

[Continued.]

TROPICAL PRODUCTIONS.

You will probably like to hear some description of the productions and appearance of this part of the tropical regions. I am entirely incompetent to the task, but will try to give you an outline. One cannot help but admire the deep green in which the forest is clothed; and on close examination you can detect no individual of the vegetable world, to which you are accustomed. The palm tree is very striking; there are numerous varieties, of which the cocoa is here of most importance; it seems to grow on all situations, on both swamp and high lands. Its fruits are seen in all stages of its growth. The palm tree proper produces large bunches of small nuts, out of which, it is said, an oil is extracted. The other striking productions, are the Banana and the Plantain, which grow on large herbaceous plants 6 to 10 feet high, with large green leaves 5 and 6 feet long, and 18 inches wide. The vegetation has an exceeding luxuriant appearance, and in most places a labyrinth of trees, plants and vines cover the earth, and render it apparently impervious and impassible. Cane or reeds are seen as large as your leg, and Cactus at Panama, large enough for hedges, for which it is used. Many strange varieties of fruit are seen, among which is the famous bread fruit, six inches, and more sometimes, in diameter. It is now the end of winter here, or wet season, yet as hot as our summer; and notwithstanding so many rich fruits grow here, naturally, such as the Orange, Lemon, &c., yet I think the northern or temperate regions afford more real enjoyment of human life, and are more favorable to the development of human powers.

As to this route to California, I would not encourage any one to come this way, at least till the Railroad is finished. From all I hear from passengers, the Vanderbilt or Nicaragua route is greatly to be preferred to this; how much better it may be than this, I cannot say, but on this I know life is exposed to many fatalities, not the least of which is the want of ventilation, necessary and comforts on board the steam ships. No one should undertake the journey, unless he knows enough to judge for himself, or has a companion on whom to rely for information, and as a general rule take nothing for granted. While in health you may do well enough; but if sick you are in the condition of Jonah in the fish's belly, you may call on God for help, but can have but little from man.

FROM PANAMA TO SAN FRANCISCO.

We had to remain at Panama until Wednesday the 22nd Dec., when we went aboard the steamer Cortes, and at 12 o'clock set sail for San Francisco. Although this is regarded as the healthiest season, yet several have died on the Isthmus, and several at Panama. The disease seems to be some form of Cholera, brought on by the use of ardent spirits and careless exposure.

Thursday 23. Our direction is a little south of west. In sight of the main land. We find the waters of the Pacific less turbulent than the Atlantic.

Friday. Had one death to-day and quite a number sick, principally the intemperate and habitual users of ardent spirits.

Saturday 25th. Christmas day. Three men have died during the night and were cast overboard this morning. A cool pleasant wind is blowing from the north east, which renders the temperature quite agreeable. We are now out of sight of land and are going at the rate of 10 miles an hour.

Monday 27th. Since Saturday, four or five have died, and some are yet sick. The numerous deaths, occurring on the line of travel, should produce conviction of the importance of entire abstinence from the use of ardent spirits. We expect to reach Acapulco to-morrow, where the ship procures supplies.

Tuesday 28th. At 11 o'clock reached Acapulco. This is a small place approached by a narrow passage from the sea, and is surrounded entirely by barren mountains. It is small and of but little importance, except as a place of deposit for supplies, for the California steamers. These supplies consist of coal, (from the eastern States or England) beef, poultry, fruits, such as plantains, limes, &c., and eggs and rice from the Indians, &c. The supplies of beef, consist of live cattle, which are fastened to the side of large canoes, and thus are towed or made to swim out into the bay to the steamer, into which they are hoisted by the horns or head and placed in stalls until butchered. One is killed every morning. Hogs and sheep are also taken in. The coast here has a mountainous, barren appearance.

Jan. 1st, 1853. At noon to day we passed the Lobos and Margarita Islands. The coast along here has an exceeding barren appearance, being destitute of grass and trees, said to be occasioned by the want of rain. But little is seen on this part of the Mexican coast to interest, or attract attention.

Jan. 6th. To day at 10 o'clock, arrived at San Francisco, having been detained at the entrance of the Bay, since 12 o'clock yesterday, by a fog, which frequently occurs in the winter. The Bay has a very animating appearance, from the great number and variety of sail and steam vessels, and the crowded forest of masts of vessels, in port receiving and discharging freight, and attended with the bustle and crowd, indicating the place, as a great concourse of those who are not searching for the philosopher's stone, but for that which was considered the product of its possession. The rainy season sets in a month since, and much rain, it is said, has fallen. This morning was foggy and misting or raining. The

afternoon is clear, and the temperature and appearance very much resembling Indian summer in Carolina.

The streets of the city don't present the most inviting appearance, though with the side walks generally paved, or laid with plank, on the plank road system. In the most business parts, brick buildings, with brick, stone and iron side walks, are seen. Goods of all kinds can be had in abundance, and at prices much more favorable than the products of agriculture; and it seems to me that the greatest amount of business is done in the hardware and provision line. The prices of many things seem enormous to us, who have not yet contrasted the products with the price of labor that produced them. For instance, eggs at \$1 to \$2 per doz., poultry \$35 per doz., and flour \$35 to \$50 per barrel. The prices current, I will send you in my next.

Jan. 14th. Returned late this evening from a trip down the San Jose valley; the particulars of which I will give you in a future letter. You will please read this to any of my friends, who may be interested in these matters. My opportunities for writing have been very unfavorable, both as to the matter and manner, but I hope you will be able to decipher the writing.

CORRESPONDENCE OF THE PATRIOT.

Letter III.—Washington & Congress.

Messrs. Editors: I promised to meet your readers in Washington in my next letter. I reached the City on the morning of the 23d of February, and found it already crowded with strangers. After securing a comfortable room, and having finished some matters of business, I sallied forth on the following day to make my observations on men and things. The first thing that struck my attention was the fact, that Washington City, proper, is all on Pennsylvania Avenue, and that Pennsylvania Avenue is all on one side—the right from the Capital. This is singular, but a very common peculiarity of towns and cities. Why, even your little towns of Greensboro' and Salem select one side of their principal street for all the bustle and business, and walk and talk of both sexes and all colors. Pennsylvania Avenue is a noble street, commanding one of the finest views of any street in the world. It is thronged with omnibuses, hacks, cabs and carriages of all sorts and descriptions, many drawn by beautiful horses, richly caparisoned and flying from one part of the city to another with wonderful fleetness. The street is very broad, and to some unwieldy budgets of flesh and bone, would be regarded a tiresome walk to go from one side to the other. The side-walks are unusually spacious, even for the principal street in a city—and the side-walk of the city is always crowded with a moving, bustling, throng. I speak now of the season of my visit; for in the summer, I am told, Washington is sparsely inhabited.

Having taken a rapid view of the Avenue as I walked along, I resolved to pass an hour or two in the Capitol. From some reason I know not, I went first into the Senate Chamber, which I afterwards regretted as the sequel will show.—The Senate is a grave, a noble body of statesmen. I felt proud of my country while I stood admiring her gifted sons. There appeared an indefinable something pervading the very atmosphere of the Senate Chamber which drew both Legislators and spectators into a solemn silence. The former seemed unconsciously to feel that they were the pillars of government, and on them rested the great fabric of American Liberty and American Law. The latter seemed unconsciously to feel that they were in the presence of men whom heaven had formed and earth had honored. The first Senator whose entire speech I heard, was Mr. Bell from Tenn. Mr. Bell is a tall, athletic, solidly built man, though stricken with years. I should think him at least sixty. He is not a beautiful orator, but a powerful speaker. He exhibits great earnestness, and enunciates and gesticulates with considerable vehemence. I heard but one better speech in the Senate. Mr. Butler of South Carolina, in my humble estimation, excelled him. Mr. Butler is not only fluent, and clear and eloquent in thought and word, but, his voice is like a roll of thunder softened into melody; and his eyes, when the currents of thought flow full and free, do not sparkle with fulfil brilliancy, but steadily burn like two balls of fire. Mr. Butler is an old man, and his hair is perfectly white, and hangs properly about his neck. Though his hair and the furrows upon his brow tell too plainly that the plow-share of time has done its work, still his action and voice possess all the vigor of youth.

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and a vest made of the skin of some wild animal indigenous to our frontiers, and always looks surly! In a word, I was not pleased with the great hero—of Jan Jacinto though he be. The fact is, the old General is affecting foppishness on a new plan; and it renders him disgusting.

While I was making my observations upon the appearance of the Senators, my attention was accidentally arrested by a more interesting feature of that grave body, the idleness of some, and the industry of others. Although many seemed eager to be listening with careless attention to the debate, or to be musing, and a few wholly idle, yet there were others constantly employed. When their interest was not excited in the debate, I observed them writing or fingering books of reference and that too with an untiring zeal. Among these were Bell, Cass, Douglas and others, whose names I need not mention. I admired Douglas—I mean the man. Perhaps, my sympathy for his late bereavement had something to do with his being so particularly interesting. But, be that as it may, I thought Mr. Douglas one of nature's noblemen. He may be wrong as a politician; but his appearance and character as a man, are captivating. He is a very handsome little man. Besides he carries the industry that took him out of a Cabinet Maker's shop and placed him in the foremost rank of his countrymen, into the Senate Chamber. Every time I went into the Senate, I found Mr. Douglas with these other Senators, and earnestly employed. I was told that when Mr. Douglas commenced the Law, he resolved that nothing which human energy could overcome, should prevent him from being punctual at the Courts, punctual in his preparations for the bar, and punctual to his clients in every particular; and to accomplish part of this determination, he had often endangered his life by crossing high waters and breasting the severest weather. These things account for his wonderful success, and industry is the key that unlocks the mystery of others' rapid and certain advance to power and fame. I noticed that the industrious of the Senate as well as of the Lower House were the illustrious of the land.

Two o'clock found me in the Ladies' Gallery of the House of Representatives: and what a scene for the theatre of a nation's glory! The first thought I conceived as my eye rested upon the two hundred and forty Representatives, and here is an Old Field School on the larger plan in Washington City! To describe it fully I cannot, and would not if I could. The warm blood of national pride, that poured through my veins an hour before, was chilled—almost congealed at the spectacle. Such a continuous bray of voices and moving about, and crying "Mr. Speaker," and beating the desks for pages, and a thousand other things to make up the bedlam, and which are daily enacted in that self-same body, are a burning shame upon the dignity of the American Congress. It was with difficulty I could hear, and unless the speaker was a man of talents to attract me, my attention would wander. *nolens volens* on my part, among the strange feats of the honorable membership. Among the very few of those that I was able to hear, and with whom I was pleased, Mr. Stanton from Ky., displayed considerable power both as a rigid reasoner and a pleasant speaker. But really I could not become interested in the debate, or many of the members. I had been in the Senate first, and the step from the sublime to the ridiculous was so very apparent that after my indignation on first view, had subsided, I could but look and laugh! Although the scene was a fine representation of a bedlam, it was not difficult to see one very notorious fact—that there are big men and little men—wise men and simple in Congress as well as in the wide world—that the many are governed pretty much by the few—that the few make all the laws, but the many get all the money! As I rose to leave, I felt, and half said to myself I would not be, unless I could be a Cæsar too! Yours cordially, WOLRAM.

Having taken a rapid view of the Avenue as I walked along, I resolved to pass an hour or two in the Capitol. From some reason I know not, I went first into the Senate Chamber, which I afterwards regretted as the sequel will show.—The Senate is a grave, a noble body of statesmen. I felt proud of my country while I stood admiring her gifted sons. There appeared an indefinable something pervading the very atmosphere of the Senate Chamber which drew both Legislators and spectators into a solemn silence. The former seemed unconsciously to feel that they were the pillars of government, and on them rested the great fabric of American Liberty and American Law. The latter seemed unconsciously to feel that they were in the presence of men whom heaven had formed and earth had honored. The first Senator whose entire speech I heard, was Mr. Bell from Tenn. Mr. Bell is a tall, athletic, solidly built man, though stricken with years. I should think him at least sixty. He is not a beautiful orator, but a powerful speaker. He exhibits great earnestness, and enunciates and gesticulates with considerable vehemence. I heard but one better speech in the Senate. Mr. Butler of South Carolina, in my humble estimation, excelled him. Mr. Butler is not only fluent, and clear and eloquent in thought and word, but, his voice is like a roll of thunder softened into melody; and his eyes, when the currents of thought flow full and free, do not sparkle with fulfil brilliancy, but steadily burn like two balls of fire. Mr. Butler is an old man, and his hair is perfectly white, and hangs properly about his neck. Though his hair and the furrows upon his brow tell too plainly that the plow-share of time has done its work, still his action and voice possess all the vigor of youth.

I heard several other Senators but none of distinguished eloquence. I was very desirous to hear Mr. Soule from La., but he kept his peace; and so I had to decipher his genius upon his features and person. Mr. Soule's person is tall and thin—is face narrow—forehead somewhat retreating—complexion dark—hair jet black and straight and long. Indeed, I would sooner take him for a descendant of Indian ancestry than to be a genuine Frenchman, judging simply from his general appearance. He is agile in his movements, and even graceful. One accustomed to observe human character, it seems to me, would at once pronounce Mr. Soule both an enthusiast and an orator, without ever having heard any thing of him previously. Mr. Soule is a genius of the highest order; and with his peculiar temperament, unless closely guarded, may do much harm.

THE NEW ADMINISTRATION.

ITEMS FROM WASHINGTON.

From long lists in the "Union" of removals and appointments of Consuls, Judges, Marshals, Attorneys, Post Masters, Land Officers, &c., we select the following, as of general importance sufficient to interest our readers:—

William Henry Vessey, of Pennsylvania, to be consul of the United States at Havre, in France, in place of Lorenzo Draper, recalled.

John A. Campbell, of Alabama, to be an associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, in place of John McKinley, deceased.

Edward Lander, of Indiana, to be chief justice for the Territory of Washington.

John K. Miller, of Ohio, and Victor Monroe, of Kentucky, to be associate justices for the Territory of Washington.

Salah R. Hobbie, to be First Assistant Postmaster General, in place of S. D. Jacobs, removed.

Green W. Caldwell, to be superintendent of the branch mint at Charlotte, in the State of North Carolina, in place of James W. Osborne, removed.

William B. Flanner, surveyor, at Wilmington North Carolina, vice John Cowan, removed.

William N. Peden, Naval Officer, Wilmington, North Carolina, vice James G. Green, removed.

Charles Mason, of Iowa, to be Commissioner of Patents, in place of Silas H. Hodges, resigned.

George W. Manypenny, of Ohio, to be Commissioner of Indian Affairs, vice Luke Lea, removed.

Loren P. Waldo, of Connecticut, to be Commissioner of Pensions, vice James E. Heath, removed.

Joseph Lane, of Indiana, to be Governor of the Territory of Oregon, in place of John P. Gaines, removed.

Isaac I. Stevens, of Mass., to be Governor of the Territory of Washington.

Benj. F. Hallett, to be Attorney of the U. States for the District of Massachusetts, in place of George Lunt, resigned.

Robt. B. Campbell, of Texas, to be Commissioner for running the boundary line between the United States and the republic of Mexico, under the fifth article of the treaty with that republic concluded on the 2d February, 1848, in place of John R. Bartlett, removed.

Theodore S. Fay, of New York, to be minister resident of the United States in Switzerland.

John Randolph Clay, of Pennsylvania, to be envoy extraordinary & minister plenipotentiary of the U. States to the republic of Peru.

March 18.—Public rumor asserts that the new Administration have been busy in framing a foreign policy, in accordance with the principles of the Inaugural Address of Gen. Pierce. That is sheer nonsense. The general policy in regard to foreign relations was formed and adopted before the Cabinet members were nominated. Gen. Pierce communicated to each of those who now compose his Cabinet a copy of his inaugural before he delivered it, and they each accepted its principles before they came into his Administration. The Cabinet is therefore a unit upon the general principles of foreign policy, and all the rumors of differences of opinion in the Cabinet on these questions are erroneous.

March 20, 1853. You will be astonished to see the great number of people who crowd the entries to the departments.

The President is so much beset that he is unable to exchange civilities even with his personal friends.

Yesterday was an open day, in accordance with public announcement, and from 12 to 2 o'clock there was a continued crowd of ladies and gentlemen to pay respects to the President, in the Ladies' Saloon. The President and Mrs. Means received them all with becoming grace and dignity, and every body was highly gratified. Among the ladies were Mrs. Major Scott and Miss Scott, daughters of the General in Chief of the Army. It was really a gala day at the White House. I presume that the President will rejoice that the 7th day is a day of rest. I understand that Ex-President Fillmore frequently remarks that with his vigorous constitution and general good health, that but for the relief afforded him on the Sabbath, he should have been worn out. Ex-President Tyler used to say the same. Nobody but the actual incumbent can tell the difficulties of the Presidential office.

March 21st.—The Census Office on Eighth street, and its vicinity, has been the scene of great excitement to-day. In the first place, upwards of one hundred Clerks were removed, leaving but seven or eight in the office, and it was proposed to disperse with the Eighth street and Seventh street offices altogether, one office and a few picked Clerks being deemed sufficient to wind up the business.

In the next place, Mr. Kennedy, late Superintendent of the Census Bureau, sued out a writ of replevin on Mr. DeBow, his successor, by virtue of which he entered the office with a Deputy Marshal, and removed two or three cart loads of manuscripts and documents claimed as private property, but embracing a large quantity of manuscripts prepared by Clerks in the office, the records of the Census Board, numerous publications received from public societies, &c. The documents removed were appraised at \$480, and Kennedy has given bond in \$4000 for their safety.

Mr. DeBow consulted the District Attorney, and there is no doubt that the most prompt measures will be taken for the recovery of such as are of a public character. It is understood that Mr. Kennedy had accumulated a large mass of manuscripts preparatory to an extended work on the resources of the country, which he designed to publish on his own account, as Congress has declined to publish the Census on the extensive scale proposed.

March 22d.—The topic before the Senate was the resolutions of Clayton, calling upon the President for information in regard to the Clayton and Bulwer Treaty. The speech of Mr. Everett was about two hours long, and was worthy of the man, the theme, the time, and the august body before which it was delivered. There was a brilliant assembly to hear him; and he held them in breathless attention from the beginning to the close. His speech was a great effort of a great, natured, and erudite mind, and will