HISTORY OF "HAIL COLUMBIA."

The following history of the now famous song of "Hail Columbia," (which we publish below) from the pen of the author, Judge Joseph Hopkinson, will be read with interest by thousands of our readers who are unacquainted with its history.—The author says:

"The song was written in the summer of 1798, when a war with France was thought to be inevitable—Congress being then in session in Philadelphia, deliberating upon that important subject, and acts of hostility having actually occurred. The contest between England and France was raging, and the people were divided into parties for the one side or the other, some thinking that policy and duty required us to take part with Republican France as she was called; others were for our connecting ourselves with England, under the belief that she was the great preservative power of good principles and safe government.

The violation of our rights by both belligerents was forcing us from the just and wise policy of President Washington, which was to do equal justice to both, to take part with neither, but to keep a strict and honest neutrality between them. The prospect of a rupture with France was exceedingly offensive to the portion of the people who espoused her cause, and the violence of the spirit of party has never risen higher—I think not so high—as it did at that time on that question.—The theatre was then open in our city. A young man belonging to it, whose talent was a singer, was about to take his benefit. I had known him when he was at school. On this acquaintance he called on me in the afternoon, his benefit being announced for the following day. He said he had no boxes taken, and the prospect was that he should suffer a loss instead of receiving a benefit from the performance; but that if he could get a patriotic song adapted to the tune of the "President's March," then the popular air, he did not doubt of a full house; that the poets of the theatrical corps had been trying to accomplish it, but were satisfied that no words could be composed to suit the music of that march. I told him I would try for him.

He came the next afternoon, and the song, such as it was, was ready for him. It was announced on Monday morning, and the theatre was crowded to excess, and so continued night after night for the rest of the season, the song being encored and repeated many times each night, the whole audience joining in the chorus. It was also sung at night in the streets by large assemblies of citizens, including members of Congress. The enthusiasm was general, and the song was heard, we may say, in every part of the United States. The object of the author was to get up a NATIONAL spirit, which should be independent of and above the interests, passions, and policy of both belligerents, and look and feel for own honor and rights. Not an allusion is made either to France or England or the quarrel between them, or to which was the most to fault in their treatment of us. Of course the song found favor with both parties; at least none of them could disown the sentiments it inculcated. It was truly American, and nothing else, and the patriotic heart of every American responded to it. Such is the history of the song, which has endured infinitely beyond any expectation of the author, and beyond any merit it can boast of except that of being truly and exclusively patriotic in its sentiments and spirit.

HAIL COLUMBIA.

Hail! Columbia, happy land!
Hail! ye heroes, heaven-born band!
Who fought and bled in freedom's cause,
Who fought and bled in freedom's cause!
And when the storm of war was gone,
Enjoyed the peace your valor won.
Let independence be our boast,
Ever mindful what it cost,
Ever grateful for the prize,
Let its altar reach the skies.

CHORUS.

Firm, united, let us be,
Rallying round our liberty;
As a band of brothers joined,
Peace and safety we shall find.

Immortal patriots! rise once more,
Defend your rights, defend your shore:
Let no rude foe, with impious hand,
Invade the shrine, where sacred lies,
Of toil and blood, the well-earned prize:
While offering peace, sincere and just,
In Heaven we place a manly trust,
That truth and justice will prevail,
And every scheme of bondage fail.

CHORUS.—Firm, united, &c.

Sound, O sound the trump of fame,
Let Washington's great name
Ring through the world with loud applause,
Let every clime to freedom dear
Listen with a joyful ear.
With equal skill, with godlike power,
He governs in the fearful hour
Of horrid war, or guides with ease
The counsels in the time of peace.

CHORUS.—Firm, united, &c.

Behold the chief who now commands
Once more to serve his country stands,
The rock on which the storm will beat,
The rock on which the storm will beat
But like stern Orkhe, firm and true,
Hurl back the foes who sought his ruin.
Where hope was sinking in dismay,
When gloom obscured Columbia's day,
His steady mind, from changes free,
Resolved on death or liberty.

CHORUS.—Firm, united, &c.

HAS THE DEPRESSION OF LAND IN A GREAT PART OF ASIA BEEN OCCASIONED BY A BLOW FROM A COMET?

Russia and Persia present us with a geographical phenomenon truly extraordinary. There in these countries a vast region, covered with populous towns, great commercial establishments, and fertile lands, which is nevertheless much *below the level of the ocean*. According to M. de Humboldt, the extent of this low region cannot be less than 140,000 square miles. That no one may imagine the depression to be slight, or that it is over-estimated on account of errors liable to be committed in ascertaining the level of very large tracts, we will observe that the level of the Caspian Sea, and consequently that of the city of Astracan, is more than 100 feet below the level of the Black Sea or of the Ocean.

We may also add that, even in the heart of Russia, the course of the Wolga and the countries through which it flows are depressed 150 feet.

This enormous sinking of a whole country, a phenomenon of which the globe does not, we believe, offer another example, being very difficult to explain by the operation of known causes, has led persons in despair of all other agency, to attribute it to the action of a comet.

In rischet fring it is evident that the spot struck by the ball is somewhat depressed. Thus, according to some the Caspian Sea and the surrounding country has been indented by the stroke of an immense ball, that is, a comet.

In the present state of geological science, this idea of Halley's comet cannot be favorably received. No one doubts now that isolated peaks as well as the longest and highest range of mountains have been gradually heaved up from the bosom of the earth.—*Sun Almanac, 1858.*]

Now, the very idea of a comet necessarily implies a void in some neighboring part and the possibility of an interior depression. In looking at a map of Asia, it will be easily seen that no other part of the world contains so much high land.—Around the Caspian sea are the large elevated regions of Iran and of Central Asia, those of Himalaya, of Kouen-Lun, of Thibet-Iran, the mountains of Armenia, those of Erzeroum and the range of Caucasus. Now without calling the aid of a comet, may we not suppose, as M. de Humboldt does in his excellent "Asiatic Fragments," that the uplifting of so many enormous masses must be attended with a perceptible depression in the intermediate place?

This solution of one of the most curious problems in physical geography is less liable to objection on account of the actual state of the ground in the region in which it belongs, which has not yet become stable. The bottom of the Caspian Sea, for instance, is continually raised and depressed, on which subject it is expected much light will soon be thrown, by numerous observations not made public.

WHEN Dr H. and Lawyer A. were walking arm in arm a wag said to a friend, "These two are just equal to one highwayman." "Why?" was the response. "Because," replied the wag, "it is a lawyer and a doctor—your money or your life."

From the Savannah Republican.

LETTER FROM COL. TITUS.

The reader will find copied below a letter from Col. Titus, of the Nicaraguan army, defending his conduct at Castillo from the aspersions cast upon it by Gen. Walker and others connected with his unfortunate expedition. It appeared some weeks ago, we infer from its date, but escaped our eye until enclosed to us a few days ago in a letter from a friend.

If the statement of Col. Titus be correct, his recent from Castillo, which has been used by his enemies greatly to his disparagement as a soldier was entirely justifiable. We only blame him for placing his services and character in the hands of such mere adventurers as Walker & Co., for which he deserves to suffer at least a moderate amount of penance.

The reflections on Walker and Lockridge are very severe. We have long been inclined to the opinion expressed in regard to the former, viz. that he was in pursuit rather of "his own high and selfish ambition" than of the extension of liberty to an oppressed people. It can now be nothing else with him, for there is probably not a man in all Nicaragua who would not as soon see the Prince of Darkness land on his shores as their would-be deliverer. If we are not greatly mistaken, public sentiment in this country is fast taking the same direction, and Walker will soon find, if he has not already done so, that his race is at an end.

LETTER FROM COL. TITUS.

NEW YORK, June 6, 1857.

My attention has just been called to notice a communication in the columns of your widely circulated journal, published a short time since, in which my name appears in connexion with Nicaraguan affairs in such a manner as to compromise me in the estimation of my friends and the public.

I would most respectfully represent that, in responding to the call of Nicaragua for aid in her recent struggle to establish and maintain a liberal government, I was actuated only by a desire to promote the interests and general welfare of the State, whose people (through Walker) were calling loudly for assistance in their efforts to put down the tyranny and oppression of their aristocratic and corrupt officials; and my endeavors in behalf of Nicaragua, while engaged in its service, were wholly for the advancement of the cause, now disgraced by its leader, who lost sight of the real interest of the State in contemplating and pursuing for the realization of his own high and selfish ambition, and whose contracts, made on both in Central America and the United States have endeavored to mislead my friends and the public in relation to my conduct at "Castillo," * and whose accusations would pass unnoticed by me but for placing the stigma where it properly belongs.

After the battle of Serapiqui I advanced with a part of my command for the purpose of taking up a position upon which to operate prior to a general attack upon the old Fort Castillo, which was to be made on the return of Col. Lockridge with 150 men to my support. I was landed without proper means of defence, having neither artillery nor axes, and short of provisions. Many obstacles were overcome when we reached and cleared out the trenches of old Fort Nelson, where I remained nearly sixty hours without food or shelter for my men, awaiting the return of Lockridge who agreed to return with reinforcements in twelve hours, or I might be assured he was cut off.

In the mean time I cut home from her moorings the other steamer, J. N. Scott, which was secured under the cover of the guns of the enemy, put on board my sick and wounded, under charge of Maj. Wm. Mann, and dropped the Scott some three miles down the river. In this extremity I was attacked by 500 Costa Ricans, whose object was to flank my little party, cut off our retreat, and retake the steamer Scott. We made a determined resistance, and drove the enemy back into the fort; when, finding it impossible to take the fort without the aid of artillery, and considering the steamer of great importance to our cause, for our means of transportation were limited, I ordered a retreat and went some six miles down the river, where I met Lockridge.

Had Col. Lockridge kept his word with me, or had he complied with my requisition for artillery, instead of remaining at Greytown making protests and speeches to the English commander, our attempt on Castillo would have been successful. The total ignorance of Col. Lockridge in every thing relative to military matters, and his contemptible jealousy, in connexion with a base heart, have induced him to a course so base, mean, and cowardly as to carrying out his threats to disgrace me, that I regard it with as little consideration as the yelpings of a barking cur.

What service I, with my command tendered to the cause was given without being mustered into the army of Walker, or in any way identified with his operations, except for the general interest of Nicaragua. After becoming satisfied that I had been deceived in relation to Walker's position in the country, I at once determined to leave and return to the United States; but at the urgent request of my friends, who wished me to communicate with Walker, I left the river and proceeded, via Panama, to Rivas, where I declined service in Walker's staff, for which he unhappily detained me two months. When I saw the fate of his little army would be that of certain annihilation, I interpreted for their safety, for which kindly offer my character has been assailed by such contemptible minions as Walker only would engage to fabricate reports without truth or justice. Sufficient evidence will soon be brought out in relation to that tyrant, Wm. Walker, and such minions as Lockridge, to will enable those interested in this matter to decide upon the merits of the case.

I have recently met with an extract, published in a newspaper, from a letter signed E. J. C. Kewen, dated at Washington, March 25, 1857, addressed to a gentleman in Tennessee, in which he assailed my character for the purpose of arousing sympathy, and calling upon the citizens of Charleston, Savannah, and adjacent country to aid him with money, men, &c. In noticing his efforts to calumniate my character, I take this occasion to hurl the lie back to his teeth.

Young men of the South, await the return of that little remnant of Walker's army from the Isthmus before embarking in another expedition against Nicaragua. Ask the sick and wounded of that little band whether they can rely upon the magnanimity of the "gray-eyed man," then decide.

H. T. TITUS

* Fort Castillo is one of the strongest fortifications in Spanish America, is in good state of preservation, was one of the late strongholds of the Spaniards in the war of independence, and is impregnable against small arms if defended by a few brave men.

☞ The London correspondent of the National Intelligencer says that so strongly had the idea that the comet would destroy the earth fixed itself upon the minds of some persons in England, that they had neglected the cultivation of their gardens, thinking it foolish to sow seeds of which they never any use the world could enjoy the produce. In many cases, it is said, servants and others who had small sums of money in a savings-bank, drew out their respective deposits and enjoyed the expenditure of them. The Intelligencer remarks that the comet superstition was just as strong in America as in England or in France. We are inclined to think not. We have not yet heard of any comet struck gardener refusing to sow seeds, or, of any money being drawn from the savings-bank on account of the comet. It seems that the belief prevailed in England that the comet would strike the European section of the globe, which led some families to emigrate to America. It was predicted here that the comet would strike America, but we have heard of no Americans whom it induced to emigrate to Europe.

WHEAT IN INDIANA.—The accounts of the wheat crop in Indiana continue to be most encouraging. In the counties of Boone, Carl, Clinton, and Tippecanoe, the prospect was never better since they were settled, and fully one-fourth more ground has been sowed than was harvested last year. The crop of the whole State last year was about thirteen millions of bushels. This year it is estimated by those who have given the matter their particular attention to reach the amount of eighteen millions.

☞ Professor Emmons, in his recent report to the Legislature of North Carolina, mentions the discovery in the sedimentary rocks of Montgomery county, in that State, of fossils of an age believed to be anterior to any previous discovery of traces of animal life.

LATER FROM EUROPE

The steamer Columbia, with date from Liverpool to the 24th ult., arrived at New York Sunday night.

ENGLAND.

She reports a downward tendency in breadstuffs, and a decline of sixpence in corn.

The weather had been favorable to the growing crops.

The Frigate Niagara was about to commence loading in the Atlantic telegraph cable.

Enquiry had been made in the House of Commons why several guns of large calibre had been purchased of an American citizen.

Lord Panmure made a satisfactory explanation to the effect that they were ordered upon the report of a select committee to test their merits.

The Jewish Disability bill had been so amended as to prevent Jews from holding any office whatever, belonging to the ecclesiastical courts, or do any manner to which an influence in the affairs of the church.

At the same sitting of the House, Mr Smith moved the following resolution. Resolved, that in the opinion of this House it is expedient that Parliament shall direct immediate attention to the best mode of removing the obstacles which impede the application of British capital and skill to the improvement of the productive powers of India.

The mover followed up his resolution with a speech principally advocating the growth of cotton in India—stating that Candeish province alone was capable of growing more cotton than is now produced in the the United States—that there was plenty of British capital available to promote its cultivation if a guarantee were given that proper facilities would be afforded by internal improvements and a better government.

A debate ensued, but no action was taken.

FRANCE.

The election of the new *Corps Legislatif* came off Sunday (June 21st) and Monday.

The split in the Democratic opposition in Paris continued to the end.

The general result could not be ascertained for several days.

The total vote of the city of Paris was about 110,000 for the government, and 95,000 for the opposition.

The question of the oath of fidelity remained in suspense, but it was considered certain that it would be enforced.

Cavignac and Carnot, it was understood, would not refuse to take it, but would probably repeat the protest they have heretofore made.

The grain crops in France were in a vaguely ent condition.

It was believed that the grape disease had disappeared, and a large vintage was anticipated.

SPAIN

Republican proclamations were again circulated in Madrid, but were productive of but little effect.

More troops had been ordered to Havana.

Telegraphic reports say that the government was apprehensive of popular commotions at Barcelona, and consequently had adopted military precautions in regard to the telegraph, which they anticipated would suppress any outbreak.

The position of the Mexican question is believed to be no nearer a satisfactory result.

A despatch from Madrid says that Spain is determined to bring Mexico to terms.

THREE DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE.

ARRIVAL OF THE ARABIA.

NEW YORK, July 7.—The steamship Arabia, with three days later intelligence from Liverpool, arrived here to-night. The news by this arrival is not of much importance.

The mutiny in the Bengal army had spread in a most alarming manner at Meerut. Two Native Infantry regiments had joined with the 3d Light Cavalry in open revolt. After some bloodshed they had been dispersed by European troops, but they fled to Delhi, where they were joined by three more Native regiments.

Delhi was in possession of the mutineers, who had massacred almost all the Europeans, without regard to age or sex, plundered the Bank, and proclaimed the son of the late Mogul as King.

The Spanish Mexican question wore a threatening aspect, and letters from Madrid speak doubtfully of a peaceful settlement.

The Jewish disabilities bill had passed the British House of Commons by a large majority.

Only a half dozen opposition members have been elected to the French corps Legislatif.

The Victoria cross of Honor had been distributed by the Queen in Hyde Park, London, with imposing ceremonies, which were witnessed by an immense concourse of people.

No telegraph cable had yet been placed on the frame for Frigate Niagara, but she would commence shoving it on the 29th of June.

Napoleon had gone to Plombieres.

The Czar had started on his German tour.

There were rumors of an intended meeting between the Sovereigns of Austria and Russia on the Danish question.

The British ministry were again strongly protesting against the slave trade.

COMMERCIAL.

LIVERPOOL, June 27.—Cotton advanced 1-16@⅛. Sales for the week of 60,000 bales, of which speculators took 4000 and exporters 7000 bales.—Breadstuffs dull. Flour quoted only nominally. Wheat steady—Red 8@9s. white 9@10s.—Corn very dull and declined 1s.@1s. 6d., on the week—Mixed 36s.; yellow 37s.; white 39@44s. Rosin dull. Sugar declined 1s.@1s. 6d. Provisions dull.

Consols quoted at 93½.

The bullion in the Bank of England has increased £260,000.

The Bank of France has increased its rate of interest.

CHRISTENING OF A PRINCESS.

The ceremony of christening of the infant Princess, 5th daughter of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, took place in the chapel within Buckingham Palace, on Tuesday, the 16th ult. The English papers contain full accounts of the affair:

"The communion table was covered with crimson velvet, bordered with deep gold lace, and edged with bullion fringe. In front of the table, immediately below the steps by which it was approached, was placed the beautiful christening font of silver gilt, elevated on a fluted circular pedestal of white and gold. The font contained water brought from the river Jordan, and presented to the Queen specially for the occasion. All the visitors appeared in full dress uniform. The Ambassador of France and the Foreign Ministers all wore the insignia of different orders of knighthood. Lords Lansdowne, Clarendon, and Palmerston each wore the Garter, together with the gold and enamelled collar of that order. The procession of the sponsors entered the chapel five minutes before one o'clock.

"The Queen wore a white and silver moire antique dress, trimmed with a deep flounce of Honiton lace, white tulle, and branches of silver flowers. The top of the lounge was fringed all round with diamonds. Her Majesty wore a diamond circlet, diamond ear-rings, and diamond necklace. The Queen also wore the riband of the order of the Garter, from which was suspended a very magnificent George, composed of brilliants.—Prince Albert was in the uniform of a Field Marshal, and wore the collar of the Garter, the Golden Fleece, and of a Prussian Order of Knighthood.—The Prince of Wales, Prince Alfred, and Prince Arthur appeared in the Highland dress.

"The Lord Chamberlain, accompanied by the Groom of the Stole to Prince Albert, conducted the infant princess into the chapel, her Royal Highness being carried by the head nurse. The infant Princess wore a robe of Honiton lace over white satin. The Archbishop of Canterbury proceeded with the baptismal service, and when he came to name her Royal Highness Lady Caroline Burrington presented the Princess at the font, and the Duchess of Kent named her Beatrice Mary Victoria Feodore.

"The Archbishop of Canterbury having pronounced the blessing, the solemnity was concluded at twenty-three minutes past one o'clock."

CURE FOR DYSENTERY.—The Middleton Republican copies the following, and certifies to its good effect, as proved by experiment.

"An old friend handed me the following simple recipe for publication. It has been practised in his family for many years with uniform success, even in the most alarming stages of the complaint. Take Indian corn, roasted and ground in the manner of coffee, (or coarse meal browned,) and boil in a sufficient quantity of water to produce a strong liquid like coffee, and drink a teacupful (warm) two or three times a day. One day's practice, it is said, will ordinarily effect a cure.

A LETTER FROM HON MR KEITT

Editor Richmond Enquirer:

DEAR SIR—In your issue of the 20th inst., I observe an editorial, under the head of "The mask thrown off," which asserts that I am hostile to the Administration, and an enemy to the National Democratic party. Although, personally, I am indifferent to the allegation and its inferences, yet as others are implicated in this imputed hostility and enmity, I will state my position without reference to the grounds of your editorial.

1st. Am I hostile to the Administration?

I contributed my support to Mr Buchanan in the last election, and am now ill disposed to his administration. I hope that it will be as constitutional and successful as its most enthusiastic friend could wish. In furtherance of this, it shall have no grudging support from me. If however, Mr Buchanan's Administration should prove false, I shall promptly and earnestly oppose it. I will not prejudge it, or decide against it for small cause but will scan its acts with a friendly though impartial eye.

The policy of Governor Walker in Kansas I have denounced, and shall continue to denounce and oppose. That policy I believe to be in violation of the organic act creating the territorial government; in violation of the President's inaugural; and that its inevitable tendency is to subsidize Kansas into a Free-soil State, through the hot influence of dishonest intrigue and the manipulations of an official demagogue.

Was it a part of Governor Walker's duty to court the local caresses of a [illegible] rabble? or was he instructed to [illegible] tion rebels from the hustings at [illegible] right had he to take sides with [illegible] in the territory, or to dictate to an[illegible] Convention? Is Congress subject [illegible] the Convention under the authority of the federal appointee? If not, what authority has he to declare what Congress *will do* and the Convention *must do*?

Governor Walker's duty in Kansas was to impartially administer the laws, and not to beg, bribe, (by land grants or otherwise,) or bully at or to the polls. The case is a plain one. The territory of Kansas had been organized, the territorial Legislature had been recognized, and its laws pronounced valid and obligatory. Among those laws was one calling a convention of the people to frame a constitution for admission into the Union as a State, and around this law was thrown all the safeguards, restrictions and provisions which were deemed necessary and proper. Now, what was Governor Walker's concern with this matter?—Only to see the law executed. What rights were the parties invested with? The right to register and vote. With all his proscriptive zeal has the right to make the other registered vote? If any neglected or refused to register or vote, was it not their concern, and only their concern? Was Gov. Walker, with the insignia of his office around him, to beat the bush, and wriggle through Kansas, to coax, wheedle or drag truants to the registry office or the polls? When competent authority has defined the qualifications of suffrage, and made every provision for its exercise, has it not done all which a government should do in the matter? Is not any further interference by an executive officer partisan intermeddling?

It is admitted by Gov. Walker, that those who neglect or refuse to vote, acquiesce in the decision of the majority of those who do vote, and make that decision their own as completely as if *they* had voted. When the Free-soilers then, in Kansas, neglected or refused to register or vote for delegates to the Convention, did *they* not accept those delegated as much as if *they* had voted for them? Are *they* not as much bound by the acts of the Convention as if they had voted? If this neglect or refusal then to vote was an equivalent to the adoption of the result of the majority of those who did vote, what could Gov. Walker seek to accomplish by his official rambles through the territory, and his passionate appeals to the Free-soilers to vote? It could be no more, and no less, than the reversal of the decision about to be had; and so that was clearly pro-slavery, he must have been seeking an anti-slavery result.

It will not do to say that Gov. Walker's object was conciliatory. The Administration and Congress had recognized the Territorial Legislature and its laws, and forcible resistance to them was rebellion. With anything short of forcible resistance he had nothing to do. Was he sent to the territory to obliterate the government ink contention with rebels? Or was it his duty to induce Free-soilers into their legislative halls to make laws? If they acquiesced, it was no concern of his—if they rebelled, the bayonet was the remedy.

But Gov. Walker also declares that the Convention, after it frames a State Constitution for Kansas, must refer it back to all those who may be in the country at that time, in order that it may be ratified or rejected. Is this necessary? The constitutions of one half of the States of the Union have never been referred to the votes of the people of those States; and yet those Constitutions have never been supposed to possess less of sanctity or legitimacy than those which have been so referred. Is this idea of reference back to the people founded in a true theory? Organized sovereignty is the supreme authority known to public and statute law. Under our system, this organized sovereignty resides in convention. A convention is the embodied majesty of the people and all other powers are either suspended by or subordinate to it. A reference then from it to any other power is a reference from a greater to a less. The individuals in a community are less so molecular, than as an aggregate—or, as an organized unit. A convention is all the people, and all the people in their highest collectivable political capacity. An act of sovereignty carries with it its highest ratification. This theory of referring an act back from conventions to individuals at the ballot box is of French Red Republican growth. It is founded in the idea that individuals in their separate are above themselves in their aggregate character; and that the mere units in a community are above the whole aggregate of the community, massed into one grand and final political whole. Some of the ablest expounders of this theory were some of the sans-culotte philosophers of France in '93, and others may be found more recently among the Socialists and Red Republicans.

The object of Gov. Walker in referring the Constitution back to the vote of *all who may be in Kansas at the time of the reference*, is obvious enough. The Convention frames a Constitution for Kansas, as Kansas is at the time. Those who subsequently go to Kansas, go there as they would go into any other of the States of the Union.—They must obey the law, and if they do not like them, they must change them in the mode prescribed. The Convention embodies the sovereignty of Kansas, and that covers all who are in the Territory; and it is immaterial whether they were there when the delegates to the Convention were elected, or whether they came afterward. They are just as much represented in the Constitution of Kansas as they would be in that of any State in the Union into which they came after the adoption of its Constitution. The reference of the Constitution back to the popular vote is, I hold, uncalled for. But its reference to any other than the qualified voters is debauchery. *They* were the only agency competent to organize the State and *they* are the only political elements known in the act of organizing it. Until the organization is complete and settled, they are the only source of power.—To make it otherwise is to make a Constitution as fickle and mutable as mere statute. It is, in fact, to have no organic act or law. If those who come upon the soil, in the interval between the election of delegates to a Convention and the framing of the Constitution, have a right to ratify or reject that instrument, why shall not those who come in the next year, or the year thereafter, have the same right? They will be equally subject to its provisions, and this great right should no more be denied to them than to the others. This theory unsettles society and degrades all fundamental law. It is the offspring of French and Northern society, not of English or Southern society. It belongs to a turbulent society, where the wholesome restraints of law are impaired, without the development of individuality. And in France it culminated in a revolution to divide property and struggles for and against it followed back into the gutter by the heels.

Gov. Walker can only urge the right of the intermeddle settlers in Kansas, in order to make Kansas a free soil State. I will not believe Mr. Buchanan an accomplice in this policy without sufficient proof. If there be any complicity, however, my denunciations will be none the less earnest. The Resolutions of the Democratic party of Georgia, in Convention at Milledgeville, a few days ago, on the Kansas policy of Gov. Walker, express my opinions clearly enough. The Administration should absolve itself from Walker's treachery. It will do so, I am sure, unless it means to be responsible for it.

The 2nd allegation is, that I am hostile to the National Democratic party. Neither have abdicated my independence, nor put on the collar of the Democratic party, and never mean to do so.

I support the party when I think it right, and I oppose it when I think it wrong. I have never but once sought a nomination in the National Democratic party. To have absolute confidence in it, I must believe both in its adherence to the Constitution, and its ability to protect that instrument. I base my fit basis of principle as periodically promulgated, and look for a moment to some of the acts of concert its leaders and members. I find them (i. e. some of the leaders and many of its followers) for a high protective tariff—for a stupendous scheme of internal improvement, and for the power of Congress to enact the Wilmot Proviso, although its enactment, they admit, would be unjust and unwise. I find many of them voting against the extension of the line of 36 deg., to run to the Pacific in "1846 and '48, (I quote the votes from memory,) and vote in "1856 to admit a Sovereign State, and devote the unsolicited portion to Freesoil, and for the illegal admission of California into the Union as a free State, and for a stigma upon slavery through the abolition of the slave trade in the Districts of Columbia. In 1854, I find also one-half, minus one, of the Democratic members of the House from the free States voting against the Kansas-Nebraska bill, although it was made a test, and voting against it because it was supposed to be favorable to the South. The Governor of Virginia, and the Cabinet officers of Virginia, believed the omnibus votes of 1850 to be a great wrong against the South, and I have no doubt but that Virginia would now act likewise. And yet the active advocates, and present the authors of these measures, are now worshipped as demigods and fillets of high priests at the National Democratic altar. Do you not believe that they would give the same votes again, under the same circumstances? Three members of the party from the North, who deserted during the struggle on the Nebraska-Kansas bill, were suspected of a lurking affiliation with the Free-soilers. Many of them are again in full communion with the party, and what fruits meet for repentance, on their part, have the country seen? It is not sufficient that they are also in the party. They were in it before Free-soilism earned them against the South. If their more connection with the party is sufficient, I doubt not but that many of them would patriotically still further illustrate their conversion and conservatism, by the acceptance of office from the party, and probably think, also, that the higher the office the clearer the demonstration.

The truth is that the South has been betrayed and sacrificed in every struggle, by certain of the National Democratic party, as well as by other parties. I believe it will be so in the future also. Many who have betrayed her are now in full communion with the party, and I do not believe they have repented.

The members of the Democratic party then, have not always clung to the Constitution as we understand it, and if we understand it very differently, we cannot belong to the same party. Is the party able to defend the Constitution.

I have not delivered it over to Black Republicans, (as you intimate,) but I believe that the Black Republicans will capture it in 1860. I expect, then, however, to be fighting with it, and on the same line with yourself, and that neither of us will be in the ranks of that division which expect and intend to submit to the Black Republican fanatics. The great deep at the North, seems to me, to be broken up, and the Abolition flood rises higher every day. Little subaltern municipal elections, and the control of cross roads, which the opponents of Black Republicanism have recently, in some instances, torn from them, are not notionable wrecks upon the waters. They have the legislative, judicial and executive power, and there are all that we of the South are concerned about. I believe, from all the signs, that the Democracy will be defeated in 1860; and while I entertain this belief I shall not conceal it. I believe that *the safety of the South is only in herself*. The road to federal honors should not be over her rights, nor should betrayal and treachery be the passport to federal favor. My advice then to the South is, to have a *separate and absolute organization in the National Democratic party, and keep her powder dry. The latter is much more likely to save her, than the former.*

I have the honor to be,

Your obedient servant,

LAWRENCE M. KEITT.

ORANGEBURGH C.H., S. C., June 30, 1857.

SINGULARLY DELIBERATE MURDER.

In Adams county, Miss., a few mornings since, Mr. Duncan Skinner, overseer for Mr. Sharpe, was found murdered in a mysterious manner. Last week three negroes were arrested and proved to be the murderers. The Natchez Courier says:

The evidence collected, together with the corroborating circumstances, show that this was one of the most coolly planned and deliberate murders ever accomplished. The negroes in the plot went to Mr. Skinner's house just before day, and around him on the premises of a child in the family being sick. He opened the door while in his night clothes, and was knocked down by a blow on his breast from a heavy stick. Three stalwart negroes seized him, and after a severe struggle succeeded in choking him.

While thus insensible, they carried him some few rods from the house, and there by main strength dislocated his neck. They then got out his clothes, dressed him, and to turn away suspicion, put his watch around his neck, and his purse with part of his money in his pocket, brought out his horse and saddled it; put the lifeless body on it, and led it to the woods, where the body was afterward found. Here, after running the horse up and down, they took off the body, turned the saddle, and set the animal loose. The latter returned home a few hours after. The body of their victim they placed in such a position as would indicate the probability of accidental death; then brought out his gun, cap, whip and game bag; discharged one barrel, and placed several articles in the tracks as if of a runaway horse.

So long a period had passed that the guilty assassins imagined the crime was unnoticed, and would be forgotten. But a terrible and speedy retribution awaits them. The whole chain of evidence is complete as to the crime, its manner and circumstances. The three negroes are safely secured, and are now in jail in this city.

INTERESTING GUNPOWDER EXPERIMENT.—The following is from the Druggists' Circular, published in New York:

In his seventh lecture, at the Smithsonian Institute, Dr. Reid described the failure of an intending incendiary to do a great act of mischief by the very means he adopted to make his success more certain. Thus, to insure an explosion of gunpowder in a certain case, the fellow had covered it with a quantity of spirits of turpentine, but on igniting it only the turpentine burnt, and the powder continued as before. The philosophy of this the lecturer showed by a striking experiment, wherein, again and again, turpentine poured on a quantity of gunpowder, was ignited and burned out, and the powder remained unburnt. This was explained on the principle of the candle, that the gunpowder acts as a wick to the turpentine, and will not itself ignite so long as any of the turpentine remains to burn. A piece of common cotton cloth, such as ladies' dresses are made of, was then burnt; and then a piece of similar texture which had been dipped in a solution of salammoniac, was exposed to the action of fire, but would not burn. A similar piece, steeped in a solution of silicate of potash, was also shown to be quite incombustible.—*Scientific American.*

DECEASE OF EMINENT AMERICAN STATESMAN.—In recording the death of ex-Secretary Marcy the Philadelphia Times remarks:

It seems as if death had found a banquet among our master spirits in the last decade. Almost all the great and illustrious men who came into public life during the first twenty-five years of the present century have been snatched away within that time. The list which memory calls at the moment is formidable in numbers, and the persons whose names are upon it were conspicuous for vast and varied ability. First, in point of time, is that of John Quincy Adams, who died in 1847; then follows those of Knox, Polk, Taylor, Calhoun, Clay, McDuffie, Story, Webster, King, Woodbury, Sergeant, Berrien, Clayton, Hill, Burgess, Cheves and Marcy. What immense powers, what political and legal research, what oratorical skill and diplomatic erudition, what wise foresight and wonderful experience have been lost by their deaths to the nation! When, will it, if ever, be restored in the persons and minds of others?

SOUTHERN CONVENTION—KNOXVILLE, TENN.

To the People of the Slaveholding States.

FELLOW-CITIZENS: A session of the Southern Convention will be held at Knoxville, Tennessee, on the second Monday, the tenth day of August next.

It will constitute another of the series that have taken place periodically in the several Southern and South-western cities, attracting large and influential delegations, actuated by lofty patriotism, prepared to deliberate and act with intelligence and harmony.

The fates of those was at Savannah. There but a few months since, delegations from ten or twelve States enjoyed the courtesies and hospitalities of a time-honored community, interchanged the kindly greetings and friendly offices of brotherhood, advised and counselled together as in family circle on the dangers that threaten and the hopes and interests that unite and encourage us.

For six days these deliberations lasted embracing in their scope the wide field of the social life and institutions of the South, its education and literary policy, the various and important manufactures, its industry, its political rights and necessities, or each of them at least as rise higher than the cunning and too often deceptive platforms of parties and politicians.

Upon several most important matters select committees were appointed to meet in the recess of the Convention, to collect information and prepare reports, hereafter to be submitted and considered.

Looking primarily to the advancement and security of the South, the aims of the convention are altogether consistent with and promotive of the peace and welfare of the Union; shall it continue for us and ours, as all Government worth preserving must, a shield and not a sword; and shall its obligations be preserved and obeyed—obligations without which it would not and could not have been formed, and without which, and their faithful performance by all the parties to the great compact, it cannot be and ought not to be maintained. Every other purpose is of trifling importance in comparison with the high moral and social objects of the Convention. They are intended to spread far and wide, correct, enlarged, and faithful views of our rights and obligations, and to unite us together by the most sacred bonds to maintain them inviolate for ourselves and our posterity.

The citizens of Knoxville are making liberal preparations for the reception of the Convention. It is a point readily accessible from the North, South, East, or West, by the railroads of Tennessee, Virginia, and Georgia; and the meeting will take place at a season when it will be convenient and delightful to visit the mountain regions of the South and to explore the charms of an almost virgin country.

Delegates to the Savannah Convention are, without further appointment, invited to Knoxville; and the Executive of the States, and the Mayor or other competent officers of cities and towns, through all the Slaveholding States of the Union, are earnestly requested to make additional appointments of delegates.

The aid of the press is solicited in calling attention editorially to the meeting, and of railroad and steamboat companies, etc., in granting the usual facilities of travel to the delegates. By order of the Convention.

J. D. B. DEBOW, *of Louisiana.*
W. G. SWAN, *of Tennessee.*
JNO. COCHRAN, *of Alabama.*
WM BOULWARE, *of Virginia.*
MITCHELL KING, *of S. Carolina.*

THE CROPS WILL BE GOOD.—The croakers may as well submit gracefully as growlingly to what seems to be the inevitable decree of a bountiful Providence in regard to the crops. They promise not only an abundance, but very great abundance—and in certain unfortunate localities where this is not the case, there will be average crops of a general rule. When, some two or three weeks ago, we gave the result of our own observations in the Express, after a journey of some three thousand five hundred miles at the West, South-West and East, the croakers complained of the (to us) very pleasant picture of a good harvest in prospect. Three weeks additional, of rapid travel and observation confirms what we have said and we now repeat, that the crops of wheat, oats, rye, barley, grass, and, apparently, of corn and vegetables, will be abundant—unprecedented, in both quantity and quality. The speculators in food, who live upon the miseries of the poor, may as well yield the fact with a grace as with a scowl.—Almost everywhere the song is that the season is crowned with God's goodness, and its paths dropping fatness. "The pastures are clothed with flocks, and the valleys also are covered; they shout for joy; they also sing:

"While 'mid the garden's leafy trees
Pervades a constant cooling breeze."

The heats of summer have, so far, been charmingly tempered by refreshing rains and delicious airs. The season has been unwontedly mild, and on its wings has brought sought but invigorating and health-inspiring influences.—*N. Y. Express.*

STUPENDOUS HOAX.

A certain individual of this city (nonsitter who) being of the opinion that the Fourth of July was likely to prove void of any excitement, or public interest, and wishing to change such an aspect of affairs, circulated through the city a poster stating that Prof. Culez would perform the wonderful feat of walking on the water—the performance to take place on the Potomac river, in front of the canal locks, at 10 o'clock, A. M. Sight free to all, &c. Long before the appointed time, hundreds of people, of all ages and of both sexes, could be seen wending their way towards the river; and at the hour of 10, it is estimated that there were between 2 and 3000 persons present to witness the *wonderful performance*, besides which, every window and hill that commanded a view of the river, was occupied. Prof. Culez was in everybody's mind, he seemed to be the sole subject of interest. As the time appointed passed, and 11 o'clock drew near, and still no Prof. Culez was to be seen, the people became impatient; about this time it was whispered around that Culez was the Latin word for *Mosquito*, when the truth flashed upon their minds, that they had all been "sold." They seemed to take it, however, in good humor, and although some faces wore an air of disappointment, still a majority enjoyed the joke, and heartily laughed over the circumstances.—*Cumberland Journal.*

QUEEN VICTORIA'S DRAWING ROOM.—Many complaints have been made lately of the arrangements of Her Majesty's drawing rooms. Ladies objected to having their dresses torn off their backs in the crowd, in paying their duty to their Sovereign. Some two thousand people were admitted into a space fitted to hold half the number. To go through fire and water became a less appropriate figure to express self-devotion, than to go through a Queen's drawing room. The Lord Chamberlain made a bar of old benches, as a sort of out-work; but as the pressure in the rear increased, the ladies cleared the fence, the Irish women taking the lead. The Marchioness of