

LINCOLN COURIER.

"THE PUBLIC GOOD SHOULD EVER BE PREFERRED TO PRIVATE ADVANTAGE."

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OREGON TERRITORY

The Washington papers contain the Message addressed by President Polk to the House of Representatives on Monday morning, on signing the Oregon Territorial Bill. The Message, it will be recollected, was not read in either House. It is as follows:

WASHINGTON, August 14, 1848.

To the House of Representatives of the United States:

When the President has given his official sanction to a bill which has passed Congress, usage requires that he shall notify the House in which it originated of that fact. The mode of giving this notification has been by an oral message, delivered by his private Secretary.

Having this day approved and signed an act entitled "An act to establish the Territorial Government of Oregon," I deem it proper, under the existing circumstances, to communicate the fact in a more solemn form. The deeply interesting and protracted discussions which have taken place in both Houses of Congress, and the absorbing interest which the subject has excited throughout the country, justify, in my judgment, this departure from the form of notice observed in other cases. In this communication with a co-ordinate branch of the government, made proper by the considerations referred to, I shall frankly and without reserve express the reason which have constrained me not to withhold my signature from the bill to establish a government over Oregon, even though the two Territories of New Mexico and California are to be left for the present without governments. None doubt that it is proper to establish a government in Oregon. Indeed it has been two long delayed. I have made repeated recommendations to Congress to this effect. The petitions of the people of that distant region have been presented to the Government, and ought not to be disregarded. To give to them a regularly organized government and the protection of our laws, which as citizens of the United States they claim, is a high duty on our part, and one which we are bound to perform unless there be controlling reasons to prevent it.

In the progress of all Governments questions of such transcendent importance occasionally arise as to cast in the shade all those of a mere party character. But one such question can now be agitated in this country; and this may endanger our glorious Union, the source of our greatness and all our political blessings. This question is slavery. With the slave-holding States this does not embrace merely the rights of holding property, however valuable, but it ascends far higher, and involves the domestic peace and security of every family.

The fathers of the constitution—the wise and patriotic men who laid the foundations of our institutions—foreseeing the danger from this quarter, acted in a spirit of compromise and mutual concession on this dangerous and delicate subject, and their wisdom ought to be the guide of their successors. Whilst they left to the States exclusively the question of domestic slavery, within their respective limits, they provided that slaves who might escape into other States not recognizing the institution of slavery, shall be "delivered up on the claim of the party to whom such service or labor may be due."

Upon this foundation the matter rested until the Missouri question arose.

In December 1819 application was made to Congress by the people of the Missouri Territory for admission into the Union as a State. The discussion upon the subject to Congress involved the question of slavery, and was prosecuted with such violence as to produce excitements alarming to every patriot in the Union. But the good genius of conciliation which presided at the birth of our institutions finally prevailed, and the Missouri compromise was adopted. The eighth section of the act of Congress of the 6th of March, 1820, "to authorize the people of the Missouri Territory to form a Constitution and State Government," &c., provides:

"That in all that territory ceded by France to the United States, under the name of Louisiana, which lies north of thirty six degrees and thirty minutes north latitude, not included within the

limits of the State contemplated by this act, slavery and involuntary servitude, otherwise than in punishment of crimes, whereof the parties shall have been duly convicted, shall be, and is hereby forever prohibited: *Provided, always*, That any person escaping into the same from whom labor or service is lawfully claimed in any State or Territory of the United States, such fugitive may be lawfully reclaimed and conveyed to the person claiming his or her labor or service as aforesaid."

This compromise had the effect of calming the troubled waves and restoring good will and peace throughout the States of the Union.

The Missouri question had excited intense agitation of the public mind, and threatened to divide the country into geographical parties, alienating the feelings of attachment which each portion of our Union should bear to every other. The compromise allayed the excitement, tranquilized the popular mind, and restored confidence and fraternal feelings. Its authors were hailed as public benefactors.

I do not doubt that a similar adjustment of the questions which now agitate the public mind would produce the same happy results. If the legislation of Congress on the subject of the other Territories shall not be adopted in a spirit of conciliation and compromise, it is impossible that the country can be satisfied, or that the most disastrous consequences shall fail to ensue.

When Texas was admitted into the Union, the same spirit of compromise which guided our predecessors in the admission of Missouri, a quarter of a century before, prevailed without any serious opposition. The joint resolution for annexing Texas to the United States, approved March the first, one thousand eight hundred and forty-five, provides that "such States as may be formed out of that portion of said territory lying south of thirty-six degrees thirty minutes north latitude, commonly known as the Missouri compromise line, shall be admitted into the Union with or without slavery, as the people of each State asking admission may desire; and in such State or States as shall be formed out of said territory north of the Missouri compromise line, slavery or involuntary servitude (except for crime) shall be prohibited."

The territory of Oregon lies far north of thirty-six degrees thirty minutes, the Missouri and Texas compromise line. Its southern boundary is the parallel of 42°, leaving the intermediate distance to be three hundred and thirty geographical miles.

And it is because the provisions of this bill are not inconsistent with the terms of the Missouri compromise, if extended from the Rio Grande to the Pacific ocean, that I have not felt at liberty to withhold my sanction. Had it embraced territories south of the compromise, the question presented for my consideration would have been of a far different character, and my action upon it must have corresponded with my convictions.

Ought we now to disturb the Missouri and Texas compromises? Ought we, at this late day, in attempting to annul what has been so long established and acquiesced in, to excite sectional divisions and jealousies; to alienate the people of different portions of the Union from each other, and to endanger the existence of the Union itself?

From the adoption of the Federal Constitution, during a period of sixty years, our progress as a nation has been without example in the annals of history. Under the protection of a bountiful Providence, we have advanced with giant strides in the career of wealth and prosperity. We have enjoyed the blessings of freedom to a greater extent than any other people, ancient or modern, under a Government which has preserved order and secured to every citizen life, liberty, and property. We have become an example for imitation to the whole world. The friends of freedom in every clime point with admiration to our institutions. Shall we, then, at the moment when the people of Europe are devoting all their energies in the attempt to assimilate their institutions to our own, peril all our blessings by despising the lessons of experience and refusing to tread in the footsteps our fathers have trodden?—And for what cause would we endanger our glorious Union? The Missouri compromise contains a prohibition of slavery throughout all that vast region extending twelve and a half degrees along the Pacific, from the parallel of thirty-six degrees, and east from that ocean to and beyond the summit of the Rocky Mountains. Why, then, should our institutions be endangered because it is proposed to submit to the people of the remainder of our newly-acquired territory, lying south of thirty-six degrees thirty minutes, embracing less than

4 degrees of latitude, the question whether, in the language of the Texas compromise, they "shall be admitted (as a State) into the Union with or without slavery." Is this a question to be pushed to such extremities by exciting partisans, on the one side or the other, in regard to our newly-acquired distant possessions on the Pacific, as to endanger the Union of thirty glorious States which constitute our confederacy? I have an abiding confidence that the sober reflection and sound patriotism of the people of all the States will bring them to the conclusion that the dictate of wisdom is to follow the example of those who have gone before us, and settle this dangerous question on the Missouri compromise, or some other equitable compromise which would respect the rights of all, and prove satisfactory to the different portions of the Union.

Holding as a sacred trust the Executive authority for the whole Union, and bound to guard the rights of all, I should be constrained, by a sense of duty, to withhold my official sanction from any measure which would conflict with these important objects.

I cannot more appropriately close this message than by quoting from the farewell address of the Father of his Country. His warning voice can never be heard in vain by the American people. If the spirit of prophecy had distinctly presented to his view, more than a half century ago, the present distracted condition of his country, the language which he then employed could not have been more appropriate than it is to the present occasion. He declared:

"The unity of government which constitutes you one people is also dear to you. It is justly so; for it is a main pillar in the edifice of your real independence, the support of your tranquility at home, your peace abroad, of your safety, of your prosperity, of that very liberty which you so highly prize. But, as it is easy to foresee that, from different quarters much pains will be taken, many artifices employed, to weaken in your minds the conviction of this truth—as this is the point in your political fortress against which the batteries of internal and external enemies will be most constantly and actively (though often covertly and insidiously) directed—it is of infinite moment that you should properly estimate the immense value of your national union to your collective and individual happiness; that you should cherish a cordial, habitual and immovable attachment to it; accustoming yourselves to think and to speak of it as a palladium of your political safety and prosperity; watching for its preservation with jealous anxiety; discountenancing whatever may suggest even a suspicion that it can in any event be abandoned; and indignantly frowning upon the first dawning of every attempt to alienate any portion of our country from the rest, or to enfeeble the sacred ties which now link together the various parts."

"For this you have every inducement of sympathy and interest. Citizens by birth or choice of a common country, that country has a right to concentrate your affections. The name of AMERICAN, which belongs to you in your national capacity, must always exalt the just pride of patriotism more than any appellation derived from local discriminations. With slight shades of difference, you have the same religion, manners, habits, and political principles. You have in a common cause fought and triumphed together. The independence and liberty you possess are the work of joint councils and joint efforts, of common dangers, sufferings, and success. With such powerful and obvious motives to union affecting all parts of our country, while experience shall not have demonstrated its impracticability, there will always be reason to distrust the patriotism of those who in any quarter may endeavor to weaken its bands."

"In contemplating the causes which may disturb our Union, it occurs as matter of serious concern that any ground should have been furnished for characterizing parties by geographical discriminations, Northern and Southern, Atlantic and Western, whence designing men may endeavor to excite belief that there is a real difference of local interests and views. One of the expedients of party to acquire influence within particular districts is to misrepresent the opinions and aims of other districts. You can not shield yourselves too much against the jealous and heart-burtings which spring from these misrepresentations.—They tend to render alien to each other those who ought to be bound together by fraternal affection."

JAMES K. POLK.

The Washington Union, speaking of the Oregon Territorial Bill and the President's message, published above, says:

"Many of the citizens of the South wished him to veto the bill. Most of the Northern citizens hoped that he would consent to extend the restriction of this bill to the whole extent of our newly acquired territories of California and New Mexico. The President has done neither. He has signed the bill reluctantly, from a stern sense of duty towards Oregon, and from a respect to the principles of the Missouri Compromise; but he has not stopped here. Knowing and feeling that this question of slavery is by far the most important which has engaged the attention of his countrymen—that it stands ahead of the rest in difficulty, in delicacy and in importance—that it is the only one which can seriously distract the people and shake the Union itself, he has felt it to be his duty boldly to take a new course, and to send in a message along with the bill. In this masterly paper, firm as it is conciliatory, and dictated by the highest sense of public duty, he comes forward with all frankness to state that he must withhold his constitutional sanction from every bill in relation to New Mexico and Upper California which is not framed in the same spirit of compromise in which the constitution was founded, and which does not provide for the rights of every section of our country. Had the present bill extended the Wilmot Proviso to New Mexico and California, he would clearly have vetoed the bill. We have no hesitation in expressing our firm belief that, in like manner he will veto any bill which indiscriminately extends the Wilmot Proviso to these new acquisitions. In fact such is the express meaning and intention of the important message now before us."

The President's Protest.—We publish the President's Message on returning with his signature to the House of Representatives, the bill for the establishment of a Territorial Government in Oregon. It is, we believe, the second message of the sort since the origin of the Government—President Tyler having set the only precedent for this approval of a bill with a protestando. Under the circumstances, it was scarcely to be expected that the President should refuse his signature to the bill; and certainly, after the stormy discussions, threatening still worse storms for the future, that marked its progress, he could not very well pass by the occasion to indicate his opinions, and try to exert the influence of his high position. The President lays great stress on the Missouri Compromise, renewed again in the case of Texas, and says in very plain terms that, if any portion of this territory were to the south of that line, he should interpose the veto; and further, that while he is President, no bill excluding slavery from the region South of 36° 30' can receive his approval. The justice and the importance to the peace and harmony of the Union of Compromising the Slave Question he enforces with much earnestness. The tone and sentiments of the message are highly patriotic and commendable.—*Mercury.*

From the Democratic Flag.

Bless us! just listen a moment.—Would any body believe it! After accepting the Philadelphia Whig nomination, and praising its "patriotic constituency," Gen Taylor has actually written to Mr. Lippard, of Philadelphia, as follows:

BATON ROUGE, La. July 24.

Dear Sir—Your letter of the 5th inst. asking of me a line or two in regard to my position as a candidate for the Presidency, has been duly received.

In reply, I have to say that I am not a party candidate, and if elected shall not be the President of a party, but the President of the whole people.

I am, dear sir, with high respect and regard, your obedient servant,
Z. TAYLOR.

Laconic, truly! And Gen Taylor not a party candidate? Well, well, well? Won't this be news up in Stany county, and all along there? Who knows but he will yet come out a democrat!

Hold us, or we shall certainly "bust."—Since writing the above, things have positively come to light, as we predicted. Silence! Compose yourselves for something decidedly wealthy in the candidatorial line. Here it is from the Charleston News (a Taylor paper) and addressed by Gen Taylor to a citizen of that place:

"I have accepted the nomination of the Philadelphia Convention, as well as the nomination of many primary assemblies gotten up in various sections of the Union, in some instances irrespective of party; and would have accepted the nomination of the Baltimore Convention, had it been tendered on the same terms."

That letter, as somebody once good naturedly said of Mr Clay's mouth, speaks for itself!

VOTE OF THE N. Y. REGIMENT of returned Volunteers at Fort Hamilton, August 1st:

Officers.		Privates.		
Comp.	Cass. Taylor.	Cass. Taylor.		
A.	2	37	13	
B.	3	46	4	
C.	2	38	11	
D.	1	41	9	
E.	2	35	15	
F.	2	40	15	
G.	1	28	11	
H.	1	33	13	
I.	4	40	2	
K.	4	48	2	
—		—	—	
22		18	405	89
18		89		

14 to for Cass, 316 Cass m.

Where the Soldiers came from.—On a call from the War Department, it is made to appear, that of the Volunteer soldiers that were engaged in the Mexican campaign, there were 43,213 men from the Southern states, and 22,136 from the Northern! Accordingly, the South, on every principle of justice and fairness, should have two-thirds of the conquered territory, for the introduction therein of its peculiar institutions, if she so desired. Instead of that, however, she is likely to be chiselled out of the whole, through Northern fanaticism upheld by Southern partisans, such as A. H. Stephens, of Georgia, and several others of the same kidney!—*Muscogee (Geo.) Democrat.*

Taylor's Politics.—The *Bell's Journal* gives the following conclusive evidence that the Philadelphia Convention nominated a whig. The question as to Taylor's politics may now be considered at rest: "Mother Hopkins told me that she heard Green's wife say that John Glarie's wife told her that Capt Wood's wife thought Col Hopkins' wife believed that old Miss Lamp reckoned that Sam Dunham's wife had told Spalding's wife that she heard Granny Cook say that Gen Taylor was a whig."

The chief whig argument is, that if a letter be taken from the name of the democratic nominee, it leaves "ass"—An editor retorts, that the whig nominee makes an ass of himself every time he writes a letter.

Mr. Adams and Gen. Taylor.—The North Carolina Register contains a letter from the Hon. Thos. L. Clingman, in which he states that the late John Quincy Adams was favorable to the nomination and election of Gen. Taylor. Strangely enough, Mr. Clingman publishes this letter as an argument for his support by Southern men.

Col. Benton.—The telegraphic despatch in regard to the difficulty between this Senator and Judge Butler led us, and most probably our readers, to the conclusion that the affair had been adjusted, which of course, implied that Col. Benton had made the amende for his ruffian-like attack in the Senate. This we learn is a mistake. The matter is ended in consequence of Col. Benton's failure to reply to Judge Butler's invitation to a meeting, though notified on the third day that unless some answer was given before 5 o'clock that evening, he would be considered as having declined the meeting.

So much for Col. Benton's anxiety for "indemnity."—*Charleston Mercury.*

Popping the Question.—Some writer who takes the soubriquet of *Jeremy Short*, thus giving his experience on this subject. *Jeremy* has been "about," and is "one of 'em," decidedly:

"It will pop itself. It's nonsense thus leading your young folks a helping hand—take my word for it, all they wish is to be left alone—and if there be any confounded youngsters about, let them be put in bed or drowned, it don't matter a fig which. If lovers haven't no tongues, haven't they eyes, egad! and where is the rimpleton that can't tell whether a girl loves him, without a word on her part? No one adores modesty more than I do, but the most delicate angel of them all won't disguise her little heart when you're alone with her. A blush, a sigh, a studied avoidance of you in company, and a low, thrilling, trembling of the voice at times, when no one else is by, tell more than the smiles of a thousand coquettes. Ah! you needn't, Amy, shake your head, you'll no doubt be soon enough—but if you fall in love, as you will, my word on it, the very echo of one footstep will make your heart flutter like a frightened bird."

Remember the Printer, and his works shall the better please thee.