

# THE WESTERN CAROLINIAN.

THE POWERS NOT DELEGATED TO THE UNITED STATES BY THE CONSTITUTION, NOR PROHIBITED BY IT TO THE STATES, ARE RESERVED TO THE STATES RESPECTIVELY, OR TO THE PEOPLE.—Amendments to the Constitution, Article I.

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## MISCELLANEOUS.

### NIGHT ADVENTURE AT BRIENNE.

BY THE DUTCHMAN OF ARRANTEE.

I have heard the emperor relate a very extraordinary occurrence which took place at Brienne, at a time when that mansion, the residence of the Duke de Brienne, and his brother, the Cardinal de Brienne, Archbishop of Toulouse, was the residence of all sorts of amusements and pleasures. The emperor was not then admitted into it, though he was afterwards, and treated with particular attention; and he learned many things that passed among such of his comrades whose family connections caused them to be admitted to the chateau during the vacations.

A young man belonging to Madame de Brienne's society, was of so disagreeable a temper that no one could live in good harmony with him.—Among other professions, he declared he never saw what it was to be frightened. One day the conversation on this subject grew warm.—Four persons of the company offered to lay a wager that he would be frightened before the end of six months. The conditions were fixed; he was to pay one hundred louis if he lost, and one hundred louis were to be paid him by his assailants, if he came off victorious in the contest.

At first, things went on well enough. Morose the temper of this man was, it was not always against the wagers of his friends. The first month passed away, and he had not once yielded to fear. It had been arranged that the affair should not be continued any where but at Brienne.

One day the four friends being met; one said to the other that it was a sort of disgrace not to have succeeded. One proposed a plan, that was adopted and put in execution the same night. I have already observed that there were at Brienne, during the building of the new chateau, some remains of a pavilion of an ancient construction, where the rats ate one of the Abbe Morellet's peas; in this pavilion beds were made up for the younger visitors when there was more company at the chateau than could be accommodated there. Just at the time I am speaking of, this happened to be the case, and the young man, whose courage was so tried as well as several of his friends, was sleeping there.

The weather had been stormy all day; and when they retired to bed the air had that heaviness which is quite oppressive, and makes one feel ill. "Here is a night for an apparition!" said the young rattlebrains to their friend.

"Let it come if it likes," replied he, "it shall welcome."

So saying he bowed to them with an ironical air, and retired to his own apartment.

The air, as I have said, was sultry—the atmosphere oppressive. The young man threw himself in an arm-chair, the worm eaten legs of which were scarcely capable of supporting him, and there he had strange visions. His thoughts soon became confused, and he sunk into an unquiet sleep. His servant awoke him from this kind of sleep, he went to bed almost ill, and overpowered by a complete nervous impression, which could not be natural, even admitting the effect of the tempest.

The chamber in which he slept was at a distance from the whole occupied part of the pavilion, such of itself was quite lonely enough. It was a very large gloomy apartment. A bedstead with painted pillars, and curtains trimmed with Hungarian points, was the most conspicuous piece of furniture that it contained. He looked at it a very long time before he got into bed.

"Good God!" said he, "it looks just like a tomb!"

The drowsiness occasioned by the overwhelming heat was soon changed into a profound sleep. He was buried in his first nap, when he was suddenly aroused by a plaintive sound. The noise was close to him. He rose in his bed, and it seemed as if he were continuing an interrupted dream. The four parts of the curtains were turned over the bed posts, and against each of them stood a figure in a complete suit of armor, but motionless, silent, and without any appearance of life.

He gazed on them first with surprise, and presently with a sort of agitation.

"What do you want with me?" said he, "I know you; you are here to frighten me, but I know you notice I am not afraid. You know our agreement, so leave me and abandon your attempt." As he thus spoke, he laid down again, and closed his eyes, but the figures continued motionless and silent. They retained the same attitude, while the reader rolled awfully over the crazy pavilion and made it shudder to its old foundations.

Amused at this obstinacy, he again raised himself in bed, and addressed one of the figures.—"What do you want with me?" said he, "I have already told you that you don't frighten me. You know our conditions; adhere to them, and keep your words as I keep mine."

Still there was the same silence. In this movement there was something awful, that began to operate in the mind of the young man. "Begone!" he cried to them, big drops of perspiration trickled down his brow, and his teeth chattered. "Begone!" he cried, "I am frightened."

The moment this confession had escaped his lips, he sank back in his bed faint and gasping for breath. The figures remained motionless and silent as ever. "Gentlemen," cried the young man, beside himself, "I know not if you have made a compact with demons. I believe—for I recognize you—you have frightened me—what do you want more?" The same silence prevailed.

From the commencement of this plesantry the young man, fearing lest it might be carried further than he could bear, had always kept about him a pair of pistols loaded, and ready for firing. He laid down on a night table beside his bed, and that some one had examined the priming; every thing in proper order—he took up one of them.

"Gentlemen," said he, in a voice tremulous with emotion, "I call God to witness that whatever accident may ensue is the fault of him on whom it shall fall."

He cocked his pistol, and fired at one of the four figures. None of them stirred. The unfortunate young man around whom they were planted seemed to distinguish any object, to hear any sound. His hand trembled—he made a last appeal.

"Another shot!" said he, in a broken voice; no reply. The second pistol was fired. The unhappy man looked, not one of the figures had stirred. His eyes turned from the object which had struck him to another object that he saw before him. It was his own balls returned to him. He gazed aghast and sank back lifeless.

The young gentlemen who had engaged in this adventure conceiving that they might find their antagonist difficult to deal with, had bribed his servant to take the balls out of his pistols. Each of them had one to throw to him, and this was done without his perceiving it, by the one at whom he fired.

## LITERATURE OF THE BIBLE.

From Dr. Beecher's Lecture, before the Artisans of Cincinnati, on the republican tendencies of the Bible, we extract the following beautiful delineation of its intellectual attractions:

"The poetry of the Bible, who shall describe it without its inspiration? In originality, strength, beauty, variety, simplicity, pathos and fire, it stands unapproached. No sublimity can surpass that of the Bible; and no powerful imaginary, no beauty, unless another sun more glorious than our own were lighted up to be the symbol of Divinity, and other stars to fall like autumn leaves, and louder thunders to roar, and winds to wave, and mightier waves to roll. What shall the poet find who came after the Bible with which to reveal it?—Nothing remains. It is all upon the consecrated page.

The allegories of the Bible are finished specimens of that kind of writing; and its metaphors are, as Blair observes, what metaphors should be. Painting from nature and all its descriptive scenery surrounds us with the glowing reality. While we read, we behold the dark clouds begirt the mountain tops of Sinai, and the lightnings blaze, and the thunders speak, and the voice of the trumpet sounds loud, and waxes loud. When "God came from Teman, and the holy one Paran, and his glory covered the heavens, and the earth was full of his praise: who does behold the brightness of the light, and his majesty where he stood and measured the earth, and his might, when he beheld and drove asunder the nations, and scattered the everlasting mountains; when the deep uttered its voice, and the sun and the moon stood still in their habitation? What other poet ever possessed an imagination that would set on fire the course of nature, or one that could wield the tremendous scenery of the elements, the symbol of omnipotence? Who after Job, can describe the war horses—or the confused noise of the battle, of the warriors with garments rolled in blood? After Isaiah, or after David, the storm at sea, with the out cry of the mariner tossed on the mountain wave, reeling like the drunken man, and his wit's end, or his glad forgetfulness, when arrived in port? And who can draw now the harp notes of touching tenderness over fallen greatness and fallen friendship, like the lamentations of David over Saul and Jonathan? And where shall we find a pencil that has portrayed, or can portray, the desolation of captivity, of famine, and of war, to be compared with those contained in the lamentations of Jeremiah and those blessed days which, wrapt in future time, Isaiah saw? Who that reads is not also wrapt into future time—to behold that glorious sun which in a cloudless day arises and pours its effulgence on the mountain top and valley, hushing the voice of war—palying the hands of rapine, and calling forth in a kind alliance, the falcon and the bear, the lion and the lamb, the leopard and the kid?

And as to the last day, it can scarcely be more vivid to the eye, than it is made now to the imagination by bright and powerful imagery. The great white throne, and Him that sits on it, from whose face the earth and heavens fled away, the elements in the mean time melting with fervent heat, and the trump of God sounding, and the earth and sea giving up the dead, to stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

Political History has been well styled the framework of literary history; for upon the vicissitudes of man's career in society, the cultivation of his mind has always exerted, and always must continue to exert, a predominant influence. What imports it to be conversant with the bare facts of Greek and Roman story? What imports it to know that an insignificant band of Spartans arrested the myriads of Persia, choking up with the countless carcasses of the barbarian host the defile through which they were pushing to trample Grecian power in the dust—that Athens became the sun of the Grecian system, from which radiated in all directions the light whose gorgeous reflection still glows on the firmament of memory—that Macedonian ambition and Macedonian ruthlessness destroyed the splendid fabric which had been erected with so much labor and so much zeal—that the vast dominions of the great madman were converted into provinces of an empire whose away was recognised from the rising to the setting sun,—that even this seemingly indestructible power at length crumbled into pieces at a mere touch of savage hands, like the dead body which has preserved the form and the aspect it presented in life, but falls into indiscriminate dust at the slightest contact with the external air? What imports it to study the follies, the degradation, the crimes, and even the virtues of our species, unless we understand the causes that produced them; and what causes could produce them, but the fluctuations of that ocean (so to designate the mind) on whose unruined waters, or on whose tempestuous billows,

the bark of our existence either glides blithely and prosperously onwards, or is tossed and beaten and shattered, until the hope of our reaching a haven seems to sink beneath the cloud-cled waves?

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

(Continued from last week.)

It will appear from the correspondence herewith submitted, that the Government of Russia declines a renewal of the fourth article of the convention of April, 1824, between the United States and His Imperial Majesty, by the third article of which it is agreed that "hereafter there shall not be formed by the citizens of the United States, or under the authority of the said States, any establishment upon the northwest coast of America, nor in any of the islands adjacent to the north, of 60° 40' of north latitude; and that in the same manner there shall be none formed by Russian subjects, or under the authority of Russia, South of the same parallel;" and by the 4th article, "that, during a term of ten years, counting from the signature of the present convention, the ships of both powers, or which belong to their citizens or subjects respectively, may reciprocally frequent, without any hindrance whatever, the interior seas, gulfs, harbors and creeks upon the coast mentioned in the preceding article, for the purpose of fishing and trading with the natives of the country." The reasons assigned for declining to renew the provisions of this article, are, briefly, that the only use made by our citizens of the privilege it secures to them, has been to supply the Indians with spirituous liquors, ammunition and fire-arms; that this traffic has been excluded from the Russian trade; and as the supplies furnished from the United States are injurious to the Russian establishments on the northwest coast, and calculated to produce complaint between the two Governments. His Imperial Majesty thinks it for the interest of both countries not to accede to the proposition made by the American Government for the renewal of the article last referred to.

The correspondence herewith communicated will show the grounds upon which we contend that the citizens of the United States have, independent of the provisions of the convention of 1824, a right to trade with the natives upon the coast in question, at unoccupied places, liable, however, it is admitted, to be at any time extinguished by the creation of Russian establishments at such points. This right is denied by the Russian Government, which asserts that, by the observation of the treaty of 1824, each party agreed to waive the general right to land on the vacant coasts on the respective sides of the degree of latitude referred to, and accepted, in lieu thereof the mutual privileges mentioned in the fourth article. The capital and tonnage employed by our citizens in their trade with the northwest coast of America, will, perhaps, on adverting to the official statements of the commerce and navigation of the United States for the last few years, be deemed too inconsiderable in amount to attract much attention; yet the subject may, in other respects, deserve the careful consideration of Congress.

I regret to state that the blockade of the principal ports on the eastern coast of Mexico, which in consequence of difference between that Republic and France was instituted in May last unfortunately continues, enforced by a competent French naval force, and is necessarily embarrassing to our own trade in the gulf, in common with that of other nations. Every disposition, however, is believed to exist on the part of the French Government, to render this measure as little onerous as practicable to the interest of the citizens of the United States, and to those of neutral commerce; and it is to be hoped an early settlement of the difficulties, between France and Mexico, will soon re-establish the harmonious relations formerly subsisting between them, and again open the ports of that Republic to the vessels of all friendly nations.

A convention for marking that part of the boundary between the United States and the Republic of Texas, which extends from the mouth of the Sabine to Red River, was concluded and signed at this city on the 25th of April last. It has since been ratified by both Governments; and reasonable measures will be taken to carry it into effect on the part of the United States.

The application of that Republic for admission into the Union, made in August, 1837, and which was declined for reasons already made known to you, has been formally withdrawn, as will appear from the accompanying copy of the note of the Minister Plenipotentiary of Texas, which was presented to the Secretary of State on the occasion of the exchange of the ratifications of the convention above mentioned.

Copies of the convention with Texas, of a commercial treaty concluded with the King of Greece, and of a similar treaty with the Peru-Bolivian Confederation, the ratifications of which have been recently exchanged, accompany this message for the information of Congress, and for such legislative enactments as may be found necessary or expedient, in relation to either of them.

To watch over and foster the interest of a gradually increasing and widely extended commerce; to guard the rights of American citizens, whom business, or pleasure, or other motives may tempt into distant climes, and at the same time to cultivate those sentiments of mutual respect and good will which experience has proved so beneficial in international intercourse, the Government of the United States has deemed it expedient, from time to time, to establish diplomatic connections with different foreign States, by the appointment of representatives to reside within their respective territories. I am gratified to be enabled to announce to you that, since the close of your last session, these relations have been opened under the happiest auspices, with Austria and the Two Sicilies; that the new nominations have been made in the respective missions of Russia, Brazil, Belgium, Sweden and Norway, in this country; and that a

Minister Extraordinary has been received, accredited to this Government from the Argentine Confederation.

An exposition of the fiscal affairs of the Government and of their condition for the past year, will be made to you by the Secretary of the Treasury.

The available balance in the Treasury, on the 1st of January next, is estimated at \$2,766,342.—The receipts of the year, from customs and lands probably amount to \$20,615,598. These usual sources of revenue have been increased by an issue of Treasury notes; of which less than eight millions of dollars, including interest and principal will be outstanding at the end of the year, and by the sale of one of the bonds of the Bank of the United States, for \$2,254,971. The aggregate of means from these and other sources, with the balances on hand on the 1st of January last, has been applied to the payment of appropriations by Congress. The whole expenditure for the year on their account, including the redemption of more than eight millions of Treasury notes, constitutes an aggregate of about forty millions of dollars, and will still leave in the Treasury the balance before stated.

Nearly eight millions of dollars of Treasury notes are to be paid during the coming year, in addition to the ordinary appropriations for the support of Government. For both these purposes, the resources of the Treasury will undoubtedly be sufficient, if the charges upon it are not increased beyond the annual estimates. No excess, however, is likely to exist; nor can the postponed instalment of the surplus revenue be deposited with the States, nor any considerable appropriations beyond the estimates be made, without causing a deficiency in the Treasury. The great caution, advisable at all times, of limited appropriations to the wants of the public service, is rendered necessary at present by the prospective and rapid reduction of the tariff; while the vigilant jealousy, evidently excited among the people by the occurrences of the last few years, assures us that they expect from their representatives, and will sustain them in the exercise of the most rigid economy. Much can be effected by postponing appropriations not immediately required for the ordinary public service, or for any pressing emergency; and such by reducing the expenditures where the entire and immediate accomplishment of the objects in view is not indispensable.

When we call to mind the recent and extreme embarrassments produced by extensive issues of bank paper, aggravated by the unforeseen withdrawal of much foreign capital, and the inevitable derangement arising from the distribution of the surplus revenue among the states as required by Congress—and consider the heavy expenses incurred by the removal of Indian tribes; by the military operations in Florida; and on account of the unusually large appropriations made at the last two annual sessions Congress for other objects; we have striking evidence, in the present efficient state of our finances, of the abundant resources of the country to fulfil all its obligations. Nor is it less gratifying to find that the general business of the community, deeply affected as it has been, is reviving with additional vigor, chastened by the lessons of the past, and animated by the hopes of the future. By the curtailment of paper issues; by curbing the sanguine and adventurous spirit of speculation; and by the honorable application of all available means to the fulfillment of obligations, confidence has been restored both at home and abroad, and ease and facility secured to all the operations of trade.

The agency of the Government in producing these results has been as efficient as its powers and means permitted. By withholding from the States the deposits of the fourth instalment, and leaving several millions at long credits with the banks, principally in one section of the country, and more immediately beneficial to it, and at the same time aiding the banks and communities in other sections, by postponing the payment of bonds for duties to the amount of between four and five millions of dollars; by an issue of Treasury notes as a means to enable the Government to meet the consequences of their indulgence, but affording, at the same time, facilities for remittance and exchange; and by steadily declining to employ as general depositories of the public revenues, or receive the notes of all banks which refused to redeem them with specie; by these measures, aided by the favorable action of some of the banks, and by the support and co-operation of a large portion of the community, we have witnessed an early resumption of specie payments in our great commercial capital, promptly followed in almost every part of the United States. This result has been alike salutary to the true interests of agriculture, commerce and manufactures; to public morals, respect for the laws, and that confidence between man and man which is so essential in all our social relations.

The contrast between the suspension of 1814 and that of 1837 is most striking. The short duration of the latter, the prompt restoration of business; the evident benefits resulting from an adherence by the Government to the constitutional standard of value, instead of sanctioning the suspension by the receipt of irredeemable paper; and the advantages derived from the large amount of specie introduced into the country previous to 1837, afford a valuable illustration of the true policy of the Government in such a crisis. Nor can the comparison fail to remove the impression that a national bank is necessary in such emergencies. Not only were specie payments resumed without its aid, but exchanges have also been more rapidly restored than when it existed; thereby showing that private capital, enterprise and prudence are fully adequate to these ends. On all these points experience seems to have confirmed the views heretofore submitted to Congress: We have been saved the mortification of seeing the distresses of the community for the third time seized on to fasten upon the country so dangerous an institution; and we may also hope that the business of individuals will hereafter be relieved from the injurious ef-

fects of a continued agitation of that disturbing subject. The limited influence of a national bank in averting derangement in the exchange of the country, or in compelling the resumption of specie payments, is now not less apparent than its tendency to increase inordinate speculations by sudden expansions and contractions; its disposition to create panic and embarrassment for the promotion of its own designs; its interference with politics; and its far greater power for evil than for good, either in regard to the local institutions or to the operations of Government itself. What was in those respects but apprehension or opinion when a national bank was first established, now stands confirmed by humiliating experience. The scenes through which we have passed conclusively prove how little our commerce, agriculture, manufactures, or finances, require such an institution, and what dangers are attendant on its power—a power, I trust, never to be conferred by the American people upon their Government, and still less upon individuals not responsible to them for its unavoidable abuses.

My conviction of the necessity of further legislative provisions for the safekeeping and disbursement of the public moneys, and my opinion in regard to the measures best adapted to the accomplishment of those objects, have been already submitted to you. These have been strengthened by recent events; and, in the full conviction that time and experience must still further concentrate their propriety. I feel it my duty, with respectful deference to the conflicting views of others, again to invite your attention to them.

With the exception of limited sums deposited in the few banks still employed under the act of 1836, the amounts received for duties, and, with very inconsiderable exceptions, those securing from lands also, have, since the general suspension of specie payments by the deposit banks, been kept and disbursed by the Treasurer, under his general powers, subject to the superintendence of the Secretary of the Treasury. The propriety of defining more specifically, and of regulating by law, the exercise of this wide scope of Executive discretion has been already submitted to Congress.

A change in the office of collector at one of our principal ports, has brought to light a defalcation of the gravest character, the particulars of which will be laid before you in a special report from the Secretary of the Treasury. By his report and the accompanying documents, it will be seen that the weekly returns of the defauling officer apparently exhibited, throughout, a faithful administration of the affairs entrusted to his management.—It, however, now appears that he commenced abstracting the public money shortly after appointment, and continued to do so, progressively increasing the amount, for the term of more than seven years, embracing a portion of the period during which the public moneys were deposited in the Bank of the United States, the whole of that of the State bank deposit system, and concluding on his retirement from office, after that system had substantially failed, in consequence of the suspension of specie payments.

The way in which this defalcation was so long concealed, and the steps taken to indemnify the U. States, as far as practicable, against loss, will also be presented to you. The case is one which importantly claims the attention of Congress, and furnishes the stronger motive for the establishment of a more severe and secure system for the safekeeping and disbursement of the public moneys than any that has heretofore existed.

It seems proper, at all events, that, by an early enactment, similar to that of other countries, the application of public money by an officer of government to private uses, should be made a felony, and visited with severe and ignominious punishment. This is already, in effect, the law in respect to the mint, and has been productive of the most salutary results. Whatever system is adopted, such an enactment would be wise as an independent measure since much of the public moneys must, in their collection and ultimate disbursement, pass twice through the hands of public officers, in whatever manner they are interminally kept. The government, it must be admitted, has been from its commencement comparatively fortunate in this respect. But the appointing power cannot always be well advised in its selections, and the experience of every country has shown that "public officers are not at all times proof against temptation. It is a duty, therefore, which the government owes, as well to the interests committed to its care as to the officers themselves, to provide every guard against transgressions of this character, that is consistent with reason and humanity. Congress cannot be too jealous of the conduct of those who are entrusted with the public money, and I shall at all times be disposed to encourage a watchful discharge of this duty. If a more direct co-operation on the part of Congress, in the supervision of the officers entrusted with the custody and application of the public money is deemed desirable, it will give me pleasure to assist in the establishment of any judicious and constitutional plan by which that object may be accomplished. You will, in your wisdom, determine upon the propriety of adopting such a plan, and upon the measure necessary to its effectual execution. When the late Bank of the United States was incorporated, and made the depository of the public moneys, a right was reserved to that body, the books and proceedings of the Bank. In one of the states whose banking institutions are supposed to rank among the first in point of stability they are subjected to constant examination by commissioners appointed for that purpose, and much of the success of its banking system is attributed to this watchful supervision. The same course has also, in view of its beneficial operation, been adopted by an adjoining state, favorably known for the care it has always bestowed upon whatever relates to its financial concerns. I submit to your consideration whether a committee of Congress might not be profitably employed in inspecting, at such intervals as might be deemed proper, the affairs and accounts of officers entrusted with the custody of the