THE PATRIOT AND FLAG.

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For the Patriot and Flag.

Twenty Reasons.

Messrs. Editors: In hopes that some of your fair-weather Christian readers may be induced to reflect upon the reasons for their occasional absence from the worship of God, I send you a score of good reasons why a conscientious, God-loving and God-fearing Christian does attend Church on Sabbath—rainy, snowy, hot. There is material enough in them to make both an umbrella *and overshoes* for a rainy Sabbath.

1. Because God has blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it—making no exception respecting the weather.

2. Because I expect my Minister to be there, and I should be surprised if he were to stay at home for the weather.

3. *Because*—although he has been faithfully present through many storms—I see that his health is as good as mine, who have been so frequently absent.

4. Because my absence, for slight reasons, will lead him to think that there is some personal objection to him—when, perhaps, *he is devoting all his energy* to the salvation of his charge.

5. Because my non-attendance is calculated to paralyze his exertions and lead him to suppose that his sermons and labors are useless.

6. Because, that if his hands shall fall through weakness, I shall have great reason to blame myself, unless I sustain him by my prayers and presence as I should do.

7. Because God has blessed me with the means of obtaining such precautions against the weather that I am in no real danger.

8. Because, by staying away, I may lose the sermon that would have done me great good, and shall lose the prayers which invariably bring God's blessing on the true believer.

9. Because whatever *time* I hold I may influence others; and if I stay away, why not they?

10. Because, on any important business, bad weather does not keep me in the house; and attendance upon Church is, in God's sight, very important. (See Heb X, 25.)

11. Because that God who giveth both the sunshine and the rain has promised to be the defence of his people.

12. Because among other blessings, such weather will show me on what foundation my faith is built. It will prove how much I love Christ; for true love rarely fails to meet an appointment.

13. Because fearing that my clothes shall suffer, shows that I think more of them than of that beauty of holiness which God so approves.

14. Because I am Christ's soldier, enlisted for his warfare, and he is a poor soldier who retreats to his house or his tent because of a cloud.

15. Because, though my excuses may satisfy myself, they still must undergo God's scrutiny; and they must be well grounded to bear that. Luke XIV, 16.

16. Because there is a special promise, where only "two or three meet together in God's name, he is in the midst of them."

17. Because absence from Church, for reasons which would not keep me from going to buy a quire of paper in week days, must be discouraging to all true friends of the Church, particularly His ministers.

18. Because an avoidable absence from Church is an infallible evidence of spiritual decay; Disciples first follow Christ at a distance, and then, like Peter, deny that they know Him.

19. Because my faith is to be known by my self denying good works, and not by the rise or fall of the thermometer.

20. Because I know not how many more Sabbaths God may still vouchsafe me; and it would be a poor preparation for my first Sabbath in Heaven to have slighted my last Sabbath on earth. S.

Future Consumption of Cotton.

"Ion," the intelligent Washington correspondent of the Baltimore *Sun*, in a recent letter, says:

"It is very true that the United States, as Lord Palmerston remarks, will, after a while, work up and consume their cotton, i. e. the extent of the present crop. The Northwest is increasing in population at a rate which justifies Gen Cass' prediction of a hundred millions of people West of the Mississippi seventy years' and will alone consume all the cotton that can be raised by the South, whether manufactured at home or abroad. But we have an abundance of cotton land—four hundred millions of acres, of which only twenty-eight millions are in cultivation; and of the three millions six hundred thousand slaves only a sixth part are now employed, in the cultivation of cotton. The production of cotton can be increased here, under the stimulus even of the present demand. But Lord Palmerston pledges the efforts of the government to promote the growth of cotton in Africa, India, &c.

From the Lexington Flag.

THE PEOPLE'S BANK.

During the last Summer we advocated through the "Flag" the chartering of a Bank upon the principle contained in the bill introduced in the present Legislature by Mr. Caldwell of Guildford, to charter the "People's Bank." At that time we seemed to stand almost alone, so far as the Press of the State was concerned, and indeed, some of the leading papers of the State went so far as to take us to task for advocating such "visionary Banking Schemes." We felt at times, we must confess, a little bad and a little lonesome when we found so few friends and so many disposed to poke fun at us, and call us "visionary." But we are happy to inform our readers, that we have unexpectedly and to our great gratification found that we are on the strongest side and with the largest number, and that a certain very influential paper, which some months back took us so seriously to task for our "visionary" ideas, has lately spoken of Mr. Caldwell's bill in very favourable terms, commending it as well drawn and its principles sound. Yes, we repeat that it affords us great pleasure to say to our readers that the "People's Bank" has passed its second reading in the House by a majority of two; notwithstanding the unprecedented exertions of the Locofocos and some of the large stockholders of the State Bank to defeat it. And indeed if the Legislature was left to itself, unbiased and uninfluenced by outsiders, to act upon the merits of the bill, there would be little or no opposition to the measure. But king caucus is all powerful with Democracy, and unfortunately for the country, king caucus has deemed it expedient for the Democracy to defeat the bill. Some attribute the strong opposition of the Democracy to this measure, to the overshadowing ability and startling eloquence of the new Attorney General Mr. Jenkins. It is thought Holden would have come out for it before this was it not for the fear of Mr. Jenkins and the eloquent Senator from Nash, Mr. Battle, who asserts so dogmatically that he cannot tell the precise moment he shall die, and who laments so feelingly that he is the "survivor" of a certain "compact of humanity." But let the cause of this opposition be what it may, we feel very confident that it arises from the fact that the bill was introduced by an "American" and a member from the strongest American county in the State, and we have no idea that they will have the magnanimity to pass any bill of importance introduced by an American, for the dominant party in the present Legislature are illiberal and domineering to a degree which is only equalled by their weakness and want of ability. It seems to be the policy of the Democratic party to put mere puppets in the Legislature, and then have their strong men as lobby members to rule the boys, so that indeed the lobby Democrats do the Legislation, while a set of weak minded boys have to bear all the responsibility. This is no doubt the policy of the party, and it is a little surprising how Jenkins and Battle, the Ajax and Achilles of the party—gentlemen of such towering intellects, happened to have seats in the Legislature, for their natural position would certainly be in the lobby along side of Judge Saunders and other great Democratic lights. The Democracy are not only proscriptive but they seem to cherish a hatred against all works of internal improvements, and against the individual stockholders in the works, which few persons would suppose from hearing their speeches from the stump—but they talk very differently at Raleigh from what they do before the people. The Standard speaks of the stockholders as a class, upon whom it would be unconstitutional and dangerous to confer banking priviliges. Unable to meet and reply to the able arguments of Col. Baxter, Caldwell, Leach, Dargan and others, in favour of the People's Bank, the opposition vent their rage and pour forth their venom against the Rail Road stockholders in taunts of the most malignant abuse. We regret that this worthy, intelligent and patriotic body of men—the stockholders in our roads—were not present to hear the speeches of Bledsoe,—Jenkins and others—in which they were held up as unworthy of any sympathy, encouragement or protection. For could they have heard the gross and unfounded calumnies poured out against them, they would not feel disposed to sit quietly down and let these young sprigs of Democracy, together with Bank officers, have everything their own way. The Democratic party are counting the influence of the monied men of the State, and will, we predict, kill the People's Bank and charter a large State Bank on such terms as will give their party the control of the corporation, this they will do to give their party strength, and not through any desire to legislate for the good of the State. Some of the wise and knowing ones of the Democratic party have come to the sage conclusion, that the Americans have at least two thirds of the stock in our Railroads, and have sounded the notes of alarm in order to enable the great leaders the more easily to whip in the more liberal men of the party to vote against the People's Bank—for whipped in they will be, and no mistake. Poor fellows, they have a mighty hankering to be honest and independent, if it is only for a short time, just to know how an honest and independent man living in a free country does feel—but alas, while they gaze with longing eyes on the delectable mountains, where honest men congregate to consult for the good of their country, they are thwacked over the eyes with the party lash, and driven back to the dirty shambles of Locofocoism, there to be indoctrinated in the mysteries of a party which can occupy at different times different positions and yet never change.

To charter the People's Bank, and thereby give encouragement and relief to those who have "*rendered the State some service*" by investing their means and contributing their labor to aid in developing her resources by works of internal improvements, will never do, so long as there is a chance for the Americans to have any control of the Bank, they having so large an amount of stock in the Internal Improvement works. It would never do for the triumphant party, although the interest of the country demand it—for what is country compared to party—to charter a Bank in which they can't have the control, and so to crush out this rebellious move on the part of the Americans to benefit the working classes, the Locofoco leaders have determined by means of the party screw and party lash, to whip all their men over to the support of a measure they are now preparing. For since Jenkins announced that he should not vote for a re-charter of the State Bank, that old concern is considered as on its last legs. It was a cruel announcement of the newly fledged Attorney General. Yet it may be that the old State Bank will enter into some agreement with the leaders and faglemen of the Locofoco party, and may succeed in getting a charter under promise hereafter to wield all its influence for the benefit of their party. To continue these old monopolies which have been in existence for so many years is nothing else than legislating for the benefit of a few, or a certain class of individuals cutting off from the many, all chance or opportunity to subscribe for the stock of these wealthy old corporations. Now when we remember that these Banks commenced with a capital stock of $1,000,000, and have gone on increasing until they now have a capital of two millions, with a profit and loss account of nearly one fourth of that amount, and when we reflect that this large amount is held by about 50 individuals, is it not amusing to hear the opposers of the People's Bank talk about monopolies. But suppose they endeavor to avoid the odium which now attaches to the State Bank, by creating a new Bank on precisely the same principles, does not every well informed gentleman know that it will only amount to a change of names and not of Stockholders. It was argued most successfully on the floor of the House, that the only way to break up this monopoly is to require the stockholders hereafter to deposit as collateral security Railroad stock to the full amount of the currency of each Bank hereafter created. There being about 7000 Railroad stockholders in the State, and a large majority of them owning but a few shares, this would diffuse the stock widely among the people and prevent it from falling into the hands of a few prominent politicians. But this is the reason why the Democracy cling with so much pertenacity to the old State Bank, and will not extend favours to Railroad stockholders, because in so doing they extend favours to the Americans, who with a few honorable exceptions have built up our present works of Internal Improvements, and own almost the entire stock. To gain the favour and the influence of the monied men of the State, Democracy is willing, and if necessary determined to crush down all new schemes of Internal Improvements, and to crush out all who have heretofore been patriotic enough to take stock in our present Roads. The implacable hatred of the majority against this deserving class of our citzens is truly astonishing and inexplicable, if it were not for the fact that some, if not all of these worthies have got it into their heads that a large majority of these stockholders are Know Nothings. This explains the mystery. They are so bitter against these "worthless creatures" that rather than afford a set of American stockholders protection and encouragement, they would rather see every road in the State sunk in to utter and hopeless ruin. What do the stockholders in the State Bank care whether the Roads pay or not? The State now has or soon will have, some 10 of 12 millions invested in these roads, and the people have to be taxed to pay the interest. It is a great hardship to tax those counties which can never reap any advantage, to keep these roads in operation, and yet when we ask for Banking privileges—which are now confined to a few hundred—to be conferred on several thousand of the most patriotic and deserving citizens of the State, and that too to relieve the entire State from a large portion of her heavy taxes—we are told that it is legislating for a class, that it is unconstitutional, and a monopoly.—We should like to know what rising sprout—it is certainly a very green and tender one—of Democracy first gave birth to this idea—whose banting is it? Did Scales have the honor of licking the cub into shape, and holding it up to the admiration of the House as the living embodiment of North Carolina Democracy?—Or does our son Tommy, the delight of our eyes and the stay of our declining years, claim the honor, or indeed did it leap forth Minerva like from the head of our particular friend Jenkins? Let Mr. Caldwell's bill pass, and let the Legislature grant all it asks for, and it will be impossible for any one to carry the business to an extent that would prove prejudicial. No man or State, under the provisions of his bill could over Bank, nor could any Bank over issue, or Railroad Company possibly commit such frauds as those perpetrated by Schuyler in New York, besides his bill not only deposits security to double the amount of the Bank, but binds the private property of individual stockholders to double the amount of the capital of the Bank, thereby not only rendering the Bank safer but the public more secure against all kinds of frauds than any ever before chartered in the State.

Yet this Bank is unconstitutional because it favors that hateful class called Railroad stockholders, and would have tendency to bring up the stock in all our roads to par as well as to have a tendency to carry the produce shipped on them, to our markets. But it is unnecessary to multiply arguments in favor of the People's Bank; for no man has yet been found nor ever will be found that can answer the arguments which have been already adduced in its favour—while at the same time experience in several instances, both at the South and at the North, has shown the great propriety and utility of conferring banking privileges on this patriotic class of our citizens and such as may hereafter purchase or take stock in other improvements. This is but carrying out the principles which have made New York what she is, while continuing the State Bank and refusing to charter this, thereby continuing and conferring these important privileges in the hands of a few, and thus creating a monopoly is directly in the face of the bill of rights. What great services has the State Bank ever rendered to North Carolina, when compared with the services rendered by these much despised stockholders? The Bank it is said, has aided the State in paying her debts; admit it. And has not the Bank by so doing, made a large fortune? We will pay any man's debts, if in doing so we can benefit our own estate. But after it is done we don't think he is under any particular obligation to us. In other words the Bank has paid the debts of the State and grown rich by the operation, and she is now kindly proposing and begging the State to let her still continue to pay her debts. This is democracy and democratic logic. But to we plain people in the up country it looks a little queer—or at least we stockholders in the Railroads want to relieve the State Bank for a while from paying these debts, and to try our hand at the game of growing rich by paying other people's debts. We once heard of an old man and his seven sons, who all got rich by playing cards with each other. We used to wonder how it could be, but the mystery of that is not to be compared to the mystery of the State Bank paying out her thousands for the State and yet getting rich by the operation.

Such is Democracy and the great perseverence with which they are now courting the monied power of the State, and their firm resistence to all improvements in Bank charters by which these monopolies could be broken up is enough to satisfy every sensible man that Democracy has no sympathy with the poor and laboring classes of the community. Nor do they intend, while they have the power in the Legislature, to let any step be taken that will have the tendency to relieve the people by bringing up the stock in our roads to par, as in Georgia and South Carolina.

But we must bring our article to a close. And let our readers note the fact that although a majority of the House have said by their vote that the People's Bank is right in principle and should pass as an act of justice and for the benefit of the State, yet the fiat has gone forth from the headquarters of locofocoism, that it must and shall be killed and that it is the policy of the democratic party that the privileges of Banking should be confined to a few wealthy men and handed down from father to son in perpetuity. Let our readers note that such will be the fate of the People's Bank. And is it always to be so? Is it actually so necessary for the democratic party to be in power, that we for the purpose of securing them the ascendency, are willing forever, to tramp, tramp, tramp, the tread-mill and be hewers of wood and drawers of water for the benefit of a few insolent, overgrown, old and rotten corporations? Will the everlasting cry of *nigger* forever blind the people to their true interests, and keep them in the dark as to what is the true State policy? Democracy is powerful; but let it beware that it does not over estimate its strength and its hold upon the affections of the people, when it dares to put its foot upon the "People's Bank" and thereby, in effect, say to a large, patriotic and intelligent class that they are not worthy of protection and encouragement at the hands of the State,—although she owes her present prosperity and position to their patriotism and devotion. The "People's Bank" has been brought to the attention of the people—they are beginning to understand it, and as light bursts upon them, there is a growing desire and determination on their part that they will have it—and it will not be in the power of democracy much longer to prevent them. Mr. Caldwell has labored hard and with great zeal, ability and untiring energy for his bill and for the interests of his State—he has encountered much opposition while many rich in dollars, but poor in intellect, have curled the lip and pointed him out as a demagogue. He deserves success—and success, in the end, he is certain to obtain. And though he may be laughed at as entertaining visionary schemes, yet hereafter he will be remembered with gratitude, when the names of many of his scoffers will have faded from the memory of man.

Newspaper Readers Turn Out Well.—We know a respected gentleman in Monroe county, who many years ago, sawed a cord of wood to pay, in advance, his first year's subscription for a newspaper. He is now, in his ripe and vigorous old age, worth a quarter of a million of dollars.—*Albany Journal.*

Gov. Bragg's Inauguration.

In accordance with previous arrangement, on the 1st day of January, Gov. Bragg appeared in the Commons Hall, where he was declared Governor elect; the oaths of office were administered by Chief Justice Nash, whereupon the Governor delivered the following address:

Gentlemen of the Senate
and House of Commons:

Two years ago it was my fortune to appear before you and give the pledges of fidelity required by law before entering upon the discharge of the duties of Chief Executive officer of the State. The time for which I had then been elected has expired.

It may hardly be becoming in me now to speak of my past official course. My fellow-citizens of all political parties will judge of that, and, from my knowledge of them, I confidently believe they will do it, not only considerately, but kindly.

Errors, no doubt, have been committed by me. I claim no exemption from the weakness incident in a greater or less degree to us all, and trust that I am sensible, to some extent at least, of my own imperfections in particular. All I ask of them is, to believe that I have been actuated by honest purposes, and have, on all occasions, endeavored to maintain the honor and dignity of the State, and to advance her welfare and prosperity, so far as I had power to do it, within the scope of my official authority.

A majority of my fellow citizens have reelected me Governor of the State. Indebted to them as I was before, for the generous confidence reposed in me, when comparatively a stranger to most of them, I can find no language now adequate to express my deep sense of the obligation under which they have placed me, and my gratitude for their decided support, after they had had an opportunity, to some extent, of passing upon my official conduct

It is under these circumstances that I appear before you to-day to renew the pledges of official fidelity heretofore given; and if I enter upon the discharge of my official duties for a second term, not with entire confidence, I shall do so with alacrity, feeling assured that my official acts, whatever they may be, will be fairly and impartially passed upon by all, and that my errors, if any, will at least meet with the kind indulgence of those whose good opinion and support I have heretofore been so fortunate as to secure.

We enter to day upon another year—whether it is to be one of weal or woe for our country and our State, is known only to Him who rules and directs the destinies of nations.

Though the prospect before us is not one of calm unbroken brightness, and fragments of the storm clouds which but lately overhung the land still float in our political horizon, yet they have ceased for the time to threaten us with danger or to excite our immediate apprehensions. These indications may be delusive, but I have persuaded myself that there is a calmer, a better and more tolerant spirit abroad in the country. Our people have profited by the breathing time they have had since the late struggle thro' which they have passed. Educated in self government, they have, on several occasions, been able to withstand excitements which would have proved fatal to other institutions than theirs, and have triumphed over dangers which seemed almost insurmountable.

To those unacquainted with the character of our people, these excitements appeared like unheavings from the great deep of society. Time has proved that they were but as the tempest tost ocean waves, agitating the surface, while below all was tranquil and unmoved.

While taking this hopeful view of affairs, I am not unaware of the fact that many regard the present apparant calm as deceitful—a mere lull in the storm, which is destined at no distant day to burst upon us with renewed violence.

However this may be, it is now the duty of every good citizen to endeavor to allay the excitement, abating at the same time none of our rights, but firmly and unfalteringly sustaining them, as the surest means of their preservation and of perpetuating that Union and those institutions, under which we have, in a short time, grown to be one of the great powers of the earth.

Simple and unostentatious as are the ceremonies to-day, we have here represented the three departments of our State government—the Executive, the Legislative, and those who compose our Supreme Judicial tribunal. We have all of us, distinct but important duties to discharge.

The most important, however, are those devolved upon you, as the exclusive law-making power of the State.

In the progress of events, these duties have become more varied and important than formerly, and therefore requiring more time fore their dispatch. As the resources of the State are brought to notice and become better known, these duties are likely to increase rather than diminish, and the scope of our legislation to be widened and extended.

I am aware, gentlemen, that several of the most important subjects upon which you have been called to act during the present session are yet undisposed of, but it is not my purpose now to speak of these or others, having so lately had an opportunity of communicating with you in another way. I trust I may be pardoned, however, for expressing the hope that although your session may become somewhat protracted, you will not suffer yourselves, on that account, to be hurried into hasty and imperfect legislation, always producing serious evils, and to undo which is oftentimes impossible.

For myself, when my official term shall have ended, and I return to the walks of private life, I can hope for no higher gratification than to see North Carolina distinguished by all the qualities which constitute a great State, and taking the position at home and abroad which every one of her sons should wish her to occupy. Whether this shall be the case, depends more upon your labors than mine.

That this hope may be realized, I am sure that you, and all who hear me to-day, will most heartily desire.

From the Merchants & Manufacturers Journal

The Import and Export Tables.

Furnished us weekly and monthly and annually by the government officials, at various points—showing how much value we receive from, and how much we send abroad, are not only important for the merchant to regulate his trade, the political economist as forming the basis of his calculations, the statesman as giving an idea of the growth of the country, but also to the moralist as indicating the degree of progality and debauchery in which we indulge. After the change of the tariff in 1841, the great increase of importations seemed sweeping us to ruin—national bankruptcy; and indeed it was; not because our importations were so great—for they were little more than half what they are now—but because they exceeded by 30 per cent our exportations. We were spending more than we earned, and that to nations is as ruinous as to an individual. The consequence was, that from great apparents prosperity, we went on to the crash of 1837—the suspension of banks and business, and the general insolvency that required a national bankrupt law to emancipate the citizens.

Twenty years after the break down under Van Buren administration, we have reached a point that demands reflection.—Ten years ago our imports began to swell enormously, and so did our exports; for then was the time of famine in Europe, and then were our California gold discoveries that sent millions of the precious metal abroad.—These enabled us to pay, and kept us from foreign indebtness and dependence. Large purchases of foreign goods are the consequence of a prosperous condition of the country. If we send abroad our cotton and corn and gold and tobacco—which are all a like the products of our labor—manufactures must be returned, as they are the only means of payment; and the one will keep pace with the other. The evil comes not when importations are great, but when they are greater than exportations. The trouble in 1837, was not that we imported $190,000,000 value, but that it was a great excess over the means of payment, which we exported. The present danger is that we may be in the same condition in 1857.

The following table show the trade annually since 1850, and its rapid increase.

To June 30.	IMPORTS	EXPORTS
1851.....	$216,224,932	$208,388,014
1852.....	212,613,272	209,541,626
1853.....	267,978,647	230,420,704
1854.....	304,552,381	978,241,061
1855.....	261,468,510	275,156,848
1856.....	308,468,200	308,949,754

Here will be seen the reverse of what we had in '37—an excess of exports, amounting in the last two years, to nearly sixteen million dollars—which is a healthy state of trade. The excess may have been used up in stocks sent here during that time for redemption. The increase of exportations has not of late been in specie, but in agricultural products. Thus from 1852, to 1856, the increase of cotton exported, was $35,000,000 of breadstuffs $51,000,000, and of tobacco $4,000, while of gold it was less than three. The great value of the exports of '55 and '56, was owing to the great amounts demanded by short crops and war, and the high prices received while the goods in return, though many of them not of substantial value, as Brussels laces, Swiss emborderies, French millinery, and English fancy goods—were yet at low prices. Now the tide is turning. Peace has followed war in Europe, trade has revived, and the prices of manufactures advanced; the crops are abundant, and the breadstuffs that last year brought us $78,000,000, either will not be wanted or sold much lower. In other words, the next July returns will show relatively greater importations, and less exportations, and unless we foresee that fact, and adapt ourselves thereto, we shall bring on, to a greater or less degree, as the case may be, the same embarrassments that prostrated our industry and absorbed our energies in 1837.

Are we adapting our condition to our means? Directly the contrary. The increase of foreign imports at the port of New York alone, for the first seven months of 1856, over the corresponding months of 1855, is, in round number fifty millions of dollars. The exports of domestic produce from the same port, during the seven months exceeds those of the corresponding months, of last year only fourteen millons, while the entire exports surpass the entire exports of the first seven months of 1855 but ten millions. It is reported also, that the imports during the fall months promise to be as excessive.

It has been customary through many years for the masses of the people in every time of pecuniary pressure, to denounce the banks, the jobbers, and the merchants for excessive circulation of paper money, overtrading and reckless speculating; but the truth after all is in ourselves—it is in the men and the women who know no bounds to their extravagance but the bottom of their purses, and the end of their credit. Very much of our debt in Europe, and the expenditures that have absorbed our forty millions of California gold annually, and threaten now to overwhelm us with deeper debts and greater dependence abroad, is from unnecessary articles or useless nonsense. It would be bad enough when whole States are under-laid with iron ore, for us to import upon credit, millions of railroad iron for internal improvements; but that would add something to the value of the country: but a hundred times worse is it, when it goes for French silks and French brandies—for milliner's bills and Spanish segars—for gewgaws that go upon our wives and daughters—that beggar the country and beggar husbands and fathers—that make vain mothes, spendthrift wives, and giddy girls; a hundred times worse is it when squandered for smoke and drinks to gratify appetite and pander to morbid love of excitement—for gluttony and drunkenness in men and their sons, which render the former desperate, and the latter worthless. We can forgive something of this folly of women who care more for the jewel upon the neck or head, than the jewel of virtue—more for the external decorations, than for the real improvements that render them worthy of life, since those spring from a desire to please the stronger and sterner sex, but which is the brandy and wines and cigars have not even that poor palliation. But in both instances, the extravagance of these times is not so much to be dreaded from the foreign indebtedness it is sure to create—which is bad enough—as from the fact that it produces fast men and fast women—imprudent fathers and reckless sons—coquetting wives and shameless daughters; and therefore the last and greatest evil of excessive importations, is not financial revolutions and individual ruin, but the general harvest of vice, which we of this generation are reaping, and which will descend with awful violence upon our children.

Our Country's Progress.

Formerly the phrase, 'The Far West' was understood to indicate some definite part of the newer and more distant section of our national domain. The Star of Empire, however, has been traveling so rapidly in later years, there seems to be great vagueness and uncertainty as to where the Far West now is. The editor of the Louisville *Presbyterian Herald* thus gives the result of his efforts to find it; together with some profitable reflections as to the extent and progress of our country:

"Two or three years since, I left home supposing *I was a Western man*, and went thence up the Missouri River to Fort Leavenworth, a distance of five or six hundred miles, most of it in a westerly direction from Louisville. When I reached the Fort, I said to Major Ogden, the commander of it, 'Well, Major, I suppose you begin to feel, away out here, that you have discovered at last that indefinable region called the West?' 'The West, indeed, said the Major; 'No sir! we are living in the East yet. Four hundred miles west of us, near Fort Laramie, is the *geographical centre* of the United States.' We took down a map and measured it, and found that he was right.

"Last summer I traveled up the Mississippi river, seven hundred miles north of St. Louis, to St. Paul, in Minnesota Territory. I said to a friend resident there, 'Well, I feel as I had got almost to the *jumping-off place at last.*' He quietly replied, 'There are three hundred and fifty miles of territory north of us yet in the United States.' Take a few figures by way of illustration of the subject.—New York, the great Empire State, has only 47,000 square miles of territory, whilst Nebraska has 335,882 miles, Texas 237,000, Minnesota 166,000, and Kansas 114,798. That is to say, Nebraska has territory to make more than seven States as large as New York, Texas five, Minnesota three, and Kansas two How will the boast of New York that she is the *Empire State* look fifty years hence? If our population continues to increase up to the year 1900 in the same ratio that it has done since the year 1790, we will have one hundred and one millions, five hundred and fifty three thousand three hundred and seven souls. If Nebraska were as densely populated as Massachusetts now is, it would have over two millions. Texas, at the same ratio, would have over thirty millions; and our whole territory would have three hundred and seventy three millions. Is it too much to suppose that the whole Territory can and will eventually, sustain as dense a population as the poor, barren, rocky soil of Massachusetts? If our whole territory as it is now bounded, were as densely peopled as China, we should have a population of eight hundred and ten millions, or nearly as many as are on the whole globe. Who can think of such a prospect without trembling? If these figures be correct, then there are hundreds of persons who will read these lines who will live to see the day when one hundred millions of immortal souls will be scattered over our almost boundless territory.—What will be the destiny of our country when that is the case?"

The Greatest Rail Road—the Illinois Central.

The longest rail road in the United States and in the world is the Illinois Central, which with its branches, is 731 miles in length. This gigantic enterprise was commenced in December, 1851, and the whole line was opened on the 1st day of January 1855. It received aid from the United States Government in the shape of land, to the amount of three million five hundred and seventy eight thousand eight hundred acres, which were valued some time back at fourteen million dollars. A portion of this land has been sold; the ballance now, considering the improvement in the condition of the State that has been mainly brought about by the rail road, is probably worth far more than the sum at which the whole was valued. Though the road is finished, seventy-five per cent. of the subscription on the stock is yet uncalled for; and it is expected by friends of the enterprise that improvement in the value of land will take place so rapidly as to present the shareholders some day with a road free of expense that shall have cost them only twenty to twenty-five per cent on the dollar. The Illinois Central states from Cairo, at the mouth of the Ohio, and runs through Illinois in a northerly direction to the southern terminus of the Illinois and Michigan Canal; from thence branches diverge one to the lead region of Galena, another to Chicago, where it meets the great Eastern roads, running to the Atlantic. At Cairo, the Illinois Central connects with Southern lines to Mobile, and New Orleans, and the Mississippi