

# THE TREDWELL EXPRESS.

A Family Newspaper—Devoted to Politics, Agriculture, Manufactures, Commerce, and Miscellaneous Reading.

Vol. III.

Statesville, N. C., Friday, January 13, 1860.

No. 6.

### TERMS OF ADVERTISING.

One Dollar a square for the first week, and  
 Twenty-five Cents for every week thereafter.  
 Sixteen lines or less will make a square—  
 Deductions made in favor of standing mat-  
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One square, \$3.50	5.00	8.00
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Three squares, 10.00	15.00	20.00

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 to insert an Advertisement, it will be published  
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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Without the aid of the Spirit and House of Representatives.

Our deep and heart-felt gratitude is due to that Almighty Power which has bestowed upon this country such varied and numerous blessings throughout the past year. The general health of the country has been excellent; our harvests have been unusually plentiful, and prosperity smiles throughout the land. Indeed, it is not too much to say that we have every reason to believe from the past events in our history, that we have enjoyed the special protection of Divine Providence ever since our origin as a nation. We have been exposed to many threatening and alarming difficulties in our progress; but on each successive occasion the impending clouds have been dissipated at the moment they appeared, ready to bring us on our head, and the danger to our institutions has passed away. We may ever be under the divine guidance and protection!

It will be the duty of the President from time to time to give to Congress information of the state of the Union, and to recommend to them the measures which he may deem necessary in relation to the recent and bloody outrages at Harper's Ferry. Still, it is proper to observe that these events, however bad and cruel in themselves, derive their chief importance from the apprehension that they are but symptoms of an incurable disease in the public mind, which may break out in still more dangerous and disastrous forms. It is not, however, in an open war by the North to abolish slavery in the South. Whilst, for myself, I entertain no such apprehension, they ought to afford a solemn warning to us all to beware of the approach of danger. Our Union is a stake of such inestimable value as to demand our constant and watchful vigilance for its preservation. In this respect, we should employ our energies, North and South, to cultivate the ancient feelings of mutual forbearance and good will towards each other, and strive to allay the demon spirit of sectional hatred and strife now alive in the land. This advice proceeds from the heart of an old inhabitant of this Union, who has witnessed in the last generation, among the wise and conservative statesmen of that day, now nearly all passed away, and whose first and dearest earthly wish is to leave his country tranquil, prosperous, united, and powerful.

We ought to reflect that in this age, and especially in this country, there is an increasing and rapid advance of opinion. Questions which in their day assumed a most threatening aspect, have now nearly gone from the memory of men. They are "volcanoes burnt out, and on the lava and ashes remain a quiet scene of old eruptions grow the peaceful fields, the fertile vine, and the waving corn." Such, in my opinion, will prove to be the fate of the present sectional excitement, should those who wisely seek to apply the remedy, continue always to confine their efforts within the pale of the Constitution. If this course be pursued, the existing agitation on the subject of domestic slavery, like the fire which has consumed the forest, will give place to other and less threatening convulsions. Public opinion in this country is all-powerful, and when it reaches a dangerous excess upon any question, the good sense of the people will furnish the corrective and bring it back to its proper level. At the present crisis, we ought to remember that every rational creature must be presumed to intend the natural consequences of his own teachings. Those who announce abstract doctrines subversive of the Constitution and the Union, must not be surprised should their teaching be met with a more than ordinary degree of opposition. It is not to be expected that they will be able to carry their doctrines into practical effect. In this view of the subject it ought never to be forgotten that, however great may have been the political advantages resulting from the Union to every portion of our common country, these would have been entirely null and void had we ever arrived where they cannot be enjoyed without serious danger to the personal safety of the people of fifteen members of the confederacy. If the peace of the domestic fire side throughout these States should ever be invaded—if the mothers of families within the extensive regions of the Union should be obliged to retire at night without suffering dreadful apprehensions of what may be their fate the morning—it would be vain to recount to such a people the political benefits which result to them from the Union. Self-preservation is the first instinct of nature, and it is the duty of every citizen to guard the state of society in which the sword is all the time suspended over the heads of the people, must at last become intolerable. But I indulge in no such gloomy forebodings. On the contrary, I firmly believe that the events at Harper's Ferry, by causing the people to pause and reflect upon their institutions, and their cherished institutions, will be the means, under Providence, of allaying the existing excitement and preventing future outbreaks of a similar character. They will resolve that the Constitution and the Union shall not be endangered by rash counsels. Knowing that the first instinct of nature is to preserve the good on hand, broken as it is at the fountain, human power never recurred the scattered and hostile fragments.

I cordially congratulate you upon the final settlement by the Supreme Court of the United States of the question of slavery in the Territories, which had presented an aspect truly formidable to the peace and unity of our administration. The right has been established of every citizen to take his property of any kind, including slaves, into the common Territories belonging equally to all the States of the Confederacy, and to have it protected there under the Federal Constitution. Neither Congress nor any State has any authority to annul or impair this vested right. The Supreme judicial tribunal of the country, which is a coordinate branch of the Government, has sanctioned and affirmed these principles of constitutional law, so manifestly just to promote peace and harmony among the States. It is a striking proof of the sense of justice which is inherent in our people, that the property in slaves has never been disturbed, to my knowledge, in any of the Territories. Even through the late troubles in Kansas there has not been any attempt, as I am credibly informed, to interfere, in a single instance, with the right of the master. Had any such attempt been made, the judiciary would doubtless have afforded an adequate remedy. Should they fail to do this hereafter, it will then be time enough to strengthen their hands by further legislation. Had it been decided that either Congress or the territorial legislature could have effectively confined the trade not only for itself but for all the other slave States, though never so much against their will—And why? Because African slaves within any bound within the limits of any one State, in accordance with the law, cannot practically be excluded from any of the States where slavery exists. And even if all the States had separately passed laws prohibiting the importation of slaves, these laws would have been of effect for want of a naval force to capture the slaves and to guard the coasts. Such a force no State can employ in time of peace without the consent of Congress. These acts of Congress were an absolute nullity, and were mere and insignificant exceptions, which were not their purpose. For a period of more than half a century there has been no perceptible addition to the number of our domestic slaves. During this period their advancement in civilization has far surpassed that of any other portion of the African race. The field and the blessings of Christianity have been extended to them, and both their moral and physical condition has been greatly improved.

To reopen the trade, and it would be difficult to determine whether the effect would be more deleterious on the interests of the master or those of the native-born slave. Of the rights to the master, the one must be to be treated as the introduction of wild, heathen, and ignorant barbarians among the sober, orderly, and quiet slaves, whose ancestors have been on the soil for several generations. This might tend to the socialization, and exasperate the whole mass, and produce most deplorable consequences.

The effect upon the existing slave would, if possible, be still more deplorable. At present he is treated with kindness and humanity. He is well fed, well clothed, and not overworked. He is well conditioned, and better than that of the coolies which modern nations of high civilization have employed as a substitute for African slaves. Both the philanthropy and the self-interest of the master have combined to produce this humane result. But let this trade be re-opened, and what will be the effect? It is a most considerable extent, as one neighboring island—the only place now on earth where the African slave-trade is openly tolerated; and this in defiance of solemn treaties with a power abundantly able at any moment to enforce their execution. There the master, interested upon present and future views, employs as much labor as his physical powers are capable of enduring—knowing that, when death comes to his relief, his place can be supplied at a price reduced to the lowest point by the competition of rival African slave-traders. Should this ever be the case in our country, I do not think it possible to imagine a more useful character of the domestic institution, wherein those too old and too young to work are provided for with care and humanity, and those capable of labor are not overtasked, would undergo an unfortunate change. The feeling of reciprocal dependence and attachment which now exists between master and slave would be converted into mutual distrust and hostility.

But we are obliged as a Christian and moral nation to consider what would be the effect upon unhappy Africa itself if we should re-open the slave-trade. This would give the trade an impulse and extension which has never had even a distant prospect. The numerous victims required to supply it would convert the whole slave coast into a perfect Pandemonium, for which this country would be held responsible in the eyes both of God and man. Its petty tribes would be continually engaged in predatory wars to supply each other for the purpose of seizing slaves to supply the American market. All hopes of African civilization would thus be ended.

On the other hand, when a market for African slaves shall no longer be furnished in Cuba, and thus the world be closed against this trade, we may then indulge a reasonable hope for the gradual improvement of Africa. The chief motive of war among the tribes will cease whenever there is no longer any demand for slaves. The resources of that fertile but miserable country might then be developed by the hand of industry and afford subjects for legitimate foreign and domestic commerce. In this manner the civilization which has gradually penetrated the existing gloom.

The wisdom of the course pursued by this Government towards China has been vindicated by the event. Whilst we sustained a neutral position in the war waged by Great Britain and France against China, our late minister, our late minister, in obedience to his instructions, judiciously co-operated with the ministers of these powers in all peaceful measures to secure by treaty the just concessions demanded by the interests of foreign commerce. The result is that satisfactory treaties have been concluded with China by the respective ministers of the United States, Great Britain, France and Russia. Our treaty, or general convention of peace, amity and commerce, with that empire was concluded at Tientsin on the 18th June, 1858, and was ratified by the President by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, on the 21st December following.

On the 15th December, 1858, John E. Ward, a distinguished citizen of Georgia, was duly commissioned as envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to China. He left the United States on the 21st of January, 1859, bearing with him the ratified copy of this treaty, and arrived at Shanghai on the 28th May. From thence he proceeded to Peking on the 16th June, but did not arrive in that city until the 27th July. According to the treaty the ratifications were to be exchanged on or before the 18th June, 1859. This was rendered impossible by reasons and events beyond his control, not necessary to detail; but still it is due to the Chinese authorities at Shanghai to state that they always assured him no advantage should be taken of the delay, and that they always intended to ratify the treaty as soon as they were enabled to do so.

On the arrival of Mr. Ward at Peking he requested an audience of the Emperor to sign his letter of credence. This he did not obtain, in consequence of his very proper refusal to submit to the humiliating ceremonies required by the etiquette of this strange people in approaching their sovereign. Governor the Emperor, in reply, ordered his minister to conduct in the most friendly spirit and with all due regard to his personal feelings and the honor of his country. When a presentation to His Majesty was found to be impossible, the letter of credence from the President was received with peculiar honor by Kweliang, the Emperor's prime minister, and the second man in the empire to the Emperor himself. The ratifications of the treaty were afterwards, on the 16th of August, exchanged in proper form at Peking.

The exchange did not take place until after the ratification of the treaty, it is deemed proper before its publication, again to submit it to the Senate.

It is but simple justice to the Chinese authorities to observe, that, throughout the whole transaction, they appear to have acted in good faith, and in a friendly spirit towards the United States. It is true they have been proper before their own peculiar fashion; but we ought to regard with a lenient eye the ancient customs of an empire dating back for thousands of years, so far as this may be consistent with our own national honor. The conduct of our minister on this occasion has received my entire approbation.

In order to carry out the spirit of this treaty, and to give it full effect, it became necessary to conclude two supplemental conventions—the one for the adjustment and satisfaction of the claims of our citizens, and the other to fix the mode of settling the claims of the Chinese against our citizens, and to regulate the transit duties and trade of our merchants with China. This duty was satisfactorily performed by our late minister. These conventions bear date at Shanghai on the 8th November, 1858. Having been considered in the light of binding agreements subsidiary to the principal treaty, and to be carried into execution without delay, they should provide for any formal ratification or exchange of ratifications by the contracting parties. This was not deemed necessary by the Chinese, who are already proceeding in good faith to satisfy the claims of our citizens, and it is hoped, to carry out the other provisions of the treaty. Still, it is thought that it would be well to ratify them, and to have them ratified on the 3d March, 1859. The ratified copies, however, did not reach Shanghai until after the departure of our minister to Peking, and these conventions could not therefore be exchanged at the same time with the principal treaty. It is deemed, therefore, that they will be ratified and exchanged by the Chinese government, should this be thought advisable; but, under the circumstances presented, I shall consider them binding engagements from their date on both

parties, and cause them to be published as such for the information of our merchants trading with the Chinese empire.

It affords me much satisfaction to inform you that all our difficulties with the republic of Paraguay have been satisfactorily adjusted. It happily did not become necessary to employ the force for this purpose which Congress had placed at my command, under their resolution of 24th June, 1858. On the contrary, the President of that republic, in a friendly spirit, acceded promptly to the just and reasonable demands of the Government of the United States. Our commissioner arrived at Assumption, the capital of the republic, on the 25th January, 1859, and left it on the 17th of February, having in three weeks ably and successfully accomplished all the objects of his mission. The treaties which he has concluded will be immediately submitted to the Senate.

In the view that the employment of other than peaceful means might become necessary to procure satisfaction from Paraguay, a strong naval force was stationed in the La Plata to await contingencies, whilst our commissioner ascended the rivers to Assumption. The Navy Department is entitled to great credit for the promptness, efficiency, and economy with which this expedition was fitted out and conducted. It consisted of sixteen armed vessels, great and small, carrying 200 guns and 2,500 men, all under the command of the veteran and gallant Subrick. The entire expenses of the expedition have been defrayed out of the ordinary appropriations for the naval service, except the sum of \$289,000, applied to the purchase of seven steamers, constituting a part of the naval force authorized by the appropriation act of the 3d March last. It is believed that these steamers are worth more than their cost, and they are all now usefully and actively employed in the naval service.

The appearance of a large force, fitted out in such a prompt manner, in the far distant and remote parts of the world, the conduct of the officers and men employed in it, have had a happy effect in favor of our country throughout all that remote portion of the world.

Our relations with the great empires of France and Russia, as well as with all other governments on the continent of Europe, are in every respect most friendly and satisfactory. In my last annual message I presented a statement of the unsatisfactory condition of our relations with Spain; and I regret to say that this has not materially improved. Without special reference to other claims, even the "Cuba claims" of the British and American citizens have not been settled, and in which more than a hundred of our citizens are directly interested, remain unsatisfied, notwithstanding both their justice and the amount (\$128,635 54) had been recognized and ascertained by the Spanish government itself.

I again recommend that an appropriation be made to enable the Spanish government for the purpose of distribution among the claimants in the Amistad case. In common with two of my predecessors, I entertain no doubt that this is required by our treaty with Spain of the 27th October, 1795. The Spanish government has not only refused to employ the cabinet of Madrid as a reason against the settlement of our claims, but I need not repeat the arguments which I urged in my last annual message in favor of the acquisition of Cuba by fair purchase. My opinions on that measure remain unchanged.

I therefore, again invite the serious attention of Congress to this subject, and to the serious attention of the President of the United States, during the pendency of the existing negotiations. I regret to inform you that there has been no improvement in the affairs of Mexico since my last annual message, and I am again obliged to ask the earnest attention of Congress to the unhappy condition of that republic.

The constitutional Congress of Mexico, which adjourned on the 17th of February, 1857, adopted a constitution and provided for a popular election. This took place in the following July, 1857, and General Comonfort was chosen President, almost without opposition. At the same election a new Congress was elected, and Gen. Comonfort, on the 16th of September, 1857, by the constitution of 1857 the presidential term was to begin on the 1st of December, 1857, and continue for four years. On that day General Comonfort appeared before the assembled Congress in the city of Mexico, took the oath of office, and was duly inaugurated as President. Within a month afterwards he had been driven from the capital, and a military rebellion had assumed the supreme power of the republic to General Zuloaga. The constitution provided that in the absence of the President his office should devolve upon the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and Gen. Comonfort, having left the country, this functionary, General Juarez, proceeded to form, at Guanajuato, a constitutional government. Before this was officially known, however, at the capital, the government of Zuloaga had been recognized by the entire diplomatic corps, including the United States, and the Government of Mexico. The constitutional President, nevertheless, maintained his position with firmness, and was soon established with his cabinet at Vera Cruz. Meanwhile, the government of Zuloaga was earnestly resisted in many parts of the republic, and even in the capital, against it, its functions were declared terminated, and an assembly of citizens was invited for the choice of a new President. This assembly elected General Miramon, but that officer repudiated the plan under which he was chosen, and Zuloaga was thus restored to his position. He assumed it, however, only to withdraw from it, and Miramon, having become, by his appointment, "President Substitute," continued, with that title, at the head of the insurgent party.

In my last annual message I communicated to Congress the circumstances under which the late Minister of the United States suspended his official relations with the central government, and withdrew from the country. It was impossible to maintain friendly intercourse with a government, like that at the capital, under whose usurped authority wrongs were constantly committed, but never redressed. Had this been an established government, with its power extending by the consent of the people, over the whole of Mexico, a resort to hostilities against it would have been quite justifiable, and indeed necessary. But the country was a prey to civil war, and it was hoped that the success of the constitutional President might lead to a condition of things less injurious to the United States. This success became so probable, that, in January last, I employed a reliable agent to visit Mexico, and report to me the actual condition and prospects of the contending parties. In consequence of his report, and from information which reached me from other sources, favorable to the prospects of the constitutional

Under these circumstances, the American settlers presented a petition to the General, from the United States, Inspector of customs, Mr. Hubbs, to place a force upon the island to protect them from the Indians, as well as the oppressive interference of the authorities of the Hudson Bay Company at Victoria with their rights as American citizens. The General immediately responded to this petition, and ordered Captain George E. Pickett's infantry to establish his company on Bellevue, or San Juan Island, on some suitable position near the harbor at the southern extremity. This order was promptly obeyed, and a military post was established at the place designated. The force was afterwards increased, so that by the last return the whole number of troops then on the island amounted in the aggregate to 691 men.

Whilst I do not deem it proper on the present occasion to go further into the subject, and discuss the weight which ought to be attached to the statements of the British official authorities, contesting the accuracy of the information which the General furnished, it was due to him that he should present his own reasons for issuing the order to Captain Pickett. From these it is quite clear his object was to prevent the British authorities on Vancouver's Island from exercising jurisdiction over American residents on the island of San Juan, as well as to protect them against the incursions of the Indians.

Much excitement prevailed for some time throughout that region, and serious danger of collision between the parties was apprehended. The British had a large naval force in the vicinity; and it is but an act of simple justice to the Admiral to state that he wisely and discreetly forbore to commit any hostile act, but determined to refer the whole affair to his government and await their instructions.

This aspect of the matter, in my opinion, demanded serious attention. It would have been a great calamity for both nations had the British Admiral, in exercising jurisdiction not on the question of title to the island, but merely concerning what should be his condition during the intervening period whilst the two governments might be employed in settling the question to which of them it belongs. For this reason, Lieutenant General Scott was dispatched on the 17th September last to Washington Territory to take immediate command of the United States forces on the Pacific coast should he deem this necessary. The main object of my mission was to carry out the spirit of the precautionary arrangement between the late Secretary of State and the British Admiral, and to preserve the peace and prevent collision between the British and American authorities pending the negotiations between the two governments. Entertaining no doubt of the validity of our title, I need scarcely add that, in any event, American citizens were to be placed on a footing at least as favorable as that of the British subjects, and that Captain Pickett's company should remain on the island. It is proper to observe that, considering the distance from the scene of action, and in ignorance of what might have transpired on the spot before the General's arrival, it was necessary to state to his discretion, and I am happy to state that the event has proved that this direction could not have been insisted to more competent hands. General Scott has recently returned from his mission, having successfully accomplished its objects, and there is no longer any good reason to apprehend a collision between the forces of the two nations, during the pendency of the existing negotiations.

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cause, I felt justified in appointing new minister to Mexico, who might embrace the earliest suitable opportunity of restoring our diplomatic relations with that republic. For this purpose a distinguished citizen of Maryland, was selected, who proceeded on his commission on the 8th of March last with discretionary authority to recognize the government of President Juarez, if on his arrival in Mexico he should find it entitled to such recognition, according to the established practice of the United States. On the 7th of April following, Mr. McLane presented his credentials to President Juarez, having no hesitation in pronouncing the government of Juarez to be the only existing government of the Republic. He was cordially received by the authorities at Vera Cruz, and they have ever since manifested the most friendly disposition towards the United States. Unhappily, however, the constitutional government has not been able to establish its power over the whole republic. It is supported by a large majority of the people and the States, but there are important parts of the country where it cannot enforce its obediencies. General Miramon maintains himself at the capital, and in some of the distant provinces there are military governors who pay little respect to the decrees of either government. In the mean time the excesses which always attend upon civil war, especially in Mexico, are constantly recurring. Outrages of the worst description are committed both upon persons and property. There is scarcely any form of injury which has not been suffered by our citizens in Mexico during the last few years. We have been nominally at peace with that republic, but so far as the interests of our commerce or of our citizens who have visited the country as merchant shipmasters, or in other capacities, are concerned, we might as well have been at war. Life has been insecure, property unprotected, and trade impossible except at a risk of loss which prudent men cannot be expected to incur. Important contracts, involving large expenditures, entered into by the central government, have been set at defiance by the local governments. Peaceful American residents, occupying their rightful possessions, have been suddenly expelled the country, in defiance of treaties, and by the mere force of military power. Even the course of justice has not been safe from control, and a recent decree of Miramon permits the intervention of government in all suits where either party is a foreigner. Vessels of the United States have been seized without law, and a consular officer who protested against such seizure has been fined and imprisoned for disobedience to the authorities. Military contributions have been levied in violation of every principle of right, and the American who resisted the lawless exaction has had his property for itself taken away, and has been himself banished.

From a conflict of authority in different parts of the country, tariffs which have been paid in one place have been exacted over again in another place. Large numbers of our citizens have been arrested and imprisoned without any form of examination, and even when released have only obtained their liberty after much suffering and injury and without any hope of redress. The wholesale massacre of Crabbe and his associates without trial in Sonora, as well as the seizure and murder of four sick Americans who had taken shelter in the house of an American upon the soil of the United States, was communicated to Congress at its last session. Murders of a still more atrocious character have been committed in the very heart of Mexico, under the authority of Miramon's government, during the present year. Some of these were only worthy of a barbarous age, and if they had not been clearly proven, would have seemed impossible in a country which claims to be civilized. Of this description was the brutal massacre in April last, by order of General Marquez, of three American physicians, who were seized in the hospital at Culcayula while attending upon the sick and the dying of both parties, and without trial, as without crime, were hurried away to speedy execution. Little less shocking was the recent fate of Ormond Chase, who was shot in Tepec on the 7th of August by order of the same Mexican general not only without a trial, but without any conjecture by his friends of the cause of his arrest. He is represented as a young man of good character and intelligence, who had made numerous friends in Tepec by his courage and humanity which he had displayed on several trying occasions, and his death was as unexpected as it was shocking to the whole community. Other outrages might be enumerated; but these are sufficient to illustrate the wretched state of the country and the unprotected condition of the persons and property of our citizens in Mexico.

In all these cases our ministers have been constant and faithful in their demands for redress, but both they and this Government, which they have necessarily represented, have been wholly powerless to make their demands effective. Their testimony in this respect, and in reference to the only remedy which, in their judgments, would meet the exigency, has been both uniform and emphatic. "Nothing but a manifestation of the power of the Government of the United States, by the removal of the late minister in 1856, and of his successor, would have any effect in punishing these wrongs which have been committed upon American citizens, with absolute impunity." I hope the President will repeat the recommendation contained in my last annual message that authority may be given

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