From the National Intelligencer.

THE SERVICES AND THE CHARACTER OF OUR CANDIDATE FOR THE PRESIDENCY.

It is not to be denied that, but for the splendor of Gen. Taylor's military achievements in the Mexican war, his name would probably never have been brought forward in connexion with the office of President. But for the events of that war, the knowledge of his rare and modest merit might have been confined, as during his prior unobtrusive career of public service, almost exclusively to those who have been associated with him in the ordinary routine of military duty.—The public attention was, it must be admitted, for the first time, *generally* attracted to him, by the eclat of the great battles fought under his command near the Rio Grande. He may be said indeed to have then almost literally first discovered himself to his countrymen in a blaze of glory; of such as the multitude has the most lively appreciation of, but upon which humane and intelligent men, aloof from the multitude, also know how to place a proper value, when it is accompanied, as in the case of those battles, by service the most important to the country, and by personal characteristics solidly good, sober, high. The news of the first successes on the Rio Grande, all brilliant as those successes were, made the deeper and more universal impression on the public mind, from their succeeding a painful apprehension, which had for some days hung over it, of the Army's being hemmed in by a superior Mexican force, cut off from its supplies, and perhaps compelled to retreat, if not to capitulate. The echo to that news resounding from the mountains and valleys of the West, gave back to the Gulf of Mexico the name of Zachary Taylor, accompanied by a spontaneous outburst in his favor as a candidate for the Presidency. The popular passion for Military glory had, therefore, much to do with the bringing of Gen. Taylor into the presence of the People, as it were, and directing their attention towards him as one worthy of being clothed with the highest honor in their gift. In a word, had he not fought those great battles, we are ready to allow that he would not have been, as he now is, the candidate of the Whigs, as well as of some not belonging to that party, for the office of President of the United States. His military exploits brought him prominently into public notice. The fame of them will doubtless have secured to him no small proportion of the votes which he will receive at the approaching election. But it is to other considerations, appreciated by civilians even more than by men of war; to a knowledge of the personal qualities, the soundness of judgment and rectitude of purpose, adaptations to the highest civil employment, which his lately conspicuous position has enabled the people of every part of the country to recognise in him, that he will be indebted for his elevation to the highest seat of human ambition, the Presidency of the United States.

It is with a desire to communicate to our readers the information which we have possessed ourselves of as to the character and qualities of Gen. Taylor, and the general impression which it has made upon our mind that we have sat down to the task now before us.

We have no design to undertake a *Biography* of Gen. Taylor: that duty has been already executed by abler hands. Nor yet shall we presume to analyze his military merit: that is a point upon which the public judgment is already satisfied. Ours be the more grateful occupation of grouping in one picture those traits of his personal character and qualities which attract towards him the respectful and even affectionate regards of those who, like us, desire to find, in their candidate for such an office as the Presidency, some other recommendation than the most brilliant and well-earned military fame.

Not that we shall, or can, overlook either the military history or the military merit of the General. He cannot be separated from them. Nor need any friend of his desire that he should; for they become him worthily. The garrison, the march, the camp, the battle-field, have been scenes in which he has exhibited, all his life long, qualities which command respect. He has not, perhaps, in the midst of his arduous public service, sacrificed to the Graces as successfully as some have done who take exception to the plainness of his dress and simplicity of his manners. He is in truth no "carpet knight." But he is what ought to make him a hundred times more acceptable to the People; he is, beyond all doubt or question, a good and honest man.

Though we have never, that we know of, met Gen. Taylor face to face, he is yet a very old acquaintance of ours. It is just six and thirty years ago, at the moment when the heart of the country was depressed by Hull's surrender of his army at Detroit, that news was received in this city of the successful defence of Fort Harrison by General (then Captain) Zachary Taylor, against a vastly superior force of Indians, under circumstances which rendered resistance almost hopeless, but which the then young but indomitable courage and energy of our Captain enabled him to overcome. The effect of this news was such as can hardly be realized at the present day, when the imagination has become familiar with war on a grander scale; but it turned the whole current of public feeling at once, and inspired new confidence in the ability of our arms to maintain the defence of the then feeble and sparsely populated frontier. For this gallant exploit, Mr. Madison conferred on young Taylor the Brevet of *Major*, the first brevet conferred in the war of 1812, and now the oldest in the army.

From that day, the name of Taylor has ever held a secure place in our memory, though it had not, until the time of his taking charge of the "Army of Observation," often met our view. We knew, however, that during the whole time he was almost always upon hard duty, and performed it well; especially in the harassing Black Hawk war, and in the Florida war; in which last he distinguished himself no less by his gallantry and by his success in battle, than by a personal deportment which acquired for him the attachment of all who served with him.

Passing over the intermediate part of his military career, we must hasten to the period when his orders from the War Department placed him in command in a wider field, and charged him with duties, the execution of which brought him at once in full view before us. We refer, of course, to the time of his assuming the command of the forces gathered together ostensibly to protect the frontier of Texas, but destined afterwards to a more active and dangerous service.

Much as has been said of the battles won by General Taylor in Mexico, the peculiar objects and consequences of those battles, the judgment and the foresight which dictated, and the decision which executed them, have been scarcely noticed at all. The glory of the achievements of the army under the General's command is all that seems to have been much cared for; though, when the actual achievements come to be compared with the obstacles overcome and the evils warded off by them, it will be seen that the objects accomplished by these victories were as substantial as the battles themselves were brilliant. In reference to the position in which Gen. Taylor is now placed, almost against his will, as a candidate before the People for the Chief Magistracy, the soundness of judgment which he displayed, on all occasions, during his campaigns in Mexico, is of even more interest to the country than his gallantry in the field, a quality more or less partaken with him by all the Officers, and nearly all the Privates, Volunteers as well as Regulars, under his command.

The object of Gen. Taylor's march *from* Fort Brown (in front of Matamoras) to Point Isabel, in the opening of the war, was to procure provision for his forces. His determination to march *back* to Fort Brown (the enemy under Arista having passed the Rio Grande and placed himself between the two parts of our army) was to save the garrison of that fort. With this resolution, he wrote to the War Department, under date of the 7th of May, that he was about to set out on his return to Fort Brown, and that, if the Mexicans opposed his march, in whatever force, he should fight them. On that march, the following day, he did meet them at Palo Alto, and beat them.—He knew that the contest would not end there, and that another conflict must take place before the object of the march was effected. Doubts were entertained by many of the officers in Gen. Taylor's army about the ability of so small a force to advance safely against so large a one of the enemy. The *object* of the march, the salvation of the garrison of Fort Brown, outweighed in the General's mind every consideration of danger.—The advance was determined upon, the battle of Resaca fought and won, the garrison of Fort Brown rescued, and the Administration saved from disgrace. For it is much to be doubted whether, had Gen. Taylor *failed* on the Rio Grande—had his army been destroyed or compelled to capitulate—whether an army of sufficient force could have been as easily raised in the United States to face the Mexicans, flushed with victory, with Santa Anna (a General of never-failing resources and energy) at their head, as it could be, after Taylor's glorious victories, when the whole country was inspirited by them, and all that our volunteers had to do was to go to Mexico and take a share in them. But for these early successes, the result of Taylor's right judgment and resolute will, the Mexican War might have been a series of disasters, instead of the unbroken succession of victories that it was.

After these battles, and re-establishing his camp opposite Matamoras, Gen. Taylor, with a small escort, returned to Point Isabel to meet Com. Conner and that portion of his squadron that had on land co-operated with the detachment left for the defence of Point Isabel; and it was on this occasion that was manifested the first evidence of that enthusiastic feeling towards the General which afterwards filled so many breasts.

A point of etiquette arose as to the propriety—for he would not arrive until *after tattoo*—of receiving the General with any demonstration of joy. But this was no time for etiquette. His approach had been heralded, and already the parapets were lined with Jack-tars, eager for the first glimpse of the old Hero; and, as he "hove in sight," or rather became tangible, for it was too dark to see, the spontaneous and heartfelt cheers of the "combined forces," as one voice, proclaimed that he was "first in the hearts" of those who greeted him.

The General was *really* overcome by this unexpected demonstration; and, as he sat in the rude Mexican hut to which he had been conducted, surrounded by all who could squeeze their way to his presence, never was seen a more truthful personification of modesty. He seemed brooding over some sad event, rather than elated at his own great deeds. The sailors surrounded his quarters, and it is doubtful whether there was one of those five hundrd brave fellows who did not shake him by the hand. His stay on this visit was short; but he improved the occasion to visit and cheer up the wounded, and to direct all that could be done to make them comfortable.

The General returned to Matamoros as quietly and as unostentatiously as he came. It was there that he received the deputation from Louisiana to congratulate him upon the battles he had won. But no gratulations seemed in the slightest degree to excite his vanity. He was, from first to last, the same Zachary Taylor.

With the details of the battle of Buena Vista every reader is too familiar to leave us any excuse for here reciting them. No one is ignorant under what odds and disadvantages it was fought, and how a host of twenty thousand men were beaten in fair fight by an army of less than five thousand, four-fifths of that number being volunteers. The result of the unequal engagement, which electrified the whole Nation, surprised our own Government, and astonished even Europe, her statesmen and her generals of a hundred battle-fields, was due yet more to the confidence which the army had in its commander, founded upon a knowledge of his character, than to the skill of his dispositions and the native valor of the comparatively raw troops of which his army was composed. Instead of narrating the incidents of that memorable conflict, let us, in order to form some idea of its transcendent importance, recur for a moment to the circumstances in which Gen. Taylor was placed, and under which the battle was fought.

When, under the advice of the General-in-chief of the Army, the plans of the Administration were changed, the attempt to reach the city of Mexico by the inland route abandoned, the route by Vera Cruz determined upon, and the regular troops, whom Gen. Taylor had accustomed to conquest, were necessarily almost all withdrawn from his command to strengthen Gen. Scott, the whole country saw at once the peril in which the former was placed. No one saw it more clearly than himself. "While almost every man of my regular force and half the volunteers (now in respectable discipline) are withdrawn for distant service," said he in an official letter of January 15, 1847, to the Commander-in-Chief, "it seems that I am expected, with less than a thousand Regulars, a Volunteer force, partly of new levies, to hold a defensive line, while a large army of more than twenty thousand men is in my front." "I *feel* that I have lost the confidence of the Government, or it would not have suffered me to remain, *up to this time, ignorant of its intentions*, with so vitally affected interests committed to my charge. But, (he added,) *however much I feel mortified and outraged by the course pursued*, unprecedented, at least in our own history, I will carry out in good faith, while I remain in Mexico, the views of the Government, *though I may be sacrificed in the effort.*" A brighter example of Fidelity to trust reposed in man, is not to be found in the records of our race than in this declaration, followed up, as it was, with such sternness of decision and vigor of action as proved its writer's sincerity.

The responsibilities, difficulties, and dangers by which Gen. Taylor was now beset may be well conceived, when we bear in mind that at the moment when the General found himself with a body of troops, nearly all raw, scarcely sufficient to keep up his communication with his depot of supplies at Camargo, he knew that large supplies, then on the Rio Grande and at the Brasos, must be drawn out by Gen. Scott, and that on these supplies depended the success of his (Gen. S.'s) command, and his advance from Vera Cruz. In the midst of all the anxiety naturally attending his position, he found that Santa Anna was advancing upon his line of communication with Camargo and Brasos, and that, if he availed himself of the discretion left to him by instructions from his Government to confine himself to Monterey, he would be cut off from his supplies at those points; that they would fall into the hands of the enemy, depriving General Scott of the portion of them that he required; and that then, if he could do such a thing, he himself would be forced, for want of supplies, at last to surrender! He then had to choose between two alternatives, either of which would have been sufficiently appalling to most men: he must *advance* with a body of troops, of which four-fifths were volunteers who had not long been embodied, to oppose five times their number of the best Mexican troops under Santa Anna; or he must *retreat* to Monterey. He knew that, if the first course was taken and he proved successful, he would preserve his line of communication with the Rio Grade and save his army from inevitable disaster; and that, if defeated, the only difference between his position then, and that in which he would have found himself after a retreat to Monterey, would be, that in the one case he was defeated in battle, whilst in the other he was starved into a surrender. That General Taylor perfectly understood and appreciated the peril of his position, and the vastness of the results dependant on the choice which he might make between these alternatives, there exists documentary proof. But he made his choice. He *advanced* to meet the coming blow. He fought and won the Battle of Buena Vista.

With what solemnity of feeling, mingling with his high sense of imperative duty, he engaged in that conflict, evidence is afforded by letters written by himself to relatives and friends on the evening before the battle came off. In those letters, the substance of which has transpired, he stated the reasons that had determined him to give battle to the enemy. These were, that, the Mexican army having just crossed a great desert, their forces both in men and horses must be in a condition so exhausted as much to impair their capacity for physical exertion: that, on the other hand, he himself held a strong position, well adapted to enable him to repel a superior force, in which alone he could hope successfully to contend with the immense odds against him: that, should he quit his position and fall back upon Monterey, as he had been advised to do, Santa Anna might, with so superior a force, hem him up in Monterey, while he swept every post from thence to the mouth of the Rio Grande. Thus would be wrested from us all the advantages we had gained, our country injured, and her honor tarnished. Such, he believed, would be the disastrous and humiliating consequences of a retreat. *He therefore resolved to maintain his position at all hazards, with a determination to die rather than to suffer the flag of his country to be disgraced while under his care.* In order to make a successful defence with a force such as his, it would be necessary that he should be exposed throughout the engagement to the most imminent peril. *The chances* (he said) *were as ten to one that he should not be a living man at the setting of the sun on the following day!*

In another Letter, on the eve of that battle, he expressed himself in even more remarkable terms:

"This may," said he, "be the last communication you will receive from me. I have been stripped by the Government of regular troops, and reduced in volunteers, and thus stripped, and at the mercy of the foe, have been expected by my country to retreat or resign. But I shall do neither. *I care not for myself, but feel deeply for the noble soldiers who are about to be sacrificed by their country. We shall stand still and give them battle, relying on a just providence for a right result.*"

And a just Providence did take care of him and those noble soldiers, and saved them from the snare which, designedly or not, their own Government had set for them!

After the battle of Buena Vista, Gen. Taylor passed through Monterey, but only stopped in the town long enough to dine; for he cared not for *the honors* which all were ready to pay to him. Though absolutely worn out by fatigue, he after dinner re-mounted his old charger and proceeded most quietly to the repose of his old camp.

The interval between the battles of Monterey and Buena Vista, and his ultimate departure from Mexico, was spent by Gen. Taylor chiefly at his camp near Monterey. And here it was, after all the exciting events on that line had ended, and those on the line from Vera Cruz to Mexico were successfully advancing—and when, too, every mail from the States came freighted with adulation from almost every source, and presages of political elevation sufficient to turn the head of an ambitious man—that, unmoved by these things, he retained his unaffected simplicity of manner and of action, sincerely expressing his unwillingness to engage in party strife, or to be separated from his cherished hope of returning to the bosom of his family, there to end his days in peace and quiet. To all applications to him to allow his name to be used as a candidate for the Presidency, whilst the war continued, he replied in terms corresponding with those of the first letter ever written by him in reference to this subject, viz. That, though feeling very grateful to his fellow-citizens who had expressed a desire to place him in nomination for the Presidency, it became him frankly to acknowledge that he had no aspiration for that office; but that, even if an aspirant for the Presidency, (which he was not,) he could not, whilst the country was involved in war, and whilst his duty called upon him to take part against the enemy, acknowledge any ambition beyond that of bestowing all his best exertions towards obtaining an adjustment of our difficulties with Mexico. And when, at last, his consent to serve as President, if elected, was extorted from him, it was given in language entirely consistent with what we have already seen of his character. "If I have been named by others, and considered a candidate for the Presidency," said he, "it has been by no agency of mine in the matter; and, if the *good people* think my services important in that station, and elect me, I will feel bound to serve them; and all the pledges and explanations I can enter into and make, as regards this or that policy, is, that I will do so honestly and faithfully, to the best of my abilities, strictly in compliance with the constitution."

Having thus been led to speak of Gen. Taylor's consent to his name being used in reference to the office of President, this is the fit place in which to say all that we propose to say of his politics. In the very first letter written by him in reply to the applications to allow his name to be used, he himself avowed his political sentiments. "Although no politician, having always held myself aloof from the clamor of party politics," said he, "*I am a Whig, and shall ever be devoted in individual opinion to the principles of that party.*" As far back as the year 1840, we know, that, though at the time in active service, and therefore not voting, he felt a deep interest in the election of Gen. Harrison, and rejoiced, in his quiet way, in the event of that election, as sincerely as any man in the nation. At the more recent election of President (in 1844) he has declared, under his own hand, that "he was decidedly in favor of Mr. Clay's election, and that he would prefer now seeing him in that office to any individual in the Union." And, being released from active service in the field, the war being virtually over, he made an exposition of his principles, in his Allison letter, which proved him to be every inch a Whig, and, as far as politics were concerned, fully justified the nomination which he subsequently received in that character from the Whig National Convention. Judged by all we know of him, there is no sounder Whig in the country than he.

Our limits allow us but little room to speak with any fulness of those individual features of Gen. Taylor's character, known to us from unquestionable authority, which go to show his rare personal worth. A few brief allusions to them must suffice.

Gen. Taylor is a man of business habits. We have it upon the authority of Gen. Marshall that during his service in Mexico he was never known to give up a day to pleasure. No one ever visited his quarters without seeing evidence of the industry with which he toiled. If his talented Adjutant was surrounded by papers, so was the General. And, though he would salute a visiter kindly, and bid him with familiar grace to amuse himself until he was at leisure, he never would interrupt the duties which his station called him to perform.

In his association with officers, the General was at all times frank and unreserved. No unnecessary mystery shrouded the proceedings at Headquarters. All of his movements were straightforward, prompt, and efficient; and, when once his mind was *made up*, no ordinary circumstance could effect a change. No vaccillation or want of determination ever exhibited itself. What he said, he meant; always sincere, and, above all things, truthful.

At the battle of Buena Vista (says Col. Davis) when the day seemed, if not lost, to be going against our arms, General Taylor, amidst the thickest of the iron hail, rode upon the plateau and calmly surveyed the scene. Vast as were the consequences of that hour, he appeared to fear no danger, expect no harm. The excitement of the carnage over, the same soul that could remain unmoved when his friends were falling like leaves around him, which could look unblanched upon the front of the thundering artillery, became the poor soldier's most sympathizing friend; and the eye, so stern in battle, was as mild as the tender-hearted matron's.

No act of oppression has ever been charged upon General Taylor. No man paid the penalty of death by martial law from the time he fought at Palo Alto to the time he left Buena Vista. He controlled and guided the army without bloodshed, maintained its honor and discipline, and retired without having done any act to sully the character he had ever sustained as a humane, as well as able man. When the Government chided him for not storming Monterey and its twelve thousand men, with his five thousand, what was his reply? "Yes," he said, "I could have taken it in that way, but I did not want to sacrifice the women and children." When he was feted in New Orleans, a friend, alluding to the splendid pageant which wound through the streets of the city, said to him that "it must have been very gratifying to him." "No," said he, "it was not. I was afraid some of the women and children might be hurt!"

Though bred to war, inured to its toils and hardships, and owing his present conspicuous position to his ability and success in that vocation, he is a devoted friend of Peace. At a dinner given to him on his return from Mexico, he declared, in response to a complimentary toast, that "The joy and exultation of the greatest victories were always, after the heat and excitement of the battle, succeeded *by feelings of poignant sorrow and pain*; and *that war, after all, was* A GREAT CALAMITY, *and his the greatest glory who could terminate it.*"

Again: In a letter to the Hon. Truman Smith, of the House of Representatives, dated Baton Rouge, March 4th, 1848, he said:

"I need hardly reply to your concluding inquiry, that I AM A PEACE MAN, *and that I deem a state of peace to be absolutely necessary to the proper and healthful action of our republican institutions.* On this important question I freely confess myself to be the unqualified advocate of the principles so often laid down by the Father of his Country, and so urgently recommended by him in his Farewell Address to the American people. Indeed, I think I may safely say that *no man can put a more implicit faith than I do in the wisdom of his advice, when he urged upon us the propriety of always standing upon our 'own soil.'*"

And again, in his letter to Capt. Allison, he said:

"*My life has been devoted to arms, yet I look upon war, at all times and under all circumstances,* AS A NATIONAL CALAMITY, to be avoided if compatible with national honor. *The principles of our Government, as well as its true policy, are opposed to the* SUBJUGATION OF OTHER NATIONS, AND THE DISMEMBERMENT OF OTHER COUNTRIES *by conquest.*"

What pledges, then, of a man sure, in a situation however difficult, to be faithful, firm, and single-hearted in his utmost duties, has Zachary Taylor not given, from Fort Harrison to Buena Vista, from the tent to the farm, through his long life of efficiency in action, of moderation in command, of modesty in the midst of victories! What auguries are there, in his entire career, which must not make his arrival at the Presidency an event full of hope to all good men, of confusion and dismay to all that organized corruption and incapacity which have ruled us so long, not governing but despoiling us, not upholding but afflicting the general weal, not executing but only partitioning-out public trusts! Who that regards the country at all, or his own well-being as a part of that of the land at large, can hesitate how to choose between men so opposite? In the one, there is clearly every thing "to give the world assurance of a man;" a heart perfectly brave, sincere, untouched by any of the corruptions of civil life, unhardened by the habits of military; full of kindliness and humanity to all men; a true model, almost to homeliness, of republican simplicity; a man loved and trusted by all that have ever approached him, but especially commanding, in proportion as there was danger or difficulty, an unbounded confidence. In the other, what is there to begot, even at this latter end of individual eminence among the Locofoco party, any favor but that of faction, any admiration but of followers who in his success see the hope of their own? In General Taylor there must be singularly strong native qualities for wisely and rightly commanding men, else how should he have been a leader so daring yet prudent, so well-obeyed and yet so idolized, so careless of all reserve and outward state, yet so thoroughly respected? Does any body suppose that all these indisputable effects--the unsought affection which he attracts from all, the boundless reliance with which all look to him in the extreme of peril—can be brought about, except by the possession of a true superiority? Stranger as he is to all the arts which awe men, to all the tricks which set off greatness, the thing is impossible. Good as he is brave, mild as he is resolute, admirably compounded of prudence to decide and of valor to act, of ardor in the fight with the most unmoved self-possession; gentle without any known trait of weakness, as straight-forward as he is discreet, familiar without ever lessening the respect which he inspires, inflexible without austerity, the man evidently commands, through the native ascendency of his character alone, and guides others by an instinctive wisdom equal to every emergency—a natural sagacity which, exhibiting itself not in words but action, all about him feel rather than they can define.

If as yet without direct civil experience, we at least know that he has looked wisely enough upon the general course of public affairs to have chosen, between *parties*, the most Conservative; between *theories*, that which the maturer mind only confirms; between *men*, him above all whom true service and not personal success has crowned—the general knowledge of public questions he therefore clearly possesses. As to particular measures, we should feel safe in the rare integrity of his heart, the intuitive faculty of going exactly right, which distinguishes him so much; and especially we should rely on him as one who will not act till he understands, has ever known how to take counsel, and has never yet, in any instance that we can recall, taken any counsel but the best. But, besides, it is as little Gen. Taylor's theory as our own, that every thing should rest on the Presidential opinions, right or wrong, informed or uninformed: he will have modesty enough not to consider the nation's whole intelligence centred in his single person; he is republican enough not to set up his individual will as entitled to over-ride every thing else, *and call that domineering, that more than kingly arrogance,* DEMOCRACY, THE PROGRESS, THE LARGEST LIBERTY.

As, in short, between him and his more practised adversary, Gen. Cass, who can hesitate? Who will take a man *because* he has been tried, when, as we have had occasion to show, he is only the less to be trusted in proportion as he has been tried. If the having borne a long part in public affairs is only to teach men that he has learnt how to be more a demagogue, and a destructive the older he grows—give us, at least, a man unpractised, unsophisticated, whose heart retains its original warmth, its primitive integrity, its undissipated visions of public duty and honor; give us one whose understanding is yet uncorrupt, plain, manly, guided only by a powerful common sense. God defend us from the shallow speculatist, the statesman of untried experiments, the propagators of Freedom by the sword, the small philosophizers in government, and, above all, from politicans of the Mexico Yucatan, and Fifty-four-forty sort, who would have us now Conquerors, now Crusaders, a Nation of fire-eaters! We know no industry, no branch of trade—except "annexation" and office-hunting—that may not expect to flourish under General Taylor: we know of no honest and peaceful domestic pursuit, no useful art, no important public interest, which the election of Gen. Cass will not deeply injure. We know no man more pledged than he to upset for us whatever of policy, or law or constitution, or quiet or character, Mr. Polk has spared.

COMMUNICATION.

FOR THE REGISTER.

MR. EDITOR: I came to Louisburg just in time to hear Mr. Miller address the people, and I now avail myself of a leisure moment to furnish you with some account of the affair. The meeting took place in the Court House, which was densely crowded by an audience which gave the speaker profound attention. Mr. Busbee was not present—he was detained, I suppose, by indisposition. The speech of Mr. Miller lasted for three hours, and throughout, commanded a degree of attention which I have rarely witnessed on such occasions. The array of facts and illustrations presented in the clear and forcible style peculiar to the speaker, appeared to sink deep into the minds of the people.

The position of the Democratic candidate for the Presidency, Mr. M. thought anomalous. His party had made for him a platform, or declaration of principles, entirely at war with the whole tenor of his political life. In fact, the platform being made before the candidate, it became a Procrustean bed. If the royal sleeper should happen to be too short, his diminutive proportions must be stretched to the requisite length; if too long, lopped off. The platform leaves no discretion to the President standing on it. It is made to supercede the Constitution, and does effectually debar the President from consulting that instrument, or obeying its mandates, whenever they shall conflict with those of the platform. Mr. Miller exposed with great force and clearness, the inconsistency of the preceding acts and opinions of Gen. Cass with the doctrines of the platform.

The platform broadly lays down the position that Congress has "no power to commence and carry on a general system of internal improvements;" yet, in the face of this declaration made by the Baltimore Convention, and crammed down the throat of Gen. Cass, he has repeatedly voted for appropriating the lands and money of the Federal Government to such purposes. Mr. Miller read from the Journals of the Senate, printed by order of that body, and under its supervision, repeated votes of Gen. Cass for building Rail Roads and improving Rivers. He has within the last three or four years, voted for giving the Public Lands to the State of Mississippi, the State of Michigan, and I believe, Arkansas, for the purpose of building Rail Roads; and in the same period, he has as often voted to appropriate the public moneys to improve the Western Rivers and Lake Harbors. At the Session of Congress before the last, a Bill of this kind was passed, with the aid of Gen. Cass' vote. An amendment was offered by a Democratic Senator, to the effect that if there was no money in the Treasury, the appropriation was to lay over until the termination of the war, or that the money must be borrowed to carry on the improvement. Gen. Cass voted *against* this amendment—that is to say, he voted to BORROW money to "begin and carry on" his system of internal improvements. Yet he stands erect on the Baltimore Platform!

I do not undertake to do more than present the bare facts stated by Mr. Miller. It would be utterly impossible, from memory, to report him in all the strength and force of his illustrations and arguments. The inconsistency and absurdity of Gen. Cass and his party, were shown up in every imaginable light, so that the plainest men could understand and laugh at them. Mr. Miller also exposed Gen. Cass' inconsistency with the platform, on the subject of slavery. By adopting that instrument, he declares that Congress has no right to take any incipient steps towards the abolition of slavery. But what has been his practice? He has repeatedly offered Abolition petitions to the Senate. If offering a petition is not an "incipient step," it is difficult to understand what that term means. Besides, Gen. Cass avowed himself in favor of the Wilmot Proviso, when that measure was first offered as an amendment to the two million bill, in 1846, and only voted against it in 1847, because he thought it would defeat the pending bill—the three million bill.

I have neither time nor space to notice the various other topics of the Speech; and, indeed, a bare reference to them, without reporting their substance, would furnish little interest to your readers. Mr. Miller has a strong clear voice, which, combined with his thorough information, renders him a most able and effective speaker. A WHIG.

SHOCKS OF EARTHQUAKES AT THE NORTH.

The New York papers, of Saturday evening, give accounts of two shocks of earthquakes felt at Brooklyn Heights, at 42 minutes past 10 o'clock on Friday evening—the atmosphere was serene and tranquil at the time. The wires fell 5 deg., having previously risen 1 deg. The South thermometer was equilibriated for four consecutive hours.

The Commercial says the sound was peculiar—a loud, heavy rumbling—lasting probably fifty seconds, and adds:—

"It was very sensibly felt at Hackensack, New Jersey, and at other places in that neighborhood.—Its course throughout appears to have been from southwest to north east.

"The first shock is described as having lasted a full minute; the second ten seconds. The majority of the accounts fix the time of its occurrence at twenty minutes before 11 o'clock. We have heard also from as far up the river as Yonkers, and learn that the shock was felt there and in some parts of Connecticut.

"The shocks was felt also on Staten Island, severely; and at White Plains, at the camp-meeting—and in the upper part of this city."

A telegraphic dispatch from Philadelphia says that this earthquake was also felt there. We hear nothing of its having been felt hereabout.

A GOOD WIFE.—A friend of our's who has been spending a few weeks in the "country," and who visited some of the private dwellings of the rustic inhabitants, tells of a singular old man who lives near Brookfield. He is somewhat noted for his odd expressions. He was one day visited by a small party of ladies and gentlemen, who went to hear his "talk." "Now young gentlemen," said he, "I will give you directions how to tell a good wife. A good wife will be like three things, and she will *not* be like them. She will be like the snail who stays at home, and she will not be like the snail who carries all he has on his back. She will be like the echo, that speaks when spoken to, and she will not be like the echo, always to have the last word. She will be like the town-clock, that speaks at the right time, and she will not be like the town-clock, *heard all over the town.*

BANK-NOTE POETRY.—The Olive Branch says that the following was found by one of its subscribers, written on the back of a bank-note—

Bank-notes, it is said, once gold guineas defied,
To swim in the torrent of trade's swelling tide,
But ere they arrived at the opposite brink,
The notes loudly cried, "*Help, Cashus, we sink!*"
That paper should sink, and that guineas should swim,
May appear to some folks a ridiculous whim;
But ere they condemn, let them hear this suggestion—
In pun-making, gravity's out of the question.

HENRY CLAY IN REGARD TO THE PRESIDENCY—HIS FINAL DECISION.

Henry Clay, in a letter dated, April 10, 1848 made public at the time, and only a few weeks before the meeting of the Philadelphia Convention, uses the following emphatic language:

"I have," says he, finally decided to leave to the National Convention, which is to assemble next June, the consideration of my name in connection with such others as may be presented to it, to make a selection of a suitable candidate for the Presidency of the United States: and whatever may be the issue of it, its fair and full deliberation will meet my prompt and cheerful acquiescence."

Does any sane man, after reading the above, believe that Mr. Clay will withhold his support from Gen. Taylor?—*N. Y. Express.*

A. A. B. Southall,
General Agent and Commission Merchant,
HALIFAX, N. C.

RESPECTFULLY announces that he has commenced the General Commission Business, in the large and commodious Store House, formerly occupied by Jas. Haliday, where he will be happy to receive Consignments of Goods, of all descriptions, and he hopes, by energy and faithfulness, to give satisfaction to those who entrust him with the disposal of their Goods His extensive acquaintance no this and the adjoining Counties, will enable him to dispose of a large quantity of Goods.

Merchants and Manufacturers are respectfully requested to favor him with their patronage, and may be assured that all consignments entrusted to him, shall receive prompt and faithful attention.

He will also attend to the receiving and forwarding of any thing.

REFERENCES.

Halifax N. C.—Geo. W. Barnes, Col. Thos. Ousby. N. C. Webb, Dr. H Joyner, B. F. Moore, B F. Simmons.

Weldon, N. C.—John Campbell, James Simmons, N. M Long.

Enfield, N. C.—Dr. M C. Whitaker, Col. Spier Whitaker.

Raleigh, N. C.—Wm. A. Stith.

Norfolk, Va.—A. Harris.

A. A. B. SOUTHALL.

Raleigh, Sept. 12, 1848. 74 3t

Rocky Mount, Sept. 8th, 1848.
Cotton Factory and Mills.

THE undersigned, successors to BATTLE & BROTHER, in the above property, have associated themselves together, under the title of

Battle & Co.

They have been at great expense in enlarging the operations of this Establishment, and in the purchase of NEW MACHINERY, and feel warranted in saying, that they *can now make* as good an article of

Cotton Yarn

as can be manufactured any where in the United States, and are determined to sell at as

LOW PRICES.

All they desire, in order to secure the trade of Merchants and Dealers in this part of the Country, is that they examine the quality of their YARNS, and their liberal Terms, before purchasing elsewhere.

We do ONLY a quarterly business, but will make the liberal discount of 2½ per cent. FOR CASH

B. D. BATTLE,
JAS. M. BATTLE,
WM. S. BATTLE,
J. L. HORNE.

Sept. 12. 74 3t

PAUL & McILLWAINE,
FALL 1848.

DIRECT IMPORTATION, PER SHIP

HENRY.

BY the Ship HENRY, the Subscribers have received a most commanding and well-selected supply of

FOREIGN GOODS,

which they will sell on such terms as will enable them to compete with any of the

NORTHERN CITIES.

In addition to the above, their Stock of

American Manufactured Goods

will be found cheaper and more extensive, than any other heretofore offered in this Market.

PAUL & McILLWAINE,
Importers and Jobbers,
East side Sycamore St.
Petersburg, Va.

Sept. 12. 1848. 74 3t

SEPTEMBER 12, 1848.

E. and F. James & Co.

CENTRAL DRY GOODS ROOMS,
Petersburg, Va.,

ARE now receiving their usual supply of

Fall and Winter Staple and Fancy Dry Goods,

A portion of which has been purchased for Cash, and a still larger portion at the Northern Auctions, and many below the cost of Importation. They are prepared to offer great inducements to their friends, customers, and the public generally, on their usual terms. Persons visiting this place for the purpose of purchasing Dry Goods, will do themselves injustice, should they fail to give us a call. We shall at all times strive to have on hand an assortment large and general, by receiving additional supplies throughout the season.

Anchor Bolting Cloths No. 1 to 10; English Seine Thread and Twine—also Cotton Seine Twine and Red Turkey Cotton.

Sept. 12. 74 w2w

George B. Jones, & Co.

Wholesale and Retail Dealers in Drugs, Medicines, Paints, Oils, Window Glass, Dye Stuffs, Perfumery, Brushes, &c.

RESPECTFULLY announce to their friends, Merchants and Physicians of North Carolina, that they are well prepared to furnish them with all articles in their department of business at the lowest prices.—Their stock is in part of their own importation, and the balance has been recently selected in the Northern Cities, with great care, as they are determined to sell none but *pure* and *genuine* Medicines.

Those who favor them with their orders, may rest confident of receiving articles free from adulteration.

Petersburg. Sept. 5. 72 w3w

D. Paine & Co.,

MANAGERS OF LOTTERIES,
RICHMOND, VA.

STRAWS show how the wind blows, and Purcell & Co. have given the most incontestable proof, that D. Paine & Co.'s Lotteries are of the true stamp, and that their Lotteries, take the lead of all others.—Adventurers examine the following brilliant schemes, and if a prize is wanted buy Paine's Tickets.

PAINE'S LOTTERIES ALWAYS AHEAD!

Unprecedented luck at Purcell & Co's.

THE BRILLIANT PRIZE OF $36,000 SOLD AT OUR COUNTER.

The following is a list of prizes sent to Richmond in Lotteries under the popular management of D. Paine & Co. in less than sixty days.

Whole Ticket 21 41 49. $36,000.

Whole 3 46 57, $25,000; Half 8 31 44, 12,000; Quarter 2 26 65, 15,000; Quarter 46 56 64, 15,000; Quarter 19 41 60, 2 500; Whole 22 50 57, 3,000;

The following prizes sent in Paine's Lotteries since 1st of August:

Whole, $5,000, whole 4,000, whole 4,000, half 12,000, whole 2,756, whole 1,000, whole 2 280, together with innumerable small ones of 1,000, 500, 300, &c, all of which can be seen at our counter.

A FEW MORE OF THE SAME SORT LEFT!

And for grand prizes, examine the following brilliant schemes, and forward your orders to us, or to

C. W. PURCELL, & CO.
Richmond, Va.

$60,000!

Grand Consolidated Lottery, Class No. 22, to be drawn on Saturday, the 30th September, 1848, at Baltimore. Lowest 3 number prize $500.

Grand Capitals.

1 prize of 60,000, 1 of 25,000, 1 of 15,000, 1 of 10,000 2 of 4,125, 40 of 2,500, 40 of 2,000, 40 of 1,500, 160 of 500, &c.

Tickets $20, halves 10, quarters 5 00.

☞ In purchasing by the package, deduct the price of three Tickets.

☞ Orders meet our usual prompt attention. For Tickets in the above, or any other Lottery, drawing daily, (price of Tickets from 1 to $20) under our management, address us, or C. W. PURCELL,
Agent for D. PAINE & CO., Richmond Va.