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From the New York Express. MAJOR DOWNING.

We regret to notice that our types did injustice to the Major's last. The most glaring of the errors committed, however—such as "four days ago," for "four years ago"—we presume would be immediately noted by the reader as an error in print,—for the Major never makes mistakes as to dates and facts, (unless they be wild ones.) All we can say about it is, if any future over-sight on our part should draw from the Major a good story, by way of episode, as is contained in the following letter, we shall regret it.

Sign the wreck of the Two Polies }
R. L. L. Sept. 16, 1837.

To the Editors of the New York Daily Express:

I got one of your papers in which you printed my last letter to "Uncle Sam," and when readin' on't, it was fortunate for you that you was twenty miles off,—for I never did see sich 'farnal work as you made of some parts of my letter. However, all I've got to say about it is, if folks who read my letters in print, find any thing in 'em that don't read a nooth, and don't correct as to dates and facts, they may set it down agin the printers. It was just so once with a young Doctor, a friend of mine, in the Colare times. He writ a long letter once, about how he cured folks by giving Calomel,—he writ Calomel in doses every minute,—and the printers put it in print "Calomel in doses every minute." Up went Calomel among the Potheagars,—and down went the poor sick folks. It warn't the Doctor's fault,—for it was all owing to the printers, and a little "e."

Now afore I trust you with other matters, I'll give you the printer of a story I've got to tell,—and you may stick as many E's and O's and P's into it as you please, and I don't care what you make on't so long as folks take the mother wit and barn on't. It is a story about Uncle Sam, and some of his capers among the women folks.

Uncle Sam, you know, always was a sociable kind of critter, and from his first comin into life, never could get along well without havin his hull family about him, all on 'em givin him "a boost up the tree;" but, Uncle Sam found, as most folks do, afore they git gray, that unless he took a wife to take care of his buttons and keep things slick'd up about home, he would git into trouble and so forth. Well, after tryin various plans and seem a good deal of trouble one way and another, he took advice some twenty years ago, and got married to a smooth-faced quaker lady, worth 28 millions of dollars,—and as Uncle Sam was considerable liberal in his way, he put into the family stock 7 millions of dollars; but in the "rale grit," however, but what he said then was just as good as "git," and so together they had 35 millions. Well, 35 millions was no trifle, and things went on smooth and slick for nigh upon 20 years, and every body said, at home and abroad, there never was a happier couple. Uncle Sam's wife did all a wife could do, and tho' Uncle Sam would once and a while, swell up and talk big, his wife said nothin, but kept stitchin up his breeches when he'd split 'em, and sew on buttons when he twich'd 'em off. But by and by Uncle Sam got mixin up with odd company, and among other things, got a kink in his his head out of some Wright's doctrines, that a man of much importance hadn't ought to stick to one wife, but have as many as the great Mogul.

"I s'pose," says Uncle Sam, "I'm a good mind to try it;" and so he talk'd to other folks about it, and to rights the galls got the notion too; and the Uncle Sam got one Amos Kindle to go round and sound about, and see if the galls would hand the racket,—and he come back, and says he, "Uncle Sam, there's no mistake about it; the galls are all ready, and more than you can shake a stick at;"—and sure enough, just then the galls all come got the notion, set to,—they praise'd up Uncle Sam, and abused his good old quaker wife—O shocking! there's nothin what they didn't say; and among other things they said, that Uncle Sam's wife was ——— Pshaw!! you don't say so!! and ——— magy you get!! Well, the next thing we see Uncle Sam was, he look'd as fine as a little ruffles round both ends of his shirt, and sich a caparin as he cut among his new wives for a spell, never was seen before,—and sich frolics!! and all his old bones as busy as he was among 'em, till some folks begun to wink and whisper that Uncle Sam was so liberal he had gives enuf' for himself and friends."

Things went on thus for about three years, when Uncle Sam began (as most folks do, when they get too much of a good thing) to smell and feel trouble; and at last then I got back from foreign parts, and I met Uncle Sam, and if it had not

ben for his bein my own blood relation and knowin him and lovin him, in any shape, as I do my own father and mother, I never would have known him at all. "Why," says I, "Uncle Sam, is this you?" says I, "I don't know, Major," says he; "but why do you ask—don't I look as natral as ever?" says he. And there he stood, holdin his breeches up with both hands, and his elbows both torn out and a dirty shirt sleeve peepin through, and holes in his stockings, and his shins all plastered over. "Why," says I, "Uncle Sam, what on sirth ails you?" Come, says I, "give me your hand, my old friend, and let us talk it all over together." "I am sorry, Major," says he, "I can't shake hands with you just now—my hands are busy," says he. "What," says I, "holdin the money, aye, Uncle Sam—both hands full, as usual," says I. "Not exactly, Major," says he; and with that he cum up close to me, and whispered in my ear, "I am in a 'bad box,' Major," says he, "I have got so many wives, I ain't got a button left for my suspenders—they are all off." "Do tell now," says I, "I want to know!!" "It's true," says he, "and you may see for yourself." And with that I look'd—and sure enuf, there never was a man in sich a pickle.

Well, says I, Uncle Sam, this comes from folks given you bad advice—or rather by your not takin good advice. You forget, says I, one fact,—and that is, that it was intended that your family matters should be regulated on the same plan of every other well regulated family—and that tho' yours is the General Government family, it was intended to be regulated just on the same plan as the family of the humblest of 'our masters;" and there, says I, was the mother wit of the thing in the beginnin'. What "masters?" says he, spunkin up and tryin to swell—(but takin care to hold on to his breeches)—"who are my 'masters?'" says he—"Your masters?" says I—"Why the people—and I am one on 'em, Uncle Sam—and if you had stuck to the rule they made for the regulatin of your family, you would not now be in your present condition."

"Now," says I, "Uncle Sam, there is but one way that I can see for you to take—and that is for you to call all your young women about you and tell 'em that you can't have but one wife—and they must git husbands each in their own States. Here Uncle Sam shook his head and looked considerable sad; "I am afraid Major," says he, "it's too late—it was an easy job to git rid of one wife, but to git rid of so many all at once, I am afraid I shall git spunk'd as red as a cherry." "Never mind that," says I, "you'll git more than you deserve if you do folks that dance must pay the bill!" says I, "Uncle Sam." "But," says he, "Major, must I divorce them all?" "No," says I, "there is no divorce in the matter, you can't do that unless you can prove em wrong; that's the law," says I. "Well I can," says he, "I can prove that the Post Office, the Land Office, and Amos—"

"Hush," says I, "Uncle Sam, dont talk so, for it is an old story in all countries, that a man who has more than one wife is a bigger fool than his friends, and has more friends than buttons. Now dont say any thing more about it. You have got into a scrape, and the best way is to git out on't. You'll find that your young wives will be as glad to git rid of you, as you will be to git rid of them. But you mustn't talk of divorce, or they'll bring you to the proof, and show that you first came a courtin. And by the time you prove guilt on any on 'em, they'll git you 'on the hip,' and keep you there too," says I. "Now look at your courtin, and compare it with what it was—its a sad change," says I. "Uncle Sam, aint it—however," says I, "my old friend, you have had a rare frolic, and this is the end on't—and pritty much the end of all frolics." "Now," says I, "we must go and see what can be done with the old Wife. I'll be bound," says I, "she is as sound as ever she was, and not the worse for havin taken shelter in her old native State of Pennsylvania. I'll go on first," says I, "Uncle Sam, and tell her to git her buttons and sops ready for you, and if I don't miss my guess, you will in a few weeks look as cherk agin as a boy—and as she is a good natur'd critter and likes to see all happy about her, she will do all she can to provide for the young women you have been galavanin with of late, for she thinks you more to blame than they be. And then," says I, "Uncle Sam, when all gits sick'd up, and you git all your buttons sew'd on, you will have a spare hand to welcome a friend or knock down an enemy. At present," says I, "Uncle Sam, you are 'ham-bug'd'."—And with that Uncle Sam he twich'd up his breeches, and spunk'd up considerable, and we moved on together.

* We never knew exactly before the actual meaning of that word "Ham-bug'd."—Eds.

I'll tell the balance of this story another time.—Your Friend.

J. DOWNING, Major,
Downingville Militia 2d Brigade.

The editor of the New York Evening Star, speaking of the despondency and gloom which pervaded all classes of people, and the general panic which seemed to have put a stop to all sorts of business, after the receipt of the President's Message,—the fall of stocks, the sinking of credit, the depression of real estate,—entreats his friends not to be cast down. "Don't give up the ship," he says. "Mr. Van Buren could not possibly write a different message to Congress than the one he has written. Pinned as he is by Andrew Jackson—committed in writing to Blair and Kendall—trammelled and held down by his personal pledges, an expose of an appalling and ruinous character would have been made on the instant of his sending forth a message containing different views." The editor of the Star then goes on to say:—

"Not a solitary proposition of the Message, but that of extending the credit on bonds, will be carried out by Congress, and he knows it. But, say the hesitating and doubtful, he has committed himself fully against a National Bank—he is openly in favour of the Gold and Silver bumbag—he is decidedly out for a Treasury Experiment." Granted—on paper—but are you so blind as not to see that Old Hickory has hold of one of his ears, and Amos the other? He speaks in their voice—he utters what they set down for him—he writes what he had pledged himself to write, in this first message to Congress. But has he left no hole to creep out of his dilemma, should Congress declare against him? To be sure he has—hear him!—Whatever plan may be ultimately established, my own part shall be so discharged as to give it a fair trial and the best prospect of success."

"There is the hole, gentlemen large enough for him to crawl out backwards. The old white Lion, in his despotic will, would have said to his servants, the people, 'I will not consent to this, and I will not approve that;' but Mr. Van Buren, more politic, says, 'you have my views, gentlemen, and whatever may be your final determination, you may expect my cooperation.'"

In this way the ingenious editor of the Star argues himself into the consoling belief that "all will turn out right in the end." We hope he will not be disappointed.

SECESSION OF THE NULLIFIERS.

It is evident from the tone of "The Merchant," a paper published in Baltimore and Washington, and in the confidence of Mr. Calhoun, that our correspondent's statements in regard to the union of Nullification and Van Bureanism is perfectly correct. The "Merchant" boasts that the wile of Mr. Van Buren's Message may be said to have been formed out of materials furnished by Mr. Calhoun in his speech on the currency in 1834.

This new combination of parties is not altogether a subject of surprise to us; neither do we regard it as inauspicious to the cause of the Whigs. Nullification has thus far been a milestone about the neck of the party—and it is a matter of congratulation that we are well rid of it. The Whigs of the South may now stand erect, and maintain their due ascendancy.

Boston Atlas.

Extract of a letter from the Hon. J. C. Calhoun,

to the editor of the Alexandria Gazette.

"On the highly important subjects on which Congress has been called to deliberate, I shall express my views and opinions in my place in the Senate.

"As to the calumnies which may be circulated to my prejudice, they are not unexpected. It is my rule to pass them unnotic'd, leaving it to my conduct to put them down.

"How strange, that any man who knows me, should imagine it possible for me to be driven or seduced from my position! I live but to carry out the great principles for which I have been contending since 1824, and which I have maintained under every danger and difficulty. In their defence I have acted with and against every party, without blending with any. Mr. Van Buren has been driven into a position favorable to their advancement; and shall I not avail myself of the opportunity which it affords me to accomplish my object? Shall I permit him to drive me from my position because he has been driven on't? All I ask is to be heard. My confidence, in every juncture, is in the force of truth and integrity."

Congress.

Monday, September 18.

In Senate.—The bill for the issue of Treasury notes having been postponed to this day, in order to give Mr. Calhoun an opportunity of preparing an amendment, and of offering his sentiments generally upon the subject, was now resumed by the Senate. Mr. Calhoun then rose and addressed the Senate in a speech, occupying between one and two hours. On concluding his speech, Mr. Calhoun submitted his amendment, which provided that from and after the 1st of January next three-fourths of the money due to the Government may be paid in notes of specie-paying banks; that from and after the 1st of January, 1839, one-half might be paid in such notes; one-quarter after the 1st of January, 1840; and that from and after the 1st of January, 1841, all sums due the Government for customs, lands, &c. shall be paid only in the legal currency of the United States, or in such notes, bills, &c. as should by law be ordered.

Mr. Benton, after expressing his entire concurrence in the amendment of Mr. Calhoun, sent to the chair two amendments of his own, which he said comprised the substance of the bill introduced by him two years ago. "To re-establish the constitutional currency of the country." His first amendment provides that, after a day to be specified, all the public dues should be paid in gold and silver only, and in Treasury notes and land scrip, as might by law be authorized; and the second provides that after the resumption of specie payments by the banks, the Treasury should begin with specie payments.

These amendments, together with Mr. Calhoun's, were ordered to be printed.

The bill was then ordered to be engrossed and read a third time by the following vote:

Yeas.—Messrs. Allen, Bayard, Benton, Black, Brown, Buchanan, Calhoun, Clay of Ala., Clayton, Fulton, Grundy, Hubbard, Kent, King of Ala., King of Geo., Knight, Lyon, McKean, Morris, Nicholas, Niles, Norvell, Pierce, Rives, Roane, Robbins, Robinson, Ruggles, Sevier, Smith of Conn. Smith of Indiana, Strange, Swift, Tallmadge, Tipton, Walker, Wall, Webster, White, Williams, Wright, Young—42.

Nays.—Messrs. Clay of Ky., Crittenden, Preston, Southard, Spence—5.

The bill to extend the time for the payment of duty bonds was amended, by extending the time to nine months, and ordered to be engrossed.

The bill to adjust the remaining claims on the deposit banks, was also amended and ordered to be engrossed. The payments to be made by instalments, in four, six and nine months.

In the House of Representatives, after the presentation of petitions, most of which were anti-Texan, Mr. Cambreleng, from the committee on finance, reported without amendment, the Senate bill for adjusting the claims of the U. States upon the late deposit banks; also a bill for the deposit of merchandise in the public stores; also a bill to revoke the charters of the District Banks, in certain cases; also, upon leave, a bill appropriating 300,000 dollars for the suppression of Indian hostilities in Florida—all which were twice read and committed.

After the adoption of various resolutions calling for information, Mr. Garland offered a project as a substitute for that reported from the committee of finance, which was ordered to be printed for the information of the house.

[This bill proposes the reception, in payment of public dues, of the notes of specie paying banks, and the employment of such banks as depositories of the government, under certain restrictions.]

The House took up the Senate bill for the postponement of the 4th instalment directed by the 13th section of the deposit act to be made with the States. Mr. Dawson of Ga., moved its postponement for the present, until further information could be procured.

Mr. Cambreleng earnestly opposed the postponement, and went into a statement of the condition of the treasury, as

it would be on the first of October, to show that the whole amount of available and unavailable funds in the treasury, at that time, will be less than two millions. Under these circumstances, the government could not make a deposit of nine millions with the states.

Tuesday, September 19.

In Senate.—Mr. Rives, pursuant to notice, rose to ask leave to introduce a bill to designate the funds receivable in payment of the revenues of the government, and addressed the Senate for more than two hours. The bill is similar in its provisions to one offered by him at the last session of Congress, and authorizes the reception by government of the bills of specie-paying banks of a denomination not less than twenty dollars. Leave being given, Mr. Rives introduced his bill, which was read, and ordered to a second reading.

In the House of Representatives, numerous petitions and memorials were presented against the annexation of Texas to the Union.

Mr. Adams offered the following resolution, which, on his motion, was laid on the table:

Resolved, That the power of annexing the people of any independent foreign state to this Union is a power not delegated by the Constitution of the United States to their Congress, or to any department of their government, but reserved to the People.

THE FLORIDA WAR.

Mr. Wise offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That a select committee be appointed by ballot to inquire into the causes of the extraordinary delays and failures, and the enormous expenditures, which have attended the prosecution of the war against the Indians in Florida; that said committee have power to send for persons and papers, and that it have power to sit in the recess, and that it make report to the next session of Congress.

Mr. CAMBRELENG inquired why it was proposed that the committee should sit during the recess?

Mr. WISE said, in reply, that the reason must be obvious. The committee could not even commence its labors before then; and there was little use in raising the committee, if its labors were to be confined to the adjournment of the present session of Congress. It was most extraordinary that two Major Generals employed in this war had been successively arraigned and tried by Courts Martial, while the only successful commander, Gen. Clinch, when called as a witness in the trial, should have testified that no commanding general or subordinate officer was blameworthy for the failure of the campaigns, but that the blame lay at the door of the War Department. In reply, the world had seen a labored defence from the late Secretary of War, Gen. Cass; it saw the war still raging; and it was but yesterday that, in the midst of the general distresses of the country, with a bankrupt Treasury, (bankrupt with a surplus of means!) the Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means had called for more than a million and a half of dollars to prosecute this ill-starred contest. Sitting in that House, as a representative of the people, while he never would hesitate in voting any necessary appropriation which was asked for, and would not stop to inquire how former appropriations had been expended, or how the sum asked for was to be applied, he felt it his duty, particularly at such a time as this, to inquire how the millions already given, and given on the mere request of the chairman of a committee, without even a statement of the Department to back it, without an estimate, and without a report, had been spent, or rather wasted.

It was now universally admitted, he believed, that in this branch of the public concerns there had been mal-administration: that great errors had been committed. Was it not worth inquiry, how the public money, so lavishly and hastily appropriated, had been expended? and was it not time that some steps should be taken to put an end to a war so disgraceful to the country! The universal opinion now was, that the course of the major general now in command was quite as objectionable as that of either of his predecessors. One of these had been publicly tried, and though the court marshal who sat upon his conduct had honorably acquitted him, its verdict had been by the order of the late executive expunged. Shall we submit any longer to such a state of things? He said he had proposed that the committee of inquiry should be appointed by ballot: for this was no