

MASSACRE OF MEMBERS OF THE VENEZUELAN CONGRESS.

Terrible scenes have been enacted at Caracas recently, which are thus described in a letter to the editors of the Philadelphia American:

Correspondence of the N. American and U. S. Gazette. PUERTO CABELLO, Feb. 5, 1848.

I regret exceedingly that it devolves upon me to record a very serious *emeute* which occurred on the 24th ult., at the city of Caracas, and in the Halls of Congress—an attack by the order of Government, or with its consent, upon the Representatives of the people, in solemn deliberation, which resulted in the death of several members of the House of Representatives. Subsequently the Government, through violence and menaces, procured the passage of whatever measures it thought proper to present; in fact the members who have not been able to escape are vigilantly and strictly guarded by the military, and therefore the will of one prevails, or rather the bayonet is now the Legislative and Executive.

All eyes and hopes rest upon General Jose Antonio Paez, for the re-establishment of order and the Constitution, which has been most outrageously violated by the enemies of a free and enlightened government.—There has been an embargo for several days passed upon all vessels, both at this port and Laguayra, but by the strenuous exertions of Mr. Shields, U. S. Consul, the obnoxious decree was removed. Upwards of forty distinguished citizens of Caracas embarked from Laguayra 1st inst. for Curacao. No passports will be granted under any consideration for the present; consequently no persons of any nation can leave the country. A U. S. vessel of war is much wanted here at present to protect the interest of American residents.

When the Representative of the people were attacked, as described above, they had under consideration articles of impeachment against the President, Gen. Monagas, which were likely to be adopted. This will account for the bloody attack made by the minions of the Executive.—*Balt. American.*

A DRUNKARD ON FIRE.

Dr. Nott, in his lectures, gives the following account of a young man about twenty five years of age:

"He had been a habitual drunkard for many years. I saw him about 9 o'clock in the evening on which it happened; but he was then as full as usual, not drunk, but full of liquor.

About 11 o'clock the same evening, I was called to see him. I found him literally roasted, from the crown of his head to the soles of his feet. He was found in a blacksmith's shop just across from where he had been seen. The owner, all of a sudden, discovered an extensive light in his shop, as though the whole building was in one general flame. He ran with great precipitancy, and on throwing open the door, discovered a man standing erect in the midst of a widely extended silver-colored flame, bearing, as he described it, exactly the appearance of the wick of a burning candle in the midst of its own flame. He seized him, (the drunkard,) by the shoulder, jerked him to the door, upon which the flame was instantly extinguished. There was no fire in the shop, neither was there any possibility of any fire having been communicated to him from any external sources. It was purely a case of spontaneous ignition. A general blough soon came on, and his flesh was consumed or removed in the dressing, leaving the bones and a few of the larger blood vessels; the blood, nevertheless, rallied around the heart, and maintained the vital spark until the thirteenth day, when he died, not only the most loathsome, ill-favored picture that was ever presented to the human view, but his shrieks, his groans, and lamentations, also were enough to rend a heart of adamant. He complained of no pain of body; his flesh was gone. He said he was suffering the torments of hell—that he was just upon the threshold, and would soon enter its dismal cavern; and in this frame of mind he gave up the ghost. Oh! the death of the drunkard! Well may it be said to beggar all description! I have seen other drunkards die but never in a manner so awful and affecting.

MR. ADAMS.

The Salem (Mass.) Register, gives the following notice of Mr. Adams:

The habits of Mr. Adams were pure, simple, and unostentatious, even to awkwardness. He always rose before day, and when in health, made his own fire. He used great exercise, and was peculiarly fond of bathing and swimming. No one was ever more industrious, or sacrificed less of his time. He was one of the most prolific writers of the age.

His journal, which he kept from early life, and which embodies all his conversations with distinguished men of his own and other countries, is, no doubt, the most valuable document in being, and a richer legacy to his children than the ample fortune he leaves.—This fortune is not the result of a niggardly economy, (for Mr. Adams always spent more than his official income,) but of two successful speculations, and a great rise in value of his patrimonial estates. Mr. Adams leaves also copies of every letter he ever wrote, and among his voluminous productions are most able eulogies on Madison, Monroe and Lafayette.

Mr. Adams leaves a widow to whom he was married in London, in 1798. She was the daughter of Col. Joshua Johnson, then consul at London, and the niece of Gov. Johnson, of Maryland, a Judge of the Supreme Court of the United States, and a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Mr. Adams leaves also his youngest son Charles F., who married a

daughter of Hon. Peter C. Brooks of Boston, and who has several children; and the widow of his eldest son, John, (who is also the niece of Mrs. Adams,) with one or two children. He owned and occupied the mansion of his father, in Quincy.



THE CAROLINA WATCHMAN.

Salisbury, N. C.

THURSDAY EVENING, MARCH 9, 1848.

FOR PRESIDENT,
GENERAL ZACHARY TAYLOR,
OF LOUISIANA.

FOR GOVERNOR,
CHARLES MANLY.
OF WAKE COUNTY.

THE PRESIDENCY.

We are highly gratified to see that the nearer the time arrives for the meeting of the National Convention, the more closely united the great Whig Party of the Country becomes. There are but few, very few indeed, who do not approve of the proposed Convention; and we are confident that before the 7th day of June arrives, the Whig party will present an undivided front. Such a consummation is most earnestly desired by all who love their Country and the sacred principles which we advocate. It will ensure success; for we are more strongly of the opinion, that if ever the people felt the necessity of driving from office the authors of misrule, it is now: That if ever they felt the burdens which extravagance and corruption is about to bring down upon them like an avalanche, it is now. Such being the case, (and every day's experience proves it,) it is of the utmost importance that the Whigs should show their devotion to the principles which they advocate, and the measures they propose to rid the country from the almost insurmountable difficulties which seem to hang over it, the result of the wild and visionary schemes of the Polk dynasty. Those who are for Gen. TAYLOR, whether nominated by the Convention or not, should ever bear in mind, that in union alone there is strength. What good can they expect to accomplish, by setting up their opinion against a large majority of their brethren of the same political faith, who regard it as highly important for a Convention to assemble and select some one of the many distinguished Whigs who have been mentioned in connection with the Presidency, to be supported by the Party? Do they think that they can elect Gen. TAYLOR without the aid of the whole party, or that the decided majority favorable to a Convention will be driven from what they honestly believe to be the only safe course, by unjust insinuations? We cannot permit ourselves for one moment to believe they do. For such a belief, seems to us, preposterous; and can proceed from none other than an over-heated imagination, or purely selfish and dictatorial motives.

We do hope that for the good of the cause for which we are battling, and a sense of what is due to the opinion of such a large majority of the Whig Party, will prevent any from pursuing such a suicidal policy. Let our motto ever be, "THE UNION OF THE WHIGS FOR THE SAKE OF THE UNION."

On a late occasion in the SENATE, in which an incidental debate arose, Mr. CRITTENDEN expressed very clearly and forcibly the views entertained by multitudes of intelligent citizens on the subject of the war, and the right of free discussion upon matters relating to it. We quote from this debate the following:

"I am a little apprehensive that the Senator from Mississippi may have understood me as going a little further than I designed to be understood as going in relation to this war. I think I told you, at the commencement of my remarks, that I was not one of those who approved of this war—not at all. But I said that the war, by the act of Congress, had become a national war. It was war according to law, and I had supposed that the great principle of republican government consists in the combination of the strength and power of the whole community in executing the laws passed by the majority of that community; that I am as much bound to respect the law passed in reference to this war, as I am in respect to any law that imposed duties or taxes, or regulated the conduct of citizens of the United States.

"With respect to any of those laws, the liberty of discussion, under the constitution, and according to every principle of republican government, is free and unlimited. It is upon that condition that every citizen of the republic agrees to conform himself to and be governed by the majority, however repugnant to his own opinions may be the decisions of the majority. This freedom of discussion is the ground on which each and every individual may infer, on entering into the social compact, that he may safely and cheerfully agree to obey whatever law the majority passes whilst discussion is left free; or, in the words of Mr. Jefferson, that error may be tolerated whilst reason is left free to combat it. That is the principle of republican government. I do not hold that I oppose the war because I discuss, and examine, and reason, in order to prove to you that the law ought to be repealed, or changed, or modified so as to put an end to this war.

"It is with respect to that law as it is in the case of every other law. Every constitutional law claims the obedience of every man, no matter whether it be according to his wishes or not. It claims his obedience. But it leaves

him free to discuss it; it leaves him free to endeavor, in the exercise of all his constitutional rights, to have the law repealed, no matter whether it relates to peace or war; and the right is equally perfect in regard to the one as the other. Circumstances may modify—the exigencies of the country may control—the exercise of this right; but his constitutional right, as a man and a citizen, is to discuss the law fully. He ought to do so, because he is bound to obey implicitly. That is my doctrine."

Such sentiments, must meet the inward approbation of every Locofoco, altho' he may openly denounce it. The fiat has gone forth from His Majesty, the President, that every one who dares question his acts or even exercise the right guaranteed to him by the Constitution to discuss them, he is giving "aid and comfort to the enemy;" and as a necessary consequence, the *lesser lights* must follow in the wake, and say it is *treason*. What a humiliating spectacle. If the fathers of the Republic could come forth from their graves, they would tremble for the safety of the liberty which they toiled and struggled to secure for seven long years. The above sentiment of the President, is worthy of the source from whence it emanated. If it had come from the Autocrat of the Russia's no one would or could have been astonished at it.

The funeral ceremonies of the late JOHN QUINCY ADAMS, ex-President of the United States, is said to have been very solemn and impressive. All, or nearly all of the Stores and Public places were closed on the day set apart for that purpose, and the windows and doors of the same hung in deep mourning for the deceased Patriot and Statesman. The Legislature of Maryland attended in a body, so did the Corporate authorities of Alexandria, Va., besides two Military Companies. All the different societies in the District were present to do honor to the mighty dead. Not less than twelve or fifteen thousand persons attended the funeral.—*A great man has fallen!*

MR. CALHOUN.

We take the following extract in relation to this gentleman from a letter from Washington, published in the Richmond Whig of Friday last:

"I have it from a gentleman who is the bosom friend of Mr. Calhoun, that that distinguished Senator declares that he will never aid in the elevation of any other 'small' man to the office of President, under any circumstances whatever—that in the coming canvass, he will not support any man who will carry out the radical war policy of this administration—that this war and its consequences overrule in magnitude all questions of a domestic character—that, while he may differ with a candidate, who may go for peace and against the conquest and acquisition of Mexico, in some matters of governmental policy, he will feel called on not only to oppose him, but to render his election as certain as possible. He thinks that if the present radical spirit should be sustained by the next Administration, the South must be the loser, and our institutions must be all overthrown; and that all stability and conservatism in the Government must be annihilated. He is convinced that this war policy swallows up all issues that have hitherto divided parties."

DANVILLE AND SALISBURY.

We transfer into our columns sketches of Danville and Salisbury from the respective papers of each town, and would express our high gratification at the evidences of present prosperity with which they are surrounded, and their brightening prospects in the future. A completion of the contemplated lines of railroad, and opening of the Dan and Yadkin rivers for navigation, will give a fresh and powerful impulse to the growth of these towns, and consequently to the agricultural interests of a wide vicinity.

Danville and Salisbury are great places, we trow; and Greensborough stands in the same row. If we cannot boast of the manufacturing and commercial facilities of the one, nor the venerable antiquity of the other, we have at least the satisfaction to know that we are situated between the two.—*Greens. Patriot.*

SALISBURY RAILROAD MEETING.

The public attention is solicited to the proceedings of a public meeting recently held in Salisbury on the subject of a Railroad to connect between Danville and Charlotte; and the striking views of a writer in the Watchman, whose initials indicate that they are from the able pen of Hamilton C. Jones. It is to be hoped, that the proposition to hold a general meeting of the friends of the work from all the counties directly interested, on Tuesday, the 6th of June, in the town of Salisbury, will elicit serious considerations and due response from the people of Guilford and the neighboring counties.—*Greens. Patriot.*

A correspondent of the Staunton, Va., "Spectator," writing from Buena Vista, under date of January 2d says—"Our North Carolina neighbors have opened a Theatre for their amusement, during the long winter evenings. I happened to be present at one of the performances, and would be glad to give you a description of it, if I had time. The Theatre is under the management of the Drum Major, who is a real factotum it appears, being play writer, scenery painter, principal performer, bill printer, and I hardly know what else. Certain it is, he is a very smart fellow."

THE TREATY.

The National Intelligencer of Monday, in a long article upon this subject, takes ground in favor of the ratification of the Treaty. The following paragraphs from the Intelligencer's article will show the position taken by that paper:

"The substance of the Treaty is sufficiently known, though no entire copy of it has yet found its way into the public prints. Its leading features are—

1. The restoration of Peace between the Republics of the United States and Mexico.
2. The establishment of a boundary which will include within the bounds of the United States all the territory North and East of the Rio Grande, from the Gulf of Mexico to El Paso; and thence, along a line to the Pacific, the Provinces of New Mexico and Upper California.
3. The payment to Mexico, in consideration of this cessation of Fifteen Millions of Dollars, and, in addition, the payment by the United States of the sums due, or which may be found due, by the government of Mexico to citizens of the United States, (say five millions of dollars.)

"We were to consult our own judgment, as we have already said, we would reject all acquisition of territory, except perhaps a single port (say San Francisco, and a few leagues of land to sustain and protect it) on the coast of the Pacific. We believe that the proposed acquisition will be injurious in proportion to its extent. But we must take a practical view of the subject. We cannot do as we would in this matter; nor can the Senate and House of Representatives, who are to act more directly upon it.

"That the annexation of the whole of Mexico to the United States would be fatal to this Government, whoever may doubt it, we are well convinced. Add to our Senate the representation of some fifteen or twenty Mexican States, and the conservative character of that body will be destroyed. The increased representation in the other branch of the National Legislature might, at first, be less injurious; but its evils cannot now be computed. Would our commercial, manufacturing, and agricultural States be content to be governed by Mexican Generals, who are ignorant of Civil Government, and who could not understand the principles of our Constitution? Pronouncements at the head of a military array constitute the basis of their political knowledge.

"The Union of these States has withstood the shocks of war and internal excitement, but it would be dissolved by the annexation of Mexico.

"We would take the treaty, then, as it is, to avoid a greater national evil. We cannot reject it and continue our opposition to the War.—Payment of the debts which Mexico owed our citizens at the commencement of the war is now hopeless; her means are exhausted. Her territory with its population will entail upon us increased expenditures, and evils moral and political; but it is all that Mexico can give.—There can be no indemnity for the war expenses. We had better, then, as we have said, stop where we are; for if we go further we shall only increase the evil.

"The crisis should be met with firmness.—By the continued prosecution of the war, we should in three months expend a larger sum than the treaty requires us to pay our own citizens and to the Mexican Government. And where is the individual, so lost to a sense of justice and to the common sympathies of our nature, even that much (more likely ten times as much) in prosecuting the war to the annihilation of the Mexican Government and name?"

The Intelligencer concludes its article as follows:

"Had this unfortunate war not arisen, we might, in all probability, have purchased, if desired, for five millions of dollars, the territory now proposed to be ceded. But the largeness of the sum we are to pay for the territory can be no objection, under the circumstances, to those who set a high value upon our national character. We are treating with a prostrate adversary; with a Republic humbled to the dust by our military power. To close the bloody tragedy by a magnanimous act will be honorable to our country. It will raise us in our own esteem and in that of the civilized world.

"In ratifying this Treaty we take nothing by conquest. This fact alone is worth far more to a Christian Nation than the sum of money we shall pay. The Lust of Conquest is as unjust and ruinous in a Republic as in any other form of government. It has made desolate the fairest portions of the earth, and has never failed to overthrow, sooner or later, every vestige of liberty. Thank God, we shall be saved from the curse of this blighting principle! We pay even more than its value for the territory we take from Mexico. This fact will be pointed to, by those who shall come after us, with a National pride, to show the Justice of their country.

"Deeply impressed by these considerations, we look with no ordinary solicitude to the ratification of the Treaty. We believe that PEACE will be hailed with joy through the wide extent of the Republic, and that its blessings will be felt and acknowledged in all our borders."

FIRE!—We learn from the Raleigh Star of the 1st instant, that the large brick shop attached to the Rail Road Depot in that city, was destroyed by fire about 11 o'clock on the night of the 28th ultimo. Several Engines and other valuable machinery, among which was the splendid new engine just purchased at a cost of \$7,000, were greatly injured. The loss is probably not less than fifteen or twenty thousand dollars. It is not known how the fire occurred. The most prompt and energetic measures were adopted to prevent any material interference with the operations of the road. An engine was ordered by Telegraphic dispatch; and the cars in a few days, are expected to run as regularly as ever.

GEN. TAYLOR'S LETTER TO PETER SKEN SMITH, ESQ.

The New York Herald contains the following letter to Peter Sken Smith, Esq., a prominent member of the Native American party in Philadelphia:

BATON ROUGE, LA., January 30, 1848.

Sir:—Your communication of the 15th inst., has been received, and the suggestions therein offered duly considered.

In reply to your inquiries, I have again to repeat, that I have neither the power nor the desire to dictate to the American people the exact manner in which they should proceed to nominate me for the Presidency of the United States. If they desire such a result, they must adopt the means best suited, in their opinion, to the consummation of the purpose; and if they think fit to bring me before them for this office, through their legislatures, mass meetings, or conventions, I cannot object to their designating these bodies as Whig, Democratic, or Native. But in being thus nominated, I must insist on the condition—and my position on this point is immutable—that I shall not be brought forward by them as the candidate of their party doctrines.

In conclusion, I have to repeat, that if I were nominated for the Presidency, by any body of my fellow citizens, designated by any means they might choose to adopt, I should esteem it an honor, and would accept such nomination; provided it had been made entirely independent of party considerations.

I am, Sir,

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

Z. TAYLOR.

PETER SKEN SMITH, Esq., Philadelphia.

A great deal of unnecessary exultation on the part of those who are opposed to the nomination of Gen. Taylor, has been excited by the publication of this letter. It was made, by Mr. Botts, on Thursday evening, a principal objection to the nomination of the Hero of Buena Vista. Yet we think a little calm reflection will convince any candid mind, that Gen'l Taylor occupies now precisely the same position which he assumed at the very outset.

It is known to all, that when urged upon the subject with a view to his future nomination, he has always said that he would not be the candidate of a party, preferring rather to be elected by the whole people, if elected at all. At the same time, his letter to Joseph R. Ingersoll, published by us yesterday, proves him, beyond all manner of doubt, to be a Whig. While with admirable modesty, he prefers seeing Mr. Clay or any other prominent Whig President of the United States, he tells us that the doctrines of the Whig party are, in his view, more nearly in accordance with the principles of Jefferson and Madison, than are those of any other party whatever. This letter to Mr. Ingersoll may serve as a commentary upon that now under consideration.

In the last named letter, Gen. Taylor says, speaking of the people of the United States, "if they think fit to bring me before them for this office, through their Legislatures, mass meetings, or conventions, I cannot object to their designating these bodies as Whig, Democratic or Native. I shall not be brought forward by them as the candidate of their party, or considered as the exponent of their party doctrines."

What is there in this inconsistent with what Gen. Taylor has repeatedly said? or with the unqualified declaration, made to Mr. Ingersoll, that he is a Whig? General Taylor declares that he will not be the exponent of a party; and surely, with the example of the present Chief Magistrate before him, who has bound himself heart and soul to the behests of the Baltimore Convention, and thus laid himself under an obligation to regard the dictates of a faction as an authority paramount to the Constitution which his oath of inauguration requires him to support, he might well be anxious to avoid any pledge that might render him such. This, it appears to us, is all that he means in this famous sentence, which has already become the theme of such eager discussion. He will allow no Convention to trammel and confine his free will in such a way as to render it necessary, in spite of himself, to set the Constitution at naught, whenever it may suit the partizan views of the faction, to whom, by the very act of taking the pledge, he would have sold his soul. He is determined to enter on the Presidency, if he obtains it, untrammelled by party pledges, as Washington did, as Adams the elder did, as Jefferson did, as Madison and Monroe did. He will then be free to administer the Government according to the Constitution and the Laws, as the great fathers of the Constitution, whom he so much admires, and whose course he is so desirous to imitate, did in the best days of the Republic. Who has ever heard of any pledges given by Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Madison and Monroe?

When Gen. Taylor says that he cares not what name the nominating body may assume, does any man doubt that he was well aware that the Whig Party, and the Whig Party alone could give him a cordial support? The Democratic party are decidedly hostile to him, as they have taken occasion more than once to show, both in Congress and out of it. He is to them a subject of especial terror; for they know him to be a Whig, and they know, likewise, that he will not only fail to car-

ry the whole Whig party, but will make fearful havoc in their own ranks. He is, in fact, the very man to promote the Locofoco party beyond the hope of resurrection, and they feel it but too acutely. Is any proof wanting of the fact? Look at the complexion of all the Locofoco papers, and more especially at that which is the Organ of the party in the Union, and that which occupies the same position with regard to this State; we mean the Union, at Washington, and the Enquirer of this city. These two papers have been endeavoring, ever since Gen. Taylor was first mentioned as a Whig nominee, to convince their own friends that Gen. Taylor was no Whig, and indirectly to impress the same idea upon the Party in general. Cannot the Whigs see that their adversaries desire Gen. Taylor at all other men, to be the exponent of the Whig Party; and will they then, not only to sow discord in their ranks, but actually to nominate a man who will overthrow their party?

It is impossible that General Taylor can be nominated by the Locofoco party, and he knew it perfectly well when he penned the lines which we have in this article. Nor is it probable that he can ever receive the nomination of a strait-laced, narrow minded party of Native Americans. To act in accordance with a party creed, would insist that he pledge himself to oppose every shape, and by all means, and if they did not insist, would cease to be a party principle is their bond of union, the only one which they are composed of seceders from the parties, there are to be found men of every shade and great point, hostility to the party comprises among its riffles and anti-tariffes, the anti-Bank men, distributionists, annexationists—in fine, every the genus politician. No man anything of General Taylor that he would give himself a row views of this political able for their bigotry as the infinitely diversified manner they are composed. The

It is evident, then, that must have known, when he wrote, that he could not nomination from any other a national point of view. Especially is this supported by his letter to Mr. Ingersoll, who proclaims himself a Whig hostility to Whiggery, in phases and modifications, the mental doctrine of the Democrats while the Native Americans maledictions, in about equal upon both.

When, in conclusion, we says, that if he were a portion of his fellow-citizens, except such nomination, name by which they might designate themselves, he well, that from one party, could he expect that he would be seceders from the other whose assistance should be majority, it would be so, but such seceders will, by most assuredly undergo the old friends. Every candidate office is desirous to get the opposite party as he never been understood the compromises his principles the opposite party vote exactly what he is expected Ingersoll letter, any Native Locofoco Convention and General Taylor, they would their eyes open. They know, and if, knowing thus much, posed to assist in electing, aware that he will administration on Whig principles towards the true faith, and the right hand of fellow-Whigs.

GEN. SCOTT AND

The Columbia (S. C.) Gazette, says:—"From a distinguished officer of the States Army, who reached Columbia, we learn that the terms agreed upon between the Congress of Queretaro, and to a peace.

"As it regards the feeling and all, towards Gen. Scott, the army, the great Captain of not only their unbounded courage in the hearts of his soldiers, his presence, when officers died, by his influence, but by them to their homes. Is there father as well as their General has ever served under him, where he may lead.

"There seems to be, through the United States, the Army have been, to witness the arrest of Gen. Pillow from it, there never has been even a nine day's wonder. I feel unit in sentiment. He many have never been more conviction to every officer of military property of all his of any officers, however high