

WESTERN SENTINEL.

BY COLLINS & BONER.

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JAS. COLLINS & F. E. BONER,
EDITORS AND PROPRIETORS.

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Change of Public Opinion.

The Daily News, of New York, a conservative Democratic journal, expresses the belief that a change is taking place in the public opinion of the popular mind in relation to Federal politics. It says:

"Since the election of James Buchanan over the spirit of the least, if we may judge to tone of the press in our country and of all shades the ultraists and extremists stand rebuked by the tri- Democracy and its representatives. The National expresses perfect neutrality on the great exciting question of the day—it eschews at once radicalism on either flank—it is a measure of compromise, but of just moderation, and its spirit is perfectly expressed in the character of the great statesman of Pennsylvania."

We are pleased to notice this also in the modified views of some of the most violent opponents of the South at Washington, and while they still retain hostility to her institutions they disclaim much of what constituted their capital in the late contest. Our private advisers are that the Black Republicans are a good deal discouraged, and that a favorable reaction is in progress at the North. Much depends on the incoming administration and the sagacity of Mr. Buchanan, in whom we have confidence. He knows full well that during his term the fate of the Union will be decided, and we have no doubt he will give the weight of his influence towards the preservation of equal rights under the Constitution, as has been done by the illustrious patriot, President Pierce, who has so nobly done his duty to his country during his term. The South has, with a single exception, voted for Mr. Buchanan as a Constitutional President, and will support him as such. As our political union depends on popular opinion, which can only be permanent when based on constitutional principles, it is essential to its existence that there should be a change, and that speedily, in those sections where the Constitution has been a dead letter. The South is now the conservative element of our Government, and with perfect union among ourselves we can perpetuate not only the protection of our rights, but the confederate, which, with all its difficulties, is the best policy that the world has yet seen.—*South Carolinian.*

THE RETIRING PRESIDENT.—We are happy to learn that there is a reasonable prospect that President Pierce at the close of his brilliant administration will make a tour through the Southern States. We feel fully justified in declaring that there is no man in the confederacy whom the entire South would more cordially welcome. We should like him to mingle with a people whose rights and honor he has nobly defended in defending the Constitution of the United States and the Union of equal and sovereign States. To Virginia it would be especially grateful to do honor to a President who, battling against the most malignant enemies in his own section, has as fearlessly and powerfully carried out the States Rights strict construction, Jeffersonian principles, as any President since the day of Jefferson himself.

Richmond Enquirer.

During the late presidential canvass and at the moment a gallant Senator from the South was proclaiming the election of Mr. Buchanan, a feather dropped at his feet from the wing of an eagle that was flying over. The gentleman preserved the quill and to-day had it forwarded to Mr. Buchanan to write his inaugural address with. It was not plucked by man from the wing, but was the free gift of our national bird.—*Wash. Cor. Alexandria Sentinel.*

The above statement is correct. Senator Brown of Mississippi is the gentleman, referred to. The quill is now in possession of Mr. Buchanan at Wheatland where we saw it on Friday, and in accordance with the request of the "gallant Senator," it will be used by the President elect in writing his inaugural address.

Lancaster Intelligencer.

SOUND ADVICE.—The New Orleans Creole speaks at length of the duty of Southern men to encourage home manufactures and sustain home enterprise of every character, whether in commerce, education or literature, and on the latter head it says:

Do we need a Southern literature, Southern books, Southern publication houses, and Southern institutions of learning? Patronize the Southern press as the first step towards a Southern literature. Become a reading people, especially of newspaper literature. The daily and weekly press stimulates thought, awakes inquiry, and keeps the public alive to the movements and necessities of the times. Like a burning lens, it collects and concentrates the scattered rays of public opinion, and gives it form and power. It encourages the first thought of aspiring how to fly, like the eagle teaches its young eaglets how to fly, until they dare, with eye upon the sun, cleave the liquid air far into the blue empyrean, so it trains the unledged intellect, until it can, with self-poised wing, pierce the bounds of physical vision, and gaze upon and reflect some faint rays of the infinite. Support your local press, then, as the first step to a Southern literature, for, as it is supplied with means of usefulness, it will gather power, and richness, and versatility, itself pioneering the way the Southern scholar must pass.

Letter of Hon. H. J. Redfield to the Tammany Society.

NEW YORK, Monday, Jan. 5, 1857.
GENTLEMEN:—Your letter of the 15th ult., inviting me to join you in celebrating the anniversary of the battle of New Orleans, on the 8th inst., at Tammany Hall, was received. All health will, I fear, prevent my having the honor of being present on the occasion.

The reference in your circular to the "combinations of the pulpit and the press," in the late contest, revives in my mind recollections of the past. It is remarkable that in all the great struggles of the Democratic party for the achievement of civil and religious liberty, it has always been opposed by a like combination of the pulpit and the press.

It was so in 1800, when, with the clergy, (generally at that time of the Galvanic School,) infidelity and Jeffersonian Democracy were considered as synonymous terms. It was so in 1812, during the second war of independence, when it was held to be "unbecoming a moral and religious people" to rejoice over the victories of our country—and it was so in the late contest to restore to the people of the territories rights long since usurped. The principle of the Kansas-Nebraska bill will be, hereafter, as generally acquiesced in as the principle of the Sub-Treasury law, which although so violently denounced at the time it was proposed, and for many years afterward, now commands the approbation of the whole country.

Even the designing men, who, during the late canvass, having misled the clergy, and induced them to turn their backs upon the pulpit to enter the political arena, do not now pretend that this much execrated Kansas bill, and for the introduction of which its author was repeatedly burned in effigy, should be repealed, or that the principle of the bill as applicable to other territories, should be modified or changed. With high regard your obedient servant.

HEMAN J. REDFIELD.

To the Hon. JOHN KELLY, ISAAC V. FOWLER, and others, Sachem, &c.

A Republic and a Monarchy—A Contrast.

The New York Times, in the course of a carefully prepared article makes a contrast between the condition of Great Britain and the United States. It is highly flattering to the latter. The Treasury returns for 1856, show that the outstanding public debt of the Federal Government amounted to \$30,727,000; while the public debt of the various States amounted to \$190,718,000—forming together only \$221,000,000.

The public debt of Great Britain, before the late war, was £797,000,000, to which £21,000,000 new loans were added during the war—together £818,000,000 sterling or about forty hundred and ninety millions of dollars. The indirect taxation paid by the people of the United States for the support of the Federal Government in the shape of impost duties, amounts to sixty-four millions dollars. The direct and indirect taxation paid by the people of Great Britain for the support of the Crown, in the way of customs and excise duties, stamps, income tax and property tax, amounts to sixty-four millions sterling or about five fold the burden of the United States. The expenses of the British Government are thus, in our currency, for a single year, \$320,000,000, or about one hundred millions more than the whole principal of the public debt of the Federal and State Government. The Treasury returns also show that our system of railways which embrace about 23,242 miles stands in capital and funded debt seven hundred and thirty six millions of dollars, though costing by the aid of State and

City loans about \$829,730,400 or \$35,700 per mile while the system of Great Britain embracing only 3334 miles, stands in capital and funded debt sixteen hundred and seventeen millions dollars, or \$194,135, per mile. And it further appears that the whole railway debt of the country in the shape of mortgages and debentures is \$433,286,000, while the same incumbrances upon the English system reach nearly this sum in debentures alone, say \$375,200,000, while including what are known as Preference Shares the sum total is \$639,966,000.

Old Fashioned Federalism.

In a work written by John Adams, we find the following extracts, which we ask our readers to peruse with care and attention. They show in terms that cannot be misapprehended or misunderstood, the estimation in which the Federal party, under all its disguises or changes of name, have held the industrious toilers of the country:

"The people of all counties are naturally divided into two sorts, the GENTLEMEN and the SIMPLE MEN, a word which is here chosen to signify the COMMON PEOPLE. By the common people, we mean laborers, mechanics and husbandmen in general, who pursue their occupations and industry, without any knowledge in the liberal arts and sciences, or in anything but their own trades and pursuits."—[Vol. III., page 268.

"Inequality of birth! let no man be surprised that this species of irregularity is introduced here. The children of ILLUSTRIOUS FAMILIES have generally greater advantages of education, and earlier opportunities to be acquainted with public characters, and to be informed of public offices, than those of MEANER ONES, or even those of MIDDLE LIFE."—[Vol. I, page 169.

There is the picture—how do you like it? This is old Federalism, pure, true, blue, unadulterated; it has undergone no possible modification from that hour to the present. It has the same sneering contempt for the laboring classes, they who produce all the wealth, build all the houses, dig our canals, construct our railroads, navigate our ships, that one of its propounders so openly expressed in the passages we have quoted from his own pen. Federalism has always sought to divide society in this country into castes and classes, marked and distinctive as that which exists in the crumbling monarchies and overgrown aristocracies of Europe. Indeed, it has ever an instinctive yearning after "the flesh-pots of Egypt"—it has invariably preferred the pomp and trappings of a foreign nobility, to the republican plainness and simplicity of a Democratic government.

Our Great Men.

We have ever considered it to be the most heathenish symptom in our political affairs and in the working of our admirable form of government, that men of large capacity, weight of character, and comprehensive patriotism, have ever been preferred for our highest offices. This encouraging sign which spans so luminously our horizon—a bow of promise for the future—was set early in our political heavens; and it is yet of undimmed brilliancy. Washington and his contemporaries, form its base and worthy successors its arch. To drop the figure, let the patriot eye run over the list of our Cabinet Officers and Senators and Judges and Diplomats from the time of the Constitution; let it scan the record they have left in the national archives—their State papers and diplomatic contests, their forensic efforts and judicial opinions, and it cannot fail to kindle with just pride as it contemplates in such results the practical working of republican institutions. They show a power of enlisting capacity in the administration of public affairs unparalleled in the annals of mankind.

As an illustration, take our presidential incumbents obtained by the elective principle, and compare them with the succession of kings and emperors obtained, in monarchical countries, by the hereditary principle, and mark the wonderful difference. Where can be found such a series of men illustrious for every virtue as the American people have called to be their chief magistrates? Where can be found a succession of monarchs to be named the same day with a Washington, a Jefferson, an Adams, a Jackson, or a Buchanan? What finer evidence can be adduced than this single fact, to the intelligence of the people? What more glorious comment on the value of the election principle?

But to go on with our illustrations. As another instance, take our Cabinets, or Diplomats, our Supreme Judiciary, our Senate, and point, if you can, the time when any one of these departments did not contain incumbents illustrious for their virtu-

es and attainments, and who made their mark on the position they adorned. This remark is made without reference to party. It is a noble fact in our history, that from the adoption of our constitution to the present hour the highest intelligence of the nation, characters combining in an eminent degree the profound learning of the scholar with the practical talents of the statesman, have participated in our legislation, sat in our judgment seats and controlled our counsels; and truth will warrant the remark, that, with the single exception of Washington, there have been no jurists, legislators and statesmen more worthy of the public regard than those now seen in the highest places conducting the national affairs. Never did our country stand so proudly before the nations as it does to-day.

This state of things exhibits the surest sign of the vitality of the republic and its capacity for endurance. While such, however, is the state of things as to national affairs, it is not so as to the affairs of some of the States, and of Massachusetts. Its common schools are of more than their original vigor; its colleges are doing successfully their noble work; its academies, atheneums, lycées, are in full play, and yet it must be confessed that its men men triumph while its highest intelligence is ostracized; intriguing and successful wire-pullers are tendered ovarions and well tried statesmanship is discarded. Forensic efforts which cannot, for a moment, stand the test of logic, scholarship, practical talent, or wide statesmanship, which in a few years will be forgotten, are praised as paragons of human production and fountains of political wisdom.

In commenting on such a state of things, it is well to be discriminating. It is by no means national. It is local. It is confined to the States in which Freesoil and Know Nothing tactics tossed to unattractive heights the brood of third rate men. But facts already prove that the evil is but temporary. Already has the work of reform begun. Although the country is doomed to see the seat of the illustrious Cass occupied by a representative of the malignant and narrow creed, yet the people have driven a regiment of small men from the lower branch of Congress. This shows the path of duty for Massachusetts. The men who represent her—the legislators that disgrace her—are fit representatives of the narrow and bigoted creed that is dominant. Let those who, in an unthinking mood, or under the spur of misrepresentations, bowed to the idols of brass, review their judgments, retrace their steps, return to the basis ideas of the Constitution, and the reign of mean men will soon be over.—*Boston Post.*

A Physician's Evidence on Dancing.

That beautiful, graceful accomplishment of dancing, so perverted by late hours and the indolence of fashionable affire, has outraged many sensible people, and led them to deprive the young ones of the most simple and healthful enjoyments, because it has been abused. For myself I can testify not only to its healthful, but recuperative power. The fortieth, nay, fiftieth year of my age, found me enjoying this life-cheering exercise. It should be one of the earliest amusements of children, and care should be taken by parents that it is understood as an amusement. While I am on this topic, I will mention a case that occurred in my practice. A thoughtful, anxious mother who had but three children, brought to me her only remaining child—a daughter. Her temperament nervous bilious—the nervous fearfully predominant; with great irritability of the system, peevish, passionate, dyspeptic, sleepless; of course, exciting, arbitrary and uncomfortable; the poor child looked sad, old, morbid and miserable. She had been to school, because her parents thought it an amusement for her to be with other children.

After critically examining her physiognomy, I said to her mother, "what is the temperament of your husband?" "The same as my own," she replied. "Then the child is doubly stamped," I continued; "very vigorous measures must be used, if you expect to restore her to health. Divorce her immediately from anything mental so far as memorizing is concerned, then send her to dancing school, that she may combine exercise with order and melody, and thus some of her rough edges may be rounded." The child—her large eyes open with wonder and delight—interrupted with "dancing school? O, how I have longed to go; but mother says its wrong, and leads to wickedness." What a dilemma for a physician! what a dilemma for a child! "Did you ever intend your daughter to play the piano, guitar, or other musical instruments?" said I to the mother. "O, yes," was the answer.

"Why," I continued, "why show such partiality to the upper extremities? The hands are rendered happy as a medium of melody; the feet are rendered equally happy in the same way."

A nice afternoon school received the little girl, who grew in health and harmony every month as she followed the hygienic rules prescribed for her. Dancing is healthful, beautiful, graceful recreation, and is not responsible for the abuses luxury has thrown around it. The vulgarism and excitements of the ball-room have no more to do with the simple enjoyment of the dance than the rich wines and sumptuous banquettes of the gourmand, in whom they induce disease, have to do with the temperate requests that satisfy the wants of the body.—*Dr. Harriet K. Hunt.*

A DOVE ALIGHTING ON A COFFIN.—In Edinburgh, a few days ago, a respectable family in one of the quietest quarters of the city were thrown into mourning by the death of one of their number, an elderly lady. A night or two after the event a strange noise was heard at the window of the room where the coffin was lying. It seemed like the fluttering of the wings of a bird against the window panes; and, when the maid servant appeared at the window to examine into the matter, a dove flew into the apartment and alighted upon the lid of the coffin. It offered no opposition when they attempted to secure it, and is now in the possession of the relatives of the deceased lady, who, from the singularity of the circumstances, have resolved to preserve it carefully. Had the event happened in times past, when superstition held sway, it would undoubtedly have given rise to some strange imaginings relative to the departed.—*Edinburgh Express.*

WHAT THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH WILL ACCOMPLISH.—It is stated that when the submarine telegraph across the ocean is finished, the transactions in stocks, the closing price in consols, the state of the cotton market, will be sent from London and Liverpool every day, at three o'clock in the afternoon, and will in consequence of the difference of time—some five hours—be received in the leading Atlantic cities of the United States before noon, forming the basis of operations here for that day—in other words, the doings of the London Exchange will be known here before change hours, and will be published in the papers of the same evening before they are laid before the British public. Transactions on the Paris Bourse will be sent in the same manner. The expense, however, will be very heavy, as the telegraph tolls will be about one dollar per word.

Father Mathew.

Father Mathew, the Apostle of Temperance, died at Cork on the 9th of December. Theobald Mathew was born at Thomastown, Ireland, October 10, 1790. He was left an orphan at an early age, adopted by an aunt, and educated in Kilkenny Academy and at Maynooth. He was ordained to the priesthood in Dublin. Adopting the principle of total abstinence, he commenced a series of meetings, and soon awakened the enthusiasm of the Irish nation to his assistance.

He travelled from town to town through the island. His progress was one triumphal march. He administered the pledge to thousands at a time; at Nenagh to twenty thousand in one day; at Galway a hundred thousand per day; between Galway and Londonderry to nearly two hundred thousand. From Ireland he went to England, where the people were infected with a corresponding enthusiasm. Thence he came to the United States from which he returned in the autumn of 1851. His labors and triumphs here will long be remembered.—Through all this Herculean labor he was constantly in a state of personal poverty. When he began his work his brother was the proprietor of a large distillery. He supported Theobald until his wonderful success had ruined the distillery, and reduced the owner to bankruptcy. To meet the wants of the public benefactor the British government settled an annuity of £800 upon him, which sum was just sufficient to pay the premium upon an insurance policy held by creditors as security for their claims. Since his return to Ireland, the weight of years and the exertions of long labor have compelled his partial withdrawal from public life.

THE DUCK TRADE.—The Norfolk (Va.) Herald says, that a farmer in Princess Anne county has had twenty men employed killing ducks, and up to the 20th ult. they had consumed 23 kegs of gun powder. The gentleman ships, on an average, 15 barrels of ducks to New York every week, and some weeks as high as 31 barrels. They consist canvass back, mallard, black, sprig tad, baldpate, shovellers, and a good proportion of wild geese.

The Elmira Gazette says: "When you find a Buchanan lady, she's of the pure grit. One of them fell in company with a Fremont crowd during the campaign, when she was told that all the Buchanan men would be sent up Salt river this fall. 'Then,' said she, 'rather than stay in such a crowd as there'll be left, I'll go up and cook for 'em.'"

Struggles of the Great.

There is a milder and serener form of poverty, the nurse of manly energy and heaven-climbing thoughts attended by love, and faith, and hope, around whose steps the mountain breezes blow, and from whose countenance all virtues gather strength. Look around you upon the distinguished men that in every department of life guide, and control the times, and what was their origin and early fortunes? Were they, as a general rule, rocked and dandled on the lap of wealth? No. Such men emerge from the homes of decent competence or struggling poverty. Necessity sharpens their faculties, privations and sacrifice brace their moral nature. They learn the great art of renunciation, and enjoy the happiness of having few wants.—They know nothing of indifference or satiety. There is not an idle fiber in their frames. They put the vigor of a resolute purpose into every act. The edge of their minds is always kept sharp. In the shock of life, men like these meet the softly nurtured darlings of prosperity, as the vessel of iron meets the vessel of porcelain. Lift your hearts above the jargon of wild hopes and cowardly fear. Put on that even temper of mind which shall be a shadow in success and a light in adversity. If wealth and distinction come, receive them in a thankful and moderate spirit; if they do not come, fill their places with better guests. Remember that all which truly exalts and ennobles a man is bound to him by ties as indissoluble as those which link the planets to the sun. Plant yourself upon God's immutable laws, and fortune and failure will be no more than vapors that curl and play far beneath your feet.

Mr. Goodrich in his recollections gives the following anecdote of a political barber in Washington at the time Madison was first nominated by the Democrats:

"A very keen observer, then and long afterwards a Senator of the United States, once told me that at this period all the barbers of Washington were Federalists, and he imputed it to the fact that the leaders of that party in Congress wore powder and long queues, and, of course, had them dressed every day by the barber. The Democrats on the contrary wore short hair, or, at least, small queues, tied up carelessly with a ribbon and therefore gave little encouragement to the tonorial art. One day as the narrator told me, while he was being shaved by the leading barber of the city who was, of course, a federalist, the latter suddenly and vehemently burst out against the nomination of Madison for the presidency by the Democratic party which had been that morning announced.

"Dear me!" said the barber, surely this country is doomed to disgrace and shame. What Presidents we might have sir? Just look at Daggett of Connecticut, and Stockton, of New Jersey! What queues they have got sir—as big as your wrist and powdered every day, sir, like real gentlemen, as they are. Such men, sir, would confer dignity upon the chief magistracy; but this little Jim Madison with a queue no bigger than a pipe stem! Sir, it is enough to make a man forswear his country!"

THE CHURCH AND THE STAGE.—The Herald states "that on the last Thanksgiving day the Rev. Dr. Bellows delivered an address at his church Fourth avenue and Twentieth street upon public amusements, taking the ground that the drama in proper hands was a valuable aid to the pulpit and the press in enlightening cultivating and reforming the people. He also took strong ground in favor of the opera. Some of the managers and leading artists of the city have sent to the reverend gentleman a piece of plate as a mark of their recognition of liberal views. He has written a letter declining the testimonial and expressing a desire to address the theatrical profession especially. Arrangements are being made for the delivery of the discourse. This Mr. Bellows preached a sermon just before the election, in which he intimated very plainly that our Union was of less consequence than the freedom of negroes.

To-Morrow.—Who can tell how much is embraced in this expression? Though a few hours intervene between it and us—though it will soon commence its course—who is there that can read its single page and pronounce the character of its events? To-morrow! Those who are now gay may by sad. Those who are now walking the venues to pleasure, led by the hand of Hope, may be subjects of intense sorrow. Prosperity may be changed to adversity. Those who are now on the mountain summit may be in the valley. The rosy cheek may be overspread with paleness, the strong step may falter—death may have overtaken us. To-morrow! It may entirely change the course of our lives. It may form a new era in our existence. What we fear may not happen.

ADVERTISING.—The merchant who does not advertise liberally in the newspaper is like a man who has a lantern but who is too stingy to buy a candle; he stumbles about in the dark long after all his more sensible neighbors have lighted themselves home.