FROM THE NEW YORK PRESBYTERIAN.

MRS. STOWE—EDINBURGH BANQUET—SLAVERY.

Our papers from Scotland are largely occupied with the honors done to Mrs. Stowe. The Edinburgh Witness of the 23d ult., contains a report extending through several of its large, closely-printed columns, of a banquet given her in Edinburgh on the 20th ult. Tickets had been in demand for some days before, and the great hall where the banquet was held was filled an hour before the commencement of the proceedings. The most remarkable feature of the occasion was, that over the platform were suspended a number of flags, amongst which was the American flag MUTILATED, "displaying the stars but not the stripes;" and that Mrs. Stowe and her suite were willing to sit under the dishonored, mutilated flag of their country, receiving the incense of flattery at the expense of the honor of the land which gave them birth. We had before supposed that no American abroad, however low the flame of his patriotism might have burned when at home, could ever see the flag of his country unfurled without a glow of national pride and patriotism. The sight of that flag, whether run up to a masthead in mid ocean, or floating lazily amongst the shipping of a foreign port, or hung out from the United States consulate in some strange old city, or wherever else abroad, has seldom failed to touch tender cords in an American bosom. For once we have an exception. Here are a trio of Americans, seated under the mutilated ensign of their country, in a foreign land, in the warm embrace of the very parties who had effected its profanation. No remonstrance is heard from them; not one word of lofty patriotism escapes their lips. Bewitched by the recompense they are receiving for having held up their country to odium in every land where its name is known, through a fiction which presents in exaggerated colors its worst features, they drink up the nectar of flattery poured out for them, and are content to witness their nation's dishonor. Whenever they speak of their country it is in apologetic terms. They act as if they felt that they had been caught in bad company in being citizens of the United States, and that they must make the best excuse possible. They speak as so many martyrs, who had undergone they knew not what to remove a great national evil, and now need the encouragement abroad which they cannot find at home. We are glad to see, however, that while Mrs. Stowe and her party are content to hold up our sins for denunciation, there are persons, even in Scotland, who cannot altogether forget that those who are there throwing stones at us with such good will are not altogether without sin themselves. They are constrained to admit that, even though there is a beam in our eye, there is at least a mote in their own; and some of the public journals have the honesty to say that they hope that the author of Uncle Tom's Cabin will bring to light the wretchedness which is nearer home to them than are plantations of our southern States.

Dr. Guthrie, who, judging from the report, made by far the most eloquent and effective speech at this banquet, seems to have been conscious that there might be room for our retorting upon them, "Physician, heal thyself." He alludes to the retort made in the letter of the American ladies in reply to that from Stafford House, and here is the best excuse he can make for himself and his countrymen:

"I have no hesitation in saying of the letter which appeared in the newspapers professing to come from American ladies—whether it did so or not, they best know who wrote it—in answer to that most noble, and gentle, and most Christian address which went from Stafford House, that it was only a bad heart or a very wrong head that could have confounded the guilt of our defects with the deep-stained sin of American slavery. I do not deny that there are defects in our country; but what I say is this—that they are incidental very much to an old country like our own. Dr. Simpson knows very well, and so does every medical man, that when a man gets old he gets infirm, his blood-vessels get ossified, and so on; but I shall not enter into that part of the subject.—What is true of an old country is true of old men; aye, and old women, too. I am very much disposed to say of this young nation of America, that their twitting us with our defects might just be met with the answer which a worthy minister of the church of Scotland gave to his son, who was so dissatisfied with the defects in the old church that he was determined to go over to a younger communion: 'Ah, Sandy, Sandy, man, when your lum reeks as lang as ours, it will maybe need sweeping, too.' Now, I do not deny that we need sweeping; everybody knows I have been singing out about sweeping for the last five years. Let me tell my goods friends in Edinburgh, and in the country, that the sooner you sweep the better; else the chimney may catch fire, and reduce your noble fabric to ashes. They told us in that letter about the poor needle-women that had to work sixteen hours a day. 'Tis true, 'tis pity, and pity 'tis 'tis true.' But does the law compel them to work sixteen hours a day? I would like to ask the writer of this letter, are they bound down to their garrets and cellars for sixteen hours a day? May they not go where they like, and seek better wages and better work? Can the slave do that?"

We have no hesitation in saying that there *is* a law in Britain as stern and invincible as any which ever was enacted by the legislature of a southern State, which compels the poor needle-women to labor sixteen hours a day—the London Times and the Edinburgh Witness themselves being the witnesses. The needle-women "can go where they like and seek better wages;" yes, they may cease to work sixteen hours a day—they have liberty to go elsewhere; but such liberty is the liberty to starve—the liberty to sacrifice virtue to gain bread—the liberty to live in prostitution and die in an almshouse. The iron law of necessity declares that these poor women shall toil through their miserable existence sixteen hours out of the twenty-four—that they shall be shut up in cellars or garrets, or else meet the inevitable penalty, an infamous life and a cheerless, horrible death.

We have no desire to defend or perpetuate the evils of slavery; but we are compelled to say that we have never seen or heard of such things among southern slaves as we have ourselves both heard of and seen in Great Britain. In that very city of Edinburgh, we looked from our hotel windows, the first morning we ever gazed upon its streets, upon a cluster of wan, half-starved wretches begging for bread. In the beautiful Emerald Isle we were pointed to multitudes who, as we were assured on the best authority, never enjoyed the luxury of a morsel of meat for months at a time. Who ever heard of a southern slave begging for bread? Who ever heard, except in the rarest instances, of their wanting for meat from once to thrice a day? In what portion of the South are slaves compelled to work sixteen hours out of the twenty-four? Slaves are held in involuntary bondage, to be sure, but the condition of that bondage is such that the wretched poverty-stricken thousands of Britain would call a paradise, if a lot so easy and so well provided for could be made their own. It is vain, too, to say that British law has no part in oppressing these wretched sons and daughters of want. British law establishes privileged classes; British law entails property; British law lays heavy taxes; British law upholds the expensive bauble of a monarchy, and British law is responsible for the results which such a system necessarily induces as regards the lower stratum on which this great fabric rests. The voice of the oppressed poor, crushed to the dust under such a superincumbent structure, has just as little hope of being heard, and is just as powerless to remove it, as is the voice of the southern slave in securing relief from his condition.

It is curious to see how Dr. Guthrie fends off when the thought of Britain's own sins is suggested: "I do not deny," says he, "that there are defects in our country; but what I say is this—that they are very much incidental to an old country like our own." But the long experience and large resources of an old country should enable it to throw off mere incidental defects; and an old country has no right to denounce a youthful one for not overcoming incomparably greater difficulties than any which have lain in the path of the older ones. The existence of slavery in the United States is by no means an "incidental" thing. It exists here this day because of the deliberate intention persisted in, in despite of all remonstrance from the earlier settlers on this soil, by the British people, who themselves brought the captured sons of Africa to our shores, and made merchandize of them for gain. Slavery was planted here by British hands when what is now a cluster of free and independent republican States was but as a tender plant; it has been ever since to us as the parasite to the tree to which it clings. It has grown with our growth. It has wound itself around the tree-trunk, and covered the limbs and branches, until the great question of questions, which no one as yet seems able to solve, is, how to separate the parasite from the tree without destroying either the one or the other, or both. To make denunciatory speeches at banquets, or give penny offerings, or sing pæans to novel writers, or to "glower" into Mrs. Stowe's carriage, are all much easier than to solve this question.

After all, too, what has Mrs. Stowe done that she should be so suddenly turned into a Diana of the Ephesians? Has she ever emancipated a slave? Has she ever contributed a solitary one hundred dollars out of the many thousands which have been poured into her pockets to help some son of bondage to purchase his freedom? Has the book, which has given her so wide a fame, led to any measures which will in any way meliorate the condition of the slaves? or is it probable that such will be the result? She has drawn many tears from sentimental young ladies; she has set staid, quiet men to uttering such execrations against the South that their families have wondered what was the matter with them; she has led excellent old ladies, who had been wont to call the very name "novel" with pious horror, to read her novel, and laugh and cry over it as much as anybody; she has had puffing enough from the newspapers to have made a small hurricane; she has lined her pockets with money; she has gone on a transatlantic tour, free of expense; she has been feted and feasted by throngs of foreigners, who have received her as if she were almost more than human; and yet what has she done? One would think that she must surely have broken all the fetters in Christendom; and yet she has not emancipated a single slave; she has only written a successful romance. So far as any tangible good is concerned, we have yet to see it. She is neither a Wilberforce, a Howard, a Mrs. Fry, nor a Miss Dix. Indeed, we have known many a southern slaveholder do incomparably more for the slave than Mrs. Stowe probably ever will do if she should live to Methuselah's age; and still they have never had their names blazoned abroad for it, nor had their pockets lined with money—but contrariwise emptied—nor received free tickets for European tours, nor been banqueted and presented with silver salvers. On the other hand, their names have either been unknown, or, in common with the whole class to which they belong, they have been vilified by the very lips which are now singing hosannas to Harriet Beecher Stowe. We think it would be well for the public to think on these things—at least when they have done flinging up their hats over Uncle Tom's Cabin.

The longer we look at this subject the more fully we are convinced that the best friends of the slave are the dwellers in his own South. In that South are those who received a poor, naked savage, fresh from Africa and the horrors of the middle passage; they have clothed him, fed him, visited him in sickness, have taken charge of his children in infancy, and provided for him in helpless old age; have taught him a Saviour's name, and been instrumental in shedding abroad in his heart a Saviour's love, and preparing him for a crown and a kingdom in heaven. A whole nation of his people has grown up here, and, under the genial influence of southern homes, they have been elevated from barbarism to civilization and Christianization with a rapidity and to an extent to which history shows no parallel. A part of his people have gone back to Africa, bearing with them the priceless treasure of the Gospel—a compensation ample for all their hardships; more of them are going to join those already there; others are to go, and what is to be final result will be known, perhaps, in that day when Ethiopia shall stretch forth her hands unto God. In all this process of elevating in the mass a whole people from barbarism, whose hands have plied the lever but those of southern men? Who have had the responsibility, care, vexation, expense, even to the impoverishment of their lands and their families, but the people of the South? We believe that God in his providence is working out a mighty wonder for Africa's sons, both in their own and in this land, through what, for the time, seems an evil, and that the final development will be full of joy and gladness; and the results will then be traced to their right sources, when Uncle Tom's Cabin shall have crumbled to the dust, and Mrs. Stowe's name, her silver salver, and her British banquets are remembered no more.

Signs of the Times in New York.—Nearly all the effective patronage of this State has been thrown by Mr. Secretary Marcy and the Federal Government into the hands of the Free Soil Barnburners; but of late, we have had a yet more significant sign.

The Government advertisements, some of which are valuable, have now, we see, been given the same direction. The "Albany Atlas" has a nine column advertisement, calling for proposals for supplies, and the "Argus" has little or nothing. The "Republic" in Buffalo, has a like advertisement, and the "Courier" (Hunker) has little or nothing. The "Sunday Atlas" in this city (Barnburner) has a like support, in a long advertisement.

For the edification of the Southern Democracy, it is well for us to inform them that the "Buffalo Republic" and the "Albany Atlas," to whom Mr. Dobbin, the North Carolinian Secretary of Navy, has thus given the supplies, were bitter opponents of the Compromise Bills, and are yet bitter opponents of the Fugitive Slave Law, and would be glad to vote for its repeal. This is none of our business, to be sure, except as it enables us to say, the Democracy of the South in denouncing Gen. Scott because he, a Southern man born, happened to have a supporter in ex-Governor Seward, and their present silence, entitle them to the most hearty contempt of all mankind, both for their hypocrisy and party cowardice.

N. Y. Express.

From the Charlotte Whig.

DISCUSSION AT CONCORD.

The candidates for Congress in this District held a discussion in Concord, on Thursday, of last week, before a large audience, which gave to both of the gentlemen an attentive and patient hearing.

Mr. Osborne led off. His speech throughout was devoted to the discussion of *principle* and was as entirely free from demagogical slang as any we ever listened to.

He occupied himself first with the question of the distribution of the proceeds of the Public Lands, and he enforced the importance of this beneficent measure with eloquent power. He declared that if he were sent to Congress, he would exert himself to have the rights of North Carolina recognized on this subject and he would set his face as a flint against the injustice of giving the proceeds of our public lands to the New States alone—an injustice to the Old States which had been repeated all ready too often. He showed that the principle of distribution had been recognized under every administration, from Jefferson to Fillmore. It was, indeed, and ever had been a cherished principle with the Whigs—but of late years, the question was above party and sound Democrats everywhere—especially in the old States—were giving in their adhesion to this measure as necessary for the welfare of the Old States. He cited Mr. Venable and Judge Saunders, leading Democrats in North Carolina, who who had advocated and voted for it. In fact, by the position which he had assumed in this canvass on this subject—a position so entirely opposed to the interests of North Carolina, Mr. Craige had placed himself outside of his party and was almost "alone in his glory." He put this question to Mr. Craige: If, sir, you are elected to Congress and a bill is introduced to give North Carolina 100,000 or 200,000 acres of the public lands to aid her in the construction of her Rail Road and to relieve her tax payers, would you vote for it? This question was plumply put and it required a plump answer. Let the taxpayers of this District remember that Mr. Craige answered No!! We thought we saw as he uttered this unpatriotic No, an expression on the face of the audience which seemed to say, *North Carolina wants no such representative in Congress, who can vote millions for others—not one cent for her.*

We cannot follow Mr. Osborne in his farther discussion of this question.

Mr. Osborne next took up the question of Cuban annexation. He declared himself as decidedly opposed to any further extension of our territory at this time. He showed the utter uselessness of further acquisitions—especially of Cuba—we needed no more land—every addition increased the power of the Federal Government. Our present immense domain lay uninhabited and was a fund in the hands of our Federal rulers for the purpose of corruption. What do we want with more? He showed, moreover, that the acquisition of Cuba would be ruinous to the South and to Southern interests—to the cotton interest and the slave interest. It would be quickly followed by the annexation of Canada and Central America—the South would be overwhelmed—our old dissensions, now so happily healed, would be revived with tenfold fury—and who could answer for the terrible consequences?

It seemed to me that Mr. Osborne's appeals and arguments on this question were as cogent as any we ever heard, and we feel confident that they produced a most favorable impression on the people.

Mr. Craige replied for an hour. In our life we never heard such an omnibus speech. It was madness itself without even the merit of a method in it—national debt and taxes—free trade and sailor's rights—the Union and States' Rights—old hickory and young hickory—the Constitution and its most approved commentary, Mr. Pierce's Inaugural—Cuba and Cuban patriots who fought and bled and *were shot* for liberty—Central America and Young America—Canada and old fuss and feathers—manifest destiny and the b'hoys—these and a thousand more topics danced through his sentences "in all the mazes of metaphorical confusion." We do not exaggerate. Mr. Craige's own political friends admit and deplore his inability to pursue a subject logically. We would not, however, do him injustice and we say, therefore, that on the two questions on which he was pointedly called out by the course of Mr. Osborne's remarks, he answered with startling frankness.

1. He said that in his opinion it was unconstitutional to distribute either lands themselves or the proceeds of the lands among any of the Old States—but that it was perfectly constitutional to vote away the lands to the new States in which they may happen to lie. This is Mr. Craige's position, so far as we could understand him—and it comes to no more nor less than this, that California, Iowa and Texas are entitled to their millions of acres, while North Carolina, whose blood and treasure has done more to acquire those lands than all the three named States together, is not entitled to one acre. Can this be so? Mr. Craige says it is so.

2. He announced himself for the annexation of Cuba *now*; and said if he were in Congress he would vote for it. But this is not all. In his zeal to overtake "the manifest destiny" of this great nation, he announced himself in favor of the acquisition of Central America at the proper time, and remarked that Central America would as well balance Canada on the North. We understand, then, that Mr. Craige's aspirations are boundless—he is going on from acquisition to acquisition till we get to the "back of sundown" where we must stop and weep that there is no more to acquire. Has Mr. Craige calculated how much it would *cost* the people to realize his wild visions? He admitted the other day that he knew nothing about Cuba—nothing of its geography—nothing of its population. We wonder if he knows any thing about Arithmetic! He may be sure the people will count the *cost* of these things—and they will soon come to learn that it is too expensive a business to send men of his opinions to Congress.

Mr. Craige took these positions, we speak, with startling frankness—we heard many of the listening crowd—some of them old-line Democrats—express their fear and surprise at the announcement of such doctrines in our sober-minded District. Mr. Craige will not find his political friends so ready as he imagines to enter with him on this bootless race of war and conquest. On the other hand, Mr. Osborne's political friends are with him in his canvass—for he is all that they would have him to be—wise, moderate, conservative.

Vermont Liquor Law.—At the railroad depot at St. Albans recently three casks labelled 'sugar and hams' were received, but some of the watchers having scented *brine* in them, they were opened and found to contain brandy and gin. The sheriff has advertised them. The Vermont Repository states that a large quantity of liquors are advertised for sale at auction in this town, and thinks that this is a new way of getting round the law, and that there will be a plenty of sheriff and constable sales of liquor if the practice is not stopped by law.

Matches are now split by the most approved machine at the rate of 70,000 a minute. An exchange thinks this will be gratifying to persons about to apply for divorce.

ARRIVAL OF THE STEAMER FRANKLIN—THREE DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE.

NEW YORK, May 24.

The steamship Franklin arrived at her wharf at 8 o'clock this morning, bringing dates from Southampton to the 11th inst., and from Liverpool to the 10th.

England.—The grand reception of Mrs. Stowe took place at Stafford House on the 7th, when the famous address from the women of England was presented to Mrs. S. by the Earl of Shaftesbury, and responded to by the Rev. Mr. Beecher.

France.—Advices from Paris announce the prospect of the long-talked-of fusion of the different branches of the Bourbon party. The legitimists confidently anticipate a restoration of the elder branch.

The Emperor had sent four extraordinary commissioners to the departments to inquire into the wants of the people.

LIVERPOOL, May 10.

Markets.—Cotton was firm, with sales to a fair extent. Sales of the last three days 17,000 bales, of which speculators took 1,000 and exporters 2,000 bales.

Flour was in good demand at stiffer rates, though quotations were not materially changed. Corn was in moderate demand at prices favoring buyers. Wheat steady.

BALTIMORE, May 24.

Later from Europe—Arrival of the Steamer Europa.—The steamer Europa arrived at Halifax this morning from Liverpool, with dates to the 14th ult. She brings two hundred passengers.

Cotton was quiet, with an advance of ¼d. on fair grades, and 1-16th d. for middling. Sales of the week 47,000 bales. Flour was active at 6d. advance. Wheat had advanced 1d., and corn 6d. per quarter. Consols closed at 100⅝.

Turkey had agreed to expel political refugees at the demands of Austria and Russia.

The difficulties between Austria and Sardinia had been settled, and the Sardinian minister was about returning to Vienna.

The Chinese authorities had applied to the British consul to check the advance of the rebels.

From Mexico.—Advices from the city of Mexico to the 9th instant, received by Telegraph from New Orleans, shows that President Santa Anna is carrying things with a strong hand. Besides annihilating the liberty of the press, he has adopted severe measures against all persons holding what he considers "pernicious opinions." All persons who served as guerillas in the American army during the late war are ordered to be arrested and tried by court-martial; and a list has been published of such Mexican officers as surrendered to Gen. Scott when the city of Mexico was taken, accompanied by a decree degrading them in rank and dismissing them from civil employment. These vindictive acts are sadly inconsistent with the promise made at his inauguration to direct his efforts towards healing internal dissensions and restoring peace to the Republic.

France and the Sandwich Islands.—Late advices from the Sandwich Islands do not appear to confirm the speculations that have been indulged by a portion of the press in the Atlantic cities in regard to the relations existing between the Government of France and that of the Sandwich Islands. By way of San Francisco we have Honolulu dates to April 6th. On that day the King opened the Legislature with an address, in which the following paragraph occurs:

"His Imperial Majesty, Napoleon III, Emperor of France, has replied on the important matters referred to him, as I stated to the Legislature of 1851, and diplomatic relations are now fully restored with that great and enlightened Empire. His Imperial Majesty is represented at my Court by Mons. Perrin, in quality of his Majesty's Consul, Commissioner and Plenipotentiary, who has promised soon to present the reply of his Imperial Majesty, and the draught of a new treaty with France. I hope it will be such a treaty as I have many times asked for—alike honorable and beneficial to France and my kingdom. My Minister of Foreign Relations will report to you what efforts I have made to obtain that result, the progress of the negotiation with France, and the state of my relations with foreign nations generally up to the beginning of this year."

FROM THE CHARLOTTE WHIG.

THE PARTY ISSUES.

Our readers will find in another column of this paper, a communication giving an account of the discussion, which took place between the candidates for Congress in this district, on Thursday of Cabarrus Superior Court, week before last, and which came too late to be inserted in our last number. This communication presents a fair and candid statement of the points at issue between the Candidates, and also a just estimate of the character of their discussions.

It will be perceived that Mr. Osborne contends that it is high time for the old States to make a "strike" for their just quota of the proceeds of the sales of the public lands. That these States now have the power, by harmony of purpose and concert of action, to assert and maintain their rights on this all important subject, which the rapid growth and increasing number of the new States will soon deprive them of. A portion of these lands was originally ceded to the General Government by the old States for the purpose of paying off the debt of the Revolution; and the same principles of justice and equity are involved in the question, that may be found in the ordinary case of a private individual, who has become indebted to his friends and neighbors, and makes a fair and *bona fide* deed of trust to a third person, in which he conveys to this third person all of his lands to be sold upon certain conditions for the benefit of his creditors. As soon as the debts are paid, and the expenses of the trust discharged, if there is a surplus remaining in the hands of the trustee, equity will decree that he shall pay every cent of it over to the original debtor. The rest of the public lands have been acquired by the General Government at the expense of the blood and treasure of all the States alike. Then why should the Government deny to the old States their just proportion of these lands, and, with a ruthless, cruel, and unjust inconsistency, squander the whole of them, by giving them to the new States, for the purpose of internal improvements!

Strange as it may appear, yet it is nevertheless true, that Mr. Craige, the Democratic Candidate in this district for Congress, a gentleman of fine talents and undoubted ability, born and educated in North Corolina, advocates the suicidal policy, and presents the anomalous argument, that it would be a violation of the Constitution to divide the proceeds of the public lands among *all* the States, and in the same breath declares that it is perfectly constitutional to divide these lands among a *portion* of them, that is the new States. Mr. Craige would, doubtless, run a good poll in Arkansas or Missouri, but surely the people of North Carolina cannot swallow such monstrous doctrines.

Great Speed.—The Cincinnati express train, on the New York and Erie Railroad, ran from Hornellsville to Susquehanna, on Tuesday, a distance of 145 miles, in 161 minutes. The Binghampton Republican believes this to be the greatest speed which has ever been attained, for so great a distance, on any road in the U. States.

RUSSIA AND THE DEMOCRACY.

"Under the government of absolute monarchy the Russian nation have emerged from the depths of barbarism, and within a single century have taken position in the first rank of civilization.—The great fact in European history for the last hundred years is the rise and progress of Russia. At the battle of Pultowa, July 8th, 1709, an infant nation struggled for existence. That infant has since grown to the stature of a giant, and like a colossus, bestrides the continent of Europe. Its social development has been coincident with its growth in political power; its conquest in the realms of science, and art, and learning, have even surpassed the vast achievements of its armies. In the rapidity of its progress it has outstripped every nation in Europe, and the United States alone can present a parallel to its wonderful career. In every element of national strength and happiness Russia is great and prosperous beyond any other country of Europe. Its government is more stable and efficient, and its people more contented than any other; while in respect to political supremacy, it is universally recognised as the preponderating power of the Old World. In the character of its rulers Russia has been singularly fortunate. In energy of will, honesty of purpose, and force of genius, they have for the most part presented a striking exception to the proverbial stupidity, cowardice, and meanness of legitimate royalty. When we contemplate the policy of the Russian government through all the vicissitudes of its history, we are struck as much by the immense genius as by the colossal ambition of its monarchs. If the internal administration of the government be conducted with any thing of the skill and energy which characterizes its foreign policy, we need be at no loss to comprehend the devoted loyalty and patriotism of the nation."

We are not going to bet, or to encourage betting, but, we think, odds might be safely wagered with any honest Democrat, who does not read the Washington papers, that he could not, for the life of him, guess from what American journal, printed in the United States, we cut the above eloquent eulogy upon the grandeur of Russia and the merit of her government as the first civilized power of Europe. "An American journal, printed in the United States?" He would shake his head: being an honest Democrat, he would not, at first believe we got it from any American journal; but, finding that certain, the spirit of the "unterrified" would rise, and he would say, "Oh, in some 'conservative' sheet—some organ of the 'aristocracy'—some 'British' Whig paper, of course." How he would be astonished to learn, after all, that no Whig paper can claim the honor—that the passage first saw the light in a Democratic paper—in an organ of the Democracy—of all other papers in the world, in the Washington *Union*, of Thursday, in which it will be found forming a part of an article, the leading editorial of the day, devoted to the purpose of lauding Russia to the skies. What is in the wind? Can we believe the sentiments thus avowed to be the natural reflections of a Democratic editor's mind? or has something occurred—or is something about to occur—at head quarters rendering it desirable that the Czar should be propitiated by uncommon marks and assurances of regard on the part of Gen. Pierce's government? Does the matter mean nothing, or does it mean something? Considering that the article appears in the Washington *Union*, the former theory is the most natural; but as the *Union*—though always disavowed when an error is committed, as in the case of Governor Lane's proclamation not long since—is the organ of the Administration, we are constrained to suspect a wheel within a wheel, and believe there is some sufficient—or efficient—cause at bottom to account for such a remarkable outburst of Democratic enthusiasm in behalf of Russian tyranny and despotism. In fact, enthusiasm is the characteristic of the article. It is fervent to the point of tautology, and energetic to the edge of incoherence and nonsense. It praises Russia, and then praises her over and over again; and it praises her most ardently in connections where it would be most natural to expect a Democrat should find nothing except to censure and denounce. There is the feeling of the friend and the passion of the admirer. The *Union* appears to have fallen in love with Russia. Is it the *Union* or the Administration which speaks?

We have never seen any such praise of Russia in any other paper in any part of the world; and we cannot but think that the *Union* owes it to the Democracy, if not to the whole country, to explain the anomaly of the course it has adopted. It did not use to speak of Russia thus in 1849 and 1850, when Hungary was just falling, or had just fallen, under the foot of Nicholas. It did not speak thus at a later day when it united with Kossuth in alarming the world against the peril of all liberty, threatened by Russian barbarism. It did not speak thus when it backed Gen. Cass in his fulminations against Austrian brutality and Muscovitish tyranny. It did not, on any of these occasions, think it Democratic to lose an opportunity to berate the Northern "colossus" who has now grown an object of its worship.—What is the reason of the change? What is the excuse for its tergiversation? We have learned that revolutions *do* go backwards. Is Democracy to go backwards likewise?

"The great fact in European history for the last hundred years," says the *Union*, "is the rise and progress of Russia." We should suppose that a Democratic American journal would have claimed to rank the American Revolution as a part, and the "great fact" of European history, seeing that the British colonies in the new world were a portion of the empire of one of the first powers of the old, and that the clash of that event was felt in every European heart and by every European throne. If we deny the honor of this event, the French Revolution, which was an offshoot and consequence of American Independence, and which shook to the centre, disorganized, and reorganized all Europe, must be conceded to have been the great fact. The rise of Russia is not even one of the many great facts of European history. Russia is still more an Asiatic than a European power. She has not yet sensibly affected Europe; her influence is not yet felt, except through anticipate fears. Russia may, here-after, 'bestride' Europe; but, at present, the "colossus" is only a great fat boy who never wades the Niemen or climbs the Carpathians without being invited, and shrinks back from the Bosphorus, the goal of his ambition and hope, whenever England and France raise a finger.

Not one word of the *Union's* eulogy is true which exalts the social development of Russia, its progress in science, art, and learning, and the vast achievements of its armies; not one word which avers its superiority over other countries of Europe in every element of national strength and happiness, in the stability and efficiency of its government and the content of its people, in the energy, honesty, and "immense genius" of its rulers. There is no social development in Russia, and there never can be, while nine-tenths of its people are either serfs of the soil or semi-barbaric forest hunters, but a few degrees advanced above our North American Indians. It is laughable to hear of Russian art, science, and learning, when Americans are imported to build Russian Railroads and set the trains in motion, and the savans of the Czar, whose philosophy is directed by the police and confronted by the knout, exist unnamed and unknown even at home. The vast achievements of the Russian armies, are, we suppose, attested by the conquest of Siberia—effected by independent Tartar chiefs—by the march of Napoleon to Moscow, and by the Circassian reverses which are the contempt and proverb of the day. The elements of national strength and happiness in which Russia is superior to other countries, consist, it must be imagined, in her being shut out of the family of nations, and shut in as in a species of imprisonment, by frozen seas and other equally impassable barriers—good shields, better fetters—an iron cage in which the giant looks large in his seven-league boots, but is only formidable to the Turks and those who fancy he will some day break into Europe, whither he can never get unless invited by some coalition of frightened kings, who would soon, probably, turn about and drive him back again. Stability and efficiency of the government! How many Russian emperors have died in their beds, or expect to die there? What is the reason that so many Russian generals and admirals are cashiered every year for peculation?

As for the genius of the Russian monarchs and the content of the Russian people, we must leave the *Union* to settle those points by the aid of the spirit-rappers. Summon Peter the Great—who was the greatest sot and cutthroat in his dominions, and "civilized" his subjects by a royal process in which the whip and sword were the great instruments; and summon Catharine, the Northern Semiramis, who was—we will not say what—to enlighten us on the subject of autocratic genius. Is Nicholas a genius? Was Alexander a genius—or Paul, their father before them, whom the latter caused, or permitted, to be assassinated? The people of Russia may be contented—nobody knows whether they are or not, and nobody cares. It is enough that they submit to be ruled by a tyranny, the united infliction of the Czar and the Boyards, the most oppressive and humiliating known in the annals of the world, and if they like it nobody will find fault with them. All that is surprising is to find this contentedness eulogized in an American journal, the organ of the Democratic party, as one of the proofs that Russia is "the preponderating power of the Old World, standing "in the front rank of civilization," and deserving to be held up as such to the admiration of American freemen.

North American.

Episcopal Convention.—The Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church, for the Diocese of North Carolina, convened in this City on Thursday last. Rev. Dr. Mason was called to the Chair, and E. L. Winslow, Esq., of Fayetteville, was appointed Secretary. We learn that no business of an important character was transacted, on the first day of assembling, the Convention, soon after organization, having adjourned until Friday.

Rel. Reg.

We understand that the Grand Jury of Person Superior Court on Tuesday last presented that county for not having foresight and enterprise to embark in projects of internal improvement that would secure her citizens facilities to market. The presentment was ordered to be recorded, and a large and enthusiastic meeting was subsequently held advocating the construction of a Rail Road from Milton to Henderson.

Milton Chronicle.

French Mission.—We have looked over the list of foreign appointments in vain, to find what was done with that most important and first class mission to France. It was expected to be tendered to some such prominent Virginia Democrat as Henry A. Wise, until the Free-soilers determined to appropriate it to themselves, and then of course it was understood, a Virginia Democrat stood no chance for it. The announcement has been held back very likely, in view of the effect the appointment of a rabid Free-soiler might have upon the Virginia elections. But it is known in Washington that John Van Buren has received the appointment. This gentleman is now travelling in Europe in company with his father. He is the leader of the *ultra abolition* party in New York—one of the favorite "slang-whangers" of Tammany Hall notoriety, and a worse man than the Free-soiler Dix, who has been spoken of for the place. What will the Southern Democracy say to this? Will they deem him a worthy successor to such men as Cass, King and Rives?

Richmond Whig.

We learn that the Secretary of the Navy has suspended the distribution of the fund voted by Congress as extra compensation to those engaged in the naval service on the coast of California during the Mexican war. He had reason to believe that measures were matured for defrauding the Government by means of false affidavits and forged certificates, and his order of suspension was issued to detect and counteract these schemes of plunder.—*Union.*

Hon. Linn Boyd, late Speaker of the House of Representatives, has withdrawn from the Congressional canvass in the first district of Kentucky, in consequence of several Democratic candidates being in the field. H. C. Bennett, who was also a candidate in the same district, has likewise declined, and both have pledged themselves to take no part in calling a Convention to make a nomination, thus leaving their party friends to pursue whatever course they may deem best.

The Amazon River.—An interesting item of late intelligence from Peru, contained in the Panama Herald of the 6th instant, is the following:

"The President of Peru has issued a most important decree relative to the navigation of the Amazon, and offering the greatest encouragement of settlers—such as exemption from export and import duties, grants of land, and freedom from taxation for twenty years, the free grant of seeds, implements for cultivating the land, &c. The exploration of the branches of the Amazon in Peru will be made by Government steamers, provided expressly for the service."

The Philadelphia American of Tuesday states that $175,000 have been subscribed in that city towards building and equipping a first class steamer for the trade between Charleston and Philadelphia.

Wrought Iron from the Ore.—We some time ago printed a statement to the effect that a person by the name of James Renton, residing at Newark, New Jersey, had discovered a process by which to obtain *wrought iron* directly from the ore, and we are now gratified to add that the expectations of those familiar with the process are fully realized by its practical results. The Scientific American, referring to the subject, says that "the furnace erected by the patentee and his associates in Newark works well, and is approved by all who have seen it in operation, so that all that has been said in its favor thus far proves true." Should this invention be fully brought to bear, it must have a most important effect upon the price of iron.—*Harrisburg Union.*

Sad Accident.—A man "was thrown upon his own resources" in this city last week. He was injured internally, but it is thought that he will recover, as the resources were not very extensive or powerful.

A Queen's Present to a Queen.—A steam packet recently arrived at Southampton, bringing a *hyena* and a *wild cat* as a present to Queen Victoria from the Queen of Portugal!