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dicative of his wish to continue the paper.

### From the N. C. Farmer. SOURCES OF PLANTS.

**Apple**—All varieties of apples are derived from the crab apple, which is found in most parts of the world.

**Asparagus**—This was brought from Asia to America. Asparagus is often improperly called Sparrow-grass.

**Almonds**—are the fruit of a tree which grows chiefly in the Indies.

**Barilla**—is a plant cultivated in Spain for its ashes, which are said to afford the purest alkali for making soap and glass.

**Bread-Fruit-Tree**—is a native of the South Sea Islands, especially of Ouhitee.

**Coffee**—is a native of Arabia Felix. It is now cultivated in various parts of the torrid zone, especially in the East and West Indies.

**Cork**—is the bark of a species of oak, which grows in Spain and Portugal. After the bark is taken from the tree, a new bark is formed, and in the course of six or seven years it is renewed.

**Cannor**—is the concrete juice of a tree, a species of the laurel, which grows in Borneo, Sumatra and other parts of the East Indies.

**Choccolate**—is made of cocoa, which is a nut grown in the West Indies. The kernel of this nut is parched like coffee, pounded into dust, made into a paste, then dried and cut into cakes.

**Cocoa**—This nut grows in both Indies, on trees from 30 to 60 feet high. They grow in bunches of 12.

**Cloves**—are the flowers of a plant which grows in the Molucca Isles and East Indies.

**Cabbage**—was brought from Holland.

**Currants**—Dried ones come to us from the western part of Greece.

**Horseradish**—was brought from China.

**Lettuce**—was brought from Holland.

**Nutmeg**—This grows in the East Indies. It is a kernel.

**Onions and Garlic**—are natives of Asia and Africa.

**Oats**—The oat is considered a native of Mexico.

**Peaches**—The peach tree is a native of Persia. In its wild state it is small, bitter and poisonous.

**Potatoes**—This is a native of South America. In its native state it is small and bitter.

**Pine-Apple**—This grows in the West Indies, and other warm climates.

**Rye**—Originated in Tartary and Siberia.

**Raisins**—Are dried grapes; they ripen on the vines, are dried in an oven or in the sun. They come to us from the Mediterranean.

**Sugar-Cane**—Is a native of China, from whence is derived the art of making Sugar.

**Tobacco**—Is a native of Mexico and South America. One species has lately been discovered in New Holland—tobacco was first carried to England from North Carolina by Sir Walter Raleigh.

**Tea**—This is a native in no countries except China and Japan, from these places the world is supplied. Tea is procured from the leaves of an evergreen shrub 5 or 6 feet high. The leaves are first steamed over boiling water, then dried on copper plates over a fire.

**Wheat**—Originated in Tartary and Siberia.

### LIGHT BREAD.

Man has little inclination to live solely on animal food—it is indeed questionable whether he could enjoy perfect health on a diet purely of flesh. It is well known, however, that vegetable substances, particularly the farinaceous, are fully sufficient of themselves to maintain a healthy existence. We have every reason for believing that the fruits of the earth constituted originally the only food of man, and even at the present day, we know that the Hindoo lives almost exclusively on rice and water. In Ireland a great portion of the poor subsist on potatoes, with a small addition of oatmeal bread; while the laboring classes in many districts of Scotland nourish their robust frames on oatmeal, with, occasionally, the addition of milk.

Animal food is digested in a much shorter period than vegetable; from which circumstance, as well as its approaching nearer to the substance of the body into which it is to be converted, it might at first be supposed the most appropriate article of nourishment. It has, however, been found that vegetable matter can be as readily and perfectly assimilated by the stomach into appropriate nutriment, as the most tender animal substance; and confessedly with a less heating effect upon the system generally.

Experience has taught us, and the peculiar construction of the digestive organs in man establishes the fact, that proper combination of a vegetable and animal diet, is the one most friendly to the human constitution, and the best adapted to preserve it in a proper state of health and vigor.

The due proportion to be observed between the two species of food, will depend in a very great degree, upon the particular condition of the digestive organs, the age and peculiarity of the constitution of each individual, as well as the climate and season of which the body is daily subjected. As a general rule, however, it will be found that those who make use of a diet consisting chiefly of vegetable matter, have a manifest advantage in looks, strength and spirits, over those who partake largely of animal food; they are remarkable for the firm, healthy plumpness of their muscles, and the transparency of their skins. This assertion, though at variance with popular opinion, is amply supported by experience.

Among all civilized nations, bread constitutes the staple article in the food of man. It has been aptly termed the staff of life—but in order that it may prove a staff, substantial and pleasant and not a "broken reed," it is all important that it be good,—that is, light—sweet—sufficiently baked, and never eaten until a day or two old.

"The grand secret and mystery of having bread come out of the oven delicious, inviting and nutritive," says an instructive writer, "is the exact point of time of putting it in. While in the state of dough it will readily run into various stages of fermentation, the first of these is the saccharine,

or that which produces sugar—the next is the vinous—the third the acetous, or that producing vinegar, &c. If the dough be formed into loaves, and placed in the oven before the first fermentation has taken place, the bread will turn out heavy, and whoever eats it may rest assured of the nightmare, and various other evils that flesh is heir to. If it be kept from the oven till the second fermentation, it will prove light enough but tasteless—and little better than the same quantity of saw-dust—if it be delayed until the acetous fermentation has occurred, it comes out sour, and altogether unneatable. It is, then, during the first or saccharine fermentation that it should be cast into the oven; and it will then, if sufficiently baked, be found a sweet and wholesome food.

"That bread should be without sweetness, when allowed to run into the vinous fermentation, is very easily explained—the saccharine matter produced by the first fermentation being converted into a vinous spirit, which is driven off by evaporation during the process of baking. This kind of bread may be easily distinguished without tasting, by its loose, open appearance—the pores or cells being very large—whereas, really good bread is marked by fine pores, and a sort of network of a uniform appearance."

### DISINFECTING AGENT.

As this is the season, when offensive matter of any sort, in a state of decomposition, most easily excites bilious and other diseases, we would call the attention of the readers of the Farmer to one means of purification so necessary to prevent its terrible effects, and one highly conducive to health comfort and convenience every summer season. It is also valuable for agricultural purposes, as it improves the quality of manure, by fixing the ammonia.

Coppers (sulphate of Iron) 1 lb. dissolved in water, say about four gallons, and poured twice or three times into sinks is a complete disinfectant, removing all unpleasant odor, and preventing offensive effluvia when it becomes necessary to clean them. The cost is a mere trifle, coppers selling for four or five cents per pound. The effect is certain.—N. C. Farmer.

From Bicknell's Reporter.  
MEXICO.

### A DEPLORABLE PICTURE OF THE COUNTRY. THE VIEWS OF PAREDES.

We recently alluded to a Manifesto or Discourse which was submitted to the Congress of Mexico on the 6th of June, by President Paredes. We have since read translations of it, as given at length, in the National Intelligencer and Washington Union. It is a document of more than ordinary interest and importance, and while written in an earnest and apparently sincere and patriotic spirit, it presents a sad picture of the condition of Mexico. That country, it is conceded by Paredes himself, is struggling for national existence. Convulsed within and assailed from without, with a bankrupt treasury, an exhausted credit, and a discontented people, the prospect is indeed most gloomy. The truth is, Mexico has for years been the spot of ambitious and profligate men. The country, its best interests, its highest prosperity, have been sacrificed to demagogues and mercenaries. The reign of each party in power has been so brief and uncertain, that each has endeavored while holding the reins of Government to make the most of the temporary elevation. And thus the country has been plundered in the name and under the forms of law. The elevation of Paredes was an act of the grossest usurpation, and this he in some measure concedes himself. But he endeavors to apologize for his course on the grounds of stern necessity. It is impossible in the crowded state of our columns to give his Address at length, but we shall proceed to notice its chief passages. Alluding to the movement which he headed at San Luis Potosi, he says:

Like its predecessors, the Government of the 6th December, 1844, sank rapidly into public disfavor; and when, before a great public crisis, it had need to be strongest, it fell into a weakness which left it incapable of facing the difficulty, of sustaining its influence, or of avoiding the attacks of those restless spirits who are the perpetual bane of all institutions and of every Government. In this state of things, it became clear that social dissolution itself impended, and that if these aimless revolutions and counter-revolutions were to go on, the only result must be anarchy and the bursting of those last slender bonds which had thus far held us together, amidst so many contests. In this new conflict, the Republic looked anxiously around for some point of union, for a physical force that might back its moral energies, might enable it to freely exert its will, constitute itself as the occasion demanded, and erect itself from its long difficulties and disasters. I then listened to the voice of our afflicted country, and set on foot the political movement of the 14th December, 1845, in the city of San Luis Potosi.

There, in a body of six thousand of the bravest and most orderly of our troops, I held at command the first of all the things that the crisis needed—the means of firmly upholding public order. By this chance, and not because I looked on myself as possessing the capacity or other elements for an enterprise so high, I was led to resolve that I would attempt it; but with the purest intentions, an entire disinterestedness, with not a view nor a design but to reconstitute the nation in the completeness of those rights which parhical faction were daring to rob us. Here, then, was the cause why I was to invoke and did invoke no principle but that of the national sovereignty; and when I pointed out the fitness that this sovereignty should be represented by classes in this august Assembly, it was my meaning that all the great existing interests should be here embodied—interests which do not cease to be collectively popular, because they are separate, and which are, in reality, those of the whole society under all its phases. The country accepted favorably my plan, and, without serious opposition, gave its effect, creating for itself a Provisional Government, which should call together by law the promised Convention. The Junta of Representatives imposed on me the grave and responsible duty of taking in hand the reins of public administration; and I declare, before God and before the people that, I took

upon myself this enormous weight, because I knew that not hopes, but difficulties, not sweets but bitters, were to be the portion of the Mexican who should offer himself, at such a time, a ready victim on the altar of his country.

He makes various suggestions as to the best course to be pursued under the circumstances—alludes briefly to the disorders in various parts of the Republic—and then proceeds to notice the war with the United States:

"I have insensibly come to where I am to speak of the gravest circumstance in our present position.—When this Administration came into power, it found itself face to face with an engagement entered into by the preceding one to receive a Minister from the United States to treat on its just cause. The Government, firm in its just cause, and resolved never to yield to the spoliation of that part of its territory, was preparing for war; yet, anxious to spare, if it might, the effusion of blood, determined to hear what this Plenipotentiary had to propose. But, as was to be feared from the fallacious policy of the United States, their ill faith became apparent the moment their Commissioner presented himself; he had sent Mr. John Slidell, not as Minister *ad hoc*, to treat of a special matter, but as a Resident Minister, such as could only be admitted between nations whose intercourse has no impediments. The Government, therefore, gave him clearly to understand that it could only receive him in a special character; upon which he asked and forthwith obtained his passport. This has been seized by his Government as a pretence for charging us with the first hostilities, and provoking a contest, as if the refusal to meet a fraudulent negotiator were an act of hostility, and when that Government is already using arms, not only for the defence of Texas, but for the usurpation of a fresh part of our territory.

The American Minister was not received, because national dignity forbade it, when an American army was already marching on the Rio Bravo, our ports on both seas were threatened by their squadrons, and troops of the United States trod our soil in California. I was therefore obliged, on the 21st of March, solemnly to declare that peace and national honor being incompatible with such aggressions, our soil should be defended from their encroachments, until this Congress, with whom I lay to declare war, should assemble. Their army, for some time stationed at Corpus Christi, advanced to Point Isabel, and thence to a position in front of Matamoras. After assembling above five thousand men in that quarter, I directed the General Division there to act against the enemy; and he, deciding on crossing the river, took up a position between the coast and the fortified part of Paso Real.

On the 8th of May a sharp engagement was brought on, in which our troops gave proofs of their valor, and, though with some loss, held the field and maintained the honor of our arms. On the next day our general-in-chief fell back to a new position, where the combat was renewed, but with an unfortunate issue on our part. The division crossed the river; and the commander, who still preserved, according to his return, four thousand troops of the line, besides auxiliaries, suddenly evacuated the city of Matamoras, against the express orders of his Government; which looked to the importance of maintaining that place for further operations and as the point to which supplies and reinforcements were on their way. Such unexpected conduct on the part of the general-in-chief has obliged me to recall him and to summon him to account for his disobedience before a military court of inquiry. The Government meantime is actively at work to repair these reverses, and looks to the nation and to you for co-operation.

The squadron of the United States has begun to blockade the ports of Vera Cruz, of Tampico, and of Tamaulipas; and its guns will probably soon carry havoc into those fair cities. The day has come, then, when the country calls to its aid all its children—the day when this Congress must proclaim war against that nation which flatters itself so falsely that a single misfortune can overthrow the courage and the constancy, of which our fellow-citizens have given so many signal proofs. As a citizen and as a soldier I am ready for any sacrifice; and the brave men of our army, aided by this magnanimous people, will defend with me to the last, the sacred rights of our country."

It will be seen that in all this, no disposition is manifested to yield. On the contrary, he says, and not without force and eloquence, that "in the midst of the greatest public dangers that a brave nation finds its noblest thoughts, the virtues and the sudden resources that rescue. A firm and high public will, purity, and constancy can accomplish every thing; and when peace and order shall return, we may find in the very means that which war has driven us to the basis of a solid finance: which are order, economy, good faith, and the credit which these create."

We may infer then, that Paredes, should be able to retain power, will make another vigorous effort to resist the encroachments of the U. States. But the prospect is decidedly against him. The movement at Jalisco, already chronicled, was, as it now appears, but a part of a more general movement concocted by Santa Anna, and designed by the most specious means to rally the feeling in favor of the Ex-President, and against the present incumbent. This movement has, it is probable, been successful ere this, and we may reasonably infer that Santa Anna will, before long, be at the head of the Government of Mexico.

**The boxing Irishman.**—After the fight of the 9th became general, a private, an Irishman, found a bunch of chaparral between himself and a strapping Mexican. The Mexican raised his piece and taking deliberate aim pulled trigger, the piece did not go off, the Mexican again raised his musket and snapped it, Paddy all the time coolly looking out at the second failure to discharge his piece, the Mexican in a delirium of wrath, threw his musket away, and went through various gyrations of despair. Paddy mistaking these eccentricities for a challenge, for a fist fight, threw away his musket, and placing himself in an attitude that would have delighted deaf Burke, sang out,

"oh by the powers, you will not find me amiss with the fists if that's yer game." Lieut.—who was observing this singular exhibition of coolness and chivalry, ordered the soldier to take up his proper weapon, and send the Mexican to his long home, which was done accordingly.

**PAY OF THE ARMY.**—The following shows the compensation allowed to officers and men, from a Colonel:

	Per month.	No. of Rations per day.	Forage No. of horses.	No. of ser-vants.
Colonel,	\$75	4	4	2
Lieut. Colonel,	60	6	3	2
Major,	50	4	3	2
Adjutant (pay of a Lieut. and \$10 in addition),	2			
Captain,	40	4	1	
First Lieutenant,	30	4	1	
Sec'd Lieutenant,	25	4	1	
Serjeant Major,	17	1		
Q. M. Serjeant,	17	1		
Pr. Musicians,	17	1		
First Serjeant,	16	1		
Sergeants,	13	1		
Corporals,	9	1		
Musicians,	8	1		
Privates,	8	1		

Volunteers will require the following dress:

- 1 Dress Cap, 2 Flannel Shirts,
- 1 Forage Cap, (glazed silk) 2 pair drawers,
- 1 Uniform Coat, 4 Pairs Boots,
- 1 Woolen Jacket, 4 Pairs Socks,
- 3 Pr. Woolen Overalls, 1 leather or silk stock
- 1 Cotton Jacket, 1 fatigue frock, (lin.)
- 1 Pr. Cotton Overalls, 1 Blanket.

### PURPOSES OF THE ADMINISTRATION IN REGARD TO THE MEXICAN WAR.

From the National Intelligencer, July 15.

The Washington correspondent of the Journal of Commerce, in his Letter written on Saturday last, (from which an extract is subjoined,) throws an entirely new light upon the designs of the Administration in the vast preparations which it has made, and is making, avowedly for the purpose of overrunning Mexico. According to this writer, whom we believe to be familiar with the counsels of the Administration, and neither politically nor personally unfriendly to those who compose it, but rather in the confidence of its members, the dis-memberment of the Mexican empire is not the object, or at least not the sole object, of the projected invasion. The free citizens of the United States, who have volunteered to perform military service, as they have been led to suppose, in defence of the rights of the United States, are to be marched into Mexico, with our small Regular Army, amounting in aggregate number to some thirty or forty thousand men, not to defend rights or avenge injuries of their own country, but to compel the Mexicans to change their Government, and to force them to establish free trade! These are the objects for which fathers are called upon to abandon their families, children their parents, farmers their fields, and mechanics their tools and workshops, to be marched off by companies, battalions, regiments, and brigades, to campaign in among the sands, the precipices, the ravines, and the defiles of Mexico!

Will not that portion of the People of the United States who remain at home—(those who have volunteered having for the time divested themselves of their political rights)—demand of Congress to interpose, before its adjournment, and place some limit to the unbounded discretion which, in a moment of excited patriotic feeling, they have given to the President of the United States to call out all the power and resources of the country to carry on this war with Mexico? The grant of discretion to the Executive was for the purpose of prosecuting this war "to a speedy and successful termination." What possible connexion is there between a speedy termination of war with Mexico, and the extinction of her sovereignty, and prescription to her of laws, government, and policy? If these be the objects of the war, what becomes of the alleged wrongs upon which the President founded his recommendation to Congress, after he had begun the war, to recognize it? And how long will it take for the United States to complete this great work of political, moral, and industrial regeneration of Mexico? Let the correspondent of the "Journal" answer in his own words:

"The complete political, moral, and industrial regeneration of Mexico may be accomplished in the course of A WAR OF SOME THREE OR FOUR YEARS."

Correspondence of the Journal of Commerce.

WASHINGTON, July 11.

Some few months ago, Mr. Rejon, one of the most eminent of the Mexican statesmen, said to a citizen of the United States that Mexico would never be regenerated without a long war with the United States. A war, he said, was necessary to break down the military despotism that had so long crushed the liberties and the spirits of the Mexican people. Mexico, he said, or rather her Government, must be conquered, before the people could ever attain their rights.

It is in this aspect of the case that our war with Mexico is less odious in our estimation than a war for revenge or for plunder, or even for the punishment of unjust aggression. It becomes us to prosecute the war in such a manner that it will relieve the Mexican people of their burdens instead of adding to them. It was a mistake, as some who are best acquainted with the Mexican people tell me, to send Jesuits among them for the purpose of conciliating the clergy or the people. The Jesuits are odious to the Mexicans, and the order has been suppressed in their country. The proper mode of conciliation will be to authorize our generals to send for the civil authorities of each town or State they enter, and offer them peace and protection for the persons and property of their citizens, and the free exercise of all their rights, on the condition that they will not act against the United States in any measure, and that they declare themselves independent of the central military government, whether it be under Paredes or any body else. The people will, every where, gladly avail themselves of an opportunity to be rid of the army and its oppressions.

We must do another thing, and do it immediately—take all the Mexican ports, and give to Mexico, through them, what she has never enjoyed, a free trade. Give them our cotton goods

without any duty. They will be excellent customers, paying in bullion, hides, and wool, &c. A trade might commence immediately, under the protection of our fleets and armies, that would be very beneficial to the people of both countries. When the exorbitant duty shall be taken off of quicksilver, mining operations will become more profitable; Yankee skill will soon be applied to the production of the precious metals.

The complete political, moral, and industrial regeneration of Mexico may be accomplished in the course of a war of some three or four years.

From the National Intelligencer, June 17.

The Washington correspondent of the Journal of Commerce gives us, in his letter of the 14th instant, a further insight into the plans and purposes of the Administration. It appears, from this letter to be the opinion of the Administration that Congress, in complying with the recommendation of the President to recognize the existence of war with Mexico, has conferred upon him "a very ample" authority "to CONQUER ALL MEXICO," and for this purpose "there is reason to believe" that "THE WAR WILL CONTINUE FOR SOME YEARS!" But let the correspondent of the "Journal" speak for himself:

Correspondence of the Journal of Commerce.

WASHINGTON, July 14, 1846.

The authority of the Executive to CONQUER ALL MEXICO is very ample, under the act recognizing the existing war, and the policy of striking at Upper California cannot be doubted, for it will be the easiest and most convenient way of forcing Mexico to do us justice. The object of all the movements of the United States Government in this war is declared to be the establishment of the Rio Grande as the boundary of the United States, and the payment of certain indemnities in favor of our citizens. Mr. McKay declared, in his speech, that this Government was ready to make peace on these terms. No one can imagine that the United States will make peace on any terms short of these. If Mexico should not be prepared to pay the indemnities, then it is probable that this Government will take Upper California in pledge for their ultimate payment, or purchase it and assume the payment of all the sums ascertained to be due to our citizens.

Should the war continue for some years—AND THERE IS REASON TO BELIEVE IT WILL.—the whole of the northern provinces will be revolutionized, and become independent of Mexico. Arista was himself at the head of a movement some time ago, which had this object in view. These provinces will, in the mean time, be rapidly settled by American citizens, as Texas was. A few of the volunteers who go to Texas ever intend to return. They go with the declared purpose of settling in the country; and, after some years, it is easy to foresee that each of these provinces will become assimilated in institutions and population and policy to the Western and Southwestern States of this Union.

If the line between the Northern and Southern provinces of Mexico be drawn from Cape St. Lucas eastward to the Gulf of Mexico, the northern independent provinces would be as follows: New Mexico, Chihuahua, Coahuila, part of New Leon and Tamaulipas, Durango, Sonora, and Upper and Lower California. These States embrace one half of the Mexican territory, but only one fourteenth part of her population; that is, about five hundred thousand souls, all of them of European or Indian blood, without admixture with that of the African.

From the National Intelligencer, July 16.

We are again indebted to the intelligent correspondence of Eastern journals for information more accurate and particular than is in our possession, or in that of Congress, concerning the designs of the Administration in reference to the War.

From the first paragraph of the subjoined letter it appears that the project for the capture of Vera Cruz is not merely meditated by the Administration, but determined upon; and that the council of naval officers is only summoned to instruct the Department in what way the object can best be accomplished.

The second paragraph in the letter confirms the impression derived from successive intimations in the official paper, and corroborated by the opinion of the correspondent of the Journal of Commerce, quoted by us yesterday, that the war with Mexico is, so far as the Executive may not be curbed and restrained (as it ought to be) by Congress, to become a war of conquest, to be waged with no reference to the interest or true glory of the United States, but for very different and even paltry purposes, if the purposes be such as the North American correspondent surmises.

Correspondence of the Philadelphia North American.

WASHINGTON, July 14, 1846.

Not content with the safe and steady success of our gallant army under the command of General Taylor, the Administration proposes an experiment of a more hazardous nature, and one which in any event must cost the lives of some of the most distinguished officers in the service, to say nothing of the loss of ships and munitions of war. In plain terms, they propose to attack Vera Cruz, and to take the Castle of San Juan de Ulua. With this view, an order has been issued from the Navy Department for a council of twenty of the most experienced captains to assemble in Washington on Tuesday next, to determine upon the plan of operations. From what I have been able to gather, it seems the conclusion is foregone, and the council will be required, not to discuss the policy of the movement, but to furnish practical suggestions for carrying it out. It is well known to the Government that the opinion of some of the oldest and most scientific officers is decidedly adverse to this undertaking, and that it has been respectfully but firmly urged, with the purpose of preventing a disclosure, which, under the circumstances would be any thing but creditable to our arms.—Since, however, it may be regarded as determined upon, I trust the best ability and skill which the country can furnish will be called into the deliberations. I am informed Colonel Tatton, of the Engineer Department, has in his possession a perfect plan of the fortress and of the caliber and arrangement of its gunnery. Ought he not to be consulted on an occasion like this, or is the Administration prepared to rush rashly into an experiment which in the best aspect presents the most serious obstacles, and hardly equal chances of success? The cause of humanity, if nothing else, demands that this enterprise should be considered with the utmost prudence, and, if attempted at all, with such resources, as will put defeat beyond con-

tingency. Are we then prepared for a movement which secures victory? Let those answer who hold the responsibility, and who are ready to embark without counting the cost.

Every indication upon the part of the Government warrants the belief that this is to be a war of conquest—a war hostile to the constitution and to the spirit of our institutions—a war such as we have deprecated in England and France, and war planned and executed to make political capital for the Administration. If not, why the expeditions being fitted out under partisan commanders, which will scarcely reach their destination for eight or nine months to come? It is manifest the Administration does not desire or contemplate peace with Mexico until it has been conquered by the desolation of the sword. Is the country ready to decide any party for such an object? Is it willing to squander sixty or one hundred millions a year to glorify Mr. Polk? Is it anxious to incur an enormous public debt, and to waste the blood and treasure of our people to carry on a political war? These are plain questions that address themselves to every good citizen, and which deserve to be pondered upon.

The discussions of the war with Mexico by the British press, which have just reached us, are remarkable. They charge us with being the aggressors in the war, forgetting that, before hostilities broke out, we first sent a message of peace to Mexico through our Consul, and then followed up our message by a Minister, fully accredited, upon the same pacific errand.—Washington Union.

It is true that it was proposed, through the American Consul, to open negotiations, but it is not true that the United States, in dispatching a Minister, fairly carried out the understanding with the Consul. The Mexican Government agreed to treat, in regard to the Texan boundary, with a Commissioner appointed specially for that business; but the United States, instead of sending such a special Commissioner, sent a Minister Plenipotentiary. There is no reason whatever to doubt that Mexico would have received the special Commissioner and treated with him; in the correspondence with Slidell, the Mexican Minister of Foreign Affairs stated repeatedly that the Mexican Government was ready to receive the Commissioner, and to negotiate about the matters in difference with the United States; but that Government could not consent, in the then state of affairs, to the resumption of friendly relations implied by receiving a Minister Plenipotentiary, while the United States held military possession of a part of her territory, and had a fleet hovering about her seaports. It was barely consistent with these hostile demonstrations to receive a Commissioner to adjust the boundary, but the Government of Mexico could not with self-respect do an act which would imply the existence of friendly dispositions on both sides. We entertain hardly a doubt that the war might have been averted if a special Commissioner had been sent out, according to the arrangement made through the American Consul.—Louisville Journal.

**PAIXHAN GUNS.**—"The Columbiad," the original gun invented by Col. Bomford, of the U. S. Army in the war of 1812-14, is now lying at the ordnance depot in N. York harbor. Its construction, dimensions and advantages were taken by a young French officer then in this country, and through his efforts fell into the hands of General Paixhan, who immediately introduced them into the French service. They were by this means first made known to the rest of Europe, and received the name of the person who introduced them into the European service rather than the name of the original inventor. All these facts are so fully susceptible of proof that the Europeans now acknowledge themselves indebted to us for the invention; even General Paixhan gives himself up to originality in his gun, and limits himself to certain improvements which he introduced.

**BRITISH OPINION.**—The London Morning Chronicle speaks thus of Gen. Taylor's battles:—"Nil admirari." Such is the motto of Great Britain in respect to the great deeds of America. She views them coldly, quietly, and without wonder or emotion. She is as little surprised at their occurrence as the mathematician is astounded at the accuracy of his own calculations. She sees her way both to them and through them, and would have been more surprised had they turned otherwise than they have done.

"The feats on the Rio Grande have been gallant and successful. No man in England doubts it. No man in England suggests even a second interpretation of them; nor cares about refining upon their natural significance. We admit, without reservation, that they exhibit some important facts, and that to some extent, viz: the transcendent merits of the American army, the strategic skill of the officers, the impetuous energy of the soldiers, the considerate forbearance of the sutlers. For any exception that we take to his conduct, Gen. Taylor may deserve a triumph, and captain Ringgold the honors of an ovation. They have fought well, and kept up a character which was before high enough to be independent of either bravado or exaggeration. More than that, they have just done what we expected, and what we foretold they would do. Who so dear to us as the man who fulfills our prophecies?"

"The Mexicans themselves are not dishonored. Let those who think lightly of American courage attribute the successes in question to the weakness of their enemy, rather than to the valor of their conquerors. We reject the alternative.—America won the fight through her own inherent heroism. The cause was gained by the strength of the one rather than by the weakness of the other."

"Such is the fact—a fact probably admitted through the whole length and breadth of Great Britain; by the Gael and Welshman, as well as the condescending Anglo-Saxon."

**JOHN RANDOLPH'S NEGROES.**—The Cincinnati (Ohio) Chronicle of the 9th instant says that the emancipated slaves of John Randolph, who recently passed by the Miami Canal to their settlement near Mercer county, Ohio met with a warm reception at Bremen. The citizens of Mercer turned out en masse and called a meeting, or rather formed themselves into one immediately, and passed resolutions to the effect that said slaves should leave in twenty-four hours, which they did in other boats than the ones which conveyed them there. They came back some twenty-three miles, at which place they encamped, not knowing where to do.