justify these exorbitant allowances for mileage? What excuse can be offered for them? If none, then why does not some honest friend of Congress propose and urge the reform upon Congress? The present rates of mileage were fixed years ago; when travelling was expensive, tedious and dangerous. In this day of roads and steamboats, the cause of high travelling expenses is removed, and mileage should consequently be reduced. We hope Congress will reform this shameful abuse.

It is suggested in the Richmond Whig, that Congress amend the Distribution act, so as to distribute the quotas of those States refusing the benefit of the act, among those who are willing to accept it.