

Mr. BRANCH'S Letter of Acceptance.

Raleigh, April 18th, 1857.

Gentlemen:—Your communication of the 2nd inst., informing me that the Democratic party of the Fourth Congressional District, assembled in Convention at Franklinton, had unanimously and by acclamation designated me as their candidate for Congress, has been duly received. This renewed mark of the confidence of my friends fills me with emotions of pride and gratitude, and I receive the manner in which the nomination was made as proof, not that I am free from fault, but that they abound in liberality and personal kindness. For, whatever sacrifice I may have made in engaging in the service of the District, I have been more than recompensed by the uniform kindness and forbearance of every class of my constituents, and am now deeply in their debt for the more than merited acknowledgment my prior services have met with. I accept the nomination, and will in due time enter upon the duties it imposes. Most of the questions of great public importance on which I have been called to vote during my service in Congress, have either belonged to the hackneyed politics of the country, or bore a sectional character. On these I have not felt it my duty in any instance to separate from my party friends or Southern associates. But just before the termination of Congress a question was presented partaking of neither character, which had not been previously discussed, and in regard to which I was compelled to act on my own judgment, unlightened by the views of my constituents. I refer to the bill providing for a deposit with the States of the surplus revenue in the Treasury. After a careful and deliberate consideration of the circumstances bearing on the question—in no haste and under no misconception—I felt it my duty to unite with the entire delegation from the State in voting for the bill. As it is a new question, and has not been discussed before the people, I propose to present to you the reasons that influenced my vote. Under the tariff act of 1846 the revenue had increased so rapidly notwithstanding the great increase in the expenses of the government, the Secretary of the Treasury reported to Congress, at the commencement of its last session, that on the 30th of June next there would be a surplus in the Treasury amounting to twenty-nine millions of dollars; that he had paid off a large amount of the public debt in advance of its maturity, and that no more of it could be reached; and he warned Congress of the disastrous effects on the business of the country, which must flow from withdrawing from the usual channels of trade and business and locking up in the Treasury vaults so large a portion of the circulating medium. This state of things imposed on Congress a double duty: 1st. To reduce the revenue. That I cheerfully and zealously co-operated in, for since my entrance into Congress I had never ceased to clamor for a reduction of the tariff. Ultimately the reduction was made, though neither in the manner nor to the extent that I desired. But such was my anxiety to effect a reduction of the revenue that with my friends I voted for a bill which, under different circumstances, could not have obtained my support. 2d. To dispose of the surplus already accumulated, and which would not be needed by the government. The surplus was there—already accumulated. It had been collected from the people in disregard of the spirit if not the letter of the Constitution, for Congress is empowered "to lay and collect taxes, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defence and general welfare of the United States," and for no other purpose. It was collected for unconstitutional purposes, and it was sought to apply it to a vast variety of unconstitutional objects. Let us enumerate a few of these objects. A bill was pending before Congress, providing for the construction of three Railroads to the Pacific, with various feeders in the West, amounting in all to about ten thousand miles, and to cost one thousand millions of dollars. Every ocean was marked and dotted on the map, for steamship lines to trade for private gain at the public expense. About one hundred and fifty bills were pending for opening rivers and making harbors in the North and West, and some in the South. Every species of enterprise against the public Treasury found favor in Congress. Speculators and plunderers swarmed in the lobbies and on the floors, and the conviction had got abroad that no scheme or claim would fail if it could afford to pay. To cap the climax, three members were convicted of corruption, and a painful suspicion existed that not half the iniquity of the people's representatives had been brought to light. The argument in favor of every project or claim, however monstrous, was that the Treasury was overflowing, and the government could afford to be generous. This species of argument misled many honest men, and it was the saturnalia of rogues. There is scarcely a conceivable violation of the Constitution which some one of these schemes did not involve; and to permit Congress to appropriate the money as it would be appropriated if left there, would lead to unconstitutional precedents enough to nullify every provision of that instrument. Better far would it be to sink it in the ocean than allow it to poison the very fountains of legislation and pollute the head streams of the executive government. It is my duty not only to support, but also to guard, protect and defend the Constitution of my country. I can conceive no danger to which it could be exposed more imminent than is brought upon it by a surplus of thirty millions to be scattered for; and to "guard, protect and defend" it from this danger, I could see no method so prompt, so secure, and so effective as to remove the surplus out of reach. It is the duty of a statesman to deal with things as he finds them—to mitigate evils he could not prevent—and he is no faithful public servant who, from fancied analogies where some exist, from traditional horror of a name, or from any other cause, subjects his country to a long line of ill rather than embrace a choice of evils. I could not hesitate between two plans, one of which carried with it almost every conceivable evil, and resulted in giving all the money to speculators in the North and West, and the other of which involved no violation

of the Constitution, threatened no great public mischief, and returned to us a just portion of what had been wrongfully extorted from us. When the government extorts from the people more money than it has a right to take, it is robbery; and it will be difficult to convince me that we ought not to accept restitution of that of which we have been robbed. In adopting this course I violated no provision of the Constitution; nor is it to be inferred that I invite the constant or even the often recurring practice of distributing money to the States out of the Federal Treasury. Much less would I sanction the policy of raising more money than is needed for an economical administration of the government, for the purpose of distribution. A poor government is apt to be virtuous—a rich government is sure to be corrupt. I did not mean to sanction and did not sanction the policy of distribution. On the contrary, the measure for which I voted is a counter measure to distribution, and presents the best possible means for defeating it. Thousands advocate distribution who would repudiate the idea of raising, by tax on the people, more money than the government needs in order to give it to the States. They only desire to distribute such excess of revenue as accumulates in the Treasury from time to time, under the unforeseen fluctuations of trade and business. These persons are honest and sincere, but fall into the gross error of adopting a bad general principle to provide for a case that can rarely, very rarely occur, and which, when it does occur, the good sense of the American people will always provide for as an isolated specific case outside of party rules. All such would willingly accept the deposit policy and give up distribution. Again: The principle being established that the only way in which these surpluses can be disposed of through partial, extravagant, corrupting and unconstitutional appropriations by Congress, thousands will embrace distribution as a choice of evils. Many even of those who think it unconstitutional, will embrace it on the dangerous hypothesis that one violation of the Constitution is less deplorable than many. All those advocates of distribution who do not wish to tax the people to raise a fund for distribution will be satisfied, because all their objects are attained; while those who still adhere to it will be exposed in all their naked deformity, as wishing, under a cloak, to tax the people enormously to raise more money than the people's immediate representatives dare to levy on them, for the use of the States. I apprehended that few in this State would avow the latter purpose, or if they avowed it could stand before the people; and I think I am justified in saying that deposit will completely silence and defeat distribution. My vote is sanctioned not only by prudence and sound policy, but by the highest Democratic authority. In 1836, a similar state of affairs existed. Then, as now, there was a surplus in the Treasury. Up to a then recent period, (1835) the money belonging to the government had been deposited in the United States Bank. Gen. Jackson had ordered the "Removal of the Deposits" from that institution, and caused them to be placed in certain State Banks. The administration and Congress not being at that time prepared to embrace the independent Treasury system, an act was passed by Congress, in accordance with a recommendation contained in Gen. Jackson's first annual message, and signed by Gen. Jackson on 23d June 1836, entitled "an act to regulate the deposits of the public money." This act established, or rather legalized, what was known as the "Pet Bank System," which exploded with the suspension of specie payments in May of the following year. The first twelve sections of the act provided for the deposit of the public money in State Banks, to be selected by the Secretary of the Treasury, on their complying with prescribed conditions. The thirteenth section directed that the surplus, exceeding five millions of dollars, should be deposited with the States, on their engaging to return it when called for by Congress. It was a deposit, simply, and Congress had the same power to deposit part with the States that it had to deposit part in banks. The States are liable now to be called on to return it; and they have not been called on, only because the unanimous sentiment of the country is, that such a call would be opposed to sound policy. The deposit with North Carolina was something less than a million and a half of dollars, and now constitutes a large part of her school fund. I have not perceived that she has been corrupted by it, nor that she has since been any less watchful than before of federal encroachments. Her public and private credit are unimpaired, her people prosperous, and her public authorities vigilant and incorruptible. I see this very fund diffusing light throughout her borders, by educating a hundred and fifty thousand of her children in the principles of religion, honor and freedom, teaching them reverence for law and order, and submission to legitimate authority. The act of 1836 originated in the Senate, and was introduced by Mr. Calhoun. [See Senate Journal, page 66.] As it was offered and passed that body the thirteenth section was as follows: "And be it further enacted, That the money which shall be in the Treasury of the United States on the first day of January, 1837, reserving the sum of five millions of dollars, shall be deposited with the several States, in proportion to their respective representation in the Senate and House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States; and the Secretary of the Treasury shall deliver the same to such persons as the several States may authorize to receive it, on receiving certificates of deposit, signed by the competent authorities of such State, each for such amount and in such form as the Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe, which shall set forth and express the obligation of the State to pay the amount thereof to the United States or their assigns; and which said certificates it shall be competent for the Secretary of the Treasury, in the name and behalf of the United States, to sell and assign, whenever it shall be necessary, for want of money in the Treasury to meet appropriations made by Congress; all sales and assignments, however, to be ratable, and in just and equal proportions, among all the States, according to the amounts received by them, respectively; and all such certificates of deposit shall bear an interest at five per cent. per annum, payable half yearly, from the

time of such sale and assignment, and shall be redeemable at the pleasure of the States issuing them." It was a loan on interest, creating, as it were, a debt, with confession of judgment, and placed the States at the mercy of the Secretary of the Treasury—unless, forsooth, they should resort to the device, as many of them no doubt would have done, of discrediting themselves, that the Secretary might not be able to find a purchaser of their certificates. In this shape it passed the Senate by yeas 40, nays 6. Amongst the yeas I find recorded Buchanan, Calhoun, Clay, Crittenden, King of Alabama, Mangum, Preston of S. C., Rives of Va., Tallmadge, Webster—besides many less eminent individuals of both parties. In the House of Representatives that section was stricken out, and one, which was finally passed, was substituted, providing for a deposit of the surplus with the States without interest, and on no other condition than their agreeing to return it, if at any future time Congress should call for it. In this shape it passed by yeas 155, nays 33. Amongst the yeas I find recorded Lynn Boyd, Jesse A. Bynum of N. C., Caleb Cushing, Henry W. Connor of N. C., Edw. Deberry of N. C., M. T. Hawkins of N. C., Richard M. Johnson, Dixon H. Lewis, William Montgomery of N. C., Ebenezer Pettigrew of N. C., Francis W. Pickens of S. C., Abram Rencher of N. C., A. H. Shepard of N. C., Jesse Speight of N. C., Isaac Toucey of Conn., Elisha Whittlesley, Lewis Williams of N. C., embracing every member from North Carolina except Mr. McKay, and a large number of Democrats less known to the people of this State. When the bill, thus amended, was returned to the Senate that body passed it without a division—indicating either that the Senate was unanimous in its favor, or that the few individuals who had opposed it before were willing to acquiesce in it in its altered form. The bill of last session was a literal transcript of the act of 1836, as it passed. Two things were particularly worthy of note in regard to the act of 1836. 1st. It was strenuously denied by the opponents of the bill that there was really any surplus in the Treasury. Of that number were Silas Wright and Col. Benton. Gov. Wise was then a member of the House of Representatives, and in a recent published letter, he characterizes the act, in his peculiar nervous language, as "dividing a deficiency." 2nd. Under the operation of the tariff Act of 1832 the duties were rapidly running down to the minimum which was to be reached in 1842; and it was clearly foreseen that when they reached that point, if not before, the revenue of the government would be unequal to its expenses, and there was no great need to make haste in disposing of a surplus, which would so soon be needed to meet necessary expenses. In point of fact, it was need- before the act was fully executed; and the fourth instalment has never been paid over to the States. It seems almost incredible now that, at so recent a period, our government has been without money and without credit, and that our bonds were actually hawked about in this country and in Europe without our bringing able to borrow a dollar. Yet such is the fact. If, under circumstances so much less urgent than exist at present, and before experience had refuted the main objections urged against the act of '36, Gen. Jackson, Mr. Calhoun, Mr. Buchanan, Mr. King, Mr. Toucey, all but one of the Democrats from this State, to say nothing of those equally eminent men who were in favor of distribution, could adopt the policy, I may feel myself sustained by the authority of the most eminent Democratic statesmen. Nor is the weight of the authority likely to be overestimated when we consider that at a period when to unusual party bitterness was added intense personal rancor, this measure commanded an almost unanimous vote; and, for perhaps the first and last time in their lives, Jackson, Clay, Calhoun and Webster were united in its support. In that day intellectual giants shaped the policy and controlled the destiny of the Republic, and such a conjunction of the planets of the first magnitude could bode no evil to the country. Mr. Calhoun and Gen. Jackson thought the deposit act no violation of the Constitution; for they sanctioned it. All the regret or dissatisfaction expressed by Gen. Jackson was, that there should exist a necessity for it—that there should have been more money collected from the people than the government needed. He signed the bill the very day it was presented to him and without a word of doubt or qualification. These two statesmen went further: They thought it so proper a remedy for the malady of an unavoidable surplus, that they desired to remove by an amendment whatever constitutional scruples others might have, and adopt it not for the occasion only, but as an established policy. The Journal of the Senate for 1835-'6, at page 66, contains the following entry: "Mr. Calhoun asked and obtained leave to bring in a bill to regulate the deposits of the public money, and a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, providing for distribution of the surplus revenues amongst the several States and Territories until the year 1843; which were severally read and passed to a second reading." "The Globe," then edited by Francis P. Blair, was the recognized organ of the administration. In that paper of 23d July, I find a long and carefully written editorial article, in which, after repudiating the idea and denouncing the attempt to create the impression that deposit and distribution were the same, or liable to the same objections, the Editor says: "The result of this measure [the deposit act] then, we trust, will be an immediate reduction of the revenue to the present actual wants of the government, and if necessary, the adoption of a constitutional provision directing that, in case the future legislation of Congress should accidentally and unavoidably produce a surplus, it shall be distributed among the States according to some proper ratio, having reference to the entire population in each, to be applied to lessening the State taxes; and in the first place to the extinction of the poll tax wherever such odious tax may exist in any State. This will have the effect of restoring the indirect tax, levied by the general government, to the people, by leaving an equal amount of the State tax, which would otherwise be collected from them, in their pockets." Let it not be supposed that I quote these

views as expressing opinions entertained by me. Instead of taking steps in advance for the removal of the evil when upon us, I would rather take steps to prevent its occurrence. The paved road that facilitates escape, invites approach. If you have prepared in advance sure means of retreat, you will fight feebly to keep the enemy out. It is better to throw up barriers and plant obstructions all around us—to provide against the occurrence of a surplus, as far as human foresight can provide against it, by a timely reduction of taxes. Guard against a redundant revenue as our deadliest political foe, and then if perchance it should come upon us, trust to the good sense and patriotism of the American people to exercise the malignant spirit. They will control it without spells, incantations or adjurations. They will place around its limbs the bonds of the Constitution, and apply to it the levers of established precedent and successful experience. Amongst the many suggestions made for the disposition of the present surplus, all of which received my most careful consideration before my course was determined, is one which proposes to apply the whole of it to the enlargement of the navy. This suggestion held me for a time in doubt. But the objections to it are so weighty and so vital that it was decisively rejected. 1st. Such an increase of our navy is entirely unnecessary, and has never been recommended by any responsible person. No public interest calls for it, and no political spirit is more universally received than that a large standing army is hostile to our interests and opposed to the genius of our institutions. All the political objections to a large standing army are equally applicable to an unnecessarily large navy, only increased by the fact that its personnel is not only separated through the greater part of their lives, from the great body of the people of the country, but from the country itself. I respect and value every man who discharges his duty in the sphere in which he is placed. I honor the navy for its gallant deeds in war—and what American corps fails in duty to it? I respect its officers for their courage and honor; but I do not participate in the current cant that makes pets of one class of officials, showers upon them all the favors, and attributes to them all the virtue and patriotism of the country. To the extent that the government needs more navy, more navy should be provided. But not one gun nor one spar beyond that point would I go. If the object is to build a monument of national grandeur, I would not make the navy that monument,—I would add to the enterprise, the skill, the virtue of our people. They, more than all navies and all armies, have given us our power and our influence with the nations, and they alone, are worthy to be the everlasting monument of our grandeur. 2. We have not the yards at which to build so many ships, the materials out of which to build them, nor the officers to command them when built. All these might be provided. But it requires time to construct navy yards, it requires more time to collect and season timber and make it fit to build ships which will not go down in the first storm they encounter on the ocean, and still more time to train officers competent to command the ships and worthy to bear the flag. The current revenue of the government is ample to pay for the ships so far as their indispensable requisites can be provided, without touching the surplus. 3. We have recently built and added to the navy, eight first class steam frigates, probably the most formidable ships in the world. Each one cost a million of dollars, and the annual expense of maintaining them in commission, is about 250,000 dollars to each ship. The surplus would build thirty such ships, which, with the right equipment, will add to the current annual expense of maintaining the navy, just nine and a half millions of dollars. Is not that paying too dearly for the privilege of throwing away the surplus? I think it is. Admitting that we can afford to throw away the surplus, I am unwilling to add, without the least pretence that it is necessary, nearly ten millions to the annual expenses of the government. Under the prudent and enlightened administration of Mr. Dallas, the annual expense of supporting the navy was more than fourteen millions of dollars, and this addition would carry it up to twenty-five millions—just the expense the enormous navy of Great Britain imposes in time of peace on that overtaxed nation. And as I have mentioned the navy of Great Britain, allow me to say that those who measure what ours ought to be by what that of Great Britain is, fall into a great error. Her naval power is not maintained on its present scale solely, nor even mainly, to protect her commerce. It is to protect her home dominions from the great military powers, especially France, on the continent, and chiefly all, to defend her immense colonial possessions, which girdle the earth, dotting every ocean and sea and gulf, spreading out on every continent, and commanding almost every narrow pass on the great highway of nations. She must hold her colonies to maintain her power, and she must rule the ocean to hold her colonies. When we adopt her policy it will be time enough to contest her supremacy. I hope my constituents will find in these reasons sufficient vindication of my vote. The act of 1836 gave the first stimulus to great and expensive works of improvement by the States. The works undertaken in consequence of the funds placed by it at the disposal of the States, have involved them in debt and the people in taxation. I am the last person who would direct their eyes to the Federal Treasury for relief or aid. But when I found a fund that had been wrongfully and unnecessarily extorted from the people, I chose rather to apply it to the relief of the States and people, than to feed hungry couriers or strengthen the hands of power. If, perchance, the icy barriers of Spanish pride should dissolve under the melting rays of so much gold, I may yet have it in my power to announce that it has been invested in the Caribbean sea; and that the "Gem of the Antilla" shines in the rich casket of American jewels. In its onward march the great race has already reached it, and beats upon its shores. The rushing waters should not cover it unbidden. But gold may throw down the barriers. Gold moves armies and is a play thing for children. It steals the robber to crime and is charity's clearest gift. It unlocks the prison gates and opens wide the doors of palaces. Neither princes nor apostles are proof against its temptations, and it leads to empire as it betrayed our Sa-

viour. Gold—all powerful gold—may acquire for us the key to the Gulf. Such a solution of the problem of the surplus would fill me with joy and the whole nation with gladness. L. O. B. BRANCH. Messrs. M. A. Bledsoe, A. J. Taylor, W. F. Stroud, N. E. Cannady, S. A. Smith, J. H. Mayfield, and Capt. S. D. Bovie, Committee. For the Raleigh Standard. MEETING OF THE STATE EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION. To all the Friends of Education in North Carolina. At the Educational Convention held in Salisbury in October last, consisting of about one hundred and thirty delegates, and representing some thirty Counties, the following Resolutions were unanimously passed, to wit: Resolved, That this Convention form itself into a permanent Society for the advancement of general Education, and that it be called the Educational Association of North-Carolina. Resolved, That the officers of this Association, for the present, consist of an Executive Committee of five, who shall hold their office until the adoption of a Constitution and By-Laws. Resolved, That this Association shall meet annually at such time and place as shall be designated by the Executive Committee. Resolved, That a Committee of seven be appointed by the Chairman of this Convention to draft a Constitution and By-Laws for the government of this Association, and report the same at the next annual meeting of this body. Resolved, That all officers and teachers in Schools, and all persons interested in the cause of general Education, be invited to attend as delegates at the next annual meeting of this Association. The undersigned were appointed, under the second Resolution, an Executive Committee, with power to determine the time and place of the next meeting of the Association; and they have defined the time for Tuesday evening the 30th day of June next, and selected Warrenton as the place. The time, it is hoped, will be generally convenient to Professors in Colleges and to teachers; and the place is one of the most pleasant and healthy towns in the State and accessible to all sections. The citizens of Warrenton, through the undersigned, tender the free hospitality of the place to all who attend this meeting; and the various Railroads of the State will pass all delegates at half their usual rates of fare. All officers of schools, of all descriptions, all teachers and all friends of the cause of education, will be considered as delegates, and to all such an earnest invitation is hereby given to attend. The Convention of last Fall was a great success, inaugurating a new era in the educational history of North-Carolina. And if the movement then so happily begun be properly followed up, it cannot but redound to the interest of the State, and to the profit of teachers. The first meeting was not only profitable, but pleasant to all who participated in its proceedings; and from the cheering indications all over the State, we hope to see a still larger gathering in Warrenton, feeling sure also that all will leave it as delegates left Salisbury, with an anxious desire to be present on the next occasion of the kind. A Constitution and By-Laws for the government of the Association will have to be adopted at the meeting in June; a good deal of other important business is to be transacted, while lectures, addresses and discussions on various topics will add to the interest of the occasion. We hope that no one will wait for a special invitation, and that all the friends of the great cause at stake will endeavor to attend and aid in the good work by their presence and counsel. C. H. WILEY, W. N. H. SMITH, J. H. FOSTER, E. W. OGBURN, J. T. WHITE, Ex. Com. "MANIFEST DESTINY"—SHALL WE BUY OR STEAL? That appears to be the only question with the "progressives" among our people. From a long article on "Manifest Destiny," in the National Intelligencer, we make the following extract: "So dominant has this predatory spirit become in the estimation of a few political writers, that they think the Government of the United States should be in haste to bargain for the purchase of certain valuable lands in Mexico before a portion of our citizens sally forth and seize upon them for their own behoof and aggrandizement, as though, forsooth, the Federal power of the United States had become so derelict in duty or palsied in efficiency as to find itself reduced to the ignoble necessity of acting under duress from the menace of a few banditti. Let not the reader suppose that we misrepresent the logic of this 'progressive' school. In a recent letter from the astute Washington correspondent of the Baltimore Sun we find the following paragraphs: "'Had Mr. Forsyth's treaty provided for the cession to the United States of Sonora for a reasonable sum of money, and Lower California, I have every reason to believe that it would have been ratified by the Senate.'" "What instructions the Administration now propose to give to Mr. Forsyth or his successor cannot be known, and probably are not even determined upon." "'Meanwhile Sonora is to be given up to American filibusterism, without the least prospect of very efficient obstruction from this Government.'" It is a country rich in mineral resources, and the Californians look upon it, and also upon Lower California, as a sort of appendage to their own State. Santa Anna frequently stated to Americans who visited him, that Sonora was much richer in gold than California. "Whether it would not be more creditable to buy it than to steal it is worthy of public consideration." The reader will mark the only alternatives proposed as within the range of possibility—to buy Sonora or to steal it! That we should allow Mexico still to hold a province of her own seems never to have entered the writer's comprehension. That, we suppose, would be too great an exaction on our forbearance and self-denial, especially as it is a country rich in mineral resources, and as the Californians already look upon it,

and also upon Lower California, as a sort of appendage to their own State!" He was a sturdy beggar who, to the query why he did not work, replied, with a sigh, "Ah, sir, you do not know how lazy I am!" But the impudence of the response is far exceeded by the cool assurance of those who would extenuate the filibustering propensities of their countrymen by an argument which, translated into plain English, simply declares: "Ah, sir, you do not know how thievish we are! You must sell us your land to keep our people from stealing it!" YOUNG AMERICA. Prominent among the evils of our day is the disposition to put away old things, even things that are stamped with the wisdom of ages, and to see only by the new lights of progress. With many, it seems, the chief thing we have learned in forty centuries, is that we have learned nothing worthy of respect. Young America is rampant in the flush and vigor of youth, and arrogant in self-sufficiency. It attempts with a bound things that are accustomed to be achieved only by years of toil, and boasts of a capability for everything, except a wholesome restraint. Gray wisdom and reverend virtue are jostled in the highway, to make room for the rush of progress, as if the race were always to the swift, and the battle to the strong. And Young America, ladies, is a noun of the common gender. It is feminine, as well as masculine, and may be seen in bonnet and curls, as well as in Kosuth hat and moustache. It goes to all the balls and routs, and thinks it "fast"—peeps in the library door at home, and votes it decidedly "slow." It lounges lazily in the parlor, and modestly asks its mother to hand the footstool, or its father to pass the new book he is just reading; and only really wakes up to life when masculine Young America steps in with a strut, to tell how "had done the Governor brown" yesterday, and "what a jolly sell it was"—"such capital fun, you know." If there be one among you who has any such ambition as this before her, may Providence be good to her! For she will never, I fear, be good to herself, or to others. She may make a showy and expensive article of furniture for a fashionable establishment; but nothing more. Pardon me if I wrong you by such an intimation. But it is only by holding up to your gaze in proper colors what is false and unlovely, that you can learn rightly to appreciate the beautiful and true. Rather be yours the generous ambition to shine only in the pure excellence of virtue and refinement. Be prouder to make the happiness of one true heart, than to fill the shallow admiration of a thousand false ones. Go forth, then, into the world, and meet its trials and dangers, its duties and pleasures, with a firm integrity of heart and mind, looking ever onward and upward, and walking erect before the gaze of men, fearless, because without reproach. When the glad sunshine is upon you, rejoice and be happy. When the dark hours come, light them with a gentle patience, and a Christian faith. If you have work to do, do it bravely. If pleasure calls, enjoy it wisely. If your lot is humble, dignify it by a noble fortitude, and a pure and loving heart. So may even poverty and humility be blessed unto you. If rank and station are yours, so fill them, that while imparting nothing, they may derive additional honor and grace from you. Davis's Address. A THEOLOGIAN ON SLAVERY. A new work, entitled "The American Citizen," by John H. Hopkins, D.D. LL.D., Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Vermont, contains (says the Natchez Courier) language quite unusual for so high a latitude on the subject of slavery, which he maintains to be scripturally lawful, and he asserts that "the most violent opponents of slavery in the United States are always ready to wrest the Bible and denounce the Church because they cannot derive from either the slightest real support in their assault against the lawfulness of the institution." Concerning its expediency and desirableness, he argues that "the slaves at the South are, on the whole, the happiest class of laborers in the world, and the most contented with their own condition;" and he declares that "all true philanthropy rejoices, and will rejoice, in the fact that Southern slavery has raised the African far above his original condition, and enabled him to plant the noble colony of Liberia." He adds: "What sort of benevolence is that which would prefer that the noble colony of Liberia had never existed, and that the negro race should have lived and died in all the cruel and bloody despotism of Dahomey rather than become fitted, in the hands of their Southern masters, to dispense the knowledge of God, of liberty, and of civilization throughout the darkest regions of barbarism?" "For myself, I can truly say that I have no sympathy with those who deprecate the negro race below the true standard of humanity. I repudiate with all my heart the infidel hypothesis which denies that God hath made of one blood all the nations of the earth. I believe that the negro is capable of all the improvement of mind and moral principle which education can bestow, and am ready to welcome every proof which individual cases have afforded of his genius and his powers; but I do not admit that slavery is the cause, in itself, of either moral or intellectual degradation, if the master be not morally and intellectually degraded. The greater part of the instructors of youth, in the pampered days of Greece and Rome, were slaves. Esop was a slave; the philosopher Epictetus was a slave. A large portion of the primitive Christians were slaves; and assuredly there is nothing in the mere bond compelling one to labor for another which opposes the love of virtue and of truth. On the contrary, if the master be of a good man, the effect of such a bond must be to elevate the character of its subject; and the tardship on the one side, in the obligation to serve, is more than equalled on the other in being obliged to maintain the servant through every change of circumstances." It is estimated that there are twenty-five thousand secret or open spiritualists in Boston alone. They have three places of teaching, which are open on Sundays, and in which lectures are delivered. The Melodion is one of these, and it is generally attended by large audiences.