

EXTENT OF THE REPUBLIC.

It is becoming an every day remark, says the Richmond Whig, and a topic of conversation, that our republic will extend at no very distant day, from the Northern limits of Canada to the Islands of Darien. One great Republic, six thousand miles long and five thousand wide—consisting of some hundred smaller Republics—swayed by wise and equal laws—peopled by a brave, active, enterprising and industrious race—and embracing every variety of soil, climate, and production. What imagination can forecast shadow its magnificent destiny! The idea is grand and imposing, and a picture is presented to the mind's eye, which the world has never seen.

But this is the fancy view of the question, and taken irrespective of the vast difficulties which lie in the way of its realization. We confess ourselves so little possessed of the spirit of the enthusiasts, as to fear that evil rather than good will be the result of the efforts to accomplish this great enterprise. A large portion of the immense territory yet to be brought to a knowledge of the sweets of Republican Liberty and Christian Religion, is inhabited by a people, blinded by ignorance and beset with superstition. To enlighten and reform them would be the task of ages to all the philanthropists of the universe. To subdue and enslave them or extirpate them is the only alternative. And in this undertaking, what is to become of our sense of justice, of humanity, and of the divine precepts of the religion of Christ?

But, since the taste of blood, which our land-loving race have acquired by the appropriation of Texas, we are prepared to believe, that this, and every consideration, will give way before the irresistible passion for territorial aggrandizement, which has seized upon our people. Justice, morality, the integrity of our Union, and the preservation of our free institutions, will all fall to erect a bar to the rapacious spirit of aggression. Texas is ours—California must be so speedily; and people obviously betray an intense impatience at the delay in appropriating to ourselves the gold and silver Gods of the Mexican Churches!

It is this kindling into a flame the strong passion for conquest and rapine—which is deeply implanted in the bosom of our species, which caused us more especially to regard with apprehension and alarm the Texas project. That iniquity was the beginning of the mischief; where and when it will end, the wisest can neither foresee nor conjecture.

The New Orleans Tropic has some speculations on the subject, which are subjoined:

California.—Information in regard to this favored portion of the globe is eagerly sought after by our citizens, as it is destined ere long to be annexed to the United States. The large number of Americans already settled and emigrating there, giving assurance of the result. The following information, gleaned from recent sources, will be, we doubt not, acceptable.

"If any evidence were wanting to show the spirit of aggression and national plunder which has seized upon the minds of a portion of our people, the foregoing paragraph from the Courier of last Saturday evening, supplies it in abundance. The success which has attended the Texas experiment has emboldened the operators, and now we hear them openly proclaiming their intentions in regard to a vast and fertile territory to which they have no shadow of claim, and which is, and has been for years, in quiet possession of a neighboring friendly power. We ask the thinking portion of the American people to look at these things, and tell us where this restless desire for the acquisition of territory is to end! It is useless now to inquire how the annexation of Texas has been brought about; the *modus operandi* is familiar to all. A few adventurous spirits, weary of the restraints of civilized society, and thirsting for the daring excitement of a wild border life, emigrated a few years since to Texas, then a province of Mexico. Their reports of a delightful climate and a fertile soil, greatly exaggerated no doubt, soon induced others to follow them. Finding themselves among a strange people, of whose language they were ignorant, with habits, customs and laws different from their own, it is not remarkable that they soon became dissatisfied with the government, whose protection they had sought, and the laws under which they had voluntarily placed themselves. Their numbers had grown with their dissatisfaction, until finally, from the government, they determined to become the *gouvernors*. The standard of rebellion or revolution, if you please, was raised, and the province of Texas, wrested from the parent Government, became an independent State.

Here, then, Texas was placed among the nations of the earth, and immediately afterwards came the proposition for annexation to the United States! How or why it failed when first urged, is not our purpose now to inquire, and equally unprofitable would it be to investigate the causes which led to a revival of the proposition, under the auspices of his late Agency, John Tyler. It is sufficient to know that the question of annexation was made no issue before the people, and backed by fraud and chicanery, was successful. The measure may now be considered consummated, a few unimportant details alone remaining to be settled. Pending the question our readers all know that we opposed annexation as heartily as any one, and that of our own free will, before parties had arrayed themselves for and against the measure, and before Mr. Clay had ground against it.

We then saw, or thought we saw, a spirit of rapacity, a birding desire for the acquisition of new territory, wholly at variance with the character of our institutions, as with the peace and permanence of our Government. We are not, we regret to say, disappointed! What we feared has come to pass; and before the details of the annexation of Texas are settled, we see prominent and influential journals such as the Nashville Union and N. Orleans Courier, calling out for the annexation of California! And how, pray, is this proposed to be brought about? The country, one of the most beautiful, salubrious and fertile in the world, we doubt not, is represented in glowing colors, and American citizens induced to emigrate thither! That thousands upon thousands will accept this invitation, it requires no seer to tell; and the roving propensities of our people are sufficiently known, and wherever there is a foot of available soil in any other country than their own, there they are sure to be found. Once let the tide of emigration flow towards California, and the American population will soon be sufficiently numerous to play the Texas game! The standard of revolt will be raised—the Government will be overthrown—the cry of "Liberty!" will be raised in this country, and thousands of the young and adventurous will fly to the relief of their oppressed countrymen in California! Torn by civil wars and intestine commotions, Mexico will be unable to reduce her refractory Province to obedience, and in a brief period of time another "Lone Star Republic" will spring up on the shores of the far-off Pacific.

A little while longer, the "Republic of California" will be knocking at our doors; and then we shall, we suppose, have the absurd and ridiculous cry of Re-annexation of California! It will all be right of course; it will only be "extending the area of freedom"; and there can be no possible objection to that. But Texas and California Re-annexed, will the spirit of robbery stop in its rapacious career? By no means; the appetite will grow with what it feeds on, and we soon will have marauding parties wandering into Mexico—making settlements—rebeling against the Government, and robbing churches—until the whole of the country is Re-annexed, and the star-spangled banner floats from the turrets of the city of the Montezumas! But will our patriots who clamor so loudly for "extending the area of freedom," stop with Mexico? Will that little spot of territory be sufficient to fill their rapacious maws? Will the "area of freedom" be sufficiently extended to suit their expansive patriotism, or will they not Re-annex all of South America and the West India Islands, including that very barren and insignificant island called Cuba? Seriously, we entreat men who trouble themselves to think, to ponder upon these things—to ask themselves where all this is to end, and see if disunion, anarchy, bloodshed and confusion are not to be what we are to receive in lieu of our great and glorious Union."

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Convention of Infidels, in our City, on the Sabbath.

In many parts of this land the above heading will seem strange indeed; yet, it is not only true; but it is equally a fact that the meeting was called by flaming handbills, pasted about the streets on Sunday morning, calling the "Convention" together at one of the public halls, in the most public street of this great city. At the head of this movement, apparently, is Robert Owen, of Lenark, the so called Socialist, a man of education, intellectual culture, age, and experience; and pity indeed it is that one, capable of doing so much good in his day and generation, should lend his influence to the promotion of such a stupendous social evil as Infidelity.

These people held three meetings yesterday, at the Coliseum, in Broadway where some four or five hundred people assembled. In the morning and evening the principal speaker was Robert Owen, who expressed himself delighted with the meeting, seeing in it, he hoped, the beginning of an end, and that in a brief space, to all the evils of society. But Mr. Owen sprang with apparent trembling from the appellation of "Infidel," if they could only drop that name, and go forward on the "universal mental liberty" plan, no power on earth, he believed, could withstand the operations of this Convention.

Mrs. Rose, a worthy co-laborer of Owen, was as tremulous at the idea of being branded with the name of "Infidel" as the aged speaker who preceded her had proved; yet, so far as it indicated those "who have gone away from the fashionable superstition, called religion," this amiable lady gloried in it, she averred.

A good deal of very natural apprehension was manifested by some of the members of this pernicious assembly, lest their names should be published to the world, in connection with it. This alarm had the effect of restraining many from banding in their names as members. Of those who did so, we hope to see a list published, before the convention closes.

The "Tribune" says that Robert Owen's speech was brief and sensible. Our readers may judge how that is from the analysis we have given of it. To our minds, we must confess it was vague, skeptical and, like all infidel opinions, inconclusive and unsatisfactory.

The meeting appointed for officers, Judge Hertell of this City for President, Wm. C. Bell of Ky. and nine others from different States as Vice Presidents, Jas. M. Becket of Mass. as Secretary, (with two Assistants) and Thomas Thompson of this City as Treasurer. The report was accepted, and the nominations adopted. Mr. Bell, in the absence of Judge Hertell, took the Chair.

These meetings, (to the disgrace of our city and country) are to be continued, during the Anniversary week of the religious societies.—N. Y. Express.

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THE WATCHMAN.
Sallybury, No. Cal. May 24, 1845.

FOR CONGRESS.
DANIEL M. BARRINGER.

The Lincoln Courier, we are inclined to think, wishes to rob Col. Barringer of all credit for his truly praise worthy conduct in the last Congress in relation to the Branch Mint at Charlotte. We never heard any one express a doubt of the fact, that Col. Barringer rendered very important service to his District on this subject. Indeed, we have abundant reason to believe that if it had not been for him the bill making an appropriation to rebuild the Mint would have been lost.

But the Lincoln Courier seems to know nothing about this. He is, however, better informed as to one other circumstance in relation to Col. Barringer, than any one else, we apprehend: to wit—that Col. B. is urging his agency in procuring the appropriation as a reason why his constituents should re-elect him. When did Col. Barringer ever do this? Can the Courier give the time and place? Although there would be no crime in the act, yet we do not believe that Col. Barringer ever did such violence to his native modesty as this.

The Courier says, "It was not our intention to misrepresent Col. Barringer, but to place him in his right colors before the people." Very probable! A Democratic editor is very apt to place a Whig candidate in right colors? Can the Courier prove that Col. Barringer had assumed false colors before the people? Until that is done, we think the Courier would do itself more credit to lie low.

It is quite immaterial who the Locofocos bring out in opposition to Col. Barringer, provided he be a gentleman. We had as soon see Mr. Fisher out as any other Democrat—perhaps a little rather.

Gov. Baldwin, the present Executive of Connecticut, in his Annual Speech before the two houses of the State Assembly, says that Connecticut owes no debt, but has a permanent General Fund of \$200,400, beside a balance in the Treasury on the 31st of March last of \$25,300. Her School Fund now amounts to \$2,051,423, of which the income last year distributed to her 1,658 School Districts amounted to \$117,730, or over \$70 to each District. The State last year increased her annual appropriation for the Deaf and Dumb to \$3,000, and that for her Insane Poor to \$5,000. The State is educating 29 deaf and dumb pupils at an expense of about \$100 each. At the Insane Retreat 81 persons have been sustained by the State Bounty, 20 of whom have been restored. In the State Prison, there are 176 males and 18 females, 57 of whom have been admitted during the past year. The expenditures of the year have been \$1,092; the receipts \$1,294; showing a clear surplus of \$202! So that the detected rogues have not merely earned their own keeping, but paid a good share of the expense of their catching. The Militia of the State number 49,891, including 150 Uniformed Companies, numbering 6,771.

The Hon. LEVERETT STALTON died at his residence in Salem, Massachusetts, a few days since.

The organ of the Administration, at Washington, is out against "the present Tariff," and says "the sooner it is reduced, the better for all." This will please the State of South Carolina: It saves her from the disagreeable necessity of nullifying—of declaring war against the United States. But how will Pennsylvania bear it? She was made to believe that Polk was a better friender to the Tariff than Mr. Clay. How bitterly will she repent of having elected Mr. Polk!

The editor of the Savannah Republican was, at last advices, wandering amid the beauty and riches of Naples, and its superb collections; and a walk through a hall of statuary elicits the following compliment to a distinguished citizen:

"On observing a statue in one of the rooms, I involuntarily exclaimed 'General Scott!'—On approaching it, I was delighted to find that this noble antique was the celebrated statue of Aristedes. I say delighted, for those who know General Scott well, are aware that all his acts are distinguished by a thorough integrity and sense of justice—qualities that can hardly be separated from the real magnanimity of his character. I have spent nearly a week in the Museum, and have observed this statue (which is almost colossal) repeatedly, under different lights. In the attitude, features, and expression, all there is nothing wanting. Each subsequent visit has confirmed my first impression, one which is fully shared by a distinguished officer of our army, who was with me, an intimate friend of the General for thirty years."

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A SLAVER CAPTURED.

The schooner Spifire, of New Orleans, arrived at Boston on the 14th instant in command of Lieut. Washington Reid, of the U. S. Navy, having been captured on the coast of Africa by the U. S. brig Truxton, while waiting to receive a cargo of slaves. The particulars of her capture are thus stated by the Boston Journal:

"The Spifire, Peter Flowry master, was seized in the Rio Pongo, coast of Africa, at the slave factory of Paul Tuber, March 20, on suspicion of being engaged in the slave trade, by the boats of the U. States brig Truxton, in the charge of Lieut. Simon F. Blunt, co-operating with the boats of H. B. M. steamer Arden, under the charge of Lieut. Johnson. The boats went alongside under English colors, and ordered the schooner to show her colors on the penalty of being seized as a pirate. The American ensign was then hoisted at her gun, and the schooner taken charge of, evidence having been lodged against her as having already made a successful trip from the same place to the island of Cuba, with three hundred and forty-six slaves, under the command of Captain Gordon, lately in command of the Mancheater, by Thomas Turner, who served in both vessels as Captain G's mate. She was then known by the name of Cavallero, and was built in Baltimore whence she sailed via New York in 1842.—She was afterwards sold, and her register returned to Baltimore. Her present crew also testified as to her intention of receiving slaves."

THE LATE MR. CHERRY.

A Correspondent of the "Norfolk Herald" who attended the death-bed of Mr. CHERRY, states that almost his very last words were—"My friends, do not flatter me with the hope of recovery. If it should please God, that I should rise from this bed of sickness, I shall not be able to go through the canvass. I wish you would announce my withdrawal—the enemy is in the field, and should be met."

Fremont's Expedition.—In a recent Western paper it was announced that Capt. Fremont was in St. Louis, organizing a company of adventurers for the Oregon Territory. The statement went on to say that the expedition would include three years, and added that Capt. Fremont would explore the whole country, "including Upper California and the Russian possessions."

LETTER FROM MR. CLAY.

ASHLAND, APRIL 25, 1845.

GENTLEMEN: The Hon. WILLIS GREEN delivered to me a few days ago, at this place, the address to me which you did me the honor to make the 4th of March last, enrolled on parchment and enclosed in a silver case, manufactured by Mr. William Adams for the occasion. I received it with emotions of grateful sensibility, which it would be in vain to attempt to describe. Waving all consideration of the causes and consequences of the recent Presidential election, of which it treats, as a past and irrevocable event, on which I have neither inclination, nor would it, perhaps, be fitting for me to expatiate, I take pleasure in expressing my profound and grateful sense of the great, persevering, and efficient labors of the Central Clay Committee of the City of New York during the canvass which preceded the election. And I must express also the high and lasting obligations which I feel to the committee and to the Whigs of New York for the ardent attachment and generous confidence towards me, displayed at the commencement and throughout the whole progress of the campaign, and now manifested in terms of fervid and touching eloquence in the address before me. The patriotism which animated them in the contest could never have been doubted; but this document, prepared after our defeat, bears conclusive evidence both of their patriotism and disinterestedness.

My situation is peculiar. I have been, in spite of unexpected discomfiture, the object of honors and of compliments usually rendered only to those who are successful and victorious in the great enterprise of mankind. To so nothing of other demonstrations, the letters, addresses and communications which I have received, since the election, from every quarter, from collective bodies and individuals, and from both sexes, conveying sentiments and feelings of the warmest regard and strongest friendship, and deploring the issue of the election, would fill a large volume. I have been quite as much affected by them as I have been by any disappointment or personal interest of my own in the event of the contest. Among them, gentlemen, your kind address will be ever cherished by me with the most gratified feelings; and in the durable form in which you have had the goodness to transmit it to me, it will be preserved as a precious memorial, on which my remotest descendants may gaze, as I have perused it, with proud satisfaction.

I am, gentlemen, with high respect,
your faithful friend,
H. CLAY.

Messrs. JAMES R. WOOD, BENJ. DRAKE, and others.

The Tribune remarks that the letter was received with the most lively and prolonged demonstrations of satisfaction and delight by the whole assembly.

The Union, the official organ of the Administration, quotes this paragraph, and says:—"There is a mistake in the first sentence,—'Capt. Fremont leaves Washington this evening on his way to the Far West.' He will probably set out from St. Louis on this 'third' expedition, on a survey of the Rocky Mountains 'and beyond them, about the first of June.'"

The Purser of the United States frigate "Macedonian" has sent to the Fourth Auditor of the Treasury \$451 23, which sum was subscribed on board that ship, while on her late cruise, for the benefit of the widows and orphans of those who were lost in the "Grapus."

The Twenty-ninth Congress.—The election in Virginia brings up the number of members chosen for the next Congress to 163, of whom 58 are Whigs, 99 Locofocos, and six Native Americans. There are 58 members yet to be elected, in Maryland, North Carolina, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, and Florida, and a vacancy to be filled in each of the States of Maine, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire.

Iowa and Missouri.—There are new border troubles between Missouri and Iowa. The St. Louis Republican says:

"The Sheriff of one of the counties of Missouri, bordering upon the northern line, when attempting to execute a writ for a breach of the peace, was assailed by a number of persons of Davies county, Iowa. The prisoners, whom the Sheriff had arrested, were rescued, and the Sheriff himself taken into custody, for exercising illegal authority within the Territory."

"The trial came off last week, before Judge Morgan of the District Court, and resulted in the conviction of the Missouri Sheriff. The punishment is imprisonment in the penitentiary. The Judge sentenced him to ten days' confinement; but before the sentence could be carried into execution, Gov. Chambers granted pardon."

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