

Correspondence of the Carolinian. Washington, Dec. 15, 1845.

[The following letter was written for last Saturday's paper, but the mail did not bring it. Therefore, part of it was out of date.]

Mr Rufus Elliott, on Saturday, appeared in the Criminal Court, when his counsel moved for an immediate discharge, on the presentment of the grand jury, which he contended was equal to an acquittal. This presentment is as follows: "The jurors of the U. States do, upon their oath, present Mr. R. Elliott for causing the death of W. Z. Kendall, by shooting him with a pistol, in self-defence, when he was attacked by and retreating from said Kendall, on or about the 23d day of August, 1845."

The Court (Judge Crawford) delivered a lengthy opinion on announcing the presentment, in which precedents are quoted, and which concludes with this guarded expression: "I know no responsibility but that which I owe to God and my conscience for an upright discharge of duty. Here, however, there is none but what rests in the grand jury, who discharged their duty with consciousness and integrity, I have neither doubt, nor right to doubt."

"I am of opinion the accused is entitled, under the presentment made, to his discharge, and so, accordingly order."

Elliott was accordingly discharged, and left the Court, accompanied by his relations. I incline to think the judge and grand jury do not privately coincide in opinion, judging from the remarks just quoted and the fact that he refused bail when Elliott was first apprehended. Elliott was assuredly guilty of some crime, although partially on the defensive at the time, but, for want of a legal definition, that crime goes unatoned for.

Professor Hewitt is determined not to let "Jeppith," or his daughter either, be sacrificed—that oratorio having been brought out for the fourth time here on Tuesday last. The "Swiss Bell Ringers," Dr. Valentine, the Mimic, and Hannah Grouse, the Ohio dwarf-giants, are all here tickling the fancies, twitching the faces, and taking in the "physical actualities" of our metropolises. As for the Bell Ringers, so much of the yankee has been attributed to them, that it will take them some time to "ring in."

I see nothing more of "Bundelcund" in the Union. Has he quitted the Tariffites? Really, if there were not so much said about war, one would almost find Gallion the Fool's "How! how! how!" infectious. How strange it is that party spectacles give things such a different complexion! The clear-sighted democrats see something new in Bundelcund's calculations, as plain as a pie-staff; but the whig-yow that he steals his idea from Adam Smith's wealth of Nations. Were they all as little addicted to figures as I am, Bundelcund would do as well as "Bundelcund."

Democratic Meeting.

IN SAMPSON.

At a meeting of a portion of the democratic party, held agreeable to previous notice, at the Court House in Clinton on the 20th inst., on motion of Dr Wm McKoy, the meeting was organized by calling Dr B Stith to the Chair, and appointing Josiah Johnson Secy.

After a brief address from Dr Wm McKoy, on motion of A B Chesnut, Esq., the chair appointed A B Chesnut, Wm McKoy, and Josiah Johnson, a committee to draft a preamble and resolutions for the consideration of the meeting. Shortly after, the committee reported the following preamble and resolutions which were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That this meeting does most cordially approve of the object of the proposed Convention.

Resolved, That this meeting will appoint two or more delegates from each district in the county, to be named by the Chairman, to attend the said convention to be held in Raleigh on the 8th of January.

Resolved, That having the utmost confidence in the result of the Convention, we hereby pledge ourselves to use all honorable means to secure the election of its nominee, whoever he may be.

In accordance with one of the above resolutions, the chair provided and appointed the following list of gentlemen as delegates:

- Josiah Johnson, C F Shaw, Henry Moore, M J Faison, J C Williams, Wm Bowden, J W Lane, Joel Hines, N C Faison, E C Gavin, J S Parish, David Murphy, J P Treadwell, Rich'd Herring, W T Owens, H Owens, M White, John Spell, Chas Cogdell, David Spell, Kiba Lassiter, John Goodwin, G H Doughty, J B Cox.

On motion of J Johnson, it was Resolved, That the delegates have the power to fill any vacancies that may occur in their body.

On motion of A B Chesnut, Esq., it was ordered that the Secretary forward a copy of the proceedings of this meeting to the Raleigh Standard, the North Carolinian, and the Wilmington Journal, for publication.

The meeting then adjourned. B. SITH, Chairman. JOSIAH JOHNSON, Secy.

We perceive by our Western papers, that several parties of emigrants are getting ready to start for California. One body, consisting of a thousand in number, contemplate leaving Arkansas next spring. Another and more numerous company is forming in Missouri, and in Illinois a band of pioneers are organizing—all destined for that Eldorado of the present day.

29th Congress—1st Session.

IMPORTANT DEBATE. SENATE.

MONDAY, Dec. 15.—A number of private claims were presented to the Senate and referred to the appropriate committees.

The important topic in the Senate was the resolution of Genl. Cass, inquiring into the condition of the Navy—its capacity for defending the coasts of the United States, and whether an increase is not necessary, &c. Also inquiring into the state of the National fortifications, and whether other defensive works are not necessary—and into the state, condition and quantity of the military supplies of the country. Also inquiring into the condition of the militia of the United States, and instructing the Committee on the Militia to report such changes in the present militia system, as shall render it available for defence.

Mr Cass addressed the Senate in support of his resolutions. He said it was evident from public opinion in both countries that a crisis was fast approaching in the intercourse of England and the United States, and that nothing but a compromise by a voluntary sacrifice of the claims of one or both countries, to the Oregon territory, could keep the peace. The United States could not submit to arbitration; the empire would almost necessarily be selected from Europe, and the prejudices of European monarchies against free governments, rendered it unwise policy to treat American rights to those powers, who are, also, more or less under the influence of England. He knew there was no great party, and he hoped there were few individuals, in this country, who were prepared to accept even the most liberal offer of Great Britain. Her pretensions and ours are so widely different, that there is no middle ground. We claim the whole territory, but have made most liberal offers of compromise, which have been rejected. We cannot recede from this position. Nothing was ever gained by national pusillanimity. It is easier to defend the first inch than the last—to defend the door-sill than the hearth-stone. We cannot recede—we cannot stand still; the current of emigration is onward, and this government cannot if it would turn it back. Its citizens are taking possession of territory clearly their own; and they depend upon this government to protect them in their possessions; and it cannot be refused. The continuance of the joint occupancy he considered out of the question—it could not exist. He spoke of the difficulties of having two governments or sets of laws over the two communities in Oregon.

He did not consider that the notice of the close of the joint occupancy was at all a beligerent measure—it was a treaty right. He hoped that England might awaken to a sense of her injustice, and yield, as she could do, honorably and rightfully. But he feared she would not.

He then referred to the disposition of England to interfere to prevent the annexation of Texas; and showed that while England was charging the United States with an immoderate grasping after territory, and exulting in her own moderation, she, a "little island off the western coast of Europe, has girded the earth with her fortifications, and covered the ocean with her fleets." "The world has never seen, said he, since the fall of the Roman empire, such a colossal power as England has built up. Her subjects, inhabiting her possessions, number more than one-sixth of the inhabitants of the globe, and her dominions in square miles making more than one-eighth of the habitable world."

The annexation of Texas was the latest, but he hoped it would not be the last acquisition to the American Union. He had no fear that the extension of territory would weaken our government. "We have an adhesive and life-preserving principle in the exercise of political power by the great body of the people." He then quoted the speeches of Lord Jno. Russell, Sir Robert Peel, and Lord Clarendon, made in Parliament on the receipt of the President's Inaugural, in which they said that England could make no proposal less than the 49th degree to the Columbia, and thence the Columbia to its mouth; that British rights in Oregon are clear and irresistible; and they were prepared to maintain them, &c. "Under these imposing circumstances," said Mr Cass, "we may well ask of the watchman, what of the night. I take it for granted that the United States will give the notice of the cessation of the joint occupancy, and if we do, and England will not compromise, we shall have war. Therefore let us look our duties and our difficulties full in the face. Let us exhibit the spectacle of an undivided people, anxious for peace; but ready for war. He thought that the only hope of avoiding a war was to exhibit a determination to prosecute it to the utmost shield it come. It was under these circumstances that he submitted these resolutions to the Senate and asked their concurrence.

Mr Mangum rose to reply. He regretted the introduction of the resolutions as premature. He said he had "a fair and generous confidence in the President." [We are glad to hear it.] He had been led to believe that matters were a great deal worse than they are; but since his arrival in Washington, he had found a degree of moderation quite unexpected, and he was willing to commit all matters of negotiation to him. "But if he failed to settle it, and war must come, it would be vastly preferable to a surrender of the national rights and national honor, and he undertook to say, that if war should come, there would not be an anti-war man in the country.

He thought the resolutions supererogatory. If the defences of the country were weak, the answer to these inquiries of the resolutions, would give the information in an official form to the world. The Committees of the Senate, he thought, would make the inquiries as a matter of duty, without the resolutions. He said if the President was certain that war was inevitable, he ought to inform the Senate thereof, in secret session—he ought to keep nothing from them; and that, in that case, every man of the Senate would stand by the President. [This part of Mr Mangum's speech is said to be a manoeuvre of his to elicit from Mr Cass whether there was anything behind the screen which the whole Senate had not been informed of.]

Mr Mangum thought that if ever a war with Great Britain occurred, her whole possessions on this continent would be swept from her. He thought that every man in the United States ought to rise up against further colonization by any nation on this continent. It had been suggested, he said, that Oregon might desire to become an independent government, but he considered that impossible. "When the American emigrant looks back to the graves and recalls the heroic deeds of their fathers in the cause of liberty and America, they will never dream of alienating themselves from the land where they first drew the breath of freedom."

Mr Mangum closed by moving that the further consideration of the resolutions be postponed till to-morrow, but the Senate did not agree to it.

Mr Allen, of Ohio, democrat, then addressed the Senate. He hoped the resolutions would pass, and without the obstruction of a solitary vote. He thought their rejection would do more to paralyze the energies of the country, than any one act the Senate could do. He thought there was no propriety in the resolutions, even if we were on the most peaceable terms with all nations—much less in the present aspect. Our space will not permit so long a notice of the remarks of the other speakers. Mr Allen replied to Mr Mangum, combating his objections to the passage of the resolutions.

Mr Archer, whig, also opposed the resolutions. He believed the resolutions had only been introduced to afford a little splutter about patriotism. Mr Mangum called him to order. Mr Archer said he meant no disrespect to any body. [He showed it, if he did not mean it; or else he had not sense enough to know what disrespect was.] He went on to show what he considered would be the effect of this debate; and while he declared his determination to vote for the resolutions, he made a real panic speech by depicting the horrors of war.

When Mr Archer closed, the Senate adjourned as a mark of respect to the memory of Mr Peyton, of Tennessee, who died some months ago.

TUESDAY, Dec. 16.—After the usual business of the morning, of presenting petitions, claims, &c., the debate on Genl. Cass' resolutions was resumed by Messrs Niles, Crittenden, Webster, Sevier, Berrien, &c. The prevailing opinion of those who opposed the resolutions, seeming to be that there would not be war on the Oregon question. Mr Sevier said, in his humble opinion war would come; for two reasons: one is, that Great Britain has never receded from any position until forced to recede, and the other was, that the United States will never recede. Messrs Clayton, Breese, and Woodbridge, also made some remarks, and the question on passing the resolutions was taken, and they passed UNANIMOUSLY.

WEDNESDAY.—The Senate to-day proceeded to complete the election of the Standing Committee, on motion of Mr Haywood. That being through with, the election of Printer next came up. Some were for fixing beforehand the price that should be paid; others were for electing and then fixing the price; and others for electing to be paid at the usual prices fixed by law. Mr Pennybacker of Va., said that the prices for printing were fixed by a law of the land, of 1819, and they had no right to alter it except by another law.

The election then came on, and Messrs Ritchie & Heiss received 27 votes, and Miles & Seaton 20. The whig Senators, though anxious as they pretended, to have the printing done cheap, did not vote for the men that offered to do it cheap, but voted for their own party organ.

THURSDAY.—Mr Allen offered the following joint resolution:

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President of the United States be, and he is hereby, advised to give, forthwith, notice to Great Britain, that the government of the United States will, in virtue of the second article of the convention of the sixth of August, A. D. eighteen hundred and twenty-seven, between the United States and Great Britain, relative to the joint occupancy of the Oregon territory; and after the expiration of twelve months from the day on which such notice shall have been received by the government of Great Britain, annul and abrogate that convention.

This resolution was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr Jenness presented resolutions from the Legislature of New Hampshire, in relation to Oregon, asserting the right of the United States to the whole of that territory; and condemning the interference of Great Britain to prevent annexation.

Mr Archison offered resolutions instructing the Committee on Territories to inquire into the expediency of organizing a Government for Oregon territory; and instructing the Committee on Military Affairs to inquire into the expediency of erecting blockhouses from the frontiers of Missouri to the Rocky Mountains, and organizing a corps of mounted riflemen for the protection of emigrants to Oregon; and instructing the Committee on Public Lands to inquire into the expediency of giving lands to the settlers in Oregon; instructing the Committee on the Militia to inquire into the expediency of arming and organizing the Militia of Oregon; establishing Indian Agencies and a post route.

A number of other resolutions of a private nature were offered, and the Senate went into Executive session to adjourn on Monday.

MONDAY.—A number of petitions against the admission of Texas and on private subjects were presented.

The joint resolutions passed by the House for the admission of Texas into the Union as a State, were then taken up, and Mr Webster addressed the Senate in opposition to their passage; his objections being the danger of extending our territory so much; and on account of its being a slaveholding State.

Mr Berrien stated his reasons for voting for the resolutions. He considered that it was not an open question. He opposed it as long as it was so, but now, it was the law, and he could not vote against it.

Measures were passed, with but 13 dissenting voices, and they all whigs, and all northern men.

HOUSE. MONDAY, Dec. 15.—A remonstrance against the annexation of Texas, was presented by Mr Rockwell, from Connecticut. He made some remarks on the subject, not of much importance. He wanted it printed and referred to a committee, but it was laid on the table for the present. A number of petitions were then presented by members from the different States. Most of these petitions were from abolitionists against the annexation of Texas, as a slave State. One from Ohio, stated that the petitioners hoped the Ohio delegation would withdraw from the House and call on all the free States to do the same, and take measures for forming another confederacy. This petition was laid on the table.

THURSDAY.—The Speaker announced that the special order of the day for consideration, was the joint resolutions for the admission of Texas as a State. The following are the resolutions: Joint Resolutions for the admission of the State of Texas into the Union.

Whereas the Congress of the United States, by a "joint resolution," approved March the first, eighteen hundred and forty-five, did consent that the territory properly included within, and rightfully belonging to the republic of Texas, might be erected into a new State, to be called the State of Texas, with a republican form of government to be adopted by the people of said republic, by deputies in convention assembled, with the consent of the existing government, in order that the same might be admitted as one of the States of the Union; which consent of Congress was given upon certain conditions specified in the first and second sections of said joint resolutions: And whereas the people of the said republic of Texas, by deputies in convention assembled, with the consent of the existing government, did adopt a constitution and erect a new State, with a republican form of government and in the name of the people of Texas, and by their authority, did ordain and declare that they assented 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