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THE CAROLINA WATCHMAN.

J. J. BRUNER,
Editor & Proprietor.

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RULES."



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Gen'l Harrison.

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The Private History of the Palace of Glass.

On New Year's Day, 1837, Sir Robert Schomburgk was proceeding in a native boat, on a difficult exploration up the river Berbice, in Demerara, when his attention was attracted to the southern margin by an extraordinary object. He caused his crew to paddle towards it. The nearer he approached, the higher his curiosity was raised. Though an accomplished botanist, he had never seen any thing like it before. It was a Titanic water plant, in size and shape unlike any other known plant. A gigantic leaf, from five to six feet in diameter, and shaped, with a broad brim, of a light-green above, and a vivid crimson below, rested upon the water! Quite in character with the wonderful leaf was the luxuriant flower, consisting of an immense number of petals, opening in alternate tints from pure white to rose and pink.

Sir Robert Schomburgk, not content with mere flowers, dug up whole plants; and sent first them, and afterwards seeds, to England where the magnificent lily was named the "Victoria Regia." After some unsuccessful attempts, the task of forcing it to blossom in an artificial climate, was confided to Mr. Paxton, the celebrated horticulturist of the Duke of Devonshire's celebrated estate at Chesham.

When the Victoria Regia was to be flowered, Mr. Paxton determined to imitate Nature so closely as to make that innocent offspring of the Great Mother fancy himself back again in the broad waters and under burning heats of British Guiana. He deceived the roots by imbedding them in a hillock of burned loam and peat; he deluded the great lustrous leaves by letting them float in a tank, to which he communicated, by means of a little wheel, the gentle ripple of their own tranquil river; and he coated the flower into bloom by manufacturing a Brazilian climate in a tiny South America, under a glass case.

With that glass case our history properly commences. Mr. Paxton had already effected many improvements in horticultural buildings; the workmanship of which has always been unnecessarily massive. With the conviction that glass houses are not Egyptian tombs built for darkness and eternity, he set about making them lighter than old, both as regards architecture and architecture. He discarded as much as practicable all ponderous and opaque materials. He pared away all clumsy sash bars, whose broad shadows robbed plants of the day; he abolished dirty and leaking overlaps, by using large panes, and inserting them in wooden grooves, rendered water tight by a spaying use of putty. Lastly, finding that into the ordinary sloping roof the sunbeams enter at an indirect and unprofitable angle, Mr. Paxton invented a horizontal glazing composed of angular ridges, the glass presenting itself in a straight line at almost any part of the day; but especially early and late.

In a green house constructed with some of those improvements, and acclimated as we have already explained, a Victoria Regia was planted on the 10th of August, 1840. So well had every thing been prepared for its reception, that it flourished as vigorously as if it had been reared to its native soil and climate, its growth and the development were astonishingly rapid; for on the 9th of November a flower was produced a yard in circumference! In little more than a month after the first seeds ripened, some of them were sown, and on the 16th of February succeeding young plants made their appearance. Success, however, brought fresh embarrassment. The extraordinary lily obeyed Nature's law of development with such unexpected rapidity, that it outgrew the dimensions of its home in little more than a month. It therefore set Mr. Paxton a problem to solve, the formula of which was something like this:—Given, an exotic growing in a green house, at the rate of six hundred and forty-seven square inches of circumference per diem; required in three months, a new house of dimensions proper for its maturity?

Mr. Paxton went to work, and combining all his improvements in constructing green houses with his special inventions for maturing the Victoria Regia, he very soon produced the "Q. E. D." in the shape of a novel and elegant conservatory, sixty feet long by forty broad.—This building became the immediate precursor of the gigantic structure in Hyde Park.—why necessitates a short explanation.

Among the many desiderata required for every kind of habitation—whether it be designed for plants or princes, for a pine-house or a palace, for the Victoria Regia, or for the enormous glass case under which to collect the products of all Nations.—the most imperative conditions after stability, are, perfect facilities for drainage and for ventilation; another, though scarcely subordinate provision, is economy. The man who can construct houses which shall resist external humidity, and allow of a constant and gentle change of atmosphere at any conceivable temperature, and at the lowest cost consistent with durability, is, of course, the prince of builders. Now, in order to be economical, he must necessarily so manage, that each of his materials shall perform as many different functions as it is possible for it to perform effectually. Mr. Paxton, when he set about the new Victoria Regia house—guided by previous study and experience, and forced into new expedients by the peculiarities of the extraordinary tenant he was building for—had become an economist. The result is, as shown in his latest effort—the great Building—that his walls and foundations are not simply walls and foundations, but ventilators and drains as well. His roofs are not simply roofs; but, being the most extensive of known sky lights, are light and heat adjusters. His sash bars do not only hold the glass together, but are self-supporting, and his rafters form perfect drains for both sides of the glass.—for draining off internally, as external moisture, whilst the top of the rafters are contiguous also. His floors are dust traps, and aid in ventilation. Lastly, his whole building is, while in course of construction, its own scaffolding. Thus he saves time as well as money.

of the "Times," and perused with sympathizing interest its fervently urged objections against the invasion of Hyde Park by armies of excavators, bricklayers, blacksmiths, and timber-fellers. The picture daily drawn of the tearing up of fashionable roads by the carting of more bricks and mortar (for, mark, a temporary edifice) than the internal pyramids of Ghizeh consist of; the cutting down on one side of Rotten Row, for its most cherished ornaments, the trees; the uncertainty of miles of brick work being put together in time for consolidation to bear the weight of the tremendous iron dome designed to rest upon it; the impossibility of the entire mass of mortar and plaster duly drying.—All this, though occasionally overdrawn and exaggerated, presented a black perspective which the means and appliances of the Victoria Regia conservatory would, thought its architect, considerably lighten, or altogether obviate. Every new thunderbolt from the newspaper *Tonnas*, strengthened this notion in the projector's mind. All that was wanted, was a great many great lily houses joined together. A multiplication of hands and of materials could be raised so quickly and so cheaply. The promenaders and neighbors of Hyde Park would be relieved of the incessant "click-click" of bricklayers' trowels, the maddening noise of the blacksmith's rivetting hammers, and have perfect immunity from the hourly transit of brick and scaffold poles. The proposed edifice could be constructed at Birmingham, at Dudley, and at Thames Bank, "brought home" to Hyde Park ready made, and put up like a bedstead.

But, alas! feasible as the plan appeared, it was not thought of. The fiat of the Building Committee had gone forth. The competition of architectural skill invited by the authorities had not produced one available design. The first exhibition of the Industry of the Architects of all Nations had been pronounced a failure; and fact of the Building Committee having invited tenders for the construction of a design of its own, shut out fresh competitors.

One day, however—it was Friday, the fourteenth-day of June—Mr. Paxton happened to be in the House of Commons, conversing on this subject with Mr. Ellis, a member of it, who accompanied him to the Board of Trade to see what could be done; for Mr. Paxton was off immediately to keep a special appointment at the tubular bridge over the Menai.—After his journey, the next morning, the conversation with his friend, the M. P., was clenched by another and more than usually powerful burst of thunder in that day's issue from Blackfriars. His mind was made up. Tuesday morning, the eighteenth of June, found Mr. Paxton at Derby, seated—as Chairman of the Works and Ways Committee of the Midland Railway—to try an offending pointsman. This was the first leisure moment he had been able to secure since he resolved to plan the great building. At the end of the table stood the culprit; and, upon it, before the Chairman was invitingly spread a virgin sheet of blotting paper. As each witness delivered his evidence Mr. Paxton appeared to be taking notes with uncommon assiduity; and when the case closed, one of his colleagues turned specially to him, saying,

"As you seem to have noted down the whole of the evidence, we will take the decision from you."

"The truth is," whispered the Chairman, "I know all about this affair already, having accidentally learned every particular last night. This," he continued, holding up the paper, "is not a draft of the pointsman's case, but a design for the Great Industrial Building to be erected in Hyde Park."

The pointsman was left off with a fine, and before evening the blotting paper plan had found its way into Mr. Paxton's office at Chatsworth. By the help of that gentleman's ordinary assistants, elevations, sections, working details and specifications, were completed in ten days.

When he made his next appearance at the Derby station, at the end of that time, Mr. Paxton had the complete plans under his arm.—There was not a minute to spare, for the train was on the point of starting, and the Royal Commissioners met the next morning. He entered the carriage, and, to his extreme delight, he found one of the greatest and most influential engineers of the day—a member, moreover, of the Royal Commission—who was going to London by the same train.

The next day was Saturday, the twenty-ninth of June. The Royal Commission met, headed by Prince Albert. The Paxton scheme was referred to the Building Committee; which, in the regular order of business, could not entertain it, having rejected all the designs it had invited for competition, and having devised a plan of its own. Nothing daunted, however, Mr. Paxton determined to appeal to the British public. This he did by the aid of the woodcuts and pages of the "London Illustrated News." Never was an appeal more promptly or satisfactorily answered. The practicability, the simplicity, the beauty of the scheme convinced every member of the many-headed court of appeal of its efficacy.

Meanwhile the projector of the building waited on the projector of the entire Exhibition, Prince Albert, on another memorable morning—that of the Christening day of Prince Patrick. What passed need not be divulged; but the encouragement vouchsafed, added to the expression of public opinion daily gathering strength, induced Mr. Paxton to decide on procuring a tender to be sent into the Building Committee for his design. He therefore sent straight to Messrs. Fox and Henderson, and these gentlemen immediately engaged to prepare a tender. It happened that the Building Committee in their advertisement had invited the candidates for raising their edifice, to suggest any improvements in it that may occur to them. This opened a crevice, into which Messrs. Fox and Henderson were able to thrust their tender for Mr. Paxton's plan. Seeing at once it was, of all other plans, the plan—the supreme desideratum—they tendered it as an "improvement" to the Committee's design.

Here a new and formidable difficulty arose. It was now Saturday, and only a few days more were allowed for receiving tenders. Yet before an approximate estimate of the expense could be formed, the great glass manufacturers and iron masters of the north had to be consulted. This happened to be *diez mirabilis* the third, for it was the identical Saturday which the Sunday postal question had reached its crisis; and there was to be no delivery next day! But in a country of electric telegraphs? and of indomitable energy, time and difficulties are annihilated, and it is not the least of the marvels in the connexion with the great edifice, that by the aid of railway parcels and the electric telegraph, not only did all the gentlemen summoned out of Warwickshire and Staffordshire appear on Monday morning at Messrs. Fox and Henderson's Office, in Spring Gardens, London, to contribute their several estimates to the tender of the whole; but within a week, the contractors had prepared every detailed working drawing, and had calculated the cost of every pound of iron, of every inch of wood, and of every plane of glass.

There is no one circumstance in the history of the manufacturing enterprise of the English nation which places in so strong a light as this its boundless resources in materials, to say nothing of the arithmetical skill in computing at what cost, and in how short a time, those materials could be converted to a special purpose. What was done in those few days? Two parties in London, relying on the accuracy and good faith of certain iron-masters, glass-workers in the provinces, and of one master carpenter in London, bound themselves for a certain sum of money, and in the course of some four months, to cover eighteen acres of ground, with a building upwards of a third of a mile long (1851 feet—the exact date of the year), and some four hundred and fifty feet broad. In order to do this, the glass-maker promised to supply in the required time, nine thousand square feet of glass, (weighing more than four hundred tons) in separate panes, and these the largest that were ever made of sheet glass; each being forty nine inches long. The iron-master passed his word in like manner to cast in due time three thousand three hundred iron columns, varying from fourteen and a half feet in length; thirty four miles of guttering tube, to join every individual column together under the ground; two thousand two hundred and twenty-four girders (but some of these are of wrought iron) besides eleven hundred and twenty-eight bearers for supporting galleries. The carpenter undertook to get ready within the specified period two hundred and five miles of sash-bar; flooring for an area of thirty-three millions of cubic feet; besides enormous quantities of wooden walling, louvre work, and partition.

The public have long known what followed;—Mr. Paxton's Glazed Palace was eventually chosen unanimously; not only by the Building Committee, but by the Royal Commission.—Some modifications, were, however, adopted. It was decided that the most revered of the trees were to be admitted into the Industrial Building; and the central transept—the apex of whose curvilinear roof is one hundred and twelve feet from the ground—was contrived by Mr. Paxton for their inclosure. In August the space in Hyde Park was boarded in; and the first castings for the iron columns were delivered on the fourteenth of September. Yet, when these pages meet the reader's eye, the cheapest, most gigantic and substantial structure ever dreamt of, will be nearly ready for decoration.

If for nothing else, this tremendous pile of transparency is astounding—for its cheapness. It is actually less costly than an agricultural barn or an Irish cabin! A division of its superficies in cubic feet by the sums to be paid for it, brings out the astonishing quotient, of little more than half penny (nine-sixteenths of a penny) per cubic foot; supposing it to be taken down and returned to the contractors when the Exhibition is over. Or, if it remain a fixture, the rate of cost will be rather less than a penny and one twelfth of a penny per cubic foot. The ordinary expense of a barn is more than twice as much, or the figures—The entire edifice contains thirty three millions of cubic feet. If borrowed and taken down, the sum to be paid is seventy nine thousand eight hundred pounds; if bought, to become a winter garden, one hundred and fifty thousand pounds. The smallness of cost is due to the principle we have previously explained, of each component of the building being endowed with more

than one purpose. The six rows of columns are, as had been already said, not only props but drains. They are hollow, and into them the glass roof will deliver its collections of water. In the base of each column is inserted a horizontal iron pipe to conduct the drainage into the sewers. These strong tubes serve also as foundation; they are links that connect the whole of the three hundred uprights together. At the top, each column is fastened to its opposite associate by a girder, run up by means of a pole and pulley in a few minutes; and, once fastened, no other scaffolding is requisite for the roof which it supports. Thus, by means of the iron pipes below, and the iron girders above, the eighteen acres of structure is held from end to end so compact and fast that it becomes an enormous hollow cube, as immovable as if it were, instead, a solid cube dropped down beside Rotten Row by a gang of Titans.

The roofs—of which there are five, one to each aisle or corridor, the highest in the middle—play many parts. They are windows, light and heat adjusters, rain conductors outside, and condensed moisture ducts within.—They are interminable rows of roofing, so placed as to form in the aggregate a plane; in other words, they are parallel rows of the letter V thus: VVV. The apex of each "ridge" is a wooden sash bar, with notches on either side for holding the sloping laths in which are fitted the edges of the glass. The bottom or "furror" bar—otherwise a rafter—is hollowed in the middle, to form a gutter, into which every drop of rain glides down from the glass, and passes through the transverse gutters into the hollow columns. These longitudinal gutters are formed at the tops of the girders; for the roof is self supporting. This is not all; in converting a conservatory for plants into a resort for breathing beings, and a depot for articles emphatically "to be kept dry;" internal as well as external moisture must be drawn off; the breath of myriads of visitors, condensed against the glass, would otherwise ruin in Scotch mists. That difficulty partly dictated the V like form of the ceiling. Mr. Paxton ascertained that vapors ascending to glass inclined to a slope of one foot in two feet and a half, do not condense in separate drops and descend again, but slide down over the smooth surface. To receive them, therefore, he grooves each rafter under the inside of the glazing. Into those grooves the condensed breath of "all nations" will fall and be conveyed into the transverse gutters; thence through the columns into the jurisdiction of their honors the Commissioners of Sewers.

We must now give proof that the floor is a ventilator and a dust trap. It is laid four feet above the sward of the park. A series of subterranean lungs are thus provided, and air is admitted to them, by means of louvres, fixed in the outer walling of the building. These being made to open and shut like Venetian blinds; will admit much or little air, which gently passes through the seams of the open flooring, and circulates over the building. Finally, through the openings of the floor, the daily accumulations of dust will be swept into the space below by a machine, which Mr. Paxton has invented for that purpose.

Enough has now been said to indicate rather than to describe how each part of the building "plays many parts," and how, consequently, incalculable saving has been effected in time and money. It is hardly necessary to repeat, that the interior of the edifice is the most expansive covered space in the world.

That a Palatial Exhibition building, providing a total exhibition surface of twenty-two acres, and affording space for nine miles of tables, shall have been put up in four months, for less than a penny farthing a cubic foot, would in itself make 1851 famous in the history of enterprise, if nothing else were to happen to stamp it as pre-eminently "The Industrial Year." From it will at least be dated a new era in building.

The Standard and the Distribution of the Public Lands.

Our readers are aware that the bill making an equal distribution of the public lands among the several states for the benefit of the indigent insane, which passed the Senate, was lost in the House of Representatives on the last day of the session, not an account of its unpopularity, as we fondly hope, but because of the limited time for action. It could not be taken up without a suspension of the rules, and other business requiring more speedy action having been left to the close of the session, a motion to take up was lost by a vote of yeas 108, nays 68—not two thirds as required. At the next session we hope and believe the bill will be passed.

of the public lands, half a million of acres in a lump, have been given to the new States, for internal improvements, public schools, and other purposes; and prosperity and thrift have made their home there. But since the distribution of the surplus revenue under the administration of Gen. Jackson, what have the old States received? They need internal improvements, and public schools, and hospitals for the insane and the blind and the maimed, as well as the new States, and does not justice demand that the same liberality should be extended to them?

The Standard says: "We are opposed to the distribution of the public lands, or their proceeds among the States, we care not in what shape the proposition may be presented; and especially, at this time, would we hold North Carolina back, if we had the power, from asking favors at the hands of Representatives in Congress from Massachusetts and Vermont."

These are strong terms in which the Standard express his opposition to a distribution of the public lands, or their proceeds, among the States. But does he stand by the principle? Has he offered one word of reproof, one whisper of opposition to the numerous donations of hundreds of thousands of acres to individual States in the west, and other gratuities to secure "freeholds and a home" to all sorts of refugees from abroad? Does not his whole course tend simply to deprive the citizens of his own State of any hope of relief, but by abandoning the loved scenes of their youth, and swelling the tide of emigration to the more favored regions of the west? The allusion of the Standard to the Representatives from Massachusetts and Vermont was intended for effect; we are asking not for favors, but for justice.

This question of a distribution of the public lands has been so long and so ably discussed before the people, that there is scarcely a reading man in the country who has not formed a settled opinion for or against the measure. The principle is so plain as a matter of right, that it is to be wondered at that any reasonable man should oppose it. The public lands were ceded by the old States, in trust, to the General Government, for specific purposes. These purposes have been answered, and a large surplus remains. The old States demand as a right, they do not ask it as a "favor," that the remainder shall be distributed equally among all the States of the Union, or at any rate used for the general benefit. Justice has been delayed by the refusal to make this equal distribution; and the very policy which the editor of the Standard so beautifully advocates, has aided the scheme of enriching the new States out of this fund, while the original donors, for the most part, have been kept from all participation in its benefits. Such has been the effect of a "Virginia abstraction," and such is the effect of the principle advocated by the editor of the Standard. If, therefore, he shall receive full credit for his courage, he need not be surprised if it is obtained at the expense of its reputation for sound judgment.

When the article upon which we have been remarking, first appeared in the Standard, it attracted our attention, but a pressure of business prevented us from noticing it at that time. It was brought to our attention again by seeing it copied into the Halifax Republican, the editor of which, who was whilom a Whig, now glories in the support of Democratic measures and men; and though, when a Whig, he supported his cause with an earnestness which bespoke an honest conviction that he was in the right, he seems no less zealous now in his advocacy of the new doctrines which he has espoused. On either side he fights earnestly, like a true "Swiss soldier." We have been not a little puzzled to account for the wonderful change in the views of the Republican in so short a time; and the only solution that we can arrive at, which will consist with an honest course, is to suppose that while one person has been the ostensible editor all the time, another, a genuine Democrat, actually occupies his chair at present. The hypothesis is strengthened by the fact, that the editor of the Standard, whom he so recently delighted to attack, and who, in turn, sneeringly derided him for his "cakes" and "ginger pop," has taken the editor of the Republican into his special favor, and they seem just now to be a very loving couple. However this may be, we are sorry that the Standard has found even such an ally in an effort to shut North Carolina from a due participation in the benefits which are to flow from the public lands, a large portion of which she ceded to the General Government, and all of which she contributed largely to procure.—Hillsboro' Recorder.

MR. CLINGMAN.

Shortly before the adjournment, Mr. Clingman, of North Carolina, made his annual speech. His subject, this time, was no less imposing than "the future policy of the Government." The Washington Republic has taken the trouble to make an elaborate and thorough review of this discourse, which, for inconsistency with itself and with the formerly proclaimed opinions of the speaker, is really a curiosity. We have not room for the whole of

the Republic's article; but as Mr. Clingman has acquired a position of some prominence as a Southern Whig, we will make use of some of its citations which fortunately supply their own commentary.

Mr. Clingman, there is strong reason to believe, is now on the balancing point between the two great parties, and it is supposed that his particular ambition is to be elected to the Senate of the U. States by the aid of the Democratic party of his State, which he cannot expect to retain a majority in the Legislature. The conjecture furnishes a ready clue to the intricacies of his present position. It is, in no small degree, confirmed by the following dictum in his late speech:

"There can be no doubt, Mr. Chairman, the Whig and Democratic parties, once essentially divided as to measures, have now become mere factions."

Now, then, for some of Mr. Clingman's inconsistencies. And first with regard to the tariff. Mr. Clingman says in 1851: "Few persons appreciate the entire amount of the burden which our (tariff) system has imposed on the country."

And he estimates this "burden," which, he argues, is chiefly borne by the Southern States, to be more than "seventy five millions." Of course, Mr. Clingman's objections are urged more against the protective tariff of 1842 than against its successor the tariff of 1846. But hear what he had to say in the 28th Congress, in 1844, after the tariff of 1842 was exhibiting its full operation:

"This favorable state of our finances has been produced, thus far, without any practical injury having resulted to any section of the country. Not only cotton, but all of other productions command a better price than they did before the passage of the tariff, while foreign articles which we import and consume are generally cheaper. I believe I might say invariably so."

On the same occasion, he maintained further— "That we should have 'incidental protection to our manufacturers and artisans, to sustain our own industry against the oppressive regulations of others, and counteract, as far as practicable, the hostile restrictions of foreign nations.'"

Thus, as a Whig, in 1844, he directly advocated the principle of protection, and argued that instead of injuring, its operation was beneficial to Southern interests. As an agitator, in 1851, he contends that the South is, through the tariff, annually paying an immense and oppressive tribute!

But, with respect to the Compromise, measures, and the general question of the advantages of the Union, Mr. Clingman is even more glaringly inconsistent. He denounces the Compromise bills as a "surrender," which will exclude the South from all participation in the Territories, and yet asserts that the Abolition party gained no victory by their passage; he declares that the additional strength gained by the Free States may lead to an overthrow of the government, and yet denies that the Southern States have anything to apprehend! All this appears in the following citations from the speech of 1851:

In the first part of the speech, where he is discussing in his peculiar way the tariff question, he says:

"The legislation over the territory acquired from Mexico, the bills then passed were, in my judgment, not as their friends claim for them, measures of compromise, but bills of surrender. In their legal operation they exclude the slaveholders of the South from the occupation of every foot of that territory. This is the settled opinion of every northern member of either party on this floor. It is also the opinion of a majority of southern members."

And again: "While, therefore, I cannot too strongly denounce the acts of the last session in relation to the Mexican territory, I do not, nor have I ever pretended, that they would be followed by any great immediate practical injury to us."

Shortly after, Mr. Clingman says: "I do not pretend that this exclusion could be claimed as a political victory by the Free-soil or Abolition party." "The Abolition party staked itself on the passage of a positive act of exclusion, viz: The Wilmot proviso or Jeffersonian ordinance. After a few weeks' discussion, it was driven from this ground, being defeated on a direct vote."

Next, as to the reasons for Southern apprehension: "When Texas is filled up by our emigrants, they cannot be prevented from passing the Rio Grande and revolutionizing the neighboring provinces. They are destined to be occupied by our slaveholding population. It will fill up all the country around the Gulf, including the peninsula of Yucatan, and, perhaps the northern portion of the South American continent. This state of things will be likely to occur even before our interest requires it. That, whether it be desirable or not, there is no power on this continent to prevent it. Mexico is altogether too feeble. This Government itself cannot do it. It had as well attempt to curb the waves of the ocean. I say, boldly, that if the Government makes the effort, it will itself perish in the attempt." "No sane man can imagine that we need have serious fears of an attack from either the northern States or any foreign power." "There is reason to fear that the additional strength given the free States may at a future day embolden them to make an attempt upon us which will result in the overthrow of the Government." "All which the Republic happily contrasts with the following passage from a speech delivered by Mr. Clingman in 1847. Then, speaking of disunion, he said: "It would be vain, however, for us, on either side, to hope for such prosperity as we have hitherto enjoyed. If the stream of our national existence should be divi-