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From Chamber's Journal. THE PEDLAR.

Once, in Sardinia, at a village high up in the mountains, a pedlar, whom we afterwards met in Genoa, arrived about Christmas during very severe weather. A farmer, whose daughter was about to be married, kindly invited him to make some stay at his house. The pedlar accepted the invitation, and remained for ten days, kept a prisoner, as it were, by the hospitality of his host, and a perpetual succession of snowstorms. He was present at the wedding and at the merry-making given by the family in the evening, where he noticed among the guests a young man of rather handsome appearance, who attracted much attention by the gloomy fierceness of his manner. Towards most persons he preserved a sullen silence; but he relaxed with the pedlar, and talked a great deal, inquired what he meant to take, and how long it was likely to be before he would be among them again.

In due time the pedlar quitted the farm house, and proceeded on his way. The country just above was very thinly inhabited, the woods frequent, and of considerable extent, and here and there were caverns of various dimensions. In some of these the pedlar one snowy night found himself compelled to take refuge. He had had the precaution to take some food with him; the cold being piercing, he collected a quantity of wood, kindled a fire, and sat down to enjoy his supper beside it. He had not taken many mouthfuls before he observed a gentleman enter the cavern covered with snow, which he shook from him as he advanced. There was an immediate recognition; it was no other than the farmer's wedding guest! He greeted the pedlar with a strange, constrained civility—saying he was come to sup and spend the night with him.

"You are welcome," said the Frenchman, with as much self-command as he could assume. "Perhaps, however," said the Sardinian, "I shall not continue to be so when I shall have explained my errand."

"Listen then!" "I listen," proceeded. But allow me first to offer you a little supper. Here, pray take a slice of German sausage and a little of this wine, which I have luckily brought along with me. "Taste it; it is very good."

"No," answered the Sardinian; "I will neither eat nor drink with you until I find whether it will be necessary to kill you or not!" "Kill me?"

"Yes, you; unless you accede to the request I am about to make. Listen! I am in here with a girl whose father will not give her to me unless I can prove myself to be possessor of one hundred dollars. Now I wish you to bid me that sum, which I will faithfully repay to you; not at any stated time, observe, but I may be unfortunate; but I swear to you here, on this dagger, that I will repay it sooner or later." And he held up the weapon in the light of the flames, ready to press it to his lips should the pedlar accede to his request.

The Frenchman naturally felt exceedingly uncomfortable; for, from the savage aspect of his guest, he did not doubt he had reason to dread the worst.

The Sardinian continued; "Should you be so foolish as to refuse me, I shall kill you, take of your property, marry, and make use of it. I am an honest man, I wish you in that case to tell me who is your nearest kin in France, since it will be my most earnest endeavor to repay him the money as soon as providence shall have put it in my power."

Here he paused to observe what effect his words had produced on the pedlar, who for some time was too much terrified to reply. "Well," resumed the guest, "you are undecided? It is just what I expected; it is very natural. However, I will stay all night with you, that you may have time for reflection; because I had rather not kill you if I could help it. Still, I have made up my mind to be married next week, and I would kill fifty pedlars rather than postpone the ceremony."

"Under these circumstances," replied the Frenchman, "I must lend you the money, since I have no choice."

"You resolve wisely; you have no choice. One observation more, however, I must make, and then we will sit down comfortably to supper. It is this: when you next come to your village, you will of course see me and my wife, and you will take up your residence with us in preference to any other person. You will say nothing, neither to her nor any one else. You will not seem afraid of me, as in deed you need not be, but will be merry, and re-join confidently on being repaid the sum with which you now accommodate me."

"All this the pedlar promised. "Now," exclaimed the young man, "give me your hand; we are tried friends; let us sit down to supper. Afterwards you can reckon me out the money; we will keep up a good fire, and that by it all night, and in the morning you will separate, each to pursue his own way."

with his reception, with the constant hospitality shown him, with the pleasant wife and cheerful, increasing family, he took the Sardinian aside, and presenting him with his button—"Allow me to restore this article of yours, which I have found."

"No, no," replied his host; "keep it another year by that time I shall be able to redeem it, and at the same time spend a very merry evening with you. Come this way next winter and you shall see."

The months rolled round; the pedlar regular as the season, came again, and the Sardinian invited him to supper. All the children had been sent to bed, and he and his wife only remained with their guest.

"Agatha," said he, "do you know that it is to your friend here that you are indebted for a husband?" His wife looked surprised.

"I beg your pardon, dear Agatha," said he; "that is not what I ought to have said. I mean I am indebted to him for a wife, as it was he who supplied me with a hundred dollars, without which your father would have refused you to me."

"Oh, how heartily I thank you!" exclaimed the wife; "for he is a good husband and a good father."

"But I robbed him," said the husband. He then related the whole circumstance, remarking at the conclusion, "I entrust my secret to you, Agatha, because my honor is as dear as your life. Here, friend," exclaimed he, placing a little bag on the table, "here are your hundred dollars; so now restore me my button, which you have doubtlessly kept carefully."

"Yes here it is!" exclaimed the Frenchman, taking it from his purse; "and now we are even, except that I owe you much, very much, for the constant hospitality you have shown me."

"Nay," replied the husband, "it is to you that I am indebted for my wife and children; you have been in some sort a father to us all; and therefore, so long as I have a house over my head, pray consider it yours."

Pedlars are sometimes generous. Taking up the bag of dollars, and turning to the wife, the Frenchman said, "Allow me, madam, to present this to your youngest child as a birthday present. I am in a condition to afford it. I have made much money in your country and intend next year to marry, and retire to Provence, my native land."

The present was accepted; but the former, not to be out done in generosity, forced on him next morning a handsome horse of considerably greater value. The same pedlar had been engaged in many other little adventures, which he used to relate with that ease and naivete so characteristic of the French. We fell in with him just as he was about returning to Provence, where we dare say he still enjoys the property which he amassed with so much toil, honesty, and perseverance. The English merchants who supply this class of men are less prudent and economical, and commonly spend their whole gains in what is technically called "making an appearance." They, moreover, marry Italian women, settle in Genoa, and soon lose all desire to return to England. Thus deprived of the chief spur to pecuniety, they contract indolent habits and devote themselves to amusement and pleasure; and, while the men whose knapsacks they supply rise to independence, and often even to opulence, contract debts and embarrassments, and terminate their lives in poverty.

Small Pox.—We are informed from several sources, that there is a real case of small pox in Cherokee County, to which several members of the bar have been directly exposed. The subject is a gentleman who has just returned from the North, where it is possible he may have been exposed, though we hope it may prove to be something else rather than small pox. It is a most excellent precaution, as well as preventative, to have all persons inoculated who have not been, or who have not had it. It is a sure preventative and defence against a loathsome and dangerous disease. Our physicians are getting matter, so that in a short time, all may avail themselves of inoculation, who wish.—*Asheville Messenger.*

The Barrett "case" came off at the last Spartanburg court, by said Barrett like the Dutchman's cow, "coming up missing." He forfeited his bail, but we understand the case was laid over by a motion from the State. We think it will hardly be convenient for Mr. Barrett to attend the Spartanburg courts, as "circumstances frequently alter cases."—*Asheville Messenger.*

The African Squadron.—By an official document transmitted to the Senate, in reply to a call for information on the subject, it appears that the cost of maintaining the United States squadron on the coast of Africa is \$384,500 per annum, and that the mortality on that station is less than in the Home Squadron or in the East Indies. The following figures show the number of men and deaths in the African Squadron for four years:

Year.	No. of men.	Deaths.
1845.	631.	5.
1846.	751.	8.
1847.	639.	7.
1848.	591.	3.

A comparison of the average health of the various naval stations for the four years shows them to rank thus: 1. Mediterranean; 2. Brazil; 3. Pacific; 4. Africa; 5. East Indies; 6. Home Squadron.

Jackson is to remain the capital of Mississippi, the Legislature having voted down all the bills for its removal. The proposition to make Vicksburg the seat of government received nineteen votes to seventy-two against it.

ROLINA WATCHMAN.

BRUNER & JAMES, Editors & Proprietors. "KEEP A CHECK UPON ALL YOUR RULES." DO THIS, AND LIBERTY IS SAFE. Gen'l Harrison. NEW SERIES. VOLUME VI—NUMBER 48.

SALISBURY, N. C., THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 1850.

From the Public Ledger. **DISSOLVE THE UNION! NEVER!** BY THE REV. EDWARD C. JONES. Dissolve the Union! never! "There's e'en a madman's part, The golden chain to sever, Which girdle's Freedom's heart. What! Faction rear her Altar, And discord wave her brand, And hearts from duty falter, At Party's base demand? Look up! 'tis Freedom's temple, You long to overthrow; And if your arm's uplifted, A demon prompts the bow. Think! every radiant column, Has cost a Patriot's blood, And would you have them shattered, Where long in pride they stood? That flag—that honored pennon, Mirrored in every sea; What, would you quench one beaming star, Nor sink in infancy? Read it—and e'en its speechless fold, So merclessly riven, Like martyr'd Abel's blood would cry, For vengeance to the Heaven. Dissolve the Union! never— You may not, if you would, Go, Traitor, go forever, And hide you where you should; For he who breathes dissent, To shake a people's trust, Should cover back to nothingness, Or crumble into dust.

From the Natchez Courier. **THE NATCHEZ MEETING.**

A Mighty "Rally for the Union."—On Saturday last, 9th inst., by far the largest and most respectable assemblage ever convened in Natchez, met in the Court House at eleven o'clock. Unlike most public meetings the first summons of the bell was sufficient to fill the court room, and it seemed to us that every man approached with an earnest solemnity depicted upon his features indicative of the great fact that he had heard the Union of his beloved country threatened by rash and bitter demagogues, and felt compelled by the heavy responsibilities which he owed to himself, his country, to the world and the great cause of freedom every where, to come forward and administer a stern rebuke to that cold, unfeeling and falsehearted ambition that would fire the glorious temple of our liberties for the sake of an evanescent supremacy over a fragment, and of an infamous immortality.

The call for this great and solemn meeting was signed by three hundred and eighty of the planters and citizens of Adams county and Natchez. The names to the call embraced the owners of from ten to hundreds, if not thousands of slaves, whose interests are all connected with the institution which the constitution excludes.—They, if any of our citizens have interest in the subject, certainly have the deepest; they have one that outweighs the pecuniary number of citizens to be found in any county in the State, or perhaps in any other county in any other Southern State. In consequence of this deep and vital interest, the great and densely crowded meeting was composed of a numerous portion of our fellow citizens rarely or never seen in public gatherings. They came out, summoned by a voice more powerful than the trumpet voice of party. They came, as came the brave old fathers of the Republic, when they reared the mighty arch of self-government over the ruins of despotism and monarchy, every man feeling and acting as if he alone and single were called upon to sustain his country's glorious institutions in their day of peril, and stand by them the firmer and the sterner the hurricane of passion blew, and the louder the thunders of faction and treason to the Union rolled in the lurid political atmosphere.

The Union Meeting was organized by the unanimous election of Dr. Stephen Duncan as President, Messrs. Isaac Lum and John R. Stockman, Vice Presidents, and E. Baker and John Fleming, Esq's., Secretaries. On taking the chair, as President, Dr. Duncan addressed the large assemblage in brief, yet eloquent and convincing terms, and in a spirit of fairness and candor that would have had an admirable effect even if every person present had opposed the admission of California with the anti-slavery provision in her Constitution.—He remarked that the call for the meeting had, in advance, been stigmatized as treason and cowardice—as a party movement to vindicate and protect the policy of the present administration of the general government, and as suicidal to the true interests of the slaveholding portion of the Union. In refutation he would say that it had been many years since he had taken any active part in politics or even attended political meetings; he could not be connected with any mere political or party movement; but he had heard the Union of his country threatened, its value calculated, and demagogues openly predicting its overthrow. He was connected most vitally with the South, identified entirely with all its interests, and all he was, all he had, or ever expected to have, had been acquired in the South where he had spent the active part of his life, where he should always love, and where he expected to die. He alluded to the nature of the call for the meeting, defined its objects, and announced that the subject was open for action of the meeting.

Col. Bingaman was loudly called for, when he rose and addressed the meeting, amid much applause.

Col. Bingaman commenced his speech by deprecating party spirit, on an occasion so momentous and so fraught with peril to the glorious institutions of our country, achieved by the blood and consolidated by the wisdom of our fathers.—Before entering the vestibule so holy and consecrated, the dust of party should be shaken from the shoes, and all present feel and act as if they belonged alone to the party of the whole country and of the Union. He alluded to the danger of misapprehension and misconstruction that prevailed in inflammatory and excited times, in which the words of a speaker might be twisted into meanings and designs the author never dreamed of, and instanced the ludicrous case from the Spectator in which the inquirer for St. Ann's lane in London got roundly abused by both Cavalier and Round-head, and utterly failed in his attempts to shape the question to the taste of either party. Col. B. gave a brief summary of the privileges granted to the native population of California by the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which constituted them *bona fide* American citizens on condition of their residence, and argued that they had so solemn and undoubted right to admission, notwithstanding the slavery prohibition contained in their constitution, on the doctrines laid down by the most eminent statesmen, including Gen. Cass, of our country; and that it was no way to secure Southern rights by perpetrating a wrong on California.

Col. Bingaman deprecated the contemplated Southern Convention at Nashville, and held out as a warning the unenviable fame of the Hartford Convention; and closed his speech by a magnificent and glowing picture of our national glory and renown acquired as common and joint property, and all, all resulting from the union of the States now threatened with annihilation by a rampant spirit of dissolution.

John T. McMurran, Esq., followed Col. Bingaman, and like the latter deprecated party spirit and advocated the adopting of the resolutions which had been offered to the meeting. He contended that no crisis had yet arrived which called for the action of a Convention of a part of the States of the Union; that no act of hostility had been offered to the South by the North which would justify the former to calculate the value and break down the terms of the Union; that such crisis might arrive, but that it had not yet come; that as yet Congress had not presumed on its powers to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia, or by the formal passage of the Wilmot Proviso in relation to all territorial acquisitions forever excluded it from all new territory acquired by the common treasure and blood of both free and slaveholding States; and that, as Southern slaveholders, however much we might desire that the institution should also prevail in the new State of California, yet inasmuch as we did not immigrate thither with such property and such opinions in sufficient numbers to secure a hearing and a voice in the matter, we were bound to admit California as she chooses to present herself.

Mr. McMurran said that when true and real causes for a dissolution of the Union should have been given, if ever, the remedy would be taken out of the hands of demagogues and politicians; the people in masses and in their solemn primal prerogative, as in the assembly before him, would take the matter in hand. But it was of the most awful and momentous importance that the people should be right, and the cause just, before they assumed such tremendous responsibilities. Let me, in case of such lamentable division, said he, whether I come up a citizen of the United States North; of the United States West; of the United States East; of the United States Central; of the United States Pacific; have the consolation to know that the fragment of our once glorious Union, on which my fortunes and happiness are embarked—is in the right! Mr. M. spoke with much solemnity and eloquence and his remarks created a profound sensation in the minds of his audience.

A motion was made, which prevailed unanimously, that Gen. Robert Stanton be heard in opposition to the resolutions. Gen. Stanton, after thanking the meeting for an indulgence he had not anticipated and had made no preparation for, proceeded to address the meeting in a warm, impassioned, if not argumentative and convincing style of eloquence. He took the ultra Southern view of the question, and if he failed in presenting the strongest points, or in the order he presented them, we cannot in all candor, criticize his effort, as we doubt not the call upon him was as unexpected to the speaker as to the hearers.

After Gen. Stanton concluded, Colonel Bingaman was loudly called for, and he pleasantly responded by the remark that the historians of antiquity asserted that Carthage was ruined by neglecting the counsels of the aged and experienced, and following those of rash and impetuous young men; and it appeared to him that his young friend Gen. Stanton belonged to the latter class.

The Secretary was then called upon to read the resolutions, one by one, for the final action of the meeting. On reading the first resolution, Judge Winchester opposed some objections; notwithstanding which the first resolution, and all the rest were adopted—the first and second by an overwhelming vote, and the remainder almost, or quite, unanimous.

Thus passed by far the largest and most important public meeting ever convened in the city of Natchez. The feeble sketch given above was taken under many disadvantages of position—there being no convenience for reporting—and while a severe headache was endeavoring to dissolve or wrench asunder the component parts of our cranium. But we hope we have done no one injustice, no matter if we have not come up quite to the spirit of the occasion.

SOUND VIEWS.—The Southern Convention.—We copy below, from the correspondence of the New Orleans Crescent, a sketch of some remarks made by John C. Larue, Esq., of New Orleans, in the Louisiana Legislature, on the subject of the Southern Convention. Mr. Larue, as our readers are doubtless aware, is a leading Democrat in Louisiana, and one of the first men in point of talents in the State; consequently, his opinions are calculated to exert great influence on public sentiment in Louisiana. Under such circumstances, we greatly rejoice to find him on the right side of the Southern Convention question. Wonder if the disunionists will throw him into the river!—*Mobile Ad.*

The speech of Mr. Larue was delivered in opposition to a resolution reading about thus: "That it be recommended to the people of the several parishes throughout the State to send to the Nashville Convention the same number of representatives which they are entitled to send to the State Legislature."

The Baton Rouge correspondent of the Crescent says: "Mr. Larue contended that this resolution, giving legislative sanction to the appointment of delegates, was no less unconstitutional than the resolution as first presented to the Senate, making it the duty of the Governor to appoint delegates with the assent of the Senate. The constitution of the United States declares in express terms that no state shall enter into any league or confederacy with another state without the assent of Congress. If the people see fit to assemble spontaneously in their primary capacity and send delegates, the Nashville Convention will be an assemblage of the people, a mere meeting together of private individuals, representing no state sovereignty, and exercising a right secured to them by the constitution itself. But how is it with this resolution? The delegates (if appointed at all) are appointed and commissioned in the mode expressly pointed out by the Legislature. In this case the recommendation, if carried out, is equivalent to an enactment. "Law is a solemn expression of Legislative will." In this case the people are of course not compelled to comply with the recommendation of the Legislature, but if they do, it is carrying out the full force of the Legislative will—it is making perfect what before was imperfect. It is performing an act to which Legislative sanction, the sanction of the State sovereignty has been given, and the delegates will proceed to Nashville, invested with the power not only to represent the people, but the State, and approved of by the supreme power of the State. Suppose (for argument's sake) there should be appended to this resolution, a declaration that the state would in no event consider herself bound by the action of the convention. Would not the resolution and the proviso be most palpably inconsistent? Would not one show the utter absurdity of the other? Would those who advocate this resolution accept such an amendment? Whatever then might be the action of the Legislature upon the results of the convention, it is clear that this resolution stamps the Nashville Convention with the approval of the sovereignty of Louisiana, and is consequently in violation of the constitution of the United States.

But we are told that the action of other states renders it necessary that we should act also. Mr. Larue believed that Louisiana should do right—should perform her duty, whatever might be the course of other members of the confederacy. But (said he) it is a mistaken notion that a majority of the southern states have given legislative sanction to this convention. How are the facts? Delaware, Maryland, North Carolina, Florida, Tennessee, Kentucky, Texas, Arkansas and Missouri, have taken no action at all, and some of them have by implication shown their disapproval of the convention. Mississippi and Georgia are for a State representation. Virginia, in an informal meeting of the members of the Legislature, has to some extent expressed approbation of the measure, but in the most express terms repudiated the idea of a State representation. So with South Carolina.

Mr. Larue said—that if the time should come when the constitution should be so palpably violated, and our rights so trampled upon as to require sectional leagues and armed resistance, he for one was ready and willing to stand up to the last, in defence of the south—to fight and battle with the foremost. But before we embark in measures that tend to bring about this state of things—to arm brother against brother—to devastate our fair fields and blast our happiness—to bring about all the horrors of a murderous civil war—let us, at least, see that our hands are clean—let us beware that the first violation of that sacred instrument, which is the bond of our Union, is not committed by ourselves.

The next resolution to which Mr. Larue called attention, was that which declares that should Congress abolish slavery in the District of Columbia, or apply the Wilmot Proviso to any of the Territories of the United States, Louisiana will resist that action at all hazards, and to the last extremity. This resolution was, in Mr. L.'s opinion, unfortunately worded.—It expresses a principle false in theory and in practice. What is the meaning of resistance "at all hazards, and to the last extremity?" In plain language, it can mean nothing more nor less than *revolution, armed resistance, fighting, civil war.* And is the passage of the Wilmot Proviso by Congress a good cause for civil war? "If so," said Mr. L., "why stand we here idle?" "Why do we not sound the trumpet—call out our armies, and take the field at once?" Why wait for the repetition of that which has been continually the practice of the Government from the ordinance of 1787 down to the action upon the Oregon Territory? If the Wilmot Proviso is now discovered to be a cause for revolution—if we have waked up from our long sleep to ascertain this astounding truth—let us at least indicate our sincerity by prompt and decisive action. Mr. L. was warmly in favor of the south and her rights as any one, and could not tell what might be required of us in protection of those rights; but he could not give his assent to the assertion of a principle which so totally contradicts the whole practice of our government, and the south itself, from the very formation of the Union down to the present day.—With every degree of respect for the honorable body from which the resolution emanated, he must say that it was most unfortunately and erroneously worded.—He could not but feel surprised that any one could find in this reassertion of a principle supported by so many precedents, so flagrant an insult to the south, or so plain and palpable a violation of the constitution, as to justify revolution and civil war.

Mr. Larue concluded by moving that the committee of the whole rise and ask leave to sit again; at which time he would conclude his remarks.

The Nashville Convention.—Twenty-eight members of the Mississippi Legislature signed a written protest against the acts of the legislative convention in electing members to the Nashville Convention, as novel, transcending their legislative duties, and "tending to subvert the dignity, harmony, perpetuity and prosperity of the United States of America." The Natchez Courier, concurring in this view, expresses its earnest hope that no delegate belonging to the Whig party will accept the station assigned to him, or consent to serve in the Nashville Convention, "at least until regularly chosen by the people." A very large meeting has been held at Raymond, Hinds county, Miss., in which it is declared that as it is evident that Congress will not now pass the Wilmot proviso, the Nashville Convention ought to be abandoned.

On the other hand, a large meeting has been held at Columbia, Tenn., at which resolutions in favor of the convention were adopted, and the conduct of the Legislature in relation to it was condemned. A meeting has been held at Memphis approving the convention, and tendering the public buildings of the city should it be determined not to go to Nashville. The Legislature of Mississippi have also tendered the use of the Capitol at Jackson.—*N. O. Picayune.*

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Mississippi—The Nashville Convention.—The Legislature, aye the Democratic Legislature of Mississippi, who affect so much confidence in the people, and who are ever so clamorous for the people's rights, have far outstripped their brethren of Alabama in their assumption of power in the appointment of delegates to the Nashville Convention. They were not content to appoint four delegates for the State at large; but, unwilling to confide the selection of delegates to the people, they proceeded to elect two delegates for each Congressional District in the State. The people, therefore, who, in this country, are justly regarded the source of all power, have had no agency in selecting their representatives in this august body. What a commentary is this upon democratic professions.

We subjoin a list of the delegates elected by the Legislature as we find them in a Mississippi paper: "For the State at large, Hon. W. L. Starkey, Hon. C. P. Smith, Hon. A. M. Clayton, and S. S. Boyd, Esq. 1st Congressional District, Jos. W. Matthews and Thos. J. Ward; 2nd, G. F. Neill and G. H. Young; 3rd, Gen. Wm. R. Miles and J. J. Pettus; 4th, T. Jones Stewart and J. J. McRae. A protest against the proceedings was then read and entered on the minutes."

We took occasion to show, a few days ago, that the Mississippi Convention, which conceived and suggested the Nashville Convention, was called into existence by a small junta of politicians in Jackson, the capital of the State were represented. With all these facts before the country, with the knowledge that the people are the source of all power, we should be glad to know what power or influence the Nashville Convention can exercise in this country?—*Augusta Sen.*